# **DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

# **CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE: 2025**

### **CAMPAIGN AND PERSONAL INFORMATION**

***Instructions:*** *Please answer each of the questions below. If the question calls for other than a one or two word response (e.g,, “Yes or No”), please type in your answers below the questions. Even for “Yes/No” questions, feel free to elaborate on your answer. We also encourage you to email or link to any written information on yourself, your candidacy and/or your issue positions (e.g., your resume, your campaign platform, public testimony you’ve written, and any media clips).*

**Date questionnaire completed:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Name of candidate**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Indicate if you are seeking our support for a primary\_\_\_\_ or the general election \_\_\_\_\_

*(select both if applicable)*

**County/NYC Borough you are seeking the District Attorney position for:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Candidate Webpage/Facebook/Twitter/Instagram/Other Social Media information:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Campaign Contact and Title:**  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*(Specify the person we should contact with any questions concerning this questionnaire and to interview the candidate if necessary for our endorsement.)*

Address: (including city, state, zip)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Name and Contact Information of Campaign Manager:**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*(Indicate “same” if same as Campaign Contact)*

1. If you are the incumbent for this office, specify the year you first took office: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or indicate here “N/A” (“not applicable”) if you are not the incumbent: \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Specify your party registration.

\_\_\_\_\_ Democrat \_\_\_\_\_ Republican \_\_\_\_\_ Conservative \_\_\_\_\_ Working Families \_\_\_\_\_ I am not enrolled in any party (“blank”)

1. Check each of the ballot lines you are seeking, including any “non-official” ballot lines (if non-official, list under “other”).

\_\_\_\_\_ Democrat \_\_\_\_ Republican \_\_\_\_\_ Conservative \_\_\_\_\_Working Families

\_\_\_\_\_Other (if so, list the name of the line or lines) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Detail your employment history and legal experience, including your degrees, states where you are licensed to practice law, number of years of practice, and relevant employment and volunteer and civic activities. (Feel free to attach a resume, campaign biography or other document containing this information in lieu of answering all or a portion of this question.)

\_\_\_ I have provided a resume, campaign bibliography or other document or documents in lieu of answering all or a portion of this question (check if applicable)

1. Provide a listing of elected or appointed offices that you have held or hold, significant civic involvements and the years of your service. If you are an incumbent, please list any significant offices you held prior to your current position. (Feel free to attach a resume, campaign biography or other document containing this information in lieu of answering all or a portion of this question.)

\_\_\_ I have provided a resume, campaign bibliography or other document or documents in lieu of answering all or a portion of this question (check if applicable)

1. What relevant volunteer, advocacy, and organizing activities have you engaged in beyond employment? (Feel free to attach a resume, campaign biography or other document containing this information in lieu of answering all or a portion of this question.)

\_\_\_ I have provided a resume, campaign bibliography or other document or documents in lieu of answering all or a portion of this question (check if applicable)

1. Name of your campaign committee. If none, indicate “N/A.”

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. List any businesses or non-profits from which you received any compensation of at least $500 in 2024 or anticipate receiving any compensation of at least $500 in 2025.
2. How would you describe your basic political philosophy? Why do you want the Citizen Action of New York 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 criminal justice and ending mass incarceration, but also as to its other major priorities, including education and child care, health care, climate justice, democracy (e.g., fair elections/public funding of elections and voting rights), housing, worker and gender justice, and a fair budget and tax system. (You can visit [www.citizenactionny.org](http://www.citizenactionny.org) for information on our issue positions and activities.)
3. Describe the race, including: 1) who your actual or anticipated opponents are and basic information about them (such as whether they are the incumbent and what elected office they currently hold, if any); 2) the funding and other resources (like political support) it will take to win your race; 3) whether you are seeking the Working Families Party ballot line for your position, and the status (i.e., interviewed, endorsed, not endorsed etc.) and 4) any information you wish to provide as to the progress of your campaign, such as money raised and level of support.
4. 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 or reelected?

\_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_No \_\_\_\_ Not Sure (If not sure, please explain)

1. List any prominent individuals (and their affiliations), as well as organizations or media outlets that have thus far endorsed your candidacy or that you anticipate will endorse you. (For anticipated endorsements, please specify that the endorsement is anticipated and explain the status and why endorsement is expected; for example, you can say that they have endorsed you in past races and have informally indicated endorsement is likely.)
2. Describe any complaints alleging unethical conduct (including sexual or racial harassment) and/or violations of professional disciplinary codes that have been made against you, including lawsuits alleging unethical behavior (e.g., malpractice actions), your response, and the disposition (i.e., disciplinary actions taken, complaint dismissed, etc.).

### **WORLDVIEW QUESTIONS**

1. How will you campaign address issues of racial inequity that will deepen people’s understanding of structural and institutional racism?
2. Folks across the state are worried about feeling safe in their communities. What is your vision of public safety and how will you describe this publicly?

### **ISSUES DIRECTLY RELEVANT TO DISTRICT ATTORNEY POSITION**

***Additional instructions for this section:*** *For questions below that ask what policies you will implement were you elected to the district attorney position, please indicate if and to what extent you have already implemented such policies if you are the incumbent.*

1. Describe your views as to the central issues to be addressed in this election. What do you believe are the most critical functions or missions of the District Attorney’s office and how do you intend to make those missions a reality?
2. List your top 2 to 5 issue priorities and the steps that you will take to implement these priorities if elected. Which of your initiatives in your view, if any, would have a significant impact on reducing the incarcerated population in your county or locality?
3. How would your office treat cases where the defendant evidences problems in regard to mental health, or alcohol and/or drug problems?
4. Will your office decline to prosecute or otherwise seek reduced penalties for so-called quality of life offenses including, but not limited to the following: theft of services, unlicensed driving and other minor driving offenses; petit larceny and shoplifting for amounts under $250, and trespassing? Please indicate any other offenses or crimes that your office would decline to prosecute or to seek reduced penalties for.

\_\_\_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_\_\_No \_\_\_\_\_\_Not Sure

1. How will your office handle cases where a survivor of domestic violence is the defendant and the criminal conduct alleged is related to acts of survival or self-defense?
2. Will you implement an office-wide policy requiring prosecutors to consider immigration consequences in the charging, plea, and sentencing decisions?

\_\_\_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_\_\_No \_\_\_\_\_\_Not Sure

1. Will you request release on recognizance to the limits the law currently allows? Please feel free to explain any exceptions you would make to the above and why you would make them.

\_\_\_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_\_\_No \_\_\_\_\_\_Not Sure

1. Will you decline to prosecute “broken-windows” offenses such as criminal trespass and public urination?

\_\_\_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_\_\_No \_\_\_\_\_\_Not Sure

1. Will you maintain and publish an electronic case management system to measure the overall effectiveness of the office -- including the number of misdemeanor and felony cases filed each month, disposition statistics, pretrial incarceration rates and length of stay by offense category, and average bond for each class of offense -- so that the public can determine the effectiveness of policies aimed at reform?

\_\_\_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_\_\_No \_\_\_\_\_\_Not Sure

1. Will you track racial information at all steps of the prosecution process, and publicly report any significant racial disparities arising at any stage of the process?

\_\_\_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_\_\_No \_\_\_\_\_\_Not Sure

1. Will you commit to establishing an independent wrongful conviction unit/ conviction integrity unit or take other steps to review prior unjust convictions in your county or locality?

\_\_\_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_\_\_No \_\_\_\_\_\_Not Sure

1. How will your office ensure that your staff is diverse -- including but not limited to race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic background, and more, including at the senior level?
2. Do you support or oppose the creation of a police civilian review board in your jurisdiction that can hold police accountable for misconduct? If such a board exists already, please give your assessment of its value and effectiveness, and any changes you would recommend.

\_\_\_\_Support \_\_\_\_Oppose \_\_\_\_Not Sure

1. What role if any do you expect to play in the State District Attorney’s Association? Do you have stances on the positions taken by the Association that are relevant to this race?

### **STATE ISSUES**

***Additional instructions for this section:*** *Please answer all questions in this section. Even though a District Attorney has no direct power to change state laws, a candidate can still use his or her platform and office once elected to advocate for laws that align with his or her vision and objectives and take policy positions that impact on these laws. When we ask whether you support a particular bill, we are asking whether you support the concept of the bill -- not necessarily whether you’d vote for legislation with the exact current bill language if you were a member of the legislature. You may also wish to provide campaign literature, articles you’ve written and press clips or other relevant documents that explain your positions and the actions you have taken or will take to advance these positions.*

*Note: In 2025, all bills in the State Legislature that did not pass in 2024 must be reintroduced -- which has not happened yet fo*r many bills *as this questionnaire “went to press.” Therefore, all bill numbers referred to below are for the 2024 state legislative session.*

1. Check each of the following measures that you support that are aimed at increasing housing access and affordability. Feel free to outline additional proposals you support that advance these broad goals.

\_\_\_\_ the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act (TOPA), which would give tenants the option to purchase the buildings where their apartments are located when they go up for sale (A3353/S221)

\_\_\_\_ the Housing Access Voucher Program (HAVP) bill, which would provide rental support that keeps pace with the actual cost of rent (A4021/S568)

\_\_\_\_legislation to establish the New York State Social Housing Development Authority to develop permanently affordable housing and establish tenant union protections (A9088/S8494)

1. Check each of the following measures that you support that are aimed at addressing the “mass incarceration” of people of color in New York State or the consequences of mass incarceration policies. Feel free to outline additional proposals you support that advance these broad goals.

\_\_\_\_The No Slavery in NY Act (A3412/S225; constitutional amendment) and the Freedom and Opportunity for Incarcerated Workers Act (A7452/S6747), which would end labor exploitation in prisons

\_\_\_\_The Gate Money bill, which would provide direct cash payments to individuals upon their release from incarceration (A9115/S6643)

\_\_\_\_ The Treatment Not Jails bill, which would include people with mental health challenges, and intellectual, neurological, physical or other disabilities on the list of those who can benefit from treatment under the state’s judicial diversion law (A1263/S1976)

\_\_\_\_ The Jury of Our Peers Act, which would remove the current state law ban on jury service for convicted felons who have completed their sentence (A1432/S206) (vetoed by the Governor in 2024)

1. Will you advocate for sentencing reform? Please explain your response and detail what legislative changes to New York State’s sentencing laws you would support and why.

\_\_\_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_\_\_No \_\_\_\_\_\_Not Sure

1. Will you support legislation aimed at eliminating predatory fines and fees in municipal courts?

\_\_\_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_\_\_No \_\_\_\_\_\_Not Sure

1. Will you work to ensure that local law enforcement and government agencies in your county or municipality limit cooperation with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) -- and especially the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) -- in enforcing federal immigration policy to the fullest extent possible under the law? Will you limit cooperation despite the hostility to immigrants by the upcoming federal administration and the new Congressional majorities, and despite the potential consequences to your county and our state, including the loss of federal funding?

\_\_\_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_\_\_No \_\_\_\_\_\_Not Sure

**INCLUSION OF DOCUMENTS WITH ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

\_\_\_\_\_ I have included a document or documents to supplement my answers to this questionnaire (check if applicable).