



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.