

Candidate Questionnaire

Local Candidates Committee NYS Legislative Election -
Primary 2026

1. Name*

Somnath Ghimire

2.

Dear Candidate,

Congratulations on your decision to run for a seat in the New York Legislature! Citizens Union appreciates your commitment to serve the public.

In the following pages, you will find questions regarding your positions on various reform issues and your plans for office.

Responses to these questions will be one of several factors Citizens Union uses to evaluate candidates running for office and issue our preference for the June primary.

Read more about the method, principles, and criteria of the candidate evaluation process [here](#).

You can learn more about Citizens Union's policy agenda on our [website](#).

**

If you wish to be considered, please submit the questionnaire by March 27, 2026.

We will need to schedule an interview with you as part of the evaluation process. Given time constraints and the limited capacity of a member-based organization, we may not be able to evaluate all contests or candidates in this election cycle.

**

If you cannot complete the questionnaire in one sitting, **you can click Save** at the bottom of every page.

Once you submit the questionnaire, you will receive a confirmation email with your responses. Citizens Union will not be able to see your answers unless you submit the form. We plan to make responses to this questionnaire public on our website, printed voters directory, and other appropriate venues (your contact information will not be published).

You can also download a blank questionnaire [here](#) (.docx file) and email it to us.

For any questions, please email candidates@citizensunion.org

We thank you very much for your response.

3.

GENERAL INFORMATION

4. Office Sought (New York State)*

Assembly

5. District Number*

30

6. In which primary*

Democratic

7. Age*

56

8. Education*

Bachelor of Science

9. Current job, position, or occupation*

Senior Supervisor

10. Other positions or roles

N/A

11. Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement

N/A

12.

Campaign Contact Information

13. Email*

somu.ghimire@gmail.com

14. Campaign Manager Name*

N/A

15. Campaign Manager Email*

max@sheinkopf-communications.com

16. Scheduler contact info (If relevant)

max@sheinkopf-communications.com

17. Phone Number*

347 5713740

18. Website

https://somnathforny.com/

19. Twitter

20. Facebook

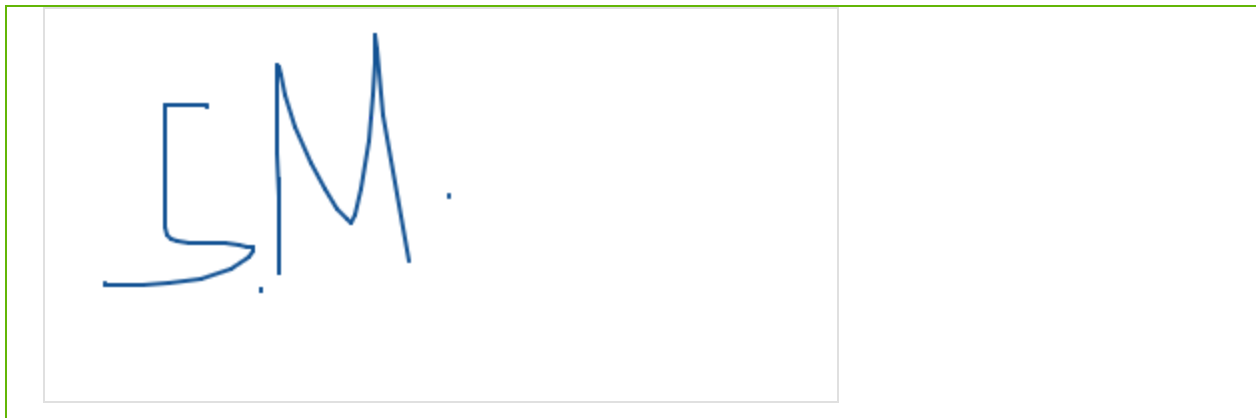
https://www.facebook.com/login/?
next=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2FSomnathNYGhimire%2F

21. Instagram

22. Bluesky

23. Other social platforms

24. Signature*



25.

GOALS AND PLANS

In addition to evaluating stances on the reform issues, Citizens Union considers the campaign goals articulated to voters, issues specific to the district, and the ability propose thoughtful solutions to represent constituents' interests.

26. What are your top three campaign promises or goals, and what actions will you take to achieve them if elected?

Affordable housing — expand funding, reform restrictive zoning, and convert unused commercial space into homes. 2) Strong public schools — increase funding, raise teacher pay, and deliver universal pre-K. 3) Workers' rights — fair wages, protections, and respect.

27. How long have you lived in the district in which you are running, and do you have any achievements or involvement in your district you are particularly proud of?

I've lived in Woodside, Queens, for nearly 30 years. I'm proud of mobilizing South Asian and immigrant voters across the district and organizing with

South Asians for America, the Alliance of South Asian American Labor, and GPK Foundation America.

28. What experience have you had, if any, with good government and reform issues? (e.g. voting and elections, campaign finance, ethics and anti-corruption, checks and balances, government transparency and oversight, police accountability). If you've worked to advance these goals, we'd love to hear about it.

I've worked on human rights initiatives across 22 countries and mobilized immigrant voters in New York to expand civic participation. I support police accountability and oversight, accessible elections, and transparent government that answers to working families.

29.

ELECTIONS AND VOTING

30. 1. Do you support opening up New York City's closed primary system, allowing over 1 million unaffiliated voters that are currently locked out of the election to participate in the primary election?

No

31. Comments (optional)

32. 2. Will you oppose any attempt to permanently remove redistricting protections from the state constitution, including existing protections of minority voting rights, population equity, ban on political gerrymandering, and consideration of communities of interest?

No

33. Comments (optional)

34. 3. Do you support reforming the process of filling vacancies in the state legislature by implementing nonpartisan special elections (like the system used in New York City) instead of giving party officials the power to decide who will run as the party nominee?

No

35. Comments (optional)

36. 4. Do you support restructuring the New York City Board of Elections to make it more professionalized and transparent, and less dependent on political parties (S699 Krueger/A1852 Rozic)?

Yes

37. Comments (optional)

38. 5. Do you oppose requiring registered voters to show ID to vote in New York State?

No

39. Comments (optional)

40. 6. Do you support providing time extenders for polling place voting hours in cases where an emergency leads to voting being disrupted or shut down? (S4602A Gounardes/A5846A Gibbs)

No

41. Comments (optional)

42. 7. Do you support the Democracy During Detention Act (S440 Myrie/A2121 Walker), which establishes the election infrastructure to make voting accessible for all those eligible to vote who are detained in jails?

No

43. Comments (optional)

44.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

45. 8. Are you a public campaign finance participant? If not, please explain why.

Yes

46. Comments (if needed)

47. **9. Are you a supporter of the state’s public campaign matching funds program, and do you commit to ensuring the program is fully funded?**

Yes

48. **Comments (optional)**

49. **10. Do you support requiring disclosure of a contributor's employer in campaign finance reports? (S1910 Rivera/A3092 Carroll)**

Yes

50. **Comments (optional)**

51. **11. Do you support requiring Independent Expenditure entities (Super PACs) to disclose their top three donors on ads, similar to the requirements under NYC law? (S8445 Fahy/A10097Solages)**

Yes

52. **Comments (optional)**

53. **12. Do you support applying lower contribution limits to lobbyists and people doing business with the state or seeking contracts from the state? New York City imposes lower contribution limits for registered lobbyists and individuals doing business with the City.**

Yes

54. **Comments (optional)**

55.

ETHICS

56. **13. Do you support requiring lobbyists to report their campaign contributions and fundraising activity, as well as campaign consulting services they provide?**

Yes

57. **Comments (optional)**

58. 14. Do you support including lobbying regarding a nomination or confirmation of a nominee that requires Senate confirmation in lobbying reports? (S374 Gianaris/A7456 McDonald)

No

59. Comments (optional)

60. 15. Do you support codifying sexual harassment as conduct that violates the public officers and employees code of ethics? (Gounardes S4197/Kelles A6201)

Yes

61. Comments (optional)

62.

POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY

63. 16. Do you support giving the New York City Civilian Complaint Review Board access to certain sealed and confidential records in matters involving potential police discipline? (S4966 Bailey/A292 Cruz)

Yes

64. Comments (optional)

65. 17. Do you support transferring disciplinary hearings involving police officers from the NYPD to the Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings (OATH)? (S3927 Myrie)

Yes

66. Comments (optional)

67.

REVISING CITY CHARTERS

68. 15. Do you support banning the establishment of “lame duck” charter revision commissions, established by mayors right before the end of their term? (S8934 Liu)

Yes

69. Comments (optional)

70. 16. Do you support mandating that charter commissions conduct their process over a mandatory minimum timeline of 180 days before issuing recommended ballot questions to a city’s charter?

Yes

71. Comments (optional)

72.

PATH TO VICTORY

73. What is your win number (the number of votes needed to win this race)?

TBD

74. What are your current fundraising numbers? What are your fundraising goals?

\$36,765 & 45,000

75. How many individual donors do you have?

114

76. Please indicate any endorsements that your campaign has received, if applicable (you can also share a link to a list of endorsements)

77.

ADDITIONAL INFO

78. Please feel free to attach any additional information such as resume, campaign brochures, or issues statements.

79. What else would you like us to know about yourself?

80.

Please review your answers by clicking **PREVIEW ANSWERS** below.

At the bottom of the preview page, you can

get a copy of your answers by clicking **PRINT**, and

submit the questionnaire by clicking **SUBMIT**.

IF YOU DO NOT CLICK SUBMIT, WE WON'T RECEIVE YOUR QUESTIONNAIRE.

Once you click **SUBMIT**, you will receive a confirmation email. *If you don't see the email, please check your spam box.*

If you have any further questions, you may contact us at candidates@citizensunion.org