

Not your ordinary NY10 candidate questionnaire

20 questions (some with subparts) not so likely to come up in candidate debates (although it would be great if they did).

Candidate name

Name of person submitting

Relationship to candidate

Email

Phone

Question 1

Identify a federal policy prescription of yours that you expect that some significant portion of your prospective NY10 constituents may not want to hear.

Question 2

Where do you stand on restoring the SALT deduction in whole or in part? Why?

Question 3

In an article published in The New York Times on June 2, 2022, a South African infectious diseases specialist was quoted as saying that more Covid variants would most likely continue to emerge around the world, causing outbreaks of infections even among those with antibodies. “The virus will continue to evolve so that it can continue to spread in the population,” Dr. Lessells said. “It doesn’t end,” he added. “This virus is with us for the rest of time.” What more or different should the Biden administration be doing to fight the urge to abandon sensible precautions that many feel on hearing news like this? Is there a way to squelch the next virus before it gets a permanent foothold? How?

Question 4

Some officials promote crypto currencies (and the crypto industry); others seek to regulate the industry. Is there a reason that, in terms of use in the United States, crypto currencies should not be banned outright? What, if any, are the beneficial uses of crypto that would redound to the benefit of any significant portion of your prospective constituents?"

Question 5

Among matters generally characterized as "culture war" issues, are there any that left Democrats can afford to give up (and should give up) in the interest of strengthening their ability to broaden support on other issues? Is there even one that you are prepared to "triage," so to speak?

Question 6

The flip side of the previous question is that many reporters from mainstream publications insist that lack of support on a hot-button issue (e.g., "defund the police") translates into the broad public wanting a "moderate" approach across the board. This despite the fact that many so-called "radical" policy proposals -- single-payer health insurance, higher taxes on the wealthy, for example -- poll quite well. How to bust through the conventional wisdom about the desire for moderation?

Question 7

Imagine that the Supreme Court comes to strike down rent regulation as an unconstitutional "taking." It isn't hard to do. Are there ways to modify the tax system on a federal or state level to powerfully incentivize a landlord to remain within a rent-regulation system as a matter of self-interested choice? Is so, identify one federal and one local option.

Question 8

What are the key factors other than race, if any, that lead to unjustified police use of force and need to be addressed? (This is a question focused on how police officers are recruited and trained, as well as on elements of police culture and situational protocols.)

Question 9

Over the decades, the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has refused to recognize that the voluntary method of trying to achieve more inclusionary zoning in suburban communities has not worked, and HUD still disclaims in its affirmatively furthering fair housing rule any intention to require any locality to modify its zoning. If you had the opportunity to write a letter to HUD Secretary Fudge on this issue, what would you urge her to do?

Question 10

What advantages, if any, are there to encouraging municipal (i.e., citywide) housing trusts as opposed to community-based housing trusts?

Question 11

Have you seen the term "community" wielded not in the MLK / John Lewis inclusive sense -- crossing boundaries of race, religion, geography, etc. -- but rather in an exclusionary sense ("ours," not "theirs")? How frequently does this perversion of the concept of community occur in New York City? Does it occur among members of different racial and ethnic groups? Provide an illustration.

Question 12

How serious of a problem is residential racial segregation in the United States today?

Question 13

In the context of members of different racial groups competing for new housing in an existing neighborhood, are there any circumstances where segregation can be considered benign? Is so, what are the circumstances?

Question 14

When a family seeks to buy a coop apartment in New York City, that family, having entered into a contract with the current owner and gotten a bank to agree to provide financing, still has to get the approval of a coop board. When a coop board rejects a buyer, the universal industry practice is to refuse to provide a reason. A bill to require coop boards to provide the reasons for their turn-downs would provide transparency and accountability and is supported by Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund, Disability Rights Advocates, ERASE Racism, Fair Housing Justice Center, Housing Rights Initiative, Lambda Legal, LatinoJustice PRLDEF, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc., National Fair Housing Alliance, National Low Income Housing Coalition, and New York Appleseed. (The bill was denominated Intro 761 and carried by now-Comptroller Brad Lander in the last Council session.) Would you urge city officials to support such legislation?

Question 15

What do you think are the three most important things that a parent wants to know about a school for that parent's child? (If separate answers for K-5, junior high school, and high school, please specify.)

Question 16

There has been more talk of late asserting that environmental regulations have too often been misappropriated by NIMBYs to stymie needed affordable housing development (and other genuinely needed infrastructure projects) throughout the country. Do you agree with this view, and, if so, identify a specific way to clear the traffic jam without undermining the essential pro-environment goals underlying existing regulation, environmental review processes, etc.

Question 17

Ukraine. First, are there missteps that you think the Biden administration has made or is making, and, if so, what are they? Second, are you concerned that some of the weapons being sent to Ukraine could ultimately be transferred to groups whose interests are inimical to those of the United States? If so, what steps would you urge the Biden administration to take now to prevent that outcome?

Question 18

Define what you understand to be "opportunity" versus "equity" frameworks, include a couple of examples of where you reject one for the other, and discuss the pros and cons of each framework.

Question 19

Provide your understanding of the term "essentialism" and your view of an essentialist philosophy.

Question 20

Name your favorite Rhiannon Giddens song.