

CYNTHIA FOR NY

Background and Talking Points for Petitioners

We don't have to settle for the way things are. 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. We need a New York that works for all of us – a New York for the many, not just the few.

As Governor, Cynthia will:

- **Fully fund our public schools**, level the playing field for students in every part of the state, and end the school to prison pipeline.
- **Fully fund SUNY and CUNY and work toward a true College for All program** by making the wealthiest New Yorkers pay their fair share so that students don't graduate mired in debt.
- **Fix our crumbling subway system** by providing the MTA the money needed for repairs
- **Strengthen and renew our expiring rent laws**, and protect affordable housing for millions of New Yorkers while taking on the real estate developers and landlords who are buying off politicians, raising rents, and forcing people out of their homes.
- **Support a single payer medicare for all system** so that no one suffers because they can't afford health care in the wealthiest nation on earth.
- **Transition to a 100% renewable energy economy**, one that will get us off fossil fuels completely and provide tens of thousands of new jobs — especially in the communities most impacted by pollution and climate change. And unlike Andrew Cuomo, Cynthia will ban construction of all new fossil fuel infrastructure.
- **Pass the DREAM Act and make New York a true sanctuary state**, so that no family in New York will live in fear of Donald Trump's ICE agents.
- **Support comprehensive criminal justice reform**, including an end to cash bail and supporting the right to a speedy trial.
- **Put an end to mass incarceration and the over-policing of communities of color** that is costing people access to housing and job opportunities, and even exposing many to deportation.
- **Legalize marijuana**, so we can stop putting people of color in prison for something that white people do with impunity.

Together, we could show the entire country and the world that in the era of Donald Trump, New Yorkers will come together and lead our nation forward.

Bio / Background:

Cynthia Nixon is a lifelong New Yorker, actor, and progressive activist. Cynthia was raised by her single mother in a one bedroom, fifth-floor walk-up apartment. She is a proud graduate of New York public schools and an even prouder public school parent. She began working as an actor at the age of 12 in order to pay her way through college and has been a proud union member ever since. She is married to long time education organizer Christine Marinoni. Her three children, Sam, Charlie and Max, are all New York City public school students or graduates.

For the last 17 years, Cynthia has been fighting for better public schools and more equitable education funding all across the state including as a spokesperson and organizer for the Alliance for Quality Education, which helped reverse hundreds of millions in education budget cuts. Cynthia is an advocate for LGBTQ equality and helped start Fight Back New York, an effort to remove State Senators opposed to same sex marriage. Cynthia is also a leader in the fight for women's reproductive rights, and has been speaking out against racial and economic inequality for nearly two decades.

On Education and Millionaires Tax:

Gov Cuomo must increase school funding by \$4 BILLION to fulfill our state's constitutional obligation to provide a basic education for our kids. Instead of doing so, for years now, Governor Cuomo has allowed the wealthiest corporations in NY to go without paying their fair share of taxes - in too many cases, they pay a lower tax rate than you or me! All the while allowing our classrooms to grow overcrowded and cutting important programs like student counseling and art. Cynthia will fully fund our schools by increasing the corporate and billionaire tax rate, NOT by increasing property taxes on working families.

But does she have experience?

Though Cynthia has been working for 17 years to advocate for our schools, LGBTQ equality, and reproductive rights, and speaking out about economic and racial justice, I appreciate that she isn't an Albany insider. For too long, the 'experienced' politicians running things in Albany have let corporations and their donors call the shots. Cynthia will fight for fair funding for our schools and to make NY a state that works for all of us, not just the wealthy few -- and that's what matters most to me. And Cynthia isn't taking a dime from corporations.

I thought Cuomo was a progressive:

He says a lot of progressive things in public - but his actions tell a different story. Behind closed doors, he's handed power over to the Republicans, and he's governed like one. He cut taxes for the rich, and cut services for everybody else. He even bragged "We've managed New York in a way that any Republican would be proud." We don't just need to elect MORE Democrats this year -- we also need to elect BETTER Democrats.

What about Upstate?

Cynthia is running to end the inequality that plagues the entire state - not just New York City. Everywhere you go in this state, people are hurting from Andrew Cuomo's budget cuts. She understands that too many kids in upstate districts haven't gotten the education they deserve, and too many of our tax dollars have gone to Andrew Cuomo's biggest donors rather than creating jobs and investing in infrastructure Upstate. Cynthia will fight to make New York a state that works for all of us, not just the wealthy few -- and that's what matters most to me.