



2025 Primary Candidate Questionnaire - New York City Council

Citizens Union - Local Candidates Committee

GENERAL INFORMATION

Candidate info

Name	Japneet Singh
City Council District #	28
In which primary	Democratic
Age	30
Education	Masters in Accounting, BA in Accounting, BBA in Finance
Current job, position, or occupation	Staffer for Public Advocate Humane Williams
Previous jobs or positions	President of Khalsa Community Patrol President of New York Grows Together Census 2020 Field Supervisor Auditor at RSM

Campaign contact information

Website	singhfornyc.com
X	japneetsingh4ny
Instagram	japneetsinghforny
Facebook	Japneet Singh For New York
Bluesky	n/a
Other social media platforms	Tiktok - Singhfornyc

INTRODUCTION

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

Promise 1: Universal Childcare and After-school

Promise 2: Dignified Affordable Housing

Promise 3: Government Transparency and Accountability

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.

If elected, the first piece of legislation I would introduce is a Neighborhood Infrastructure Improvement Act aimed at securing increased funding for critical community projects, including street repairs, park renovations, and upgraded public transportation facilities, with an emphasis on underserved areas within District 28. This legislation would ensure that the allocation of funds is transparent, with strong community oversight to ensure that projects are prioritized based on the needs expressed by local residents.

The reason this is my top priority is because Queens—especially District 28—has seen rapid population growth and a shift in demographics, but much of our infrastructure has not kept pace. Residents have voiced concerns about inadequate public spaces, deteriorating streets, and public transit that is both overcrowded and outdated. By addressing these concerns through strategic and transparent investments, we can improve the quality of life for all residents and make our community more resilient to future growth.

This legislation would also emphasize the need for a community-driven planning process, where local stakeholders, including residents, neighborhood organizations, and business owners, are actively involved in determining the specific needs of the community. This will ensure that funds are allocated effectively and in line with what residents truly need, not just what is convenient for the city’s planning agenda.

In addition, the bill would create a public dashboard for transparency, allowing residents to track the progress of projects in real time, ensuring that the process remains accountable to the public and is free from political influence.

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

The major needs of District 28’s constituents are multifaceted and deeply tied to the challenges of rapid urban growth, aging infrastructure, and the evolving needs of a diverse population. As a vibrant and increasingly diverse district, it is essential to focus on the following key areas:

Affordable Housing and Rent Stabilization

Public Safety and Community Policing

Public Education and Youth Empowerment

Transportation and Infrastructure Improvements

Healthcare Access and Mental Health Services

Economic Development and Job Creation

Ultimately, the major needs of District 28 are about creating a thriving, inclusive community where all residents—regardless of their background—have access to the opportunities and resources they need to succeed. It’s about making sure that every voice is heard, and every resident has the tools to thrive in our

rapidly changing city.

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 this district for pretty much my entire life. Attended every level of education (k-12) in the district. I was able to do some special things in the district. I run 2 non-profits right here in the district through which we address food insecurity, mental health and encourage youth empowerment. I also served on my community board as well.

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.

One area I'm particularly passionate about is campaign finance reform. I have actively advocated for greater transparency in local elections and supported initiatives to ensure that our elections are fair and that candidates are not unduly influenced by big money interests. In my own campaign, I have made a conscious effort to maintain a grassroots approach, emphasizing small-dollar donations and engaging directly with voters rather than relying on large donations from outside special interests. I believe that campaign finance reform is essential to creating a political system that works for everyday New Yorkers.

In terms of voting and election reform, I have supported measures to make voting more accessible, particularly in communities that have historically been disenfranchised. I have volunteered with local organizations to encourage voter registration, educate residents about their voting rights, and help facilitate early voting and absentee ballot processes.

Additionally, I have been deeply involved in the fight for police accountability. I have attended town halls and worked with local advocacy groups to push for reforms aimed at ensuring law enforcement is accountable to the communities they serve. I believe that we need strong oversight mechanisms and greater transparency in police practices.

Another area of reform I've actively supported is government transparency. As a community member, I've worked to ensure that local government decisions are made with input from residents and that the processes for approving projects, spending taxpayer money, and addressing neighborhood concerns are open and clear.

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

The role of the City Council in the upcoming term is more important than ever, particularly as our city continues to navigate the challenges of recovery from the pandemic, the evolving needs of our communities, and the pursuit of a more equitable future for all New Yorkers. As a legislative body, the City Council must serve as both a check on the executive branch and an advocate for the diverse needs of the city's residents. The Council has a responsibility to ensure that the city's resources are allocated efficiently and equitably, and that every policy decision reflects the priorities and concerns of the people it serves.

Specifically, the City Council must continue to focus on

Ensuring Government Accountability and Transparency

Advocating for Affordable Housing and Economic Justice

Strengthening Police Accountability and Criminal Justice Reform

Promoting Environmental Justice and Climate Action

Fostering Stronger Community Engagement and Inclusivity

Ultimately, the City Council's role is to represent and serve the people of New York City by crafting legislation that reflects their needs, promoting fairness and justice, and holding our government accountable. This upcoming term presents a crucial opportunity for the Council to not only address the immediate challenges facing our city but to lay the foundation for a more equitable, sustainable, and

prosperous future for all 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.

To maintain ethical standards, I will advocate for and support independent oversight of city government. This means backing measures that strengthen the role of independent ethics commissions and other bodies that hold elected officials accountable. I will also promote and support legislation that increases the transparency of the city’s contracting and procurement processes, ensuring that there is no room for favoritism, waste, or corruption in the allocation of taxpayer dollars.

I recognize that ethics starts at the top, and as a Councilmember, I will lead by example. I will hold myself and my office to a higher standard, remaining accessible to constituents and setting a tone of honesty and integrity. I will take all complaints seriously, establish a clear process for addressing any ethical concerns, and encourage my staff and colleagues to act with the same transparency and accountability. If ever an ethical issue arises, I will be open, address it promptly, and work to ensure that it is resolved in a manner that upholds public trust.

While maintaining high personal ethical standards is important, I believe that we must also push for broader reforms to improve ethics in City government. This includes supporting campaign finance reform, advocating for stronger anti-corruption measures, and promoting policies that foster a culture of transparency and accountability throughout City Hall. I will work to introduce legislation that promotes good governance and ensures that City officials and employees are held to the highest ethical standards.

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).

In order to build greater public trust and ensure accountability, the final say on discipline within the New York Police Department (NYPD) should rest with a combination of the Police Commissioner and an independent, empowered civilian oversight body, such as the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB). I believe that public safety requires both strong leadership within the police force and robust mechanisms for civilian oversight to ensure that police actions are in line with the values and rights of the communities they serve.

The Police Commissioner, as the head of the NYPD, has the experience and expertise to manage the daily operations of the department and enforce the standards of conduct necessary to maintain discipline within the force. As such, the Commissioner should have a significant role in decisions regarding disciplinary actions, ensuring that there is consistency and professionalism in addressing officer misconduct.

To ensure that discipline is fair and transparent, the process must be open to public scrutiny. I believe that when the public is given access to the process, including a clear understanding of how disciplinary decisions are made and the rationale behind them, it fosters greater accountability. The CCRB and the Police Commissioner must work together to create a system that is not only effective but also perceived as fair and impartial by the communities we serve.

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?

Yes

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?

The New York City Council's "advice and consent" powers are an essential part of the system of checks and balances that ensures our city government remains accountable to its citizens. The City Council should play a key role in approving or rejecting the appointment of high-ranking Mayoral officials, such as agency commissioners, because these officials have significant influence over the policies and services that affect the daily lives of New Yorkers.

While the Mayor has the right to appoint officials, these appointments should not be a matter of political patronage. The City Council should serve as an independent body that ensures all Mayoral appointments are made based on merit and are in the best interest of New Yorkers, not influenced by political connections or personal interests.

The "advice and consent" powers of the City Council serve as a safeguard against the concentration of power and ensure that city leadership is reflective of the diverse needs and concerns of our communities. By empowering the Council to review and approve high-ranking appointments, we ensure that those who hold significant power in shaping the city's future are held to the highest standards of integrity and accountability.

While the Mayor has the right to make appointments, the City Council's advice and consent powers are crucial for fostering transparency, protecting against corruption, and ensuring that appointments are made in the public interest. This process should be a collaborative one, where the voices of the people—represented by the City Council are heard and respected.

ADDITIONAL INFO