



2018 NY Governor Primary Candidate Survey

## Andrew M. Cuomo Democratic Party

Election Day:  
Thursday, September 13, 2018

Polls Open:  
6:00 am - 9:00 pm EST

**Healthcare: Q) *What is your position on the New York Health Act that establishes a universal health plan for New York State residents?***

A) Governor Cuomo believes that access to affordable, high-quality healthcare is a human right, not a luxury. He supports the universal healthcare and believes that a federal Medicare for All model would be the most cost-effective approach. Under Governor Cuomo's leadership, New York has established one of the most effective health insurance exchanges in the nation, enrolling more than 4.3 million people. Governor Cuomo will continue to fight the Trump Administration's attack on healthcare and will secure healthcare for the 5% of New Yorkers that remain uninsured.

**Immigration: Q) *In light of the recent controversial executive orders and following court decisions, what are your plans regarding the rights, safety, and status of undocumented immigrants?***

A) Governor Cuomo has taken legal action against the Trump Administration for violating the Constitutional rights of thousands of immigrant children and their parents who have been separated at the border. He also issued a cease and desist letter demanding that ICE immediately stop their reckless and unconstitutional enforcement actions or he will commence legal action.

Moreover, Governor Cuomo implemented first-in-the-nation initiatives, including the Liberty Defense Project providing pro-bono legal aid to immigrants and the Office for New Americans providing an array of services like English classes, entrepreneurial training, and naturalization assistance. Additionally, Governor Cuomo issued an executive order requiring all State agencies that provide direct services to the public to offer free interpretation and translation services to all New Yorkers.

**Education: Q) *What is your position on the elimination of the SHSAT for specialized high school admissions?***

A) Governor Cuomo's administration has actively engaged stakeholders from the Asian American Pacific Islander community to understand the various perspectives regarding the SHSAT. Specifically, senior members of the administration have met with parents, advocates, and academics—per their request, another meeting is planned for October to discuss this and other education issues. These discussions must be completed to ensure that the Governor takes the most informed position on the issue and that it incorporates the thoughts and concerns of the Asian American and Pacific Islander community.

**Voting Reform: Q) *New York has some of the lowest voter turnout rates in the country. What policies would you implement to the current New York State's voting laws and increase voter turnout?***

A) Governor Cuomo has proposed and will continue to champion a suite of actions, including legislation, to expand voting rights and increase voter turnout through early voting, automatic voter registration, and same day voter registration. Governor Cuomo also signed an executive order to restore voting rights to individuals on parole, as well as an executive order directing every state agency to make available voter registration forms. Additionally, the Governor created the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles' online registration portal in 2012, registering more than one million people to vote to date, including more than 450,000 first-time voters.

**Census: Q) *How do you plan to address the undercounting of New York State residents in the 2020 Census? What is your view on the responsibility of the Governor's office in ensuring a fair and accurate Census count?***

A) Governor Cuomo has pledged to protect the integrity of the Census, launching a comprehensive outreach initiative to engage with local governments and community-based organizations to ensure that every New Yorker is counted—and that New York gets its fair share of essential federal funds and political representation in Washington.

Additionally, the U.S. Census Bureau announced plans to add a question about citizenship status to the survey for the first time since 1950, which could undermine tested, science-based efforts to achieve an accurate count. The State has objected to this question through formal written comments to the federal government and joined several states in suing the federal government to reverse this decision and ensure everyone—without regard to status—is counted.



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## Cynthia Nixon

### Democratic Party

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**Healthcare: Q) *What is your position on the New York Health Act that establishes a universal health plan for New York State residents?***

**A)** I support the New York Health Act and establishing a single-payer health care system in New York.

**Immigration: Q) *In light of the recent controversial executive orders and following court decisions, what are your plans regarding the rights, safety, and status of undocumented immigrants?***

**A)** On my first day in office, I will issue an executive order restoring access to driver's licenses for all New Yorkers, regardless of their immigration status. I will also fight to pass the Liberty Act, a bill which would make New York a true sanctuary state. This bill has already passed the Assembly but died in Cuomo's Republican Senate. Unlike Governor Cuomo, I will also make passing the DREAM Act a priority.

Finally, Cuomo continues to support the existence of ICE, and has refused to return more than \$800,000 in campaign contributions from companies and landlords who rent space to ICE. I believe that ICE needs to be abolished.

**Education: Q) *What is your position on the elimination of the SHSAT for specialized high school admissions?***

**A)** I have strongly endorsed legislation introduced by Assemblyman Charles Barron designed to end the segregation in the specialized high schools. The legislation proposed by Assemblyman Barron would phase out the single test for admission to specialized high schools and instead rely on multiple measures including classroom grades and tests that are taken by all students and do not require prep courses. Over three years the legislation would open up admissions to the top five to seven percent of students from every middle school in New York City which is projected to increase enrollment of Black and Latinx students to 45 percent.

**Voting Reform: Q) *New York has some of the lowest voter turnout rates in the country. What policies would you implement to the current New York State's voting laws and increase voter turnout?***

**A)** I support early voting, automatic voter registration, and same-day voter registration. I also support ensuring that our Board of Elections have the resources they need to fully implement accessible voting sites in every corner of the state. Despite the laws passed to ensure that voters with disabilities can vote just like their neighbors, currently 1 in 6 voters have a disability but only 1 in 4 polling places are accessible to them.

**Census: Q) *How do you plan to address the undercounting of New York State residents in the 2020 Census? What is your view on the responsibility of the Governor's office in ensuring a fair and accurate Census count?***

**A)** It is the Governor's responsibility to do everything she can to mobilize all of civil society in New York to reject the proposed citizenship question to the 2020 Census -- protest, lobbying, litigation, and calling our legislators. This is an attack on immigrants and our democracy.

As Governor, I would commit to directing resources towards ensuring a fair count—ideally with significant resources going to community groups with deep relationships in immigrant communities and communities of color for outreach. I would also have a team that is specifically focused on this in 2019 and 2020. I will also create a task force on ensuring a fair census count as Governor.