



Citizens Union 2025 Candidate Questionnaire - New York City Mayor

GENERAL INFORMATION

Candidate Info

Name	Andrew Mark Cuomo
In which primary	Democratic
Age	67
Education	Fordham University (BA), Albany Law School (JD)
Current job, position, or occupation	Candidate for Mayor
Previous jobs or positions	Governor of New York (2011-2021), Attorney General of New York (2007-2010), Secretary of HUD (1997-2001)

Campaign Contact Information

Website	https://www.andrewcuomo.com
X	https://x.com/andrewcuomo
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/andrewcuomo
Instagram	https://www.instagram.com/andrewcuomo/?hl=en

INTRODUCTION

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

Promise 1: I'm running for Mayor as a lifelong New Yorker who wants the city to thrive. NYC faces extreme challenges of affordability and safety. As Mayor, my top priorities will be to make the City safer, more affordable, and solve our mental health and homelessness crisis. To tackle affordability, my administration will fully fund 3-K and expand free and affordable childcare. We will provide targeted tax relief to small homeowners and lower-income workers, and increase enrollment in the Fair Fares program. My housing plan commits to building and preserving 500,000 additional units in the next decade. I support leveraging underutilized public land for affordable and mixed-income housing for New Yorkers.

Promise 2: We deserve to feel safe in our neighborhoods. My approach to safety is grounded in a well-trained and visible police presence; it centers on compassionate, coordinated responses to homelessness, mental illness, and substance abuse. I will increase the size of the police force by 5,000 officers; 1,500 officers for NYPD Transit and 3500 to be deployed for community and precision policing.

Promise 3: To address the mental health and homelessness crisis, I've proposed a \$2.6B five-year plan to expand congregate supportive housing, community-based mental health services, and scale up crisis response services. We will also fill essential workforce shortages, and establish a centralized Street Population Management Unit to improve outreach with the City's homeless population. There is too much chaos in the city and not enough leadership. It won't be easy, but together we can turn it around.

2. What experience have you had with good government and reform issues? (e.g., voting and election reform, campaign finance, ethics, police accountability, government transparency). If you've worked to advance these goals, we'd love to hear about it.

Before I was elected Governor, Albany was a hotbed of dysfunction and corruption. During my tenure, we reformed state government, leveraged technology to make government information more accessible, and made voting rights a priority. Our Democracy depends on free and fair elections. We made voting more accessible by enacting early voting, consolidating federal and state primaries, and by expanding absentee voting during COVID to ensure safe access to the ballot box and greater voter participation.

We also took on campaign finance reform. I closed the LLC loophole, restricted the personal use of campaign funds, and created a small-donor public financing system to amplify the voices of everyday New Yorkers. We expanded lobbying disclosure requirements and strengthened rules around independent political expenditures.

I significantly advanced reforms to ensure elected officials serve with honesty and transparency, including giving prosecutors stronger tools to convict individuals who bribe public servants or corrupt government processes. I introduced higher penalties for theft involving state or local government property and imposed additional consequences for felony public corruption, including a lifetime ban from government service. My administration also established an Independent Enforcement Unit at the Board of Elections, led by a chief enforcement counsel appointed to a five-year term, which was empowered to independently investigate Election Law violations.

The reforms I championed as Governor reflected my belief that transparency and integrity are essential to building trust between people and their government. I will bring that same record of reform and good governance to City Hall.

ELECTIONS AND VOTING

3. Do you support moving New York City's elections from odd-numbered years to even-numbered years, and will you publicly support efforts in Albany to implement this reform?

Yes

Voter turnout in New York City elections is exceptionally low, as they are held “off-cycle” in odd-numbered years. To boost local voter turnout and reduce participation gaps, the Legislature passed, and Governor Hochul signed, a law that moves county and town elections to even-numbered years, and lawmakers are supporting a constitutional amendment that would do the same for city elections, including New York City’s. Citizens Union is [leading a coalition of groups advocating](#) to move New York City’s elections to even-numbered years, and the City Council is considering a [resolution in support](#) of that shift.

4. The New York City Board of Elections (NYC BOE) has been a source of frustration for voters and candidates for years. How will you use your power as Mayor to improve the operations of the NYC BOE and ensure that its operations are transparent and accountable to the public?

The Board of Elections has had long standing challenges. But rather than assign blame, we must concentrate on providing adequate resources to administer elections effectively.

If the BOE doesn’t have the staff, the training, the technology, or even the space to do the job right, we shouldn’t be surprised if things go wrong. As Mayor, I’ll work to make sure the BOE has the tools necessary to success and that those tools are being used effectively.

I’d also push for more regular reporting as a way to see what’s working and where support is needed. Voters deserve to know that the system is being managed carefully; that problems are being addressed, not ignored.

Elections are the foundation of everything else — and we need to get them right.

5. Do you support maintaining the use of Ranked Choice Voting in New York City elections?

Yes

Comments (optional)

I respect the will of the voters who approved ranked choice voting in New York City. As Mayor, my focus will be on ensuring that whatever system is in place, whether it's ranked choice or not, is administered competently and fairly with transparency; that government is working for the people and in their interests. I'm committed to improving the management and accountability of the New York City Board of

Elections to ensure New Yorkers know our elections are run properly. It's vital to educate voters on the process and to make voting as accessible as possible to people from all different backgrounds, cultures, and languages throughout the five boroughs.

Comments (optional)

I would be open to this, but it would have to be considered in the context of broader election reforms.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

7. Individuals with business ties to city government and registered lobbyists can bypass their donation limits by “bundling” donations from other people. Do you support limiting bundling by people on the “Doing Business with the City” database?

Yes

8. Are you a supporter of the City's public campaign matching funds program, and do you commit to protecting the independence of the program and ensuring that the Campaign Finance Board has sufficient resources to run the program?

Yes

ETHICS IN GOVERNMENT

9. The recent indictments and resignations surrounding City Hall has exposed serious ethical problems in City Government. Please describe how you will maintain the highest ethical standards in office.

I have always believed that public trust is the foundation of effective government. As Governor, I passed the Public Integrity Reform Act and strengthened laws around lobbying and campaign finance disclosures.

Government, like any other large organization, sometimes attracts people who seek to exploit their position for corrupt purposes. It is sadly impossible to screen out every potential bad actor, so it's important to have zero tolerance once such actors are identified. As Mayor, I would set clear, uncompromising ethical standards from day one. Every member of my administration would be expected to meet the highest levels of integrity – with strict conflict-of-interest rules, full financial disclosures, and mandatory ethics training. I would support independent oversight and strengthen whistleblower protections.

Leadership sets the tone. If you want an ethical government, you need ethical leadership – not just in words, but in actions. That's the standard I held myself to as Governor, and that's the standard I would bring to City Hall.

10. Incoming public servants must sever ties and divest from companies or other interests that have business dealing with the City; but they are not required to recuse themselves when working on matters involving their former business partners, clients, employer, etc. Do you support forbidding public servants to work on matters relating to their former business partners, clients, employers, and other interests for a set period of time?

Yes

11. Some campaign consultants also work as lobbyists. Do you support restricting campaign consultants from lobbying their former clients for a period of two years after their client has won elected office?

Yes

Comments (optional)

Campaign consultants lobbying the officials they helped elect makes people uneasy about access and erodes public trust. It's important the public sees that decisions are merit based, and that campaign relationships do not play a role or provide insider advantage. As Governor I implemented new disclosure requirements for political donations and mandated that legislators and other state employees disclose their outside clients. That said, I think any restriction, like a possible cooling-off period, needs to be strategically developed to ensure it's effective, enforceable, and fair. A two-year ban may be reasonable in some cases. It is necessary to understand the nature of the work, and whether existing disclosure rules

adequately address a possible conflicts of interest Ethics standards must strengthen public confidence without wholly excluding legitimate or unique policy expertise or skills in public service. As Mayor, I'd be open to working with the Council and ethics bodies to find the right balance.

POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY

12. Who do you think should have the final decision on discipline in the New York City Police Department? (i.e., Place the final decision with the Police Commissioner; the Civilian Complaint Review Board; Mayor or Deputy Mayor for Public Safety; or another individual or entity.)

The Police Commissioner should be the final authority on discipline within the NYPD. With that authority comes the responsibility to uphold both public safety and departmental integrity—and ultimately, the Commissioner will answer to me.

Just as important is ensuring the process is consistent and transparent. The Commissioner should maintain a close working relationship with oversight bodies like the Civilian Complaint Review Board to help build public trust and demonstrate that accountability is taken seriously.

As Governor, I supported initiatives that strengthened oversight while respecting the difficult work law enforcement officers do every day. As Mayor, I'll do the same—ensuring that when discipline is necessary, it's handled professionally, swiftly, and justly.

13. How do you view the role of the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety?

The Deputy Mayor for Public Safety should be the Mayor's right hand in coordinating all aspects of public safety — not just policing, but also fire, emergency management, corrections, and mental health response.

The Deputy Mayor must drive coordination across departments, hold agency heads accountable for performance, and ensure that reforms — whether around policing, mental health crisis response, or gun violence prevention — are implemented on the ground. This role isn't just management; it's leadership. The Deputy Mayor must have the trust of the Mayor, the respect of the agencies, and credibility with the public.

As Governor, I oversaw complex operations involving public safety, law enforcement, and emergency response at the state level. I know that strong leadership and real coordination make the difference between a government that reacts and a government that protects. As Mayor, I would make sure the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety is empowered to get results and deliver for the people of this city.

14. Do you support making the appointment of the New York City Police Commissioner subject to the advice and consent of the City Council?

No

Comments (optional)

The City Council should not have the authority to approve the Police Commissioner. The Mayor is elected to run the city and should have the authority to select the strongest and most capable leadership team. You can't hold a Mayor accountable for public safety if you take away the power to choose the person responsible for delivering it. That said, transparency is important. I would fully support a public confirmation hearing process where the nominee for Police Commissioner appears before the City Council to answer questions, share their vision, and engage directly with the public. But the final decision should rest with the Mayor. As Governor, I understood executive accountability depends on executive authority. You

have to give leaders the power to choose their teams, and then hold them responsible for the results. That's how you drive real change and real accountability in government.

*** In the box below, you may provide additional information on any actions that you have taken or plan to take to improve police accountability in New York City.**

To increase police accountability, I issued Executive Order 147, appointing the Attorney General as a special prosecutor in cases where civilians die during interactions with law enforcement.

I also issued Executive Order 203, which was aimed at driving police reform and increasing accountability to the community across New York State. The order required every local government to work with their police force to adopt a plan to reform and modernize police practices as a condition of future State funding. EO 203 was designed to ensure that police agencies review their policies and practices and address racial bias and disproportionate policing of communities of color.

In response to New York State's EO 203, a number of cities across the state implemented successful initiatives aimed at enhancing trust through community engagement, increased transparency through comprehensive reporting of use-of-force incidents, and changes designed to reduce excessive force incidents, and not a single locality's state funding was jeopardized.

CHECKS AND BALANCES

15. The Mayor currently has the power to block charter revision ballot questions (proposed by the City Council, other charter commissions, and citizen petitions) by establishing their own Charter Revision Commission. Do you support removing this Mayoral power?

No

Comments (optional)

No, I don't support removing the Mayor's power to establish a Charter Revision Commission. The Mayor is elected by the entire city and must have meaningful influence in determining major structural changes to how the city is governed. Charter revisions can have sweeping consequences for public safety, budgeting, education, and countless other areas; the Mayor must have the ability to ensure that any changes are fully vetted and understood. That said, I support making the process more transparent. If a Mayor establishes a Charter Revision Commission, it should be clear to the public why it is being created, who is serving on it, and what issues are under review. The public deserves a fair, open process, but taking the Mayor entirely out of it would weaken executive accountability and create more chaos, not less. As Governor, I respected the balance between executive authority and public input. As Mayor, I would use the Charter Revision process responsibly, not to block reform, but to make sure that changes to the city's constitution are made carefully, thoughtfully, and with the best interests of all New Yorkers in mind.

16. Please provide your views about the New York City Council's "advice and consent" powers. In what cases, if any, should a mayor need the Council's approval for an appointment of a high ranking Mayoral official, such as an agency commissioner?

The Mayor is elected to lead, and that includes picking the team. I don't believe the City Council should

have veto power over mayoral appointments beyond what is already afforded to them. You can't expect a Mayor to be accountable for results — safety, schools, housing — if they don't have the authority to hire the people responsible for delivering those results. That's basic executive leadership.

When I was Governor, I picked my own team, and I stood behind them. That's how you get things done, and I'm interested in the results.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please review your answers by clicking PREVIEW ANSWERS below. You can submit the questionnaire at the bottom of the preview page by clicking SUBMIT.

Once you click SUBMIT, you will receive a confirmation email with a PDF file containing your responses.
If you don't see the email, please check your spam box.

If you have any further questions, you may contact us at candidates@citizensunion.org.