



### 2018 Governor Candidate Questionnaire

*Completed questionnaires will be public documents available on our website, so put your best foot forward. If we ultimately hold an endorsement vote in your race, your questionnaire will be circulated to our membership before the vote.*

Name	
Preferred campaign contact information: name, email address, phone number	Hayley Prim 
How long have you lived in New York? Where in the state have you lived?	I'm a lifelong New Yorker. I grew up on the Upper West Side and still live in Manhattan today.
What civic and political organizations are you involved with, either in your area or statewide?	<p>For the last 17 years, I've been fighting for better schools and more equitable education funding all across the state, including as a spokesperson and organizer for the Alliance for Quality Education, which helped to reverse hundreds of million in education budget cuts. I have traveled the state, met with legislators, and spoken out in Albany on numerous occasions to demand that public schools in every district get the resources they need, regardless of income level.</p> <p>In 2010, I helped build Fight Back New York, an effort to remove state Senators opposed to same-sex marriage. The campaign ultimately raised \$800,000 and helped elect three new Senators in support of marriage equality. I worked with the Empire State Pride Agenda to fight for marriage equality in New York state, and traveled around the country to support similar efforts in Maryland, Washington, and New Jersey.</p> <p>I have also pushed for women's reproductive rights, including representing Planned Parenthood in Albany to advocate for the full Women's Equality Agenda, including the right to choose.</p>
What are New York State's greatest strengths and struggles?	I believe New York's greatest struggles are confronting economic and racial inequality. Even in the first month of our campaign, we've tried to highlight the connection between these two issues and how communities of color are on the frontline of issues like affordable housing, climate change, public education, and an economy rigged for a tiny few. I launched my campaign in Brownsville, Brooklyn -- a neighborhood that has been hit hard by underfunded schools and a criminal justice system that disproportionately locks up poor people of color. One of my first major policy announcements was to declare my support for the legalization of marijuana. I saw this primarily as a racial justice issue. Too many black and brown New Yorkers are sitting in jail for something that white people do with impunity. Now that public opinion has shifted on marijuana, I also want to make sure we're investing in creating jobs and opportunity in communities of color when we legalize it. We also have to repeal Andrew Cuomo's tax cuts for the rich and enact progressive tax measures so we have funding to start to address the myriad of progressive priorities that have been shelved and even cut back by Andrew Cuomo's 2% austerity budgets.

	<p>New York’s greatest strength is its people. The people of New York are what make this state run every single day. And it’s the people of New York who can shake things up to transform the status quo.</p>
<p>Why do you want to serve as Governor?</p>	<p>I want to serve as Governor because I know this crushing inequality isn’t something that just happens. It’s not an accident. It was a choice. It was a choice to slash taxes for the super-rich and impose austerity on everybody else. It was a choice to allow the schools attended by children of color to be underfunded and over-policed. It was a choice to sell our government off to corporate interests and wealthy donors, while the rest of us suffer. These are choices usually made by Republicans. But for the past eight years, they’re all choices that have been made by our governor, Andrew Cuomo.</p> <p>Eight years ago, I voted for Andrew Cuomo because I believed he was a real Democrat. But since taking office, Governor Cuomo has shown us his true colors. He let the Republicans gerrymander their own districts to suppress Democratic voters, especially voters of color. Then, when Democrats still won a majority, he cut a backroom deal that allowed Republicans to take over the State Senate through the Independent Democratic Conference (IDC) – a group of breakaway Democrats who voted with the Republicans to hand them control, and with it, the power to block almost all of our key Democratic legislative priorities.</p> <p>Andrew Cuomo has given massive tax breaks to corporations and the super rich while starving the state and its cities of the most basic services and decimating our infrastructure. His inhumane budgets have been passed on the backs of our children, our working and middle class, and our elderly. We hear all the time about how the big money interests control DC.</p> <p>But if Washington is a swamp, then Albany is a cesspool. Andrew Cuomo promised to clean up Albany, but instead, he and his cronies have cleaned up for themselves. There’s a reason why people close to Cuomo keep winding up under indictment for corruption. New York’s eight years under the Cuomo administration have been an exercise in living with disappointment, dysfunction, and dishonesty.</p> <p>Our state could be a place where every single New Yorker has what we need to thrive, if only we could stop our governor from selling New York off to the highest bidder.</p>
<p>What have you accomplished in public life that you are most proud of?</p>	<p>I helped build build Fight Back New York, an effort to remove state Senators opposed to same-sex marriage. The campaign ultimately raised \$800,000 and helped elect three new Senators in support of marriage equality. The movement eventually won our demands in 2011. I also worked with the Empire State Pride Agenda to fight for marriage equality in New York state, and traveled around the country to support similar efforts in MD, WA, and NJ.</p>
<p>What do you consider to be the highlights of your work experience?</p>	<p>For the last 17 years, I have been fighting for better schools and more equitable education funding all across the state, including as a spokesperson and organizer for the Alliance for Quality Education, which helped to reverse hundreds of million in education budget cuts. I have traveled the state, met with legislators, and spoken out in Albany on numerous occasions to demand that public schools in every district get the resources they need, regardless of income level.</p>

	I began working as an actor when I was 12 years old to earn money to pay for my college education, and I've been a proud union member ever since.
Why do you want New Kings Democrats' endorsement?	I am seeking the endorsement of New Kings Democrats because I understand the power of the grassroots. I know the usual suspects in the political establishment won't back my candidacy. That means it's so much more important to build our campaign in communities across New York who are serious about transforming our democracy.
If elected, what will your top three priorities be while in office?	<p>My top priority is creating a New York that can work for all of us. Issues I would focus on immediately include: education not incarceration, fixing the subway, and affordable housing.</p> <p>As Governor, I would end the school-to-prison pipeline by fully funding our schools and enacting broad criminal justice reforms.</p> <p>Unlike Governor Cuomo, I ride the subway every day. I understand first-hand the toll that his disastrous mismanagement of the MTA is taking on everyday New Yorkers. Every day, the subway gets more crowded and less reliable. Average train speeds are slower now than they were in the 1950s, and delays on the MTA have tripled in the last 5 years. Our subway now has the worst on-time performance of any major transit system in the world, with the Long Island Railroad plagued with serious delays as well. Andrew Cuomo has been in office for eight years. He's had eight years to address the growing transit crisis in our city. Instead, he's used the MTA like an ATM, taking money out for his pet projects. It's time to give the MTA the money we were promised for repairs, and stop asking New York City or its riders – or Long Islanders who take the LIRR – to foot the bill to clean up Cuomo's mess. As governor, I will immediately make the emergency rescue of our transit system a top priority of her administration.</p> <p>New York is also facing a crisis of housing affordability across our state. As Governor, I would strengthen and expand rent laws to protect tenants.</p>
If elected, how will you support the work of New Kings Democrats and its partners to make New York City government more transparent, accountable, or inclusive?	I want to support groups that are working to make sure the Democratic Party is more accountable to voters, rather than just corporate donors. The work that groups like yours are doing to provide an alternative to cronyism and corruption is commendable.
What is your vision for the Brooklyn Democratic Party and for the statewide Democratic Party?	I think the party should be more inclusive and be a home for grassroots activists who want to use the party as a vehicle to organize. The party should be accountable to voters, not big corporate donors.
How will you contribute to efforts to attain unified Democratic control of the New York State Senate?	Having a governor who works closely with the Democratic leadership of the senate and of the state versus empowering and colluding with Republicans is critical to the effort to make New York State more blue and truly representative of the 2 to 1 Democratic majority we have in this state.
How do you think the New York State Democratic Party can improve the way it operates?	The party should work harder to unite and work together to pass legislation around issues that will help lift up all New Yorkers.
What is one important way you think New York State government should be reformed, and what is your plan for trying to implement such reform?	I support closing the LLC loophole that allows wealthy donors to spend unlimited amounts of money to influence our elections. This would be one big step toward transforming our democracy and making it more accountable to the voters.

What funds have you raised for this campaign? What are the major sources of your campaign funds?	Our campaign has received over 10,000 individual donations since declaring just a few weeks ago. Of those donations, 98 percent are low-dollar donations below \$200. By comparison, Andrew Cuomo collected a total of just 1,369 small dollar donations since the start of 2011. Over 800 individuals have also committed to making recurring donations to our people-powered campaign.
What endorsements have you received from publications, electeds, community leaders, or political organizations?	I have received endorsements from the Working Families Party, Make The Road Action, Citizen Action, Democracy for America, Daily Kos and New York Communities for Change. I have also been endorsed by NYC City Council Member Carlos Menchaca.
What areas of the state do you see as your biggest sources of votes and support?	Our coalition will be as strong and diverse as New York itself. We are engaging young people, people of color, women, and working class New Yorkers of all backgrounds.
Which elected in New York State do you admire most and why?	Shirley Chisholm. Not only for her unbought and unbossed leadership but because of her consistent advocacy for those whose voices are often ignored but need our attention and support the most. Our children, women, people of color and other historically marginalized groups need political leaders who have their best interest in mind and not the interests of wealthy donors and corporations.
What are some of the ways you think New York City or State residents can best participate in civic life?	Get active in one issue that affects them the most, find out what political action they can take to make a difference on that issue, and get organized and mobilized!
What is one fun fact about you?	I was in two Broadway plays at the same time.

I have reviewed this questionnaire and agree that the responses set forth in this document are accurate:

Candidate Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Cynthia Nixon \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_5/3/2018\_\_\_\_\_

***You must sign this questionnaire! When complete, please e-mail your signed and scanned questionnaire to [politics@newkingsdemocrats.com](mailto:politics@newkingsdemocrats.com) and [info@newkingsdemocrats.com](mailto:info@newkingsdemocrats.com)***