



NYC City Council Candidate Questionnaire 2021

Thank you for your interest in Citizen Action of New York's endorsement of your candidacy.

This is our candidate questionnaire. Upon submission, your completed questionnaire will be reviewed by our volunteer leaders in our chapter nearest to your district. A representative of Citizen Action will be in touch with you soon.

Please complete and return this questionnaire by Monday, December 14.

We do require that all questionnaires be submitted through this website for consideration.

Please answer all of the questions below. Some of the questions are short answer ("Yes/No" or "Support/Oppose") with an option or request to comment and elaborate on your answer. If you answer "Not Sure," we request that you explain your position in the "Comment" lines provided. Please feel free to make additional comments in the section provided below or to send us additional comments or information on yourself or your issue positions by email. You can email us at endorsements@citizenactionny.org.

We also request that you include biographical information and any relevant documents such as campaign literature, articles you've written and press clips.

For a PDF version of this survey, please [click here](#).

Campaign and Personal Information

*Name of Candidate:

Indicate if you seeking our support for a primary or the general election
(select both if applicable)

Primary

General

*Office Sought (if you are running for City Council, please be sure to select the district):

Select the district:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> 1 | <input type="radio"/> 2 | <input type="radio"/> 3 |
| <input type="radio"/> 4 | <input type="radio"/> 5 | <input type="radio"/> 6 |
| <input type="radio"/> 7 | <input type="radio"/> 8 | <input type="radio"/> 9 |
| <input type="radio"/> 10 | <input type="radio"/> 11 | <input type="radio"/> 12 |
| <input type="radio"/> 13 | <input type="radio"/> 14 | <input type="radio"/> 15 |
| <input type="radio"/> 16 | <input type="radio"/> 17 | <input type="radio"/> 18 |
| <input type="radio"/> 19 | <input type="radio"/> 20 | <input type="radio"/> 21 |
| <input type="radio"/> 22 | <input type="radio"/> 23 | <input type="radio"/> 24 |
| <input type="radio"/> 25 | <input type="radio"/> 26 | <input type="radio"/> 27 |
| <input type="radio"/> 28 | <input type="radio"/> 29 | <input type="radio"/> 30 |
| <input type="radio"/> 31 | <input type="radio"/> 32 | <input type="radio"/> 33 |
| <input type="radio"/> 34 | <input type="radio"/> 35 | <input type="radio"/> 36 |
| <input type="radio"/> 37 | <input type="radio"/> 38 | <input type="radio"/> 39 |
| <input type="radio"/> 40 | <input type="radio"/> 41 | <input type="radio"/> 42 |
| <input type="radio"/> 43 | <input type="radio"/> 44 | <input type="radio"/> 45 |
| <input type="radio"/> 46 | <input type="radio"/> 47 | <input type="radio"/> 48 |
| <input type="radio"/> 49 | <input type="radio"/> 50 | <input type="radio"/> 51 |

Candidate Webpage/Facebook/Twitter/Other Social Media information:

Campaign Contact Information

Please specify the person we should contact with any questions concerning this questionnaire and to interview the candidate if necessary for our endorsement.

* Campaign Contact and Title:

* Campaign Contact Address:

* Campaign Contact Email:

* Campaign Contact Cell Phone:

* Name of Campaign Manager (indicate "same" if same as Campaign Contact):

Campaign Information

If you are the incumbent for this office, specify the year you were first elected:

*Specify your party registration, if any:

- | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Democratic | <input type="radio"/> Republican | <input type="radio"/> Conservative |
| <input type="radio"/> Working Families | <input type="radio"/> Green | <input type="radio"/> Libertarian |
| <input type="radio"/> I am not enrolled in any party | | |

Check all of the party lines you are seeking, including any “non-official” party lines (if so, list under “other”):

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Democratic | <input type="checkbox"/> Republican | <input type="checkbox"/> Conservative |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Working Families | <input type="checkbox"/> Green | <input type="checkbox"/> Libertarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please Specify) | | |

*List your current and significant past paid positions and the years of each job, as well as the significant elected or appointed offices you have held or hold and significant civic involvements and the years of your service. What community organizations, labor unions, and nonprofits are you a member of or leader in, and for how long? (Feel free to download a resume, campaign biography or other document with this information in lieu of answering this question. If you are an incumbent, please list any significant offices you held prior to your current position.)

Upload a resume, campaign biography or other document with this information in lieu of answering the question above.

*List your current employer or employers and any businesses or nonprofits from which you receive any compensation.

*How would you describe your basic political philosophy?

*Why do you want Citizen Action's endorsement? Please describe your past activities and experiences that demonstrate work with Citizen Action or a track record of concern with Citizen Action's goals and issues, particularly in regard to its major priorities, including education, health care, climate justice, fair elections/public funding of elections, housing, decarceration and ending mass criminalization, worker and gender justice, a fair budget and tax system, and any issues of local significance. (You can visit <http://citizenactionny.org> for information on our issue positions and activities.)

*Describe your views as to the main issues in the election. List your top 2 to 5 issue priorities and the steps you will take to implement these priorities if elected.

*What does racial justice mean to you? How will you advance racial justice through your campaign and through the office you seek if elected?

*Describe the race, including such issues as: 1) who you see as your main opponent in the race and what do you think your biggest obstacle will be; 2) the funding and other resources (like political support) it will take to win your race; and 3) any information you want to provide on the progress of your campaign, such as money raised and level of support.

*Would you be willing to meet regularly with Citizen Action of New York leaders and/or staff to discuss common issues and priorities if elected?

Yes

No

*Are you participating in or do you intend to participate in the New York City matching funds program? If not, explain why not in the space provided below.

Yes

No (If no, please explain)

Please explain:

*List any prominent individuals or significant organizations or media outlets that have endorsed your candidacy.

Positions on New York City Issues

Please answer all of the questions below. Some of the questions are short answer (“Yes/No” or “Support/Oppose”) with an option to comment and elaborate on your answer. If you answer “Not sure,” we request that you explain your position in the “Comment” lines provided. You may also wish to download biographical information and any relevant documents such as campaign literature, articles you’ve written and press clips.

Please note that this questionnaire was released in the Fall of 2020. The bill numbers provided in our questions in the section on state issues are for the 2019-20 legislative session. State legislation that does not pass by the end of 2020 must receive a new bill number to be considered in the 2021 legislative session.

*What policies would you promote or have you promoted in New York City to address climate change and its actual or potential consequences for the New York City metropolitan region?

*What would you do to address the chronic federal underfunding of the New York City Housing Authority?

*What is your opinion of 421-a, opportunity zones, Rezoning, the Mandatory Inclusionary Housing program (MIH), and other policies which promote investment to solve the affordable housing crisis? Please explain why you think they are helpful or harmful.

*Would you be willing to use the power of your office, if elected, to restore funding for the NYC Unity Project jobs program, which funds work skills development and jobs for runaway and homeless Queer and Trans young people?

Yes

No

Not Sure (If not sure, please explain)

*Please explain:

*Would you be willing to use the power of the office you seek to stop or curtail the expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure, including but not limited to gas and oil pipelines and compressor stations, particularly in the New York City metropolitan region? Please specify in as much detail as possible in the space provided the steps you would take and policies you would implement (or have taken if you currently hold public office), to move towards a broader alternative energy use? What steps have you taken as a private citizen?

Yes

No

Not Sure (If not sure, please explain)

Please explain:

*The COVID pandemic has highlighted how critical Health and Hospitals is to the health of all New Yorkers. Do you support the City's commitment to ensure Health + Hospitals can keep its hospitals and clinics open to meet the challenges of 21st century health care? Please elaborate on your position regarding maintaining the quality of services delivered by H + H and the New York City health care delivery system in general. Furthermore, please detail how you would improve delivery of healthcare services to unserved communities.

*Will you work to ensure that law enforcement and other governmental agencies in New York City limit cooperation with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) - and especially Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) - in enforcing federal immigration policy to the fullest extent possible under the law, despite any threats of the loss of federal funding?

Support

Oppose

Not Sure (If not sure, please explain)

Please explain:

*Will you commit to opposing austerity measures to cut public services in the City, including such steps as privatizing public services like nursing homes? What steps are you willing to take such as raising revenues, to avoid such austerity measures? If austerity measures are forced upon the city, will you commit to ensuring that service cuts are not made in low income, already underserved communities?

Support

Oppose

Not Sure (If not sure, please explain)

Please explain:

*Please answer each of the parts of this question in the spaces provided below.

A) What is your long term vision for policing in New York City?

B) Do you support significantly diminishing the role of police when a call to the NYPD potentially involves an individual with mental health issues? If so, how would you address such situations? If not, how should these situations be handled to ensure the health and safety of these individuals as well as others involved?

C) Do you support significantly reducing the scope and size of the NYPD and diverting funds to other purposes such as human services programs? If so, explain the details of your proposals in this regard.

D) Do you support the Mayor's Borough-Based Jail plan to close Rikers Island? If so, please explain why. If not, please offer your thoughts and vision for how we successfully close Rikers Island?

*Public schools in our city are severely underfunded. This has only been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting financial crisis. What proposals do you have, involving city and/or state actions, to address the resource shortfalls our schools are experiencing and the resulting severe threats to educational quality and equity? What steps would you take to address the school-to-prison pipeline?

*New York City is facing a childcare crisis. COVID-19 has demonstrated that the patchwork of childcare providers and after-school programs is simply not enough to support New York City's working families. How would you propose to strengthen and fund childcare or working families across New York City?

* A large number of New York City's 6,000 independent taxi medallion owners, many of whom are immigrants, are in desperate need of relief. For years, taxi industry leaders and lending institutions engaged in deceptive or risky lending practices, artificially driving up the value of the medallions and pushing independent owner-drivers into bad loans. Now medallion values have plummeted, ridership is down 92%, and these debts constitute a crushing liability that has even led some of these small business owners to commit suicide. Drivers are requesting relief. How would you address the growing problems of New York City's independent taxi medallion owners?

* How would you address food deserts, food insecurity, and lack of access to healthy foods, particularly in communities of color?

*Do you believe that the City University of New York should be free for New Yorkers and if so, what tangible policies do you have to make that happen in your administration?

*Can you provide initiatives and/or policies that you would support and implement to protect and expand the rights of the LGBTQIA community?

Positions on State Issues

* Do you believe that in general, in times of economic distress like the present, cuts to vital human services programs like health care, education and social services should be minimized or eliminated primarily by increases in New York State taxes on wealthy individuals and corporations? Please offer your views on the package of revenue legislation or on individual components of the legislation supported by New York Budget Justice (<https://www.nybudgetjustice.com/initiatives>).

* Do you support or oppose the concept of state funding to provide health coverage to undocumented immigrants? Such a proposal is intended to address the ban in the Affordable Care Act and other provisions of federal law on the undocumented enrolling in state health exchanges like NY State of Health, receiving premium tax credits or other subsidies intended to make health insurance more affordable, and receiving most forms of Medicaid.

Support

Oppose

Not sure (If not sure, please explain)

Please Explain:

*Do you support or oppose legislation (A.5248/S.3577) to establish the New York Health program, a comprehensive and universal single-payer system of access to health insurance for all New York State residents?

Support

Oppose

Not sure (If not sure, please explain)

Please Explain:

*Do you support or oppose an equitable distribution of school aid that prioritizes high-need districts and a significant increase in school aid, consistent with the *Campaign for Fiscal Equity* litigation?

Support

Oppose

Not sure (If not sure, please explain)

Please Explain:

*Do you support ending the school-to-prison pipeline by creating police-free schools? Please provide any details of your position in the space provided.

Support

Oppose

Not sure (If not sure, please explain)

Please Explain:

Which of the following suggested proposals to address “mass incarceration” of people of color in New York State or the consequences of such policies would you support? (Please feel free to select more than one choice and to outline additional proposals you support in the space provided.)

**The proposals cited are for your background information only; we are asking you for your support of the general concept of each of these proposals, not whether or not you’d support any specific bill.*

Legalizing or decriminalizing the possession of small amounts of marijuana.*

Requiring the granting of parole consideration to all people 55 or older who have served 15 years in prison (A.9040/S.2144)*

Limiting the time inmates can spend in solitary confinement and the segregated confinement of vulnerable people (A.2500/S.1623)*

Additional proposals

Which of the following tenants' rights state legislative initiatives would you support? (Please feel free to select more than one choice and to outline additional proposals you support in the space provided.)

**The proposals cited are for your background information only; we are asking you for your support of the general concept of each of these proposals, not whether or not you'd support any specific bill.*

Canceling rent obligations until 90 days after the COVID emergency ends (A.10826/S.8802)*

Prohibiting the eviction of residential or commercial tenants until one year after the COVID emergency ends (A.10827/S.8667)*

Providing rental assistance in the form of vouchers to individuals who are homeless or face an imminent risk of losing their homes (A.9657/S.7628)*

Additional proposals

* Please discuss what steps you would take to address the climate crisis, through state policies? Among the policies you may wish to address are:
A) the siting of gas pipelines and associated infrastructure like compressor stations and other fossil fuel projects throughout the city and the rest of the state; and
B) the implementation of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, the landmark state climate law enacted in 2019, including its policies in regard to:

1. greenhouse gas emissions reductions;
2. reserving at least 35% of state energy funds to low income communities and communities of color; and
3. requiring that state agencies consider the impact on climate and on communities of color and on low income communities when considering approvals of fossil fuel projects or awarding contracts.

* Do you support or oppose the Climate and Community Investment Act, which would generate roughly \$7 billion in revenue annually through a polluter fee that puts a price on carbon and other greenhouse gas emissions, and invest the revenue generated in large-scale and multi-region projects that reduce emissions and target areas of economic need; target assistance to low-income communities and communities of color; protect displaced fossil fuel workers through retraining, extended unemployment benefits and other means; and provide assistance to New Yorkers to help reduce energy burdens?

Yes

No

Not sure (If not sure, please explain)

Please Explain:

Additional Information or Comments

Please use this space to add any additional comments.

Please use this space to upload any additional materials that you would like us to have.