



2025 Primary Candidate Questionnaire - New York City Council

Citizens Union - Local Candidates Committee

GENERAL INFORMATION

Candidate info

Name	Pierina Ana Sanchez
City Council District #	14
In which primary	Democratic
Age	36
Education	Harvard (BA), Princeton (MBA)
Current job, position, or occupation	NY City Council Member
Other positions or offices	N/A
Previous jobs or positions	Bronx Community Board 5 Member, Senior Advisor for Housing, Economic Development and Labor to Mayor Bill De Blasio, New York Director at Regional Plan Association, Senior Fellow at Pratt Center, Intern at the White House

Campaign contact information

Website	www.pierinasanchez.nyc
X	x.com/pisancheznyc
Instagram	instagram.com/pierinasancheznyc
Facebook	facebook.com/PierinaSanchezNYC/

INTRODUCTION

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

Promise 1: HOUSING AS A HUMAN RIGHT: Our city is faced with a massive affordable housing crisis, one that disproportionately impacts my community. As Council Member and Chair of the Housing and Buildings Committee, I have made tackling this crisis my top priority. That's why I have secured over \$5 Billion in affordable housing commitments, passed legislation expanding access to housing vouchers, cracked down on negligent landlords, fought alongside my community members to win repairs and stop evictions, and much more.

Promise 2: HIGH QUALITY EDUCATION: Every child deserves access to quality public education and enrichment programming, which is why as Council Member I have fought and succeeded in expanding after school and enrichment programs to every school building in my district and developing relationships with educators, administrators and support staff at each of our schools, expanding internship and paid work programs for young New Yorkers, and getting our city on a path to universal childcare.

Promise 3: ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY: Economic opportunity should be universal, which is why as a Council Member I strive to win city, state and federal investments for catalytic projects that will bring jobs to the neighborhood, such as the redevelopment of the Kingsbridge Armory, including good paying, union jobs, as well as training and apprenticeship opportunities.

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.

As Council Member, I am beyond proud of my legislative record. This has included cracking down on bad landlords by introducing the Housing Rescue and Resident Protection Act and passing the Billingsley Terrace Structural Integrity Act, expanding housing voucher access to thousands more New Yorkers over the Mayor's veto, passing several pieces of legislation getting our city on the path to universal childcare, and so much more. When re-elected, I will continue to introduce and fight for legislation that creates transformative change for my community and our city.

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

The City's housing affordability crisis is acutely experienced in our district - nearly 70% of households here are housing cost burdened, vs. 55% citywide. Our community members are at heightened risk of displacement - only 6% of households own the home in which they live, vs. 33% citywide. The housing affordability crisis and displacement risk we experience is rooted in the deep inequalities our Bronx community knows too well. The other side of the coin on the affordability crisis is economic inequality, which is why I support city development projects that bring good paying, union jobs, such as the long overdue redevelopment of the Kingsbridge Armory. In addition, my district is in need of higher quality educational and after school resources. That's why I have expanded after school and enrichment programs to every school building in my district, and have and will continue to fight to establish universal

after school and childcare options in our 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 was born and raised in District 14, and am proud of my consistent record of community involvement even before being elected as Council Member. This included fighting alongside my friends and neighbors to win repairs and stop evictions, co-founding the Jerome Avenue Revitalization Collaborative to secure meaningful community investments, and working within Bronx mutual aid networks to distribute thousands of meals within the community during the pandemic.

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.

As chair of Housing and Buildings in the Council, I hold the Department of Buildings accountable when they were pushed to hide their egregiously high vacancy rate in budget hearings, fight to increase staffing at the Department of Housing Preservation and Development to get more affordable housing built, and use Council oversight hearings to ensure the administration's promises are upheld. I voted to increase police transparency and accountability through the how-many-stops act to gain better data on investigative stops. Importantly, while I am disappointed in the Police Commissioner's ultimate decision to not pursue disciplinary action, I am proud to have stood with the family of Kawaski Trawick and Communities United for Police Reform at each step of their efforts to secure police accountability in this tragic case of the police murder of an unarmed, Gay, Black young man in his own, supportive housing, home.

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

For this upcoming term, I believe it is more important than ever for the Council to do everything in our power to shield New Yorkers from attacks at the federal level against our most vulnerable populations. To this end, we must also continue to hold the Mayor accountable, including through oversight hearings and even overriding vetoes when necessary.

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?

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.**

As the Council Member representing a district with one of the lowest levels of voter turnout in our city, I recognize the importance of increasing participation in our city’s democracy. That’s why I have worked hard with both local and citywide organizations to reverse this dynamic through civic engagement and awareness campaigns, and will continue to push for more resources to reach more New Yorkers across the city.

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.

As Council Member I will continue to work to ensure both the Mayor’s office and our city agencies abide by the highest ethical standards possible, including by continuing to support attempts to reform the charter to provide Council with broader advice-and-consent powers, opening up senior city government appointments to more public scrutiny.

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.**
We must ensure entities tasked with enforcing ethics laws and standards are properly staffed to carry out this important work.

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).

I support an empowered Civilian Complaint Review Board with firing and suspension power and believe this should ideally be the body with the final say on disciplinary actions within the NYPD.

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?

I believe that the City Council should always have a say in the Mayoral appointments of all high ranking public officials. To this end I have formally called on the City Charter Revision Commission to slow its process and commit to a robust engagement process over the next year to give our communities ample time to make their voices heard and put forward their own proposals before a 2025 referendum, in addition to allowing New Yorkers to vote on the Council's proposal to expand advice-and-consent this fall.

* 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.

I have been very vocal about the need to expand advice and consent, testifying in the Mayor's 2024 Charter Revision Commission that was hastily convened in order to block passage of expanded advise and consent.

ADDITIONAL INFO