

## 2019 Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate: \_\_\_\_\_ Incumbent: Yes  No

Candidate for: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Campaign Committee: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Campaign Manager ("CM"): \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail for CM: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone for CM: \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate Twitter: \_\_\_\_\_ Candidate Facebook: \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Candidate E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

If you do not want Planned Parenthood of New York City Action Fund's endorsement, check box and sign here:

*The Planned Parenthood of New York City (PPNYC) Action Fund is a not-for-profit organization that engages in educational and electoral activity including voter education campaigns, grassroots organizing and legislative advocacy. The PPNYC Action Fund is a non-partisan organization committed to supporting pro-reproductive health candidates for New York City and New York State office.*

*Please indicate your response to each question with an X or a check mark in the appropriate box. If you would like additional information or have questions that you would like answered before completing this questionnaire or to arrange an interview for endorsement, please contact Pascale Bernard by phone at 212.274.7390 or by e-mail at [Pascale.Bernard@ppnyc.org](mailto:Pascale.Bernard@ppnyc.org).*

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### Planned Parenthood of New York City Action Fund's Message for Candidates

Planned Parenthood believes in ensuring all people have access to the sexual and reproductive health care services they need. We believe that everyone – regardless of income, age or marital status – has the fundamental right to decide when and whether to have a child. It is elected officials' role to support personal childbearing decisions by ensuring quality access to preventive health care services, including birth control and medically accurate sexual health information, as well as access to quality prenatal care and safe, legal abortion. Planned Parenthood of New York City Action Fund defines support of our mission to include consistent voting records and public leadership to protect and expand access to sexual and reproductive health care and oppose attempts to roll back access to achieve health equity.



## Contraception

*Emergency contraception (EC), also known as "the morning after pill" or Plan B, is a high-dose combination of oral contraceptives that, if taken within days of unprotected sex, can safely prevent a pregnancy from occurring. In 2013, EC was FDA-approved for sale over-the-counter, without a prescription or age restrictions. However, many New Yorkers still experience barriers to accessing this important contraceptive method, including pharmacist refusal to stock the medication and misinformation about age and gender requirements. **NOTE: EC does not affect an established pregnancy. EC is not the abortion pill.***

- 6. Do you support efforts to increase access to emergency contraception, including through insurance coverage, for all New Yorkers?** **No** **Yes**

The passage of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) has provided millions of Americans with contraceptive coverage without a co-payment. However, some businesses insist that they should be able to deny an individual access to basic reproductive health care because they have religious objections to the care being sought, and companies continue to offer selective coverage or require a co-payment. Reproductive health decisions, including which contraception method to choose, should be between a patient and their doctor, not their insurance provider or their employer. Lack of comprehensive coverage and high co-payments are significant barriers to effective contraceptive use.

- 7. Do you support policies to expand access to contraception, such as requiring insurance companies to cover all federally approved contraceptive methods without a co-pay, and regardless of an employer's religious beliefs?** **No** **Yes**

## Pregnancy

***For New Yorkers who decide to be a parent, it is important that they are thoroughly protected in the medical system and have the workers' protections need to maintain employment.***

*In the United States, maternal mortality, which is defined as the death of a pregnant person due to health related issues or medical mismanagement related to pregnancy or childbirth, is a major issue that disproportionately impacts Black and Latino people. According to a study conducted by the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Black women are 12 times more likely to die during pregnancy than white non-Hispanic women, making New York City one of the most dangerous places for Black people to give birth.*

- 8. Do you support efforts to reduce maternal mortality especially among women of color in New York City?** **No** **Yes**

While the New York City's Commission on Human Rights and the New York State's Division of Human Rights have released guidance about pregnancy discrimination, pregnant New York City employees still experience discrimination from employers. The most vulnerable of these people being low-wage employees of color.

- 9. Do you support efforts to end pregnancy discrimination in New York City?** **No** **Yes**

## Parenting

***For individuals who decide to parent, it is important that they have the resources needed to raise their family and care for their wellbeing, including affordable childcare, workplace protections, and equitable pay. No New Yorker should have to choose between caring for their loved ones and keeping their job.***

*Childcare costs continue to increase and are now more than in-state college tuition. The average New York City family spends \$16,250 per year on childcare for an infant, \$11,648 for a toddler, and \$9,260 for a school-age child, significantly impacting New Yorkers' ability to care for their families and cover the costs of housing and health care. With fifty-two percent of New Yorkers living below the federal poverty level, New York City needs to commit to providing support for working families.*

**10. Do you support efforts to increase access to affordable childcare services to better support New York City families?** **No** **Yes**

According to a study conducted from 2005 to 2016 by the Mayor's Poverty Research Team, up to 53% of children, regardless of race, live in or near the federal poverty level. Because of this, many children in New York City receive poverty alleviation services through agencies such as the Human Resources Administration (HRA). In December 2018, a young mother and her child were aggressively removed from the office while waiting to obtain much needed resources at HRA. HRA officials pressed charges against the mother that were eventually dropped after public outcry and grassroots activism.

**11. Do you support efforts to create preventive measures to ensure that poor New Yorkers are treated with dignity and respect in government agencies with which they frequently interact?** **No** **Yes**

Pregnancy and parenting responsibilities significantly increase a student's risk of dropping out of school and negative health outcomes. Providing support for pregnant and parenting students, including educational resources and policies can go a long way toward improving school climate for young parents, increasing high school graduation rates, and improving overall wellbeing.

**12. Do you support efforts to increase accessibility for pregnant and parenting young people to continue their education?** **No** **Yes**

## **Youth Education and Minors' Rights**

**Young people are building the foundations for their lives and families and need resources to make the decisions that are best for them, including comprehensive, medically accurate sexuality education and safe and confidential access to reproductive health services. PPNYC is committed to providing support for all young people, including young parents, in their health needs and decision making to achieve success.**

The need for comprehensive medically accurate sexuality health education for New York City students is urgent. Rates of STDs have dramatically increased with two-thirds of all infections occurring among adolescents. 1 in 3 NYC teens report some sort of partner abuse, and 1 in 4 are bullied or harassed because of their gender identity. The National Sexuality Education Standards call for comprehensive, medically accurate sexuality education to start in kindergarten and build up through 12th grade, so that schools foster safe environments for all students early on. Comprehensive medically accurate sexuality education includes teaching anatomy and physiology, puberty, pregnancy, STD and HIV prevention and treatment, as well as gender, respect of others' values and identities, positive body image, and healthy relationships and consent, including anti-bullying and intimate partner violence measures.

**13. Do you support implementing a comprehensive, age-appropriate, medically accurate sexuality health education program from kindergarten through 12th grade that provides all**

**students with information on contraception, consent, healthy relationships, gender identity, and media literacy?** **No** **Yes**

In order for young people to stay healthy, they must have access to trusted adults, including health providers, to talk to and supply them with medically accurate information and care. School-Based Health Centers (SBHCs) serve students throughout New York City and the City Health Department has implemented an innovative teen pregnancy prevention program called “Connecting Adolescents to Comprehensive Health Care” (CATCH) which enables school nurses to dispense contraception to high school students.

**14. Do you support SBHCs and programs such as CATCH that enable NYC students to access reproductive and sexual health education and services?** **No** **Yes**

Young New Yorkers living in foster care, homeless shelters and those transitioning out often lack access to comprehensive, medically accurate sexuality education, counseling, and health services, putting them at higher risk for sexually transmitted infections, HIV, and unintended pregnancy. These groups have complex needs that require special considerations while in these systems, as well as strong referral networks to stay connected to care when they transition back into their communities.

**15. Do you support efforts to ensure that comprehensive, medically accurate sexuality and reproductive information and services are delivered by trained providers for youth in foster care and shelters?** **No** **Yes**

Planned Parenthood health centers strongly encourage teens to talk to their parents and/or caregivers about their sexual health. Unfortunately, not all youth have the support of parents or other trusted adults to have conversations about their sexual health needs and pregnancy. We know that minors’ health and safety is best protected by ensuring their confidential access to sexual and reproductive health services, including family planning, disease prevention and treatment, and abortion care, and by enabling young people to safely talk with their doctors about the care they need.

**16. Do you support New York youth’s ability to confidentially access sexual and reproductive health services, including safe, legal abortion?** **No** **Yes**

## Funding for Health Care

**National attacks on Planned Parenthood’s funding could jeopardize the ability of Planned Parenthood patients to access essential health care locally. Each year 60,000 New Yorkers rely on PPNYC for sexual and reproductive health care services, including birth control, gynecological care, and HIV testing, and STD testing and treatment. PPNYC provides care no matter what; we rely on local and federal funding as well as private donations to serve all New Yorkers regardless of insurance, immigration status, or income. No one is turned away if she or he cannot pay.**

Extreme politicians are trying to defund and shut down Planned Parenthood health centers, which would deny millions of people access to the birth control, cancer screenings, STD and HIV testing and treatment and other care they rely on. Planned Parenthood is the nation’s leading reproductive health care provider, and if these politicians succeed, it will be a national public health disaster. A recent study in the New England Journal of Medicine showed that blocking patients from going to Planned Parenthood in Texas was associated with a 35% decline in women in publicly funded programs using the most effective methods of birth control and a dramatic 27% increase in births among women who had previously accessed injectable contraception through those programs. Without Planned Parenthood, many of our patients would have nowhere else to go for care.

**17. Do you support efforts to protect federal, state, and local funding for Planned Parenthood?**

No Yes

Affordable and accessible family planning services are essential to women's health, well-being and economic stability. According to the Guttmacher Institute, more than 6 in 10 women obtaining care at a publicly funded center providing contraceptive services consider the center to be their primary source of health care. For 4 in 10 women, that center is their only source of health care. An investment in family planning provides vital health care services to New York City families and long-term cost savings.

**18. Do you support efforts to ensure public funding for family planning services?**

No Yes

Despite New York's gains in reducing rates of HIV, the HIV/AIDS epidemic is concentrated in low-income communities and community-driven solutions are critical to providing holistic support for harder to reach populations. In 2015, the End the Epidemic Task Force released a set of recommendations to reduce the number of new HIV infections to 750 by 2020, including funding for sexual health education, housing benefits, and case management, which enable high risk individuals and people living with HIV to overcome obstacles to getting tested and increase linkages to and retention in HIV care.

**19. Do you support efforts to fund HIV supportive programming included in the End the Epidemic Blueprint, proposed by the Governor Cuomo in 2014?**

No Yes

## **Access to Health Care Services**

**Planned Parenthood provides health care services to all people, regardless of insurance, immigration status, age, gender, or ability to pay. We value high-quality health care that is culturally competent, inclusive, and sensitive to all experiences, and are committed to ensuring our patients are able to access sexual and reproductive health care free from harassment and harm.**

Crisis Pregnancy Centers (CPCs) use deceptive practices to appeal to women experiencing unintended pregnancies, preventing many New Yorkers from accessing the care they need. CPCs represent themselves as reproductive health providers, yet the vast majority are volunteer-run and do not employ licensed medical professionals. CPCs discourage abortion and the use of birth control and provide biased counseling and misleading and stigmatizing information. They are frequently located near legitimate reproductive health care providers and use deceptive tactics to interfere with individuals looking for accurate medical care. New York City recently enacted legislation requiring CPCs to post signs and provide oral disclosures stating that CPCs do not have licensed medical providers on site providing services.

**20. Do you support policies, legislation, and enforcement that require CPCs to be honest with people about what services they do and do not provide and about whether or not they employ a trained medical professional?**

No Yes

PPNYC is proud to continue to expand our services to meet the needs of all New Yorkers, including hormone therapy for transgender New Yorkers. Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender and gender non-conforming New Yorkers often face barriers to health care, including discrimination, lack of insurance coverage, provider insensitivity, and lack of available resources, including long wait times for care, making it harder for people to lead healthy and safe lives.



**21. Do you support efforts to improve health care equity for the transgender community and protect health care coverage for transgender-related services?** **No** **Yes**

Incarcerated individuals face disproportionate health care disparities and are at high risk for gender-specific health conditions that could easily be cared for while in jail or prison. The Correctional Association of New York reported that incarcerated women face inadequate access to and delays in gynecological care, limited access to contraception, routine shackling during pregnancy, and insufficient access to sanitary napkin and toilet paper supplies.

**22. Do you support policies to ensure that incarcerated individuals have access to the full range of sexual and reproductive health care services?** **No** **Yes**

Planned Parenthood believes that one's immigration status should not hinder access to health care services, yet New York's immigrant communities are excluded from many health insurance programs. Programs such as Deferred Action for Children Arrivals (DACA) enable over 80,000 young New Yorkers to live, work and go to school without fear of deportation. As a designated Sanctuary city, New York has a responsibility to preserve its public health insurance coverage for everyone who is currently eligible, and expand insurance programs with the goal of achieving universal coverage for all residents.

**23. Do you support New York expanding health insurance coverage to all immigrants regardless of immigration status?** **No** **Yes**

## **Equal Opportunity and Anti-Discrimination**

**Planned Parenthood knows that health care access is integrally connected to our ability to lead lives free from discrimination, violence, harassment, and economic inequity. We believe that all people deserve equal opportunities to a safe and healthy life for themselves and their families.**

New York State currently lacks legislative protections to protect against a person being fired, harassed, evicted, or denied public services simply for being transgender or gender-non-conforming (TGNC). Without legal protections, lesbian, gay, bisexual and TGNC workers face discrimination that makes it harder for them to find and keep a job and provide for their families. A report released by the Williams Institute at UCLA found that [47% of LGBT respondents](#) have faced discrimination in hiring, promotion or job retention. And [26% of Latina/o transgender individuals](#) have been terminated from their jobs because of bias, according to a report of the National Transgender Discrimination Survey.

**24. Do you support policies to combat discrimination for gay, lesbian, bisexual, queer, trans, and gender non-conforming individuals in the workplace, public accommodation, and housing?** **No** **Yes**

Throughout his presidential term, Trump and his administration have created policies that attack multiple communities, especially the transgender community. The most recent of these attacks was the administrations narrowly defining gender as a biological, immutable condition determined by genitalia at birth. These guidelines seek to erase the existence of trans and gender-non-conforming people.

**25. Do you plan to support polices and legislation that would keep trans and gender non-conforming/non-binary New Yorkers safe and visible from the Trump administration attacks?** **No** **Yes**

Over half of New York City residents live in poverty and struggle to afford health care, housing and care for their families, and four in ten U.S. households include a mother who is the primary or sole earner for the family. A fair living wage is critical for our patients to afford health care, education, housing, childcare, transportation, and other necessities to shape their own futures and care for their families. New York recently made great strides in increasing the state's minimum wage, yet many workers across the state continue to be left out, including tipped workers. Sixty-five percent of tipped workers are women and 2/3 of servers live in poverty, often facing financial insecurity, discrimination, and high rates of sexual harassment on the job.

**26. Do you support a fair living wage for all New York workers, including tipped employees?**

**No      Yes**

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**Planned Parenthood of New York City Action Fund strongly encourages endorsed candidates to champion sexual and reproductive health issues beyond maintaining a 100% pro-reproductive health voting record while in office. We welcome you to list ways in which you will champion Planned Parenthood, our patients, and our services. Please note that responses to the statements below are a means of gauging a candidate's commitment to sexual and reproductive health issues and will not factor into the endorsement process.**

Please check the boxes below that indicate your commitment to Planned Parenthood:

- I will speak out publicly in support of Planned Parenthood on my website, at press conferences and in the media.
- I will support Planned Parenthood on the floor of Council Hearings and in committee meetings.
- I will attend a Planned Parenthood function or event.
- I will visit and tour a Planned Parenthood Health Center.
- I will speak with other elected officials and work to educate those who are reluctant to publicly support Planned Parenthood on comprehensive sexual and reproductive health issues.
- I will vote for and support a Council Speaker or conference leader only if they have a 100% record from Planned Parenthood of New York City Action Fund.



**27. How do you intend to protect and expand access to sexual and reproductive health in New York City?**

I'm am grateful that the New York State legislature finally passed the Reproductive Health Act. It is long overdue. However, when a sitting City Councilmember holds a rally to protest access to abortion for New York women, we know there's still a need to stand firm in support of basic reproductive rights. As Public Advocate I would be a steadfast and unwavering voice for expanded access to legal and safe abortion and contraception for all women, regardless of status. I would additionally work to identify and eliminate fake health clinics (crisis pregnancy centers) to ensure women have access to actual medical treatment when seeking an abortion. Finally, I would advocate for comprehensive sexual education in New York public schools, because education is key to empowering our young women and men to have safe, responsible and consensual sexual lives.

**28. Please discuss your vision for how the office of the Public Advocate can advance reproductive justice in New York City.**

As PPNYC has made clear, reproductive justice is economic justice. I believe that the Public Advocate can play a key role in improving out transit system. Improving the subway is one of the key pillars of my platform. Transportation should never be a barrier to people seeking care at a PPNYC facility. Fair Fares is a prime example of where the Public Advocate can make a real impact. The Public Advocate should continue to put pressure on the City and the Mayor until the program is implemented and it is clear who is eligible, how to apply, and how people can obtain their cards.

**29. What ways do you plan to support the safety of PPNYC's patients in upholding NYC's Clinic Access Law?**

I am a firm supporter of the First Amendment, but protestors cannot infringe on the right of a woman to seek care. Women must feel safe accessing their fundamental right to reproductive health care. NYC's clinic access law is incredibly important in protecting women trying to access reproductive health care. As Public Advocate I would ensure that this law is being properly enforced and that all women and facilities are aware of their rights under the law.

**30. If elected, how do you intend to work with Planned Parenthood of New York City?**

I would hope to have an open and ongoing dialogue with PPNYC about the legislative and advocacy needs of the women of New York. PPNYC is a crucial provider of health care for so many women in this City and I would be a fierce advocate to ensure that PPNYC continues to have the resources and support that they need.

I have read this questionnaire and provided answers to the best of my abilities.

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