



2026 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.

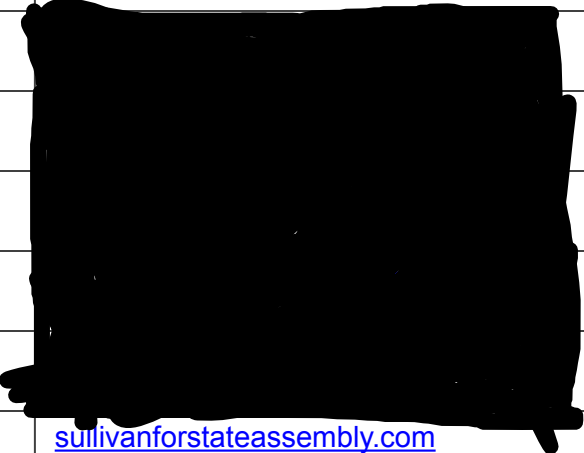
For over 125 years, Citizens Union (CU) has been devoted to holding our local government accountable with the highest ethical standards and fighting for political reforms that improve New York democracy (<https://citizensunion.org/issues/>). To promote a competitive and diverse political culture, a fair 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 one week before your interview. 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 INFORMATION	
Name	Thomas P. Sullivan
District	New York State Assembly District 23
Age	55
Education	La Salle Military Academy C'89, Mount St. Mary's University C'93, Mount St. Mary's University C'96, United States Army War College C'18.
Current job, position, or occupation	Financial Consultant
Other positions or roles	President BPAL Properties LLC, General Board Member WB ESOP LTD
Previous jobs or positions	Analyst Global Markets, Financial Legal Compliance, Colonel for the United States Army Reserve, Small Business Owner General Board Member BPC LLC.
Contact information	
Email	
Campaign Manager Name	
Campaign Manager Email	
Phone Number	
Website	sullivanforstateassembly.com
X	@Sully4assembly
Facebook	Thomas P. Sullivan
Instagram	Sullivanforstateassembly
Bluesky	N/A
Other social media platforms	(YouTube) @Sully4Assembly

General

- What are your top three campaign promises or goals, and what actions will you take to achieve them if elected?
- Lower the cost of living, keep our streets safe, and prepare our next generation for the future.

If elected, I will work to lower the cost of living by reducing the burden on middle-class taxpayers and supporting common-sense legislation that helps families afford groceries, pay their rent, and remain in the communities they call home. I want families to have the opportunity to raise their children in the same neighborhoods where they grew up.

To keep our streets safe, I will work closely with our local precincts, community boards, and neighborhood leaders to ensure that the needs and concerns of our communities are being heard and addressed. I will fight to make sure our police officers, firefighters, EMS personnel, and other first responders receive the respect, resources, and compensation they deserve. I will also support holding criminals accountable and ensuring that sentences and penalties are appropriate for the crimes committed.

Finally, preparing our children for the future starts with giving them the tools they need to succeed. I will fight to ensure our schools have the resources and funding they need, while supporting an education that gives students accurate information, strong foundational skills, and the ability to think critically.

- 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?

Aside from my military deployments, I have lived in this district my entire life. Throughout the years, I have been deeply involved in our community through organizations including the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Knights of Columbus, Ancient Order of Hibernians, Kiwanis, and the Rockaway Graybeards. I have also had the privilege of serving on the board of my community's cooperative.

One of my proudest accomplishments while serving on the board was helping lead the effort to build a more resilient natural coastline after Hurricane Sandy. The dunes protect our homeowners while providing critical habitat for the endangered bird species in our area.

- 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.

My civilian and military service taught me the importance of accountability and responsibility to maintain the trust of my firm and my clients. My experience has taught me that leadership

means being willing to make difficult decisions, take responsibility for your actions, and put my clients interest first and the welfare of my Soldiers and their families first.

I will bring those same values to the State Legislature. I believe government should be honest, transparent, and accountable to the people we aspire to serve. I will support responsible spending of taxpayer money, strong ethics standards, and proper oversight of government agencies.

Good government means listening to the people and working across the aisle, regardless of party or out of self interest. I will bring the same commitment to service that I brought to my civilian military careers to representing the people of Assembly District 23 with honor and distinction.

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?

No

- 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?

No. but I support voting rights for people awaiting trial and those detained for certain nonviolent offenses. A more targeted bill could also have a better chance of passing, given that this legislation has never left committee since being introduced in 2019.

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?

Yes to both

Fully funding the program ensures its budget meets the program's needs and demand.

- 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](#))

No

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

Path to Victory

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

17,000

- What are your current fundraising numbers? What are your fundraising goals?

\$150,000 with matching funds. We will raise a total \$375,000 by the general election.

- How many individual donors do you have?

375

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

Joann Ariola (NYC Councilwoman-32nd District)

Steve Chan (NYS Senator-17th District)

Queens County GOP

Conservative Party of NYS

Bruce Blakeman (Nassau County Executive)

Additional Information

- What else would you like us to know about yourself?

I served in the United States Army Reserve for 32 years, retiring as a Colonel. During my military career, I served tours in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Kuwait. My service taught me the importance of leadership, responsibility, and putting others before yourself.

I am a 9/11 survivor, my firm was decimated during the attacks. In the aftermath of September 11th, my responsibilities increased dramatically over night and were critical in maintaining business continuity. During Superstorm Sandy my entire community was destroyed, as a member of the community board of directors I had to make assessments and decisions regarding the financial survivability and rebuilding and rebuilding of thousands of homes.

I am a father of three—twin sons and a daughter. One of my sons is preparing to join the FDNY, while my other son serves as a helicopter pilot in the U.S. Army. My daughter is a college student and lifeguard. I am proud that all three of my children have chosen paths centered around service and helping others.

My family, military career, and years of community service have shaped who I am and strengthened my commitment to serving others.

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