



# 2025 Primary Candidate Questionnaire - New York City Council

Citizens Union - Local Candidates Committee

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Candidate info

Name	Faith Bondy
City Council District #	4
In which primary	Democratic
Education	Binghamton University and the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law.
Current job, position, or occupation	Attorney

### Other positions or offices

President of the Samuel J. Tilden Democratic Club, one of the oldest and most highly respected Democratic clubs in New York City.

A Board member of, and legal advisor to, the Sutton Place Parks Conservancy, a charitable organization whose mission is to help preserve and maintain several parks in the midtown east community.

A member and Officer of the Board of Directors of the East Sixties Neighborhood Association, and a former member of Community Board 8’s Street Life Committee.

### Previous jobs or positions

A member of the Executive Board of the PTA of PS 59, a local District 2 public elementary school, as well as several years as a member of the School Leadership Team.

## Campaign contact information

Website	faithbondy.com
X	<a href="https://x.com/BondyForNYCC4">https://x.com/BondyForNYCC4</a>
Instagram	<a href="https://www.instagram.com/faith_bondy_4_city_council">https://www.instagram.com/faith_bondy_4_city_council</a>
Facebook	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/faithbondynyc/">https://www.facebook.com/faithbondynyc/</a>

# INTRODUCTION

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

Promise 1: The affordability crisis: Work to find ways to make the city more affordable so New Yorkers can continue living and raising their families here. Increase the number of rent-stabilized and affordable housing units, and discuss with stakeholders and community leaders ways to address the root causes of the housing shortage.

Promise 2: Public Education: Deliver more funding to ensure that we expand the number of local K-12 public schools in our District and that those schools can serve all students, offer robust arts and enrichment programs that provide opportunities to learn both inside and outside the classroom, and furnish our children with the best chance for success.

Promise 3: Public Safety: Fund our local police precincts so that they have all the resources necessary to protect our District; increase foot patrols and community policing initiatives in our District; foster mutual respect and appreciation between the community, elected officials, and law enforcement partners; fight against antisemitism and all forms of hate; and reduce retail theft and encourage the return of businesses to our community. Nobody should feel unsafe in our community or traveling around our District or City.

## 2. If elected, what is the first piece of legislation you would introduce? Why is that your top priority? If you are an incumbent, please also state what legislation you have passed which you are most proud of.

An early priority would be to pass legislation protecting public school funding in light of the threats to federal education funding. We need to proactively protect the resources and staffing needs of all NYC public schools, no matter what action the Trump administration takes.

## 3. In your view, what are the major needs of your district's constituents?

The major needs of our constituents concern their quality of life and standard of living in the district. I want our district to have quality local schools from 3k-12th grade that they can proudly and without reservation send their children to and understand the process of getting them admitted. We need homes that allow young people to build their lives in our city, families to continue to grow, municipal and union workers to live in the City and communities they serve, and businesses to attract top talent. I want our most vulnerable constituents to be on a different path, whether that be receiving mental health or substance abuse treatment they desperately need, having a bed in a supportive housing building and the tools they need to start anew after experiencing domestic violence. I want more parents back in the workforce, secure in the fact that they have trusted and affordable childcare options. We need more green spaces and parks for our children to play, seniors to socialize, and New Yorkers to exercise and improve their mental

## 4. How long have you lived in the district in which you are running, and do you have any achievements or involvement in your neighborhood you are particularly proud of?

I have lived in the district for nearly 25 years. I am the President of the Samuel J. Tilden Democratic Club,

one of the oldest and most highly respected Democratic clubs in New York City; a Board member of, and legal advisor to, the Sutton Place Parks Conservancy, a charitable organization whose mission is to help preserve and maintain several parks in the midtown east community; and a member and Officer of the Board of Directors of the East Sixties Neighborhood Association, an organization that cares for the community, and addresses the needs and concerns of residents. I have served in our schools on the PTA and School Leadership Teams and am a former Community Board 8's Street Life Committee member.

**5. 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.**

I've spoken out in favor of the campaign finance matching funds system in a primary election that was disrupted by one candidate opting out of the public financing system. In all my roles in the community, and especially as an attorney, I hold myself to the highest standards of fairness, honesty, and transparency.

**6. What do you think the role of the City Council is in city government this upcoming term?**

The Council has three main responsibilities: passing legislation, reviewing and adopting the city budget, and regulating land use. The Council also maintains important oversight responsibilities vis-a-vis City Agencies. In the upcoming term, the City Council must prioritize what is best for New Yorkers in each of these areas. This includes enacting new laws or modifying those already in existence to provide greater protections for our citizens, addressing competing interests for funding allocations and making difficult decisions about land use, particularly in the effort to combat the city's housing crisis. It also means ensuring that City Agencies are working efficiently and effectively to serve the needs of New Yorkers.

**ELECTIONS AND VOTING**

**7. Do you support moving New York City's elections from odd-numbered years to even-numbered years, and will you co-sponsor a Council Resolution supporting that measure?**

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.

**8. The New York City Board of Elections (NYC BOE) has been a source of frustration for voters and candidates for years. The City Council appoints NYC BOE members and has the power to appoint commissioners who are committed to reform, but the most recent commissioners have been appointed behind closed doors. Do you commit to request a public hearing for BOE nominees, and to only vote for individuals who are publicly committed to reducing party-based patronage and supporting open hiring practices?**

Yes

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

Yes

10. New York City is one of the few cities that maintains a closed primary system, in which only registered party members can vote in the primary election. Do you believe New York City should shift to a form of completely open primaries, allowing all registered voters to vote in one primary where the top two candidates, regardless of party, move on to the general election?

Yes

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

11. 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

12. 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

13. The recent pattern of 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.

We are experiencing a crisis in confidence in government. Maintaining ethical standards is critical to restoring the people's faith in our elected leaders and government. I strive to hold myself to the highest ethical standards, comply with all ethics rules, be transparent, and not engage in conduct that, while lawful and ethical, gives the appearance of conflict or impropriety. I will always maintain an open-door policy with constituents and all stakeholders, and ensure that each interaction with my office is a positive one.

**14. Incoming public servants must sever ties and divest from companies or other interests that have business dealings 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

**15. Some campaign consultants also work as lobbyists. Do you support restricting campaign consultants from lobbying the candidates they served for two years after the candidate won elected office?**

Yes

**16. Do you support moving lobbying oversight and enforcement from the City Clerk’s Office to another agency charged with ethics issues, like the Conflicts of Interest Board?**

Yes

**POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY**

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

While many parties may have a role to play in NYPD discipline, most notably the CCRB, I believe that barring a specifically identified conflict of interest, the Police Commissioner, as the highest-ranking member of the NYPD and “the boss,” should make final decisions on disciplinary matters. That said, it is best practice to make those decisions in consultation with interested stakeholders such as the CCRB, NYPD Legal, the Law Department, and/or the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety. At times, it may also be appropriate for the Mayor to be consulted.

**CHECKS AND BALANCES**

**18. 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?**

Yes

**19. Do you support allowing bills with strong support to go through the committee process and be put to a vote on the floor without needing the permission of the speaker?**

No

**Comments (optional)**

Undermining the Speaker would undermine the effectiveness of the Council.

**20. 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?**

I believe the "advice and consent" process brings the appointment of agency commissioners into the open. It promotes greater public transparency, ensures appointments are made based on qualifications, and holds appointees accountable. This process also allows the public to learn about the various issues that commissioners must tackle. I agree with current council members that the Council's approval should be expanded to agency commissioners of all 20 proposed agencies.

**ADDITIONAL INFO**