



2025 Primary Candidate Questionnaire - New York City Council

Citizens Union - Local Candidates Committee

GENERAL INFORMATION

Candidate info

Name	Virginia Maloney
City Council District #	4
In which primary	Democratic
Age	37
Education	Princeton, BA; Harvard, MPA; MIT, MBA
Current job, position, or occupation	Product Manager, tech industry
Other positions or offices	Lexington Democratic Club, Executive Committee
Previous jobs or positions	NYC EDC, Senior Project Manager 2012-2014

Campaign contact information

Website	https://www.virginiamaloney.com
X	https://x.com/vmmaloney
Instagram	https://www.instagram.com/virginiamaloneynyc
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/people/Virginia-Maloney/61567175322607/
Other social media platforms	(threads) https://www.threads.net/@virginiamaloneynyc

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 Affordability & Homelessness
- Promise 2: Public Safety
- Promise 3: Government 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.

I will introduce legislation to protect New Yorkers' digital data and to protect New Yorkers from AI discrimination. I currently work in the tech industry and have seen firsthand how tech has outstripped effective government regulation. We need people who understand how new tech tools actually work in order to properly regulate them.

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

I am committed to providing robust constituent services for residents of the 4th Council District. The 4th District has a significant senior citizen population, so I will ensure that my staff is knowledgeable to assist with the SCRIE program, the Meals for Older Adults program, and other important services available for seniors in New York 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 am a lifelong resident of the East Side of Manhattan. I am proud to have actively campaigned for last year's successful passage of Prop 1 that strengthens anti-discrimination protections. I have also worked to elect strong representation for East Siders throughout my adolescence and adult life.

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 been a longtime supporter of increasing government accountability and have worked with numerous civic groups in my community to advance this.

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

The City Council is going to have an especially important role protecting the individual rights of New Yorkers from federal overreach by the Trump administration. The Council is going to have to figure out how to find government efficiencies without sacrificing the provision of important services in light of federal funding cuts for NYC. Additionally, the current Mayoral administration has proven the need to use and enhance the legislative oversight powers of the Council to hold Mayors accountable to 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?

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.**

I firmly believe we need expand public education about Ranked Choice Voting and the election process both in our schools but also through community events for adult New Yorkers. I will work with community based organizations and other partners to hold town hall meetings focused on education New Yorkers about Ranked Choice Voting.

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

Comments (optional)

I am a firm supporter of and participant in the matching funds program.

*** 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.**

This district's election will be the most expensive Council race in New York City this year due to one of the candidates deciding not to participate in the matching funds program. The NYC CFB has already raised the cap for participants. I believe that individual donation limits should be the same for participants and non-participants.

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.

I firmly believe that all people in public office have a duty to adhere to the highest ethical standards. The voters are placing their trust in their elected officials, and that must be repaid each and every day through ethical service.

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.**

I firmly believe that full transparency is the best way to advance ethics standards in public office, and I will work to increase disclosure of lobbying activity.

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).

Civilian Complaint Review Board.

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 support requiring Council approval for high ranking executive branch City officials.

ADDITIONAL INFO

Please provide any other info you would like us to know about you and your candidacy.

I'm a native New Yorker—born and raised on the East Side of Manhattan – running to represent the City Council District 4 - the neighborhood I grew up in and love.

I grew up in a family where service wasn't just a value—it was a way of life. My late father, served in the Navy and on the boards of CIVITAS and the NYC Foundation for Senior Citizens, taught me persistence and the importance of hard work. My mother not only inspired me with her commitment to public service, but also women nationwide with her trailblazing career.

I have spent my life bridging public and private sector experience, and dedicated my career to improving people's lives through the advancement of technology. I led an effort to expand free public wifi across the city under Mayor Bloomberg, brought oversight to the high-speed rail program on the Northeast Corridor as a federal consultant. Now I work at a large tech company, where I created a tool to help the blind and vision impaired navigate the world. Technology is outpacing government. We need leaders who understand the industry—not just to regulate it, but also to harness its potential to modernize government services and improve lives. I have experience taking concept to execution—turning complex projects into real world impact.

I'm running to offer pragmatic solutions to the challenge we face, to counter the extremist policies coming

from Washington that threaten tNew Yorkers, and to ensure our city is a fair and functional place for everyone.