



GENERAL INFORMATION

Candidate Info

Name	Zellnor Myrie
In which primary	Democratic
Current job, position, or occupation	State Senator for NYS District 20

Other positions or offices

Prior to my experience in elected office, I was also a former New York City Council legislative aide.

Campaign Contact Information

Website	Zellnor.nyc
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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: I launched my campaign with a bold plan, Rebuild NYC, which is a mandate for one million new homes - my campaign's top priority. Housing is the foundation for fixing many of our city's challenges. With costs soaring, New Yorkers are struggling to afford their rents, let alone consider purchasing a home in the neighborhoods where we grew up. People are leaving the city because staying has become financially untenable. By increasing housing supply, we can bring down costs for everyone and ensure that our city continues to grow. The choice is clear: either we build more, or we lose New Yorkers.

Promise 2: Affordability extends far beyond the housing crisis. The cost of living in New York City has become unsustainable, especially for families. One key element of my overall affordability plan is creating free, universal afterschool. These programs will not only provide students with opportunities to continue learning and remain safe after school hours —when violent crime is most likely to occur—but also offer immense relief to working families facing skyrocketing childcare costs. Implementing Afterschool for All would ease the financial burden of raising a family and help ensure that New York remains a place where families can thrive.

Promise 3: One of the fundamental responsibilities of government is to keep its citizens safe. Despite Eric Adams' promises, violent crime is still well above pre-pandemic levels, and many New Yorkers feel more unsafe today than they have in years. Whether on the subways or in the streets, the public's concern is clear. As mayor, my major public safety priorities will include boosting clearance rates with a focus on solving shootings as well as ensuring New Yorkers can safely commute and feel safe wherever they are in our city.

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.

I have worked diligently to promote good governance and advance reforms that improve the lives of New Yorkers.

As the former Chair of the NYS State Senate's Elections Committee, I led the fight to establish early voting, close the LLC loophole that corrupted our campaign finance system, and simplified the absentee ballot process for voters during a once-in-a-century pandemic. I am especially proud to have authored the landmark John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act of NY – the strongest voting rights law of any state in the country. This law has already been used to expand voting rights for underrepresented groups, and will be instrumental in fighting back against the forces seeking to diminish our democracy in the years ahead.

I have also led efforts to improve transparency in procurement, by sponsoring legislation to restrict campaign contributions from vendors seeking state contracts. By eliminating opportunities for corporate influence in government contracting, we can protect taxpayer dollars from special interests and ensure that public officials remain accountable.

I have also fought to protect New Yorkers from deceptive business practices by championing legislation that increases penalties for consumer frauds, holds corporations accountable for predatory marketing that targets young people, and requires transparency in the pharmaceutical supply chain that threatens the affordability of lifesaving prescriptions.

At the core of my public service is a commitment to transparency and accountability. As Mayor, I look forward to creating a fairer, more transparent, and more accessible government that prioritizes the needs of all New Yorkers.

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?

In 2021, I held a series of hearings on election administration across the State, and issued a landmark report on reforming elections and improving the voter experience. This report laid out a series of systemic and institutional challenges facing the New York City Board of Elections and voters in NYC. My report included more than 50 recommendations to restructure boards of elections and improve and protect voting rights. I’m proud that Citizens Union strongly embraced the report, urging the Legislature to adopt its recommendations.

As Mayor, I will do everything within my power to expand and protect voting rights and ensure our elections are fair, transparent and accountable. That means building on the work of Democracy NYC (before it was weakened by the current mayor) to support robust voter registration efforts (especially to young people), expand city-funded translators at poll sites above and beyond what is required by State and Federal law, and do more to ensure sufficient early-voting poll sites. I will also continue to advocate for state legislation that would restructure the NYC Board of Elections.

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

Yes

Comments (optional)

Yes, I support maintaining Ranked Choice Voting in New York City elections because it gives voters more choice, ensures fairer outcomes, and encourages candidates to build broad coalitions.

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.**

Since I joined the State Senate in 2019, I have diligently worked to expand voting rights, improve our elections and defend our democracy. As chair of the Elections Committee, I've held hearings with voters across the state and issued a report highlighting dozens of ideas to make our voting process easier and fairer for all New Yorkers.

I sponsored the John R. Lewis Voting Rights of New York Act, which expanded language assistance for voters and provided new legal tools to fight discriminatory voting provisions in court.

It also ensured that a preclearance program is in place, requiring that local governments with records of discrimination get approval from the state attorney general's office if they wanted to make any changes to their systems of voting.

I also sponsored the Dr. John L. Flateau Voting and Elections Database and Academic Center of New York Act, which established the New York voting and elections database and instituted a statewide database of voting and election data, which was not previously centralized.

Furthermore, I've championed legislation that would allow snacks and non-alcoholic drinks to be given to voters waiting in line at the polls, expanded party position eligibility to include non-binary individuals, and called for higher wages for election day workers in New York City.

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

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.

As Mayor, I will ensure that the Mayor’s Office is held to the highest ethical standard and am committed to ensuring that the Mayor’s Office is free of all misconduct. I will promote a safe workplace environment where all employees are treated with respect and dignity.

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.)

New Yorkers deserve a police department that is accountable to the public. Public safety is dependent on communities trusting law enforcement. Under my leadership, New York City will take significant steps to ensure that both the NYPD as a whole and individual officers are held accountable to the public.

As a part of my Rebuild NYC public safety plan, I will fund the CCRB at 1% of the NYPD’s overall budget, bringing the CCRB’s funding in line with other cities’ civilian oversight agencies. I’ll also offer CCRB direct access to NYPD investigatory material to speed investigations. Lastly, I will dismiss police officers with repeated and/or severe substantiated claims of misconduct, and improve diversity within the NYPD’s top leadership to build trust with communities.

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

As Mayor, I will conduct a review of deputy mayor offices to ensure they have a clear scope and that each role is structured to deliver the best results for all New Yorkers. My priority is to appoint the most qualified professionals with proven effectiveness and the highest ethical standards and empower them to do their jobs.

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

No

Comments (optional)

It is critical that the Mayor’s Office and the City Council work together to create a New York City where all working-class New Yorkers can live and thrive. I will engage with the City Council on public safety matters, including appointing the best leadership to keep our city safe.

*** 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 City.**

My plan to Rebuild Public Safety and the Public Square is built on the essential premise that a well-managed, fully accountable police department is vital to fighting crime and ensuring safety for all New Yorkers. The plan also emphasizes the urgent need to address the mental health crisis that impacts many New Yorkers on our streets and subways, and ensuring fairness and reducing recidivism through criminal justice reform.

My five-part plan includes

Clear 100, which aims to reverse the decline in the number of NYPD detectives to solve more shootings and reduce gun violence;

Restaffing the NYPD to return to 2018 staffing levels to enhance the department's capacity to prevent crime;

Safe Streets, Safe Subways, an initiative to prioritize safety and order throughout the transit system and on our streets by deterring antisocial behavior and responding swiftly before situations escalate;

Restoring Accountability, which implements a rigorous oversight system to curb excessive NYPD overtime, eliminate abuse, and protect taxpayers; and,

Crime Prevention, a focus on smart community investments and addressing the root causes of crime.

All New Yorkers deserve to feel safe in their city, but too many are experiencing a growing sense of insecurity due to rising public safety concerns. As Mayor, I will ensure that holistic public safety is one of the most important responsibilities of my administration.

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?

No

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?

As stated above, I look forward to working with my partners in the City Council to ensure that the best public servants serve in my administration. It is important that we have a collaborative government that works in the best interest of all New Yorkers while ensuring that agencies have the strong, effective leadership needed to deliver for our communities.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please feel free to attach any additional information such as resume, campaign brochures, or issues statements.

 Zellnor Myrie Policy 1-Pager.pdf

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

I am running for mayor to rebuild New York City.

I am a proud New Yorker, born and raised in Central Brooklyn. Over 40 years ago, my parents immigrated from Costa Rica and came to the city following the promise of a better future. I grew up in a rent-stabilized home, and attended P.S. 161 in Crown Heights and Brooklyn Tech. Public policy has intimately affected me and my family throughout my life. I use the subway and bus to get around and have experienced firsthand the effects of New York's affordability crisis.

These shared experiences don't just inform my worldview—they drive my urgency to act. I know that for too many New Yorkers, the promise that drew my parents here is slipping away. That's why I've spent my career fighting for everyday people who are struggling to afford life in this city. I'm running for Mayor to make sure that New York remains a place where families like mine can thrive. My experiences growing up in New York shaped my politics, and I would bring those experiences to City Hall to forge a new path of ambitious, effective leadership.

This year, I will unite NYC around new leadership at a time when Democrats are hungry for new voices and ready to turn the page. My focus on housing, affordability, and public safety will earn support from voters throughout the city and across the ideological spectrum, as will my strong legislative track record in Albany.

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.