

2021 Candidate Questionnaire

General Questions for City Council, Mayor, Public Advocate, Comptroller, and Borough President:

1. How would you use this position to improve policing in New York? Do you support cutting NYPD funding in order to reallocate funds towards needed services and social programs? Where would you reallocate the funds, if so? What concrete policies would you advocate for to improve policing in NY?
2. How would you go about creating more affordable housing in New York? What about permanent housing for New York's houseless population? Where would you put it? How would you make sure it's actually affordable and sustainable? Would you ever support upzoning in order to create it? Will you accept money from real estate interests? Please be specific on your proposals.
3. Do you support taxing the wealthy? What specific tax policy changes would you support in New York State and New York City to increase State and City revenue? How will you, at the same time, restore NYC's economic health, employment, tax base, and small businesses, both short-term and long?
4. How should we desegregate our schools? Do you support eliminating the SHSAT? Do you support admissions screens? What concrete changes would you make to our public school system?
5. What is the path forward on corrections reform? Do you support closing Rikers? Do you support constructing new, borough-based jails? In all boroughs or just some of them? Do you support bail reform? Did you support the recent partial roll back of bail reform?
6. How can New York lead on climate change? Are there any green energy projects we can pursue? Do you support any of the existing pipeline proposals? How can we leverage our financial and economic power to encourage other jurisdictions to be better on the climate?
7. How will you improve procurement and contracting? How do we cut waste, and how do we make sure women- and minority-owned businesses get a fair shake in the procurement process?
8. What is your plan to save small businesses? How do we make sure, when we come back from COVID, our local businesses are still here? And how do we make sure the enormous amount of commercial vacancies get filled, and not just by big chains snatching up cheap leases?

Specific Questions for City Council District 1:

1. Do you support SoHo/NoHo rezoning? Is there a version of it you would support?
2. Do you support the borough-based jail in Chinatown?
3. Do you support replacing the Elizabeth Street Gardens with the proposed senior citizen development?
4. Do you support the Two Bridges developments? What changes would you make to them?

Specific Questions for City Council District 2:

1. Do you support the phased closing of East River Park for the current coastal resiliency project? If not, how would you ensure LES and EV residents are safe from future storms and flooding?
2. Do you support the move and downsizing of Beth Israel by Mount Sinai? Have you considered the effect on your constituents and do you have a different proposal?

Specific Questions for City Council District 3:

1. Would you support upzoning parts of the Village to create affordable housing? What is your plan to protect existing affordable housing and create more, in the Village specifically?
2. Many residents of District 3, particularly our elderly and people with disabilities, have complained that lax bike rule enforcement, increased outdoor dining, and other factors have made the Village less walkable and more dangerous for elderly and disabled pedestrians. What would you do to improve the situation?
3. There have been several clashes between NYPD and protesters in past months. How would you work with the NYPD to ensure that peaceful protesters are not subject to kettling and other police practices that are harmful to the protesters?

Specific Questions for Mayor:

1. What rules will you put in place to prevent lobbyists and corporate interests from having the type of influence with you that they have had with the past three administrations?
2. What are your top budgetary priorities? Do you have one signature, expensive plan that could be your legacy?
3. Will you continue and expand the Black Entrepreneurs NYC (BE NYC) initiative?
4. How will you engage parents and families that are traditionally excluded from education policy decisions?

Specific Questions for Public Advocate and Borough President:

1. How do you plan to use your office as more than just a bully pulpit? What are some concrete things you plan to do, other than vocally support and oppose policy decisions made by others?
2. How will you utilize and empower community boards to better serve their communities?

Specific Questions for Comptroller:

1. From what types of assets that NYC currently holds would you divest?
2. Other than divestment, how would you use the Comptroller's office to push progressive change within NYC and beyond its borders? Give some concrete examples.
3. The NYC budget has an enormous amount of waste. That money could be used to provide better services for New Yorkers. Why are you the right person to find that waste and cut it down?

4. How do you plan on continuing to build NY City's funds in the midst of a potential economic downturn? Is there a way in which you can do this while pushing the progressive ideologies that we value in NYC and the surrounding metro area?
5. In regards to the NYC pension plans, what is your commitment to awarding City business/contracts to supporting women and minority-owned financial businesses - trading, asset management, auditing, accounting, etc? What about using the pension plans to make environmentally/ESG-friendly investments?

Specific Questions for District Attorney (note -- do not use the general questions above):

1. Will you prosecute drug possession? Will you prosecute sex workers? What about sex purchasers or those who facilitate sex work?
2. If you don't charge crimes of poverty and other minor crimes, how will you help get services to those in need of them?
3. What management experience do you have to prepare you to run an office of this size?
4. What prosecutorial experience do you have, to understand the jobs of those you are supervising? What experience do you have with this office specifically?
5. How aggressively do you plan to prosecute police officers for excessive use of force? What about lying? If aggressively, how do you plan to turn around and work with them in your other cases?
6. What is your vision for using this office to make Manhattan a better place?

Specific Questions for Civil Court Judge:

1. Why do you want to be a judge?
2. What are some of the ways a civil court judge can advance progressive ideals in their rulings?
3. What are some of the ways a civil court judge can create a courtroom that reflects progressive ideals?
4. What are some concrete ways you would make your courtroom more accessible for *pro se* plaintiffs and defendants?
5. Each judge is able to create certain personal court rules governing procedure in their courtroom. What are some personal court rules that you plan to adopt, and why?