

2026 Primary Candidate Questionnaire - New York State Legislature
Citizens Union - Local Candidates Committee

THIS IS A BLANK QUESTIONNAIRE – YOU CAN SEND IT WITH YOUR RESPONSES TO CANDIDATES@CITIZENSUNION.ORG OR SUBMIT IT ONLINE HERE

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

For over 125 years, Citizens Union (CU) has been devoted to holding our local government accountable with the highest ethical standards and fighting for political reforms that improve New York democracy (<https://citizensunion.org/issues/>). To promote a competitive and diverse political culture, a fair and open political process, and accountable and responsible government, we evaluate candidates running for office and back those who strongly support reform. Our evaluations are done through questionnaires, independent research, and interviews conducted by our Local Candidates Committee.

(<https://citizensunion.org/portfolio-item/citizens-union-2025-candidate-evaluation-info-for-candidates/>).

As a prerequisite for receiving the support of Citizens Union, please complete the following questionnaire and submit your response by Friday, March 27, 2026. As you complete the form, you can click “Save” and return to the form later. All short answers have a 250-word limit. Once you have completed the questionnaire and submitted your response to us, you will receive a copy of your submission. Your submission will be posted on our website (with the exception of contact info).

Upon receipt of your submission, we will reach out to you or your staff to schedule a virtual interview with members of our Local Candidate Committee. The interview will be recorded. Shortly thereafter, we will announce our support in key priority races to our members and on our website and other channels. 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.

Please feel free to reach out to Citizens Union with any questions or comments at candidates@citizensunion.org.

Thank you very much. We look forward to your response.

General

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

First, I am committed to strengthening transparency and accountability. I will support ethics reforms, improve oversight of state agencies, and ensure public resources are used effectively and equitably. Government must be responsive, accessible, and worthy of the public's trust.

Second, I will work to make New York more affordable and functional for working families. That means advancing policies that expand access to healthcare, stabilize housing, and invest in public services, while ensuring that state spending is responsible and targeted toward communities that need it most.

Third, I will focus on effective, community-centered governance. I believe in being present, accessible, and responsive—whether through constituent services, community engagement, or partnerships that bring resources directly to neighborhoods. My goal is to ensure government is not just passing policy, but actually improving people's daily lives.

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 have lived in the district for 20+ years — it is the community that raised me. As the son of Filipino immigrants, I grew up in Queens and experienced firsthand both the opportunities and challenges that families in our district face—from accessing healthcare to dealing with housing instability. That lived experience continues to shape my commitment to public service.

I am particularly proud of my work delivering for the district as an Assemblymember. I helped secure \$27.5 million to expand maternal and pediatric health care facilities at Elmhurst Hospital, created an \$80 million capital reinvestment fund for Mitchell-Lama housing and secured millions for the Big 6 Mitchell Lama, and organized annual community health fairs to connect residents with critical care and resources. I also introduced landmark legislation to address caste discrimination and passed the most aggressive FOIL transparency bill in decades.

Beyond that, I've worked closely with local organizations, small businesses, and community leaders to ensure our district has a voice in Albany. Whether it's supporting workers on picket lines, advocating for tenants, or investing in local services, my focus has always been on being present and responsive to the people I represent.

I'm proud to come from this community, and I remain committed to continuing that work—making sure our district is heard, supported, and delivered for at every level of government.

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 have a strong record of advancing good government and reform efforts that make our democracy more transparent, accountable, and accessible. Last year, I passed the most aggressive FOIL transparency bill in decades, ensuring public agencies are held accountable and records are accessible to all. I also introduced a student voter empowerment bill to make it easier for young people to register, vote, and participate in our democracy. Additionally, I sponsored the STOP bill to combat predatory lending and protect New Yorkers from abusive financial practices, ensuring families are treated fairly and have access to safe financial resources.

Whether through legislation or advocacy, I believe in a government that is open, ethical, and responsive to the people it serves. These efforts reflect my commitment to strengthening transparency, checks and balances, and protections for working families across New York.

Elections and Voting

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?

- Yes

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?

- Yes

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?

- Yes

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

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

- Yes

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)

- Yes

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?

- Yes

Campaign Finance

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

- Yes

Are you a supporter of the state's public campaign matching funds program, and do you commit to ensuring the program is fully funded? *Fully funding the program ensures its budget meets the program's needs and demand.*

- Yes

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

- Yes

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/A10097 Solages)

- Yes

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

Ethics

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

- Yes

Do you support requiring the disclosure of lobbying in connection with a nomination or confirmation of a nominee that requires Senate confirmation in lobbying reports? (S374 Gianaris/A7456 McDonald)

- Yes

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

- Yes

Police Accountability

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

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

- Yes

Revising City Charters

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

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