



## DEMOCRAT ANATHEA SIMPKINS LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN FOR NEW YORK'S 50TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

*Working Mom and Anti-Violence Leader Prioritizes Coalition Building, Education, Families-First Leadership Rooted in Economic and Social Justice*

Learn more about Anathea Simpkins at [anatheaforny.com](https://anatheaforny.com)

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Brooklyn, NY - On Sunday, January 28, Democrat Anathea Simpkins officially launched her campaign for New York's 50th Assembly District, representing Greenpoint, North Williamsburg and parts of South Williamsburg. The family-friendly launch event was held at Bar Bruno in Greenpoint and brought together a diverse representation of community members, leaders and supporters.

Anathea Simpkins has devoted decades to empowering youth and making New York communities safer, healthier places to raise a family. Now, after years of driving change locally in education and gun violence prevention, Simpkins is taking that proven advocacy and moral courage to bring compassionate leadership to Albany. She is running to tackle the housing affordability crisis in the district, increase funding for education, improve environmental sustainability and provide access to safe and efficient transportation for everyone in North Brooklyn.

"I've lived in North Brooklyn longer than I've lived anywhere else and as a single, working mother, I'm proud to raise my child in this vibrant community," **said Simpkins**. "But during my time here many of my neighbors and I have increasingly struggled to pay the bills, our beloved small businesses are fighting harder than ever to keep their doors open and our schools are so underfunded that some are holding fundraisers to buy paper. This is unacceptable. We need



someone in Albany who will stay laser-focused on the urgent needs of our community and not get bogged down by divisiveness. I am running to be that person.”

A 17-year resident of Greenpoint, Simpkins worked in education for 26 years, including as a public school teacher. In 2017 Simpkins joined the Sandy Hook Promise New York City Marathon team, raising over \$5,000, and began volunteering with the national nonprofit, eventually bringing their *Start With Hello* program to Public School 31 and School District 14. In 2018, she ran the marathon for Sandy Hook Promise a second time, and in 2019 was recruited to work for the organization, most recently as associate vice president.

She will leverage her decades of experience in education, advocacy, and leadership to build coalitions with legislators in Albany and bring much-needed resources to the 50th Assembly District, while simultaneously advocating for and implementing policies that will protect New Yorkers and their families across the state.

Simpkins has been endorsed by Joe Lentol, who represented the district in the New York State Assembly from 1973 to 2020.

Simpkins’ roots in New York City stretch back generations: her great-grandmother, a French immigrant who arrived in Ellis Island in 1905, and her great-grandfather, an immigrant from Switzerland, met while living in the Lower East Side. They eventually moved to Astoria, Queens, where they raised Simpkins’ grandmother.

Born in 1971 in Worcester, Massachusetts, to working middle-class parents, Simpkins’ mother was a massage therapist, aesthetician, and volunteer English tutor. Her father was a chef and caterer and later became a contractor.

Simpkins received a BA in creative writing from Emerson College, a M.Ed. in education from University of Massachusetts at Amherst and a certificate in leadership from UC Davis School of Business. She is a trained mediator and holds a certificate from Phoenix Dispute Resolutions, an international dispute resolution provider and training organization.

In addition to Simpkins’ work with Sandy Hook Promise prior to joining as an employee, she has held volunteer positions with the Lower Eastside Girls Club and the PS31 School Leadership Team.

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