



Candidate Questionnaire

Local Candidates Committee NYS Legislative Election - Primary
2026

Name Lester Chang

GENERAL INFORMATION

Office Sought (New York State)

Assembly

District Number

49

In which primary

Republican

Age

65

Education

Masters in International Transportation

Current job, position, or occupation

Assemblyman for 49th Assembly District

Other positions or roles

Navy Veteran

Campaign Contact Information

Website

<https://lesterchang.com/>

Twitter

@AMLesterChangNY

Instagram

lester4ny

Signature

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.

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

My top three priorities are affordability, education and public safety.

First, I will continue fighting to make New York more affordable for working families. Families are already struggling with the costs of housing, groceries, health care, child care and education. I will support tax relief, oppose unnecessary mandates that increase household costs, reduce burdens on small businesses and pursue solutions that make home ownership more attainable, including my legislation directing the Department of Financial Services to study 40- and 50-year mortgage options.

Second, I will continue fighting for educational opportunity and parental choice. Parents should have a meaningful voice in where and how their children are educated. I support expanding school choice, lifting the charter school cap, protecting rigorous academic standards and ensuring that public, charter, private and religious schools can provide every child with a quality education.

Third, public safety remains one of my highest priorities. I will continue supporting our police officers, working to strengthen penalties for repeat and violent offenders and advocating for changes to New York's bail laws. I have also introduced legislation increasing penalties for crimes committed on public transportation because New Yorkers deserve to feel safe in their neighborhoods and while traveling throughout our city.

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?

My family has called Brooklyn home for decades, and I attended Brooklyn public schools, Midwood High School, and Brooklyn College.

Since being elected to represent the 49th Assembly District in 2022, I have been proud to make constituent service and community involvement central to my office. I have worked alongside residents throughout Bensonhurst, Dyker Heights, Sunset Park, and Borough Park on public safety, education, housing and quality-of-life concerns.

I am particularly proud of standing with residents when government decisions are made without sufficient community input. I have fought controversial homeless shelter proposals, called for greater oversight and investigations when public safety has been put at risk, supported community organizations and programs, and worked to ensure that the diverse communities of Southern Brooklyn have a strong voice in Albany.

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.

Good government begins with accountability, transparency and public trust. Before being elected to the Assembly, I spent more than 30 years working with the New York City Board of Elections as a Poll Site Coordinator, giving me firsthand experience with the administration of our elections and the importance of protecting the integrity and accessibility of the voting process.

As an Assemblymember, I have continued to advocate for greater government accountability and oversight. I introduced legislation that would withhold the salaries of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor when the state budget is not enacted on time, because elected officials should be accountable for fulfilling one of their most fundamental responsibilities.

I have also consistently pushed for transparency when government actions affect my constituents. Most recently, I called for a full investigation after allegations of a fraudulent asbestos inspection at a proposed homeless shelter in my district. Whether the issue is elections, state spending or local government projects, New Yorkers deserve transparency, meaningful oversight and elected officials who are accountable to the people they serve.

ELECTIONS AND VOTING

Comments (optional)

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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

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

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

Yes

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?

No

ETHICS

POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY

REVISING CITY CHARTERS

ADDITIONAL INFO