



### 2018 Attorney General 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	Sean Patrick Maloney - Candidate for New York Attorney General
Preferred campaign contact information: name, email address, phone number	Mecole Hayes, Senior Policy Advisor Mecole@Maloneyfornewyork.com
How long have you lived in New York? Where in the state have you lived?	I've lived in New York for nearly 24 years. I began my career in Manhattan and made my way up Albany. Eventually, my husband and I began to raise our children in Cold Spring, where we've lived for almost a decade.
What civic and political organizations are you involved with, either in your area or statewide?	Member of Congress
What are New York State's greatest strengths and struggles?	New York is a melting pot of folks from all walks of life and I believe that our greatest strength. I've fought for years to protect our citizens rights and to widen the circles of inclusion in order to give all New Yorkers the opportunities to succeed and continue to contribute to what makes our state great. But these rights and opportunities are under assault from the Trump Administration and Congressional Republicans. New York's Attorney General is tasked with protecting the rights of all New Yorkers which is why this race is so important.
Why do you want to serve as Attorney General?	I'm running to be your next Attorney General because I've got the passion to take on the crooks and the experience to beat them - whether they're in Washington, in Albany, or in corporate suites. I've been down in Washington playing defense against the Trump administration and their attacks on women, the LGBT community, immigrants, religious groups, the environment and our access to healthcare. I know what it takes to stand up and go to bat for the people of New York and protect the social progress that we've made throughout the years. While I'm proud of the work I've done in Washington defending the rights of the New Yorkers who sent me to Congress, I'm ready to go on offense and take the fight to the Trump Administration.
What have you accomplished in public life that you are most proud of?	Throughout my time in Congress I've had the opportunity to advocate on behalf of the LGBTQ+ community and LGBTQ+ Americans who are oftentimes left out, discriminated against, and turned away based on how they look and who they love. That's just not right, and as New York's first openly gay member of Congress, I can relate to these experiences all too well and wanted to do more to protect this vulnerable population of people. My proudest

	<p>achievement on behalf of the LGBTQ+ community was my fight in 2016 to prevent federal tax dollars from funding discriminatory employers from firing their employees because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. It was a long saga that began with Republican leadership rigging a vote by convincing their members to switch their votes from supporting our community to opposing it. We lost the first battle, but won the war. Federal tax dollars can't be used to discriminate. I'm proud of that achievement but I know that the fight is far from over and I'll keep fighting to protect all New Yorkers.</p>
<p>What do you consider to be the highlights of your work experience?</p>	<p>The highlights of my work experience come from my neighbors who remind us of all the great work we do on their behalf to help make their lives a little bit easier. Whether it's the wife of an Army vet who was having trouble receiving her husband's benefits after being given the runaround from the VA or helping New York residents restore contact with their relatives in Puerto Rico who had their lives turned upside down after Hurricane Maria, everyday I hear from someone who is grateful for the help they've received from my office and there is no greater feeling than knowing how impactful we can be when we lend a helping hand.</p>
<p>Why do you want New Kings Democrats' endorsement?</p>	<p>I seek an endorsement from the New Kings Democrats because like all of you, I know the importance of having a transparent, inclusive and accountable government and I know how difficult it is for the next generation of leaders to break through and bring new ideas to our party. I believe New Yorkers deserve an Attorney General who isn't just the pick of party bosses but someone who will be an independent voice for all of us. I want to work alongside the New Kings Democrats to help make the future more inclusive for all communities.</p>
<p>If elected, what will your top three priorities be while in office?</p>	<p>The New York Attorney General is one of world's most important policeman for fraud, antitrust violations and other illegal behavior in financial markets. The AG must be prepared to creatively utilize New York's far-reaching anti-fraud and antitrust laws. This would be one of my top priorities.</p> <p>Moreover, in these unusual and threatening times the AG must be prepared to pick up the banner of justice where the federal government is failing. This means standing up for consumers, ensuring access to affordable healthcare that includes mental health parity, halting the rollback of environmental protections, protecting New Yorkers from Republican tax scam targeting, and utilizing New York's robust civil rights statutes to ensure all individuals and families get a fair shake. The New York Attorney General must be prepared to hold the Trump Administration accountable, something I would do on day one.</p>
<p>If elected, how will you support the work of New Kings</p>	<p>If elected, I plan to work alongside the New Kings Democrats to bring greater transparency to our campaign finance system. Money has had a horribly</p>

<p>Democrats and its partners to make New York City government more transparent, accountable, or inclusive?</p>	<p>corrosive effect on our democracy causing people to lose faith in our institutions. People realize that their voices are being drowned out by the flow of money in politics. As Attorney General I would prioritize restoring the public trust in our elected officials and hold anyone who breaks our campaign finance laws accountable.</p>
<p>What is your vision for the Brooklyn Democratic Party and for the statewide Democratic Party?</p>	<p>It is no surprise that our party is facing a time of great uncertainty. People no longer believe that the party is fighting for them and finding solutions to the problems in their lives. I believe our party needs to start getting behind leaders who speak from the heart and not in poll-tested language. We need to return to the core principles that make our party great: fighting for working families, for better educational opportunities for our children, for greater inclusion and civil rights for every community.</p>
<p>How will you contribute to efforts to attain unified Democratic control of the New York State Senate?</p>	<p>Establishing unified Democratic control of the New York State Senate is imperative and will play an important role in our efforts to fight back against the extremist agenda of the Trump Administration and achieve progressive reforms for the state. I will continue to provide support and assistance where possible to the Democratic members of the New York State Senate.</p>
<p>How do you think the New York State Democratic Party can improve the way it operates?</p>	<p>As I said above, there's no secret that there is an uprising happening across our country and within our party and the only way to harness the passions and energy Democrats are feeling is to move forward as a united front. But to do that we must address the concerns that folks have about their leaders. As a party, we've done a great job at fighting to protect the values that are essential to our core but after the 2016 election, we've realized that we need leaders who speak to a new generation of voters. We need to elect leaders who understand these issues and are not simply the pick of party insiders. I believe we need to return to being party that speaks from the heart and lets the people pick their leaders.</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p>Fraud, misconduct, and corruption are all too common in Albany, and it's the job of the Attorney General to enforce the laws of the land and uphold the integrity of the constitution. New Yorkers need an AG who will protect and prioritize their interests and that's exactly what I plan to do. I would empower the attorneys of the Public Integrity Bureau within the Attorney General's office to aggressively pursue corruption in Albany and throughout the state. I also believe it is important to continue to build on the partnership between the Attorney General's office and the state Comptroller to root out corruption by our elected officials at every level of government.</p>

What would you do as Attorney General to reform criminal justice in New York, to create a system that treats people of color and disadvantaged communities more equally? Are there actions you could take that would not require action from the legislature or the Governor?	It's no secret that there are a lot of problems with our criminal justice system and we need to do more to ensure that we do right by everyone in America, regardless of their background. Racial bias, mandatory minimum sentences, and increasing prison populations are perpetuating social inequities across the U.S. We should also do more to curb recidivism and end the school-to-prison pipeline. As Attorney General, my hope is to work alongside the Governor and legislature in a unified effort to enforce equal protections for all New Yorkers.
Would you retain Barbara Underwood as Deputy Attorney General?	I would love to retain Barbara Underwood as Deputy Attorney General. She is a seasoned and reliable lawyer with the experience and dedication needed to take on the tough cases and protect the rights of New Yorkers across the state. The next Attorney General has to prioritize retaining and attracting great public servants like Barbara Underwood and I have the experience to do that.
What is your legal experience? How many verdicts have you taken, what area(s) of law do you practice/have you practiced, taught?	As a young, New York City attorney, I began my career fighting to protect immigrants from deportation and working to protect tenants rights. I've also had the privilege of serving as a senior adviser to President Bill Clinton where I worked to advance and protect the interests of hate crime survivors. I previously served as a partner at two global law firms and started a high-tech business from scratch. Before I ran for Congress, I worked under two Governors of New York, focusing on strengthening statewide education and supporting infrastructure projects. Throughout my time in Congress, I've passed dozens of critical legislative priorities into law while fighting for veterans, farmers, students, and older Americans.
Are there any pending matters handled by the AG's office that you expect you will recuse yourself from if elected?	At the moment, I don't believe there are any pending matters that I will recuse myself from should I be elected.
Our understanding is that the Attorney General invokes a few different laws for subpoena and enforcement power. What other legal mechanisms could the AG's Office employ to take actions on behalf of New Yorkers?	As Attorney General, I will use the statutory powers granted to the AG to protect New Yorkers from fraud, abuse and anticompetitive behavior, to protect the public health and the environment, and to investigate and prosecute through the Organized Crime Task Force. But moreover, as AG, I will seek referral from the Governor, Comptroller, and other Departments on a wide-ranging set of issues from health care to immigration to consumer protection. Finally, utilizing the common law doctrine of parens patriae, I will initiate civil action when New Yorkers' public interest is at stake.
Assuming that you are familiar with the legal bureaus that make up the Attorney General's office, have you identified any bureaus/subject matter areas that are lacking? If so, what?	First and foremost, we should create a separate bureau to address issues of sexual harassment and abuse. The #MeToo movement highlighted a long-existing, pervasive cultural that harmed and diminished women everywhere from their places of work to their places of worship. As a society, we are not doing enough to ensure equality and justice for women.

What funds have you raised for this campaign? What are the major sources of your campaign funds?	In the first few weeks of the campaign, we have raised \$1,127,155 in donations and have a total of over \$4.1 million cash on hand. I've received approximately 1,500 individual donations and almost 90 percent of contributions were \$200 or less. Additionally, more than half of the individual contributions were for \$10 or less.
What endorsements have you received from publications, electeds, community leaders, or political organizations?	I've had the privilege of receiving endorsements from the United Brothers of Carpenters and the LGBTQ Victory Fund.
What areas of the state do you see as your biggest sources of votes and support?	I'm fortunate to have support from folks all across the state of New York. As a three-term Congressman from the Hudson Valley, I've had the opportunity to build and sustain some very meaningful relationships with my neighbors and I'm grateful for the support they've shown me throughout my career. From my time as a young attorney in New York City where I worked to help refugees and fight for tenants rights, I know well the issues that confront the city's residents and am proud to have strong support among them as well.
Which elected in New York State do you admire most and why?	After I was elected to Congress, I often heard the same advice: if you want to be successful, just do exactly what Maurice Hinchey would do. Easier said than done. Maurice was a living legend and stalwart defender of the environment. He was principled, tough, passionate, and effective. I have modeled my own service on his, and I am proud to have called him a mentor and a friend.
What are some of the ways you think New York City or State residents can best participate in civic life?	<p>One of the few positive things to come out of the 2016 election is the renewed engagement we've seen among voters. We've seen massive turnouts at town hall meeting and record numbers at marches across the country. But that energy must continue if we're going to achieve real change and stop the violence the Trump Administration is doing our core institutions.</p> <p>We should also do more to ensure that all eligible Americans have equal access to one of the most fundamental democratic rights – the right to vote. We should make it casier for American citizens to vote – not harder. Arbitrary waiting periods and pre-registration requirements are unnecessary and only have the effect of disproportionately hurting minority voters and voters who are poor. That's why I support measures like the Automatic Voter Registration Act, that would automatically register Americans to vote when they interact with a government agency, unless they decide to opt-out.</p>
What is one fun fact about you?	Back home in Cold Spring, my husband Randy and I manage our home farm where we care for horses, sheep, dogs, goats and ducks. They are all adopted animals who were hand-picked by our children and play a huge role in our day-to-day lives.

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

Candidate Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 07/30/18

**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)**