



Citizens Union 2025 Candidate Questionnaire - New York City Mayor

GENERAL INFORMATION

Candidate Info

Name	Jessica Ramos
In which primary	Democratic
Age	38
Education	Hofstra University
Current job, position, or occupation	Senator

Previous jobs or positions

Director of Latino Media under bill DeBlasio

Communications Director Build Up NY

SSEU Local 371 and 32BJ SEIU

Campaign Contact Information

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INTRODUCTION

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

- Promise 1: Affordable Housing
- Promise 2: Universal Childcare
- Promise 3: Safe Streets

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.

Jessica has been fighting for a government that works for the everyday New Yorker by championing transparency, ethics, and accountability across all levels of leadership. As Chair of the Senate Labor Committee, she has led the charge on worker protections—pushing legislation to combat wage theft and creating a public registry of workplace fatalities, particularly in the construction industry. She has also taken bold stands for accountability in government, including her opposition to the nomination of Hector LaSalle as Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, citing concerns over his judicial record on workers' rights and reproductive justice. Ramos has prioritized election reform to strengthen democracy and ensure fair representation. From labor justice to ethical leadership, Jessica's work reflects her deep commitment to building a city that serves working families, not the powerful few.

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?

As Mayor, Jessica will push for public reporting from the BOE such as poll worker recruitment, ballot printing, and vote tally timelines—and ensuring that these are easily accessible to the public.

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

Yes

Comments (optional)

RCV encourages a more nuanced and inclusive political dialogue. This system enables the public to express agreement with a broader range of ideas and policies, rather than choosing just one candidate.

6. 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 affiliation, move on to the general election?

No

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

Jessica hopes to bring more public awareness to elections through grassroots outreach campaigns that focus on getting people registered, informed, and engaged. She believes that democracy works best when everyone participates, and that starts with making sure New Yorkers know when elections are happening, how to vote, and what options are available to them—especially with systems like Ranked Choice Voting. By partnering with community organizations, holding civic education events, and investing in multilingual outreach, Jessica aims to close the information gap that often keeps working-class and immigrant communities from fully participating in our democracy.

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

*** In the box below, you may provide additional information on any actions that you have taken or plan to take to improve New York City’s campaign finance system.**

As Mayor, Jessica will push to expand and fully fund the city’s public matching funds program so that everyday New Yorkers—not wealthy donors or special interests—have a greater voice in who represents them. She would also advocate for stricter oversight and enforcement of campaign finance rules to ensure transparency and accountability in political spending. Jessica supports closing loopholes that allow independent expenditures to skirt disclosure and would work to increase public awareness.

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.

Jessica is committed to restoring public trust in City Hall by leading with integrity, transparency, and accountability. She has consistently called out ethical failures in city government, including urging the removal of Mayor Eric Adams, and has made clear that New Yorkers deserve leadership they can believe in. As Mayor, she will maintain the highest ethical standards and ensure her administration reflects the people it serves. Her promise is to make City Hall look like our city—diverse, inclusive, and rooted in justice. That means appointing the first-ever Trans Commissioner, upholding strong representation of underserved communities, and building a government that reflects the values and lived experiences of all New Yorkers. Jessica knows that restoring trust starts with who’s at the table—and she’s determined to make sure everyone has a seat.

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

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.)

Jessica Ramos believes that true police accountability requires civilian oversight—not just internal decisions made by the NYPD itself. She supports placing the final decision on police discipline with a strengthened and independent Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB). The CCRB should have full authority to investigate misconduct, make binding disciplinary recommendations, and ensure that officers who abuse their power face real consequences. Jessica believes that empowering an external, community-rooted entity is essential to rebuilding trust between the NYPD and the communities it serves—especially Black, brown, and immigrant New Yorkers who have historically faced over-policing.

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

Jessica Ramos believes the role of Deputy Mayor for Public Safety should be rooted in transparency, accountability, and public service—not political favoritism or unchecked authority. She has been critical of how the position has been used under the current administration, particularly in the case of Deputy Mayor Philip Banks III, who has faced serious ethical concerns and operates with little public oversight. Jessica believes that public safety must be coordinated in a way that centers communities, not just police leadership. While the role can serve as an important coordinator across agencies like the NYPD, FDNY, Department of Correction, and Emergency Management, she believes it must be restructured to include

clear lines of accountability and input from communities most impacted by violence and policing. For Jessica, public safety isn't just about enforcement—it's about building trust, investing in prevention, and ensuring those in leadership are truly answerable to the people.

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

Yes

Comments (optional)

Jessica believes the City Council should have advice and consent power over the appointment of the NYPD Commissioner. As a legislator, she understands the critical role of checks and balances in government. Granting the Council this authority would ensure that such a powerful position is subject to public oversight and reflects the values and priorities of the communities most impacted by policing.

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?

Yes

Comments (optional)

Jessica supports a more balanced and transparent process where charter revisions—whether proposed by the City Council, independent commissions, or citizen petitions—are allowed to move forward without being derailed by political maneuvering.

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?

Jessica Ramos believes the City Council should have expanded advice and consent powers over key mayoral appointments, including positions like the NYPD Commissioner. As a legislator, she understands the importance of checks and balances in ensuring accountability and transparency in city government. Jessica sees advice and consent as a way to democratize decision-making, giving communities a stronger voice in who leads critical agencies. She supports reforms that would require public hearings and Council approval for powerful appointments, so that no single official—especially the Mayor—holds unchecked authority over positions that directly impact the lives of New Yorkers.

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.

