

Candidates for NYS Assembly, District 69

Eli Northrup is running for State Assembly to defend New York from an authoritarian Federal Government, fight for the West Side, and advance the affordability agenda across New York.

A public defender and policy advocate, Eli has dedicated his career to promoting equity and social justice. With over a decade of experience as a litigator in criminal court, he now serves as the Legal Director for the Criminal Defense Practice at the Bronx Defenders. Prior to that he served as Policy Director, leading a team of advocates focused on developing policies that bring fairness and dignity to the criminal legal system. He has spent seven legislative sessions in Albany, and is widely regarded as an expert in criminal justice reform. He has been instrumental in successful legislative campaigns to protect due process rights, ensure transparency, and facilitate reentry for individuals with criminal records. He is a leading voice in the effort to close Rikers Island.

Prior to joining Bronx Defenders, Eli clerked for federal judges on the Third Circuit Court of Appeals and the Southern District of New York, and served as a clinical fellow at Georgetown Law. He graduated *cum laude* from NYU Law and holds a B.A. in Psychology from Cornell University. Raised by a conservationist father and a poet-teacher mother, Eli developed a keen sense of environmental consciousness and a deep appreciation for the arts. His grandfather was a civil rights attorney who served as counsel to the American Jewish Congress.

Eli is a member of the Three Parks Democratic Club and a former member of the Civil Rights Committee of the New York City Bar. In his free time he enjoys attending concerts, playing flag football and pickleball, and spending time in the beautiful parks on the West Side.

Eli's campaign has been endorsed by the Working Families Party, Former City Councilmember Helen Rosenthal, and over 20 other elected officials and progressive groups. Former Assemblymember Danny O'Donnell has characterized Eli as "an extraordinary human being with a history of commitment to community service." You can learn more about Eli at eli4ny.com.

Stephanie Ruskay was raised along with her brothers by a union schoolteacher and salesman of industrial food service equipment. She spent her early life at 50 West 97th Street — a Mitchell-Lama building just steps from Central Park — and then her adolescence upstate in Mahopac. Stephanie learned early the value of public service and strong neighborhoods. She graduated from the List College Joint Program of the Jewish Theological Seminary and Columbia University's School of General Studies.

Stephanie has committed her entire career to serving her community. From teaching in the Jewish community in Bulgaria with the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee to leadership positions at the American Jewish World Service, Auburn Theological Seminary, AVODAH: The Jewish Service Corps, and JOIN for Justice, her laser-focus on improving the lives of people around her is abundantly clear.

For the last decade, she has been the Associate Dean of the Rabbinical School at the Jewish Theological Seminary and Executive Director of the Hendel Center for Ethics and Justice.

At JTS, she played a leading role in advocating for, designing, and eventually implementing their first-in-the-sector paid parental leave policy. Stephanie also created Ruchot, a program to train Conservative movement Jewish teens on civic engagement, where they learned how to advocate for causes dear to their heart.

All of these roles aimed to help engage individuals and larger communities, in impactful efforts at realizing the world as we wish it could be. Her vision has always been crystal clear: address current challenges, knit together a broader narrative, and address systemic issues.

She's done that for the Jewish community her whole life. She does that with her students every day. And she'll do it for the Upper West Side and Morningside Heights as their next Assemblymember.

That's why she's been endorsed by the leaders West Siders know and trust: City Council Majority Leader Shaun Abreu, former Borough President Ruth Messinger, former New York Attorney General Bob Abrams, and former Comptroller Scott Stringer.

Stephanie lives on the Upper West Side with her twin boys and her husband Darone, who is the Managing Director of Queens Hillel.