



2025 Primary Candidate Questionnaire - New York City Council

Citizens Union - Local Candidates Committee

GENERAL INFORMATION

Candidate info

Name	Ling Ye
City Council District #	38
In which primary	Democratic

Campaign contact information

Website	https://ling4ny.com
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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 (partnership with all parties)

Promise 2: Quality education (teacher - parental engagement)

Promise 3: Public Safety (Give police the tools need, and people the respect they deserve)

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 comprehensive ****Affordable Housing Preservation and Development Act****. This bill would focus on preserving existing affordable housing stock, incentivizing the creation of new affordable units, and ensuring that all developments include a percentage of affordable housing. Addressing the affordable housing crisis is my top priority because rising rents and displacement are among the most pressing concerns facing our district. Many residents are being pushed out as gentrification accelerates, and we must take immediate action to protect long-term tenants and create more opportunities for affordable living spaces.

Affordable housing is the cornerstone of a stable community, and ensuring that families can remain in their neighborhoods is essential for maintaining the diversity and vibrancy that make our district so unique. By tackling this issue early in my tenure, I can help secure a future where all residents, regardless of income, can continue to live and thrive in New York City.

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

The major needs of constituents in the 38th Council District, Brooklyn, are diverse and multifaceted. Key issues include:

1. **Affordable Housing**: As housing costs rise and gentrification pressures increase, many residents face challenges in finding affordable and stable housing. Preserving existing affordable housing and creating new units is a top priority to ensure long-term stability for families in the district.
2. **Access to Quality Healthcare**: Many residents, particularly those from underserved communities, struggle to access affordable healthcare services. Expanding community-based health centers and ensuring that all residents can access comprehensive care is crucial for improving the health of the district's residents.
3. **Economic Opportunity and Job Creation**: A significant portion of the district's population is immigrant, and many constituents need better access to job training programs, small business support, and workforce development opportunities. These efforts will help families achieve economic mobility and thrive in Brooklyn's evolving economy.
4. **Education**: Quality education is a key concern for families in the district. Ensuring that schools are well-resourced and that children have access to after-school programs, ESL classes, and enrichment activities will set them up for success in their academic and professional futures.
5. **Public Safety and Police Reform**: While public safety remains important, residents are focused on ensuring that law enforcement is accountable, transparent, and works in partnership with the community to foster trust.

By addressing these needs, we can build a more equitable, thriving district that serves the diverse interests of its residents.

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 been living the district since 1998. I have been proud of all my work that I did Councilmember Menchaca and Congressman Goldman .

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 have worked to support good government by advocating for transparency, ethics, and accountability. I've supported campaign finance reforms to reduce the influence of money in politics and worked on improving police accountability through stronger civilian oversight. I believe in a government that is open, responsible, and focused on serving the people.

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

As the City Council, we serve as a critical check on the Mayor's power, ensuring that the executive branch remains accountable to the people. We prioritize the needs of our districts, advocating for policies that address affordable housing, healthcare, education, and economic opportunity. By holding the Mayor and other city officials accountable, we ensure that our community's voices are heard and that decisions reflect the real needs of residents. Our goal is to ensure that City Hall works for all New Yorkers, and that our districts are always represented in the decision-making process.

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

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

*** 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.**

As a City Council member, I would strongly support strengthening ethics oversight by expanding the powers and independence of the Conflicts of Interest Board (COIB). Ensuring that city officials are held to the highest ethical standards is essential for maintaining public trust and preventing corruption. By providing COIB with greater enforcement authority and resources, we can create a more transparent and accountable government.

Additionally, I would advocate for establishing a clear and fair process for the removal of a mayor in cases of misconduct. New York City needs a mechanism to address serious ethical or legal violations at the highest level of government. Implementing a structured removal process would reinforce accountability and ensure that leadership remains focused on serving the public’s best interests.

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

*** 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 a City Council candidate, I would strongly support strengthening pay-to-play restrictions to prevent individuals or entities with city business dealings from exerting undue influence on elected officials. Ensuring that policy decisions are made in the public's best interest—not driven by large campaign contributions—is critical for maintaining trust in our government. Additionally, I would advocate for enhanced disclosure laws to increase transparency in campaign financing. Voters deserve to know who is funding campaigns, and stronger reporting requirements will help shine a light on potential conflicts of interest while promoting a fairer, more accountable electoral system.

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.

As a City Council member, I will prioritize transparency, accountability, and integrity to uphold the highest ethical standards in office. I will support strengthening the Conflicts of Interest Board (COIB) to ensure it has the authority and resources to enforce ethical guidelines effectively. I will also advocate for stronger oversight measures, including increased disclosure requirements for financial dealings and campaign contributions, to prevent conflicts of interest and corruption. Additionally, I will commit to regular ethics training for my staff and myself, ensuring that we uphold the principles of good governance. Public service is a responsibility, and I will work to restore trust in City Hall by leading with honesty, fairness, and a commitment to the people of New York City.

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

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

To improve ethics standards in New York City government, I will advocate for expanding the powers and independence of the Conflicts of Interest Board (COIB) to ensure stronger enforcement of ethical rules. I will also push for increased financial disclosure requirements for elected officials and high-ranking staff to prevent conflicts of interest and enhance transparency. Additionally, I support establishing a clear and fair process for the removal of officials engaged in misconduct, ensuring accountability at all levels of government. Ethics training for all public officials and staff will be a priority, reinforcing a culture of integrity in City Hall. By implementing these reforms, we can restore public trust and ensure that government serves the people, not special interests.

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).

The final say on discipline in the New York Police Department should be a balanced process that ensures accountability while maintaining public trust. I support placing the final decision with the Police Commissioner, with strong oversight from an independent entity such as the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB). The CCRB should have expanded authority to investigate misconduct and recommend disciplinary actions, while the Police Commissioner should be required to provide a transparent, public explanation for any decision that differs from the CCRB’s recommendation. This approach ensures that discipline is informed by both law enforcement leadership and civilian oversight, fostering greater accountability and trust between the NYPD and the communities it serves.

*** 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.**

To improve police accountability in New York, I plan to advocate for stronger oversight from independent civilian review boards, such as the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB). I will support reforms that ensure thorough investigations of police misconduct and push for greater transparency in disciplinary processes. Additionally, I will advocate for regular training on de-escalation techniques, bias reduction, and community engagement to improve interactions between law enforcement and the public. By promoting accountability and transparency, we can ensure that the NYPD serves and protects all New Yorkers fairly and justly.

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 important check on the Mayor's authority, ensuring that appointments to high-ranking positions are reviewed by an elected body that represents the interests of the public. I believe the Council should have the right to approve the Mayor's appointments for key positions, such as agency commissioners, to ensure that these officials are qualified, committed to serving the public, and aligned with the values of transparency and accountability. The Council's review process should focus on the candidate's qualifications, experience, and their ability to effectively lead the agency. By maintaining this balance of power, we can foster a more transparent and accountable city government.

*** In the box below, you may provide additional information on any actions that you have taken or plan to take to improve the system of checks and balances in New York.**

To improve the system of checks and balances in New York, I plan to support reforms that strengthen the role of the City Council in reviewing Mayoral appointments, particularly for high-ranking officials such as agency commissioners. By ensuring that the Council has a meaningful voice in these decisions, we can promote greater transparency and accountability in the selection process. Additionally, I will advocate for more robust oversight of executive actions, such as requiring regular reporting on key policy initiatives and spending decisions, to ensure that power is exercised in a way that is responsive to the needs of the public.

ADDITIONAL INFO