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Can't find your polling site? Visit nyc.pollsitelocator.com to enter your address and find your site and ballot information, or call the Board of Elections at 1-866-VOTE-NYC. Visit the website, www.GothamGazette.com or www.whosontheballot.org for complete information about all contests on the ballot.

The Citizens Union Voters Directory Online has all this information and more. Browse the online directory, candidates' questionnaires, and CU position statements at www.CitizensUnion.org.

Stay up to date with the latest happenings of the CU team and our work by liking our Facebook Page (facebook.com/citizensunion) and following us on Twitter ([@citizensunionny](https://twitter.com/citizensunionny)).

Citizens Union Preferred Candidates – 2018 Primary Elections

NEW YORK STATE

Attorney General Zephyr Teachout (D)

BRONX

Senate District 34 Alessandra Biaggi (D)

BROOKLYN

Senate District 17 Blake Morris (D)
Senate District 18 Julia Salazar (D)
Senate District 20 Zellnor Myrie (D)
Assembly District 46 Mathylde Frontus (D)

MANHATTAN

Senate District 31 Robert Jackson (D)

QUEENS

Senate District 13 Jessica Ramos (D)
Assembly District 30 Melissa Sklarz (D)
Assembly District 39 Catalina Cruz (D)

STATEN ISLAND

Assembly District 61 Charles Fall (D)
Assembly District 62 Glenn Yost (R)

About Citizens Union

MISSION

Citizens Union (CU) is committed to reforming New York City and State government to foster accountability, accessibility, transparency, honesty, and the highest ethical standards. For the past 120 years, we at Citizens Union have devoted ourselves to holding our local governments accountable to do better in all of these areas, and we remain committed to enfranchising all New Yorkers. The many initiatives that we are currently advancing include ethics reform, increased voter participation and civic engagement, greater police accountability, and a truly accurate 2020 census. In all of these efforts, we have been — and will remain — nonpartisan.

About the Voters Directory

PURPOSE

On Thursday, September 13th, New Yorkers will vote in primary elections to choose party nominees for Governor, New York State Attorney General, and the state legislature, as well as Lieutenant Governor, and judicial positions.

To help our supportive Citizens Union members prepare to vote in the upcoming primary election, we bring you our 2018 Primary Election Voters Directory. The Voters Directory provides:

- An overview of the 2018 elections, including voting and registration information and listings of every contest for all races that will be on the ballot in New York City on September 13th, 2018.
- A roster of Citizens Union's preferred candidates in several key races, and information about the rigorous evaluation process and assessments of candidates.

We caution voters that there may be last minute elimination or reinstatement of candidates on the ballot, so the list contained in this directory may have changed since this document was printed.

For more information, visit the NYC Board of Elections website at <http://vote.nyc.ny.us> or call (866) VOTE-NYC.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This Voters Directory would not be possible without the hard work of members of the Citizens Union Board, Local Candidates Committee (LCC), staff and interns.

27 volunteer LCC members, 5 interns, and staff members formed nonpartisan interview teams and evaluated 34 candidates in 17 races for Governor, state Attorney General, state Senate, and Assembly. We thank them for contributing their time, energy, and expertise this summer to interviewing and evaluating candidates.

We thank you for your support, and hope you enjoy the latest edition of the Voters Directory.

CANDIDATE EVALUATION PRINCIPLES AND PROCESS

OVERVIEW

In this packed election cycle, Citizens Union has evaluated 34 candidates in 17 races for Governor, state Attorney General, state Senate, and Assembly to determine who strongly supports our issues, can advance a reform agenda, and can best fulfill the obligations of the position.

Interview teams made up of Local Candidates Committee members assess the candidates based on their responses to CU's questionnaire (a pre-requisite for interviews), research, first-hand knowledge of the candidates, and interviews with the candidates, which are approximately 30 minutes each. The interview teams then make advisory recommendations to the full Local Candidates Committee, which deliberates and makes recommendations to the Citizens Union Board, which makes the final decision.

A "Preferred" rating reflects a candidate that Citizens Union deems not only qualified for the office with a viable candidacy, but also committed to an agenda of positive reform. Please note that candidates not preferred may nevertheless be highly regarded, which is generally reflected in the commentary.

Citizens Union issues a "Preferred" rating in primary elections, and an "Endorsed" rating for General Election contests. A "No Preference" rating may result when there is insufficient information available, it is believed that the candidates are of equal merit, or if no candidate interviewed by Citizens Union is believed to be effective or capable of representing the district.

OUR CRITERIA

The following guidelines are used by the Local Candidates Committee and Citizens Union Board of Directors in the evaluation of candidates:

- Support for Citizens Union's reform agenda shall be the primary criteria used in deciding its support for a candidate.
- Evidence of ability to wage an effective and competitive campaign shall be considered, but shall not be determinative.
- Ability to advance CU's goals, if elected, shall be considered, but not determinative. Incumbents will be held accountable for their record of reform in office and shall be judged accordingly on the basis of their demonstrated support for CU's issues.
- State, local, or community issues specific to the race's jurisdiction shall be considered, as will candidates' ability to grasp these issues and propose thoughtful solutions to represent their constituents' interests.
- Evaluation of the candidates and the decision to support a particular candidate shall be made without regard to political party and in a nonpartisan manner.

QUESTIONNAIRE: STATE LEGISLATURE

Below each question, please find a tabulation of answers from all 45 Senate and Assembly primary candidates who responded to the questionnaire (not only from those candidates who Citizens Union interviewed).

ETHICS REFORM

1. Limit outside compensation earned by state legislators and statewide officials to 25% of their salaries, while enacting a salary increase and eliminating stipends.
Support: 41 Conditionally Support: 1 Undecided or No Answer: 0
Oppose: 3 Conditionally Oppose: 0
2. Reform the Joint Commission on Public Ethics to eliminate the ability of one party to veto an investigation and to increase disclosure of its decision-making.
Support: 45 Conditionally Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 0
Oppose: 0 Conditionally Oppose: 0

ELECTIONS AND VOTING

3. Do you support or oppose the following changes to the state's current registration and voting system?
 - a. Early voting
Support: 42 Conditionally Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 0
Oppose: 3 Conditionally Oppose: 0
 - b. No-excuse absentee voting
Support: 41 Conditionally Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 0
Oppose: 4 Conditionally Oppose: 0
 - c. Election Day voter registration
Support: 41 Conditionally Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 1
Oppose: 3 Conditionally Oppose: 0
 - d. Re-enfranchisement of people on parole automatically through legislation, without requiring a Certificate of Good Conduct or Relief
Support: 38 Conditionally Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 1
Oppose: 5 Conditionally Oppose: 1
 - e. Automatic voter registration, unless the potential voter opts out
Support: 41 Conditionally Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 1
Oppose: 3 Conditionally Oppose: 0
 - f. Consolidated state and federal primaries
Support: 42 Conditionally Support: 1 Undecided or No Answer: 0
Oppose: 2 Conditionally Oppose: 0
 - g. Electronic poll books
Support: 44 Conditionally Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 0
Oppose: 1 Conditionally Oppose: 0
4. Reform the special election process, utilizing a nonpartisan special election for state legislative seats and eliminate delays in filling vacancies.
Support: 43 Conditionally Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 1
Oppose: 1 Conditionally Oppose: 0

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

5. Establish public financing of campaigns for state legislative and statewide offices using a method similar to New York City's Campaign Finance Law.
Support: 39 Conditionally Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 0
Oppose: 6 Conditionally Oppose: 0
6. Close the LLC loophole to ensure that limited liability companies have the same contribution limits as corporations, rather than the higher limit for individuals.
Support: 44 Conditionally Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 0
Oppose: 1 Conditionally Oppose: 0
7. Drastically reduce campaign contribution limits and reduce them even further from registered lobbyists and those who do business with the state.
Support: 42 Conditionally Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 1
Oppose: 2 Conditionally Oppose: 0

BUDGET PROCESS

8. Require full disclosure of grants and contracts issued by the state, including the budget lines from which the spending is made and reporting on the results of each grant or contract over a certain amount.
Support: 45 Conditionally Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 0
Oppose: 0 Conditionally Oppose: 0
9. Provide for adequate online disclosure and itemization of spending from elected officials' lump sum appropriations, including reporting on potential conflicts of interest and how the funds are spent.
Support: 45 Conditionally Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 0
Oppose: 0 Conditionally Oppose: 0

POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY

10. Repeal Civil Rights Law, Sec. 50-a, which shields from public view the disciplinary records of police officers, correction officers, and firefighters.
Support: 36 Conditionally Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 1
Oppose: 8 Conditionally Oppose: 0

ELECTION ADMINISTRATION

11. Restructure the state Board of Elections to abolish the strict two-party division of governance and operation and putting in place professional, nonpartisan administration.
Support: 40 Conditionally Support: 1 Undecided or No Answer: 0
Oppose: 4 Conditionally Oppose: 0
12. Empower the attorney general to investigate and prosecute election law malfeasance and cases of public corruption.
Support: 42 Conditionally Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 1
Oppose: 2 Conditionally Oppose: 0

HOME RULE

13. Make mayoral control of city schools permanent, with a governance system that provides for accountability, transparency, parent engagement, and democratic participation.
Support: 33 Conditionally Support: 2 Undecided or No Answer: 0
Oppose: 10 Conditionally Oppose: 0

QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES

District/Name	Party Affiliation	Q1	Q2	Q3a	Q3b	Q3c	Q3d	Q3e	Q3f	Q3g	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q11	Q12	Q13
Governor/Cuomo †	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	NA	S	S	S	NA	S	NA	S	S	NA
Governor/Nixon	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Bronx																				
SD33/Riverat	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S*	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S*	S	S
SD34/ Biaggi	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
SD34/Kleint	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	NA	S	S	S
SD34/Lundgren	G	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	O	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O
AD79/Blake†	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O
AD84/Septimo	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Brooklyn																				
SD17/ Morris	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
SD18/ Salazar	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
SD20/Hamilton†	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O
SD20/ Myrie	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
SD21/Parkert	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
SD22/Barkan	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
SD22/Goldent	R	O	S	O	O	O	O	O	S	S	S	O	O	S	S	S	O	S	S	S
SD22/Gounardes	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
SD23/Robinson	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	NA	S	S	S	S	S	S
SD23/Savinot	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	NA	O	S	S	S	S	O	S	NA	O
AD42/Beckford	G	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
AD46/Lustig-Elgrably	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
AD46/ Frontus	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O
AD59/Williams †	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
AD64/Baumel	D	S*	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S
Manhattan																				
SD27/Holymant	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
SD28/Krueger†	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S

KEY
 Citizens Union preferred candidates in bold.
 † Incumbent legislator
 S Support
 O Oppose
 N/A No answer or undecided
 . Nuanced answer

QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES - *continued*

District/Name	Party Affiliation	Q1	Q2	Q3a	Q3b	Q3c	Q3d	Q3e	Q3f	Q3g	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q11	Q12	Q13	
SD31/Alcantara†	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
SD31/ Jackson	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O
AD65/Niout	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
AD68/Rodriguez†	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
AD71/Taylor†	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
AD74/Epstein†	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O
Queens																					
SD11/Avellat	D	S	S	S	S	NA	S	NA	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S*	
SD11/Liu	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
SD11/Minching	R	O	S	S	S	O	O*	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	O	S	S	
SD11/Paladino	R	S	S	O	O	O	O	O	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	O	O	S	S	
SD13/Peralt†	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S*
SD13/ Ramos	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
AD30/Barnwell†	D	S	S	S	S	S	NA	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
AD30/ Sklarz	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
AD39/ Cruz	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
AD39/Espinal†	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Staten Island																					
SD23/Robinson	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	NA	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
SD23/Savinot	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	NA	O	S	S	S	S	O	S	NA	O	
AD61/Digi Olisa	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
AD61/ Fall	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
AD62/Reilly	R	S	S	S	O	S	O	O	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	O	S	O	O	
AD62/ Yost	R	O	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	O	S	S	O	
AD62/Zanatta	R	S	S	O	O	S	O	S	O	S	S	O	S	O	S	S	O	O	O	O	
AD63/Dennie	G	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
AD64/Baumel	D	S*	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	

KEY
 Citizens Union preferred candidates in bold.
 † Incumbent legislator
 S Support
 O Oppose
 N/A No answer or undecided
 * Nuanced answer

Candidate Evaluations

NEW YORK STATE

GOVERNOR DEMOCRATIC PARTY PRIMARY*

Andrew Cuomo – Dem

Candidate has returned a questionnaire, response at www.CitizensUnion.org.

Age: 60 Occupation: Governor

Education: Fordham University, B.A.; Albany Law School, J.D.

Cynthia Nixon – Dem

Candidate has returned a questionnaire, response at www.CitizensUnion.org.

Age: 52 Occupation: Actor

Education: Barnard College, B.A.

*Citizens Union had not made a preference decision in this race at the time the Voters Directory was printed. Please visit www.CitizensUnion.org for information on the candidates and to find out our preference.

NEW YORK STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY PRIMARY

★ Preferred Candidate ★

Zephyr Teachout – Dem

Candidate has returned a questionnaire, response at www.CitizensUnion.org.

Age: 46 Occupation: Professor of Law at Fordham Law School

Education: Yale University, B.A.; Fordham Law School, J.D.

Zephyr Teachout is an academic, author, and political activist. She is nationally recognized as an expert in constitutional and anti-corruption law, and has written extensively on the subject. Teachout is currently a professor of law at Fordham University, and previously taught at Duke University. After receiving her law degree from Duke Law School in 1999, Teachout worked as a clerk in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, and later as an attorney at the Center for Death Penalty Litigation. In 2008, Teachout co-founded an organization called A New Way Forward, which advocated for criminal prosecution of financial crimes. In 2014, she became the first National Director of the Sunlight Organization, a non-partisan group dedicated to increasing transparency in Congress. In 2015, she became the CEO for the campaign finance reform coalition MayDay PAC, and in 2016, joined the board of Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW), which challenges constitutional breaches from the White House. If elected,

Teachout's priorities include pursuing cases of corruption and sexual harassment in Albany, invoking the Emoluments Clause of the Constitution vis-à-vis President Donald Trump and investigating his business interests (she is already involved in litigation on this issue), preventing corporate abuse, and ameliorating the injustices of mass incarceration. In an interview with Citizens Union, she also spoke knowledgeably in favor of reforms to voting and campaign finance, and is the only candidate in the race to pledge not to accept contributions from LLCs. She appeared to be the candidate most enthusiastic and knowledgeable about good government reform, as well as the candidate with the most thorough and thoughtful plan to fight corruption in Albany. What she may lack in managerial experience, Citizens Union feels, is offset by her career-long commitment to democratic reform and her demonstrated independence from political and special interests. For these reasons, Citizens Union prefers Zephyr Teachout in the Democratic Primary for New York State Attorney General.

Leecia Eve – Dem

Candidate has returned a questionnaire, response at www.CitizensUnion.org.

Age: 54 Occupation: VP of State Government Affairs at Verizon

Education: Smith College, B.A.; John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, M.P.A.; Harvard Law School, J.D.

Leecia Eve is Verizon's Vice President of State Government Affairs for New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. She is also a commissioner of the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey. After receiving her law degree, Eve began her legal career as a law clerk to New York State Court of Appeals Judge Fritz W. Alexander II. She has since worked as a top aide for several prominent officials, including to Senator Joe Biden in the 1990s, as the Senate Counsel to Senator Hillary Clinton, and later as an advisor on her 2008 presidential campaign. From 2013 to 2015, Eve was the Deputy Secretary of Economic Development under Governor Cuomo. Leecia Eve's top priorities for the Attorney General's office are to protect the interests of New Yorkers from the consequences of federal policy, reform the criminal justice system, protect women's rights, curtail housing discrimination, and safeguard environmental protections. She has stated that she will also use the office as a bully pulpit to advocate for reforms in elections, campaign finance, and ethics. To this end, Eve supports good government reforms such as the public financing of state elections, reducing campaign contribution limits, and implementing election day registration and "no excuse" absentee ballot voting. Leecia Eve is a competent and dedicated public servant whose reform goals largely align with Citizens Union's. However, the organization feels that her approach to the role of Attorney General is better suited to a legislative position, where many of her priorities could be advanced.

Letitia James – Dem

Candidate has returned a questionnaire, response at www.CitizensUnion.org.

Age: 59 Occupation: New York City Public Advocate

Education: Lehman College, B.A.; Howard University, J.D.; Columbia University, M.P.A.

Letitia James is the New York City Public Advocate, and the first woman of color to hold citywide office. Her tenure as Public Advocate has been characterized by frequent

litigation, having initiated more lawsuits than any of her predecessors. James has used the office to bring attention to issues of criminal justice, affordable housing and tenants' rights, and to provide greater resources to underserved children and families. James has also served as a New York City Council Member, headed the Brooklyn Regional Office and Civil Rights Bureau of the Attorney General's office under Eliot Spitzer, and worked as a public defender for the Legal Aid Society. Similar to her opponents, James's platform for the Attorney General's office includes challenging federal policies that harm New Yorkers – especially in the area of civil rights and the environment, ensuring robust consumer protections, and enforcing pay equity. James is also committed to utilizing a joint task force between the Attorney General and Comptroller to root out abuses in state government, closing the LLC loophole to end pay-to-play schemes, and civilly prosecuting businesses that use bribes and kickbacks to win political favors. In the realm of campaign finance reform, James favors the creation of a statewide public financing system, eliminating housekeeping accounts, and overturning Citizens United v. FEC with the help of other state AGs. James is a seasoned candidate with extensive government experience, and knowledge of the Attorney General's office. However, Citizens Union is concerned about her ability to remain independent from the Governor and party leaders when a major focus of the office should be on corruption in Albany.

Sean Patrick Maloney – Dem

Candidate has returned a questionnaire, response at www.CitizensUnion.org.

Age: 51 Occupation: U.S. Representative

Education: University of Virginia, B.A. and J.D.

Sean Patrick Maloney has been active on various levels of New York State and national politics for over a two decades. He is a three-term incumbent U.S. Representative from the Hudson Valley, who is running for re-election to that office concurrently with his bid for the Democratic nomination for state Attorney General (he said he would withdraw from the congressional race if he wins the primary for Attorney General). Prior to his time in Congress, Maloney served as the First Deputy Secretary to Governors Eliot Spitzer and David Paterson. In the late 1990s, Maloney worked in the West Wing of the White House under President Bill Clinton, as both a senior advisor to the President and a press secretary. Outside of politics, Maloney has experience as a corporate lawyer, as well as a business executive and entrepreneur. In an interview with Citizens Union, Maloney focused largely on the importance of the office to stand up to federal overreach, and less so on its other responsibilities. Notably, however, if elected Maloney plans to create a bureau within the office to address cases of sexual harassment and abuse. Maloney aligns with Citizens Union in his support of campaign finance reform, specifically, citing the need to implement a public campaign financing system like New York City's, even if it means losing the incumbent advantage he has benefited from. He believes New York's electronic campaign finance reporting system should be updated to be made accessible to the public in real time. Maloney also supports reducing campaign contribution limits and closing the LLC loophole but, like all candidates except Teachout, he is accepting contributions from LLC's this election cycle. He also expressed interest in submitting program bills to reform JCOPE. Sean Patrick Maloney is an experienced and capable lawmaker, with an array of political and legal experience on both a state and national level. However, Citizens Union

is concerned about his running for two offices at once, and the possible use of campaign funds from his congressional race to fund his run for state Attorney General.

NEW YORK STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL REFORM PARTY PRIMARY

No Preference

Michael Diederich, Jr. – Reform

Candidate has returned a questionnaire, response at www.CitizensUnion.org.

Age: 64 Occupation: Attorney at The Law Offices Of Michael Diederich

Education: University of Vermont, B.S.; Northwestern University, J.D.; Pace University (LL.M); Army Judge Advocate General's School, Command & General Staff College

Michael Diederich, Jr. is a civil rights lawyer specializing in employment discrimination. He recently retired from the U.S. Army Reserve where he served for 29 years as a Military Legal Adviser, Command Judge Advocate, and Foreign Claims Commissioner. While serving as an adviser to the U.S. Army Reserve he also worked as the Assistant County Attorney in Rockland County and Westchester County. If elected, Diederich's priorities are to pursue violations of antitrust laws, ensure quality secular education statewide, prosecute corruption, and challenge civil rights violations that result from federal action. Having failed to get on the Democratic Party ballot, Diederich is currently running for the Reform Party nomination to highlight issues that he believes are important to safeguarding democracy in New York. Diederich supports expanding the role of the Attorney General to prosecute public corruption and campaign finance law violations, and increasing oversight of the financial industry. He told Citizens Union that he plans to wage a more serious bid for the office in 2022 on the Democratic line. Citizens Union does not prefer him in this race because he has not undertaken a viable campaign.

Nancy Sliwa – Reform

Candidate has returned a questionnaire, response at www.CitizensUnion.org.

Occupation: Attorney and Real Estate Broker

Education: Stonybrook University, B.A.; Brooklyn Law School, J.D.

Nancy Sliwa is an attorney with a background in real estate and tax law. She currently serves as the director of the Animal Protection Division of the Guardian Angels and is running for Attorney General on an animal rights platform. Most of Sliwa's priorities include establishing a statewide "no-kill" animal shelter system, creating an animal abuse registry, and prosecuting sex offenders. She has also stated her support for limiting corporate campaign contributions. Sliwa is critical of many of the lawsuits recently brought by the state Attorney General against federal policy. Citizens Union takes a position of no preference in this race because Sliwa's vision for the office is largely limited to promoting animal rights, and does not capture its potential to protect democratic rights and fight corruption and fraud.

Christopher Garvey – Reform

Candidate has not returned a questionnaire.

BRONX

SENATE DISTRICT 34 DEMOCRATIC PARTY PRIMARY

★ Preferred Candidate ★

Alessandra Biaggi – Dem

Candidate has returned a questionnaire, response on p. 8

Age: 32 Occupation: Attorney

Education: New York University, B.A.; Fordham Law School, J.D.

Alessandra Biaggi has worked as an attorney in the Cuomo administration in the Counsel's Office and the Office of Storm Recovery, and was the Deputy National Operations Director for the 2016 Clinton Presidential campaign. Biaggi has also been involved in organizations such as the New Agenda Young Women's Leadership Council and New Leaders Council, which advocate for women's rights and urge diverse, young candidates to run for office. Biaggi's top priorities include protecting women's rights, providing adequate funding for public schools, securing more affordable housing, lowering healthcare costs for New Yorkers and passing legislation to increase voter turnout and transparency in campaign finance. Biaggi supports all of Citizens Union's reform agenda. She is an especially strong supporter of the public financing of elections and has detailed how the current system makes it difficult for working class candidates to run a successful campaign. She has also emphasized her desire to increase voter turnout by supporting reforms such as early voting, no-excuse absentee voting, and election day and automatic voter registration. Citizens Union prefers Alessandra Biaggi in the upcoming primary because of her passionate support of Citizens Union issues, experience in Albany, and fresh perspective on a number of issues.

Jeffrey D. Klein – Dem

Candidate has returned a questionnaire, response on p. 8

Age: 57 Occupation: New York State Senator

Education: Queens College, B.A.; Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs, M.P.A.; CUNY Law School, J.D.

Jeff Klein has been a state Senator for 14 years and is seeking re-election in District 34. If re-elected to a Democratic majority, Klein would serve as the Deputy Majority Leader and chair of the Senate Rules Committee. Klein's re-election campaign centers on his legislative record, including his support for increasing the state minimum wage and paid family leave, and sponsoring the NY Safe Act, which strengthened gun control. Klein is a co-founder of the Independent Democratic Conference (IDC) and held a leadership role during the group's tenure. His top priorities for the next legislative session include election and voting reform, combating changes to the tax plan, expanding universal pre-K, passing the Comprehensive Contraceptive Care Act and ending cash bail. Klein supports almost all of Citizens Union's reform agenda but has not taken a firm position on the repeal of state Civil Rights Law, Section 50-a, citing concerns about balancing officer accountability with personal privacy. While Citizens Union has preferred Senator Klein in the past and appreciates his support of many reform issues, the organization does not prefer him in this race because of the lack of progress on these issues in the Senate under his leadership.

BROOKLYN

STATE SENATE DISTRICT 17 DEMOCRATIC PARTY PRIMARY

★ Preferred Candidate ★

Blake Morris – Dem

Candidate has returned a questionnaire, response on p. 8

Age: 57 Occupation: Attorney

Education: University of Florida, B.A.; Brooklyn Law School, J.D.

Morris is a 20-year resident of Ditmas Park and has worked as an attorney for the past 25 years. Morris has been a member of the Ditmas Park Neighborhood Association Board of Directors since 2000 and has served several terms on the Kings County Democratic Committee. He is also on the steering committee of NYSD17 for Progress, a community group created in 2016 to advocate for important issues in District 17 and especially to respond to incumbent Sen. Simcha Felder's policy decisions. In 2016, he sued the state Senate and won, forcing them to disclose their rules on taxpayer-funded mailers to the public. Morris plans to support good government measures in the realm of electoral and campaign finance reform by supporting legislation to allow early-voting, election day voter registration, and an ethical, automatic campaign finance disclosure portal. Morris demonstrated an understanding of the diverse needs of the people in Senate District 17, as well as the reality of social service provision there. Due to his support for good government reform, and given the incumbent's poor record on these issues, Citizens Union prefers Blake Morris in this race.

Simcha Felder – Dem

Candidate has not returned a questionnaire.

SENATE DISTRICT 18 DEMOCRATIC PARTY PRIMARY

★ Preferred Candidate ★

Julia Salazar – Dem

Candidate has returned a questionnaire, response on p. 8

Age: 27 Occupation: Organizer at Jews for Racial and Economic Justice

Education: Columbia University, B.A.

Julia Salazar is a staff organizer at Jews for Racial and Economic Justice and is a partner with the Communities United for Police Reform Coalition, where she played a role in passing the Right to Know Act in New York City. Salazar told Citizens Union that she is running for office to combat inequality in Brooklyn – one manifested in the displacement of long-term residents, the lack of access to healthcare, and disenfranchisement that excludes people from participating in local politics. Salazar's priorities include fighting for real affordable housing in northern Brooklyn, installing a public campaign financing system

in New York State, closing the LLC loophole for campaign contributions, ending cash bail, closing Rikers Island, and protecting immigrants from federal overreach. She is especially passionate about voting and election reform, criminal justice reform, and enacting anti-corruption measures. She also articulated her desire to provide comprehensive constituent services and remain accountable to the people of her district. Citizens Union prefers Salazar because of her demonstrated ability to galvanize support for reform and the perception that she would serve as an active and ambitious member of the state Senate.

Martin Malavé Dilan – Dem

Candidate has not returned a questionnaire.

SENATE DISTRICT 20 DEMOCRATIC PARTY PRIMARY

★ Preferred Candidate ★

Zellnor Myrie – Dem

Candidate has returned a questionnaire, response on p. 8

Age: 31 Occupation: Attorney at Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP

Education: Fordham University, B.A.; Fordham University, M.A.; Cornell Law School, J.D.

Zellnor Myrie is a former legislative director for New York City Council Member Fernando Cabrera, and was chair of his Neighborhood Advisory Board. His top priorities are expanding affordable housing, protecting immigrant rights by passing the Liberty and DREAM Acts, fully funding public education, advancing criminal justice reform including ending cash bail and reforming speedy trial statutes, and increasing election transparency and turnout. Myrie supports Citizens Union's entire reform agenda. He has pledged to strongly support the passage of a legislative package on voting rights, which would include a seven-day early voting period, no-excuse absentee voting, and the establishment of an online, streamlined voter registration process. In an interview with Citizens Union, Myrie spoke knowledgeably about a host of ethics reforms to prevent corruption and remove opportunities for misconduct, including those supported by Citizens Union. In line with this priority, he seeks to ban outside compensation for legislators, thoroughly reform JCOPE, and change campaign finance laws. Citizens Union prefers Myrie because of his clarity and conviction on reform issues and the belief that he would be a productive and collaborative legislator.

Jesse Hamilton – Dem

Candidate has returned a questionnaire, response on p. 8

Age: 54 Occupation: New York State Senator

Education: Ithaca College, B.S.; Long Island University, M.B.A.; Seton Hall University School of Law, J.D.

Jesse Hamilton has represented Senate District 20 since 2015. His top priorities are expanding affordable housing, protecting DREAMers and immigrants, increasing access to education and prioritizing funding for SUNY, fighting for criminal justice reform, and

supporting collective bargaining rights. Hamilton supports many important reforms but opposed making mayoral control of city schools permanent. In line with Citizens Union's elections and voting agenda, Hamilton supports reforms to expand ballot access and engage voters through measures like pre-registration for 16 and 17-year-olds. Additionally, he supports criminal justice reform that would end the use of cash bail and change discovery rules. In an interview with Citizens Union, Hamilton spoke about the need for ethics reforms and nonpartisan, independent ethics oversight. He also sees outside compensation for legislators as a potential for conflicts of interest and seeks to ban it. Citizens Union applauds Hamilton's many contributions to the district, but does not prefer him in this race due to the strength of his competitor.

ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 46 DEMOCRATIC PARTY PRIMARY

★ Preferred Candidate ★

Mathylde Frontus – Dem

Candidate has returned a questionnaire, response on p. 8

Age: 40 Occupation: Owner of Avant-Garde Consulting & Avant-Garde Behavioral Health Resources

Education: New York University, B.S.W. and M.S.W.; Harvard Divinity School, M.T.S.; Columbia University, Ph.D.

Mathylde Frontus operates a consulting firm and is an adjunct assistant professor of social work at Columbia and NYU. She has served as a community advocate for nearly 20 years at organizations dedicated to providing legal, employment, housing, and health services in the district. Her top priorities are to create a regional forum for community inclusion and civic engagement, promote transparency in state spending, put more mental health and social workers in schools, and improving affordable housing options. Frontus supports all of Citizens Union's issues except making mayoral control of city schools permanent. In an interview with Citizens Union, she spoke decisively about the importance of making police disciplinary records publicly available and limiting the outside compensation of state legislators. Citizens Union prefers Mathylde Frontus in this race because of her deep ties to the community and experience providing services in her district, as well as her alignment with good government priorities.

Ethan Lustig-Elgrably – Dem

Candidate has returned a questionnaire, response on p. 8

Age: 28 Occupation: Chief of Staff to Council Member Mark Treyger

Education: Brandeis University, B.A.

Ethan Lustig-Elgrably served as the Legislative Director and Chief of Staff to City Council Member Mark Treyger for four years after graduating college. His top priorities are to improve mass transit throughout the district, fight to maintain the existing affordable housing stock, fight to increase education funding to public schools, and address environmental and quality-of-life issues. Lustig-Elgrably supports all of Citizens Union's reform agenda. In particular, he is in favor of establishing public financing of state elections,

more transparency in the awarding of government contracts, and increasing voter turnout. Despite his support for reform, Citizens Union does not prefer Lustig-Elgrably because he does not have the depth of knowledge of the district that his opponent has.

MANHATTAN

SENATE DISTRICT 31 DEMOCRATIC PARTY PRIMARY

★ Preferred Candidate ★

Robert Jackson – Dem

Candidate has returned a questionnaire, response on p. 10

Age: 67 Occupation: Former New York City Council Member

Education: State University of New York at New Paltz, B.A.

Robert Jackson is an education advocate and former New York City Council member, running for office in State Senate District 31. Before being elected to the Council in 2001, Jackson was an organizer for the NYS Public Employees Federation and founder of the Campaign for Fiscal Equity (CFE), which sued the State of New York for funding failures in New York City schools. After reaching term limits in the Council in 2013, Jackson became a lobbyist for a styrofoam container company. Jackson ended his relationship with the company during this election and, in an interview with Citizens Union, committed to maintaining that separation throughout his time in office. Jackson strongly aligns with Citizens Union's reform agenda. He wants to put sensible limits on campaign contributions, and to close the LLC loophole. He supports early voting, no-excuse absentee voting, consolidated state and federal primaries, and day-of voter registration. Jackson does not support permanent mayoral control of schools however, as he believes mayoral control lacks parent input. Jackson presented as an independent and capable lawmaker with a wealth of ideas for reform. Based on this, the strength of his city government experience, and his years as an advocate for city schools, Citizen's Union prefers Robert Jackson in this race.

Marisol Alcantara – Dem

Candidate has returned a questionnaire, response on p. 10

Age: 45 Occupation: New York State Senator

Education: Manhattan College, B.A.; Murphy Institution of Labor at CUNY, M.A.

Marisol Alcantara is a one-term state Senator, running for re-election in Senate District 31. Before running for public office, Alcantara worked as a political organizer for the New York State Nurses Association and SEIU 32BJ in New Jersey. While in office, Alcantara increased funding for local schools and the first LGBTQ center in Northern Manhattan and provided a \$10 million immigration legal defense fund for her district. As a representative from a majority Hispanic district, Alcantara presents herself first and foremost as an advocate for the Latino community, in her district and statewide. Her platform for re-election reflects this focus, with an emphasis on protecting undocumented immigrants

from federal overreach, safeguarding young immigrants through the Dream Act, and providing better working conditions for farmworkers. Alcantara supports all of CU's questionnaire items, with her most vocal support being for the repeal of state Civil Rights Law, Section 50-a, which shields police, correction, and fire officers' disciplinary records from the public. In an interview with Citizens Union, Alcantara defended her legislative independence – citing instances in which she voted against measures supported by her conference's leadership. As a one-term Senator, Alcantara's greatest political strength lies in her community advocacy. While Alcantara is in alignment with CU's good government agenda, her interview revealed her approach to these issues to be less thorough and thoughtful than her challenger.

Thomas A. Leon – Dem

Citizens Union was not aware of this candidacy at the time of the evaluation.

Tirso Santiago Piña – Dem

Citizens Union was not aware of this candidacy at the time of the evaluation.

QUEENS

SENATE DISTRICT 11 DEMOCRATIC PARTY PRIMARY

No Preference

Tony Avella – Dem

Has returned a questionnaire, response on p. 10

Age: 66 Occupation: New York State Senator

Education: Hunter College, B.A.

Tony Avella was elected to the state Senate in 2010, after serving in the New York City Council for nine years. His top priorities are to pass legislation to protect the environment, reform the tax code, ethics and election laws, and reestablishing a school zone speed camera program in New York City. Avella supports most of Citizens Union's issues, but he has reservations about permanent mayoral control of city schools, automatic and election day voter registration, and opposes making police disciplinary records publicly accessible. He supports a public campaign finance system at the state level and greater transparency in the state budget process. Citizens Union does not support Sen. Avella in this race because of his opposition to several good government reforms.

John Liu – Dem

Has returned a questionnaire, response on p. 10

Age: 51 Occupation: Former New York City Comptroller

Education: Binghamton University, B.S.

John Liu was the New York City Comptroller from 2010-2013, served in the New York City Council prior to that, and is currently an adjunct professor at Columbia University. Liu's priorities are to pursue educational equity and fair funding, pass the Reproductive

Health Act, spur job creation and wage growth, and provide high-quality constituent services. Liu supports Citizens Union's entire reform agenda. He spoke to Citizens Union emphatically about the need to repeal Civil Rights Law, Section 50-a, to ensure greater police accountability, as well as for campaign finance reform and restricting legislators' outside income. Citizens Union commends John Liu's previous good work in government, but issues no preference in this race because of the campaign finance misconduct of his 2013 mayoral campaign.

SENATE DISTRICT 11
REPUBLICAN PARTY PRIMARY
No Preference

Simon Minching – Rep

Candidate has returned a questionnaire, response on p. 10
Age: 31 Occupation: Business Development at Palantir Technologies
Education: St. John's University, B.A.; University of Chicago, M.P.P.

Simon Minching works in business development for Palantir Technologies, a big data analytics company. His top priorities are property tax reform, investing in early childhood education programs, making higher education applications anonymous, clarifying laws on public corruption, and enacting term limits. Minching is opposed to a number of Citizens Union's goals including limiting legislator's outside compensation, allowing election day voter registration, automatically reenfranchising New Yorkers on parole, repealing Civil Rights Law, Section 50-a, and reforming the state Board of Elections. Minching supports closing the LLC loophole for campaign contributions and a number of other voting reforms. Citizens Union does not support Minching in this race because of his opposition to a number of key reforms.

Vickie Paladino – Rep

Candidate has returned a questionnaire, response on p. 10
Age: 63 Occupation: Retired Small Business Owner
Education: High School

Vickie Paladino is a retired small business owner of thirty years. She told Citizens Union that her top priorities are to protect her community from the actions of what she views as a hostile city administration and radical Democratic policies. She supports lowering taxes and reducing regulations on small businesses. While Paladino supported some of Citizens Union's ethics reforms she opposed almost the entire voting, campaign finance, and police reform agenda. In an interview with Citizens Union, Paladino expressed support for term limits and increased transparency in government. Like her opponent, Vickie Paladino oppose a large number of important reforms to state government and Citizens Union has no preference in this race.

SENATE DISTRICT 13
DEMOCRATIC PARTY PRIMARY

★ Preferred Candidate ★

Jessica Ramos – Dem

Candidate has returned a questionnaire, response on p.10
Age: 34 Occupation: Full-time Candidate
Education: Hofstra University, B.A.

Jessica Ramos is the former Director of Latino Media for Mayor Bill de Blasio, with experience on her community board and as a Democratic District Leader. Her top priorities are to increase state funding to the MTA and public schools, reform rent control laws around the major capital improvements and vacancy decontrol, protect LGBTQ rights, and pursue green energy projects. Ramos supports all of Citizens Union's reform goals. The items she spoke of most strongly include repealing state Civil Rights Law, Section 50-a, establishing no-excuse absentee voting, limiting outside compensation and setting term limits for state offices, and closing the LLC loophole for campaign contributions. Ramos is critical of the state's current campaign finance laws and supports reducing campaign contributions and establishing a public matching funds program for state campaigns. Citizens Union prefers Ramos in this race because of her deep support for good government reform, and the knowledge and energy with which she speaks about the issues important to her.

Jose Peralta – Dem

Candidate has returned a questionnaire, response on p. 10
Age: 46 Occupation: New York State Senator
Education: Queens College, B.A.

Jose Peralta was elected to the state Senate in 2010 in a special election and is currently seeking his fifth term. He was a member of the state Assembly for eight years prior to entering the Senate. His top priorities are to pass the DREAM Act, reestablish the school zone speed camera program in New York City, pass the Secure Wages Earned Against Theft Act, secure funding for public schools in his district, and support senior services. Peralta supports a large number of Citizens Union reforms but has reservations about making mayoral control of city schools permanent. In particular, Peralta supports transparency in the budget process and state spending, creating a public matching fund program for state campaigns, and reforming JCOPE. Citizens Union does not prefer Sen. Peralta because of the strength of his opponent, who offers a new perspective on many of the issues Peralta supports.

**ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 30
DEMOCRATIC PARTY PRIMARY**

★ Preferred Candidate ★

Melissa Sklarz – Dem

Candidate has returned a questionnaire, response on p. 10

*Age: 67 Occupation: Former Director of Development at the Transgender Legal Defense Education Fund
Education: SUNY Buffalo, B.A.*

Melissa Sklarz is the former director of development at the Transgender Legal Defense Education Fund and is a life-long LGBTQ advocate. Her top priorities are creating a single-payer healthcare system in New York, passing gender equality and reproductive healthcare legislation, making affordable housing more accessible, securing more funding for public education and transportation. Sklarz supports all of Citizens Union's reform goals. In particular, she supports measures to limit outside compensation of legislators, closing the LLC loophole, and reforming JCOPE. In an interview with Citizens Union, she spoke knowledgeably about state campaign finance laws and supported measures like a public matching funds program for state campaigns, lower contribution limits, and stronger conflict of interest rules. When asked about her plans to advance civil rights and criminal justice reform, she articulated her support for making police disciplinary records publicly available, and codifying the automatic re-enfranchisement of people on parole. Citizens Union prefers Melissa Sklarz in this race because of her strong support for good government reforms and the belief that she would be an energetic advocate for her causes.

Brian Barnwell – Dem

Candidate has returned a questionnaire, response on p. 10

*Age: 32 Occupation: New York State Assembly Member
Education: Arizona State University, B.A.; Albany Law School, J.D.*

Brian Barnwell has represented the 30th Assembly District since 2017, when he defeated longtime incumbent Margaret Markey. Barnwell's top priorities include adjusting the affordability requirements to improve housing options, lowering property taxes for seniors, getting rid of major capital improvements, which he believes landlords are abusing, pushing for ethics and election law reform, and securing more education funding. Barnwell supports closing the LLC loophole, an issue which he has campaigned on and supported legislatively. He is in favor of term limits and banning outside compensation for legislators. Unlike his opponent, he did not take a position on codifying the re-enfranchisement of people on parole. Citizens Union does not support Assembly Member Barnwell in this race due to his lack of detailed understanding of certain key reform issues and concerns over his approach to sensitive matters like homelessness in his district.

**ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 39
DEMOCRATIC PARTY PRIMARY**

★ Preferred Candidate ★

Catalina Cruz – Dem

Candidate has returned a questionnaire, response on p. 10

*Age: 35 Occupation: Attorney
Education: John Jay College, B.A.; CUNY School of Law, J.D.*

Catalina Cruz is the President of the Latino Lawyers Association of Queens County and former Chief of Staff to Council Member Julissa Ferreras-Copeland. Her top priorities are to fix the MTA by restricting debt to facilitate spending on repairs, invest in public schools' physical expansion and use of new technologies, secure more affordable housing in the district, and protect immigrant rights through policy changes and legal services. Cruz, like her opponent, supports Citizens Union's entire reform agenda. She is especially committed to restricting legislators' outside compensation, requiring greater transparency in government procurement, and thoroughly reforming JCOPE. Cruz also supports reform of the special election process, state campaign finance laws, and police oversight including establishing an independent prosecutor for police abuses. Citizens Union Prefers Catalina Cruz in this race because her detailed knowledge of state government and the nuance of her ideas makes her the candidate best positioned to advance reform.

Ari Espinal – Dem

Candidate has returned a questionnaire, response on p. 10

*Age: 30 Occupation: New York State Assembly Member
Education: St. Francis College, B.A.*

Aridia Espinal was elected to the state Assembly after beating her current opponent, Catalina Cruz, in a special election on April 24th, 2018. Previously, she had been the Director of Constituent Services for then-Assembly Member Francisco Moya. Her top priorities are to reduce school overcrowding, improve the quality of life for tenants and co-op owners, raise revenue for MTA repairs through congestion pricing, protect immigrant rights, and protect workers from dangerous and unfair workplaces. Like her opponent, Espinal supports Citizens Union's entire reform agenda. In particular, she is enthusiastic about improving access to polls through automatic and election day voter registration. She also supports a public campaign finance system at the state level. Citizens Union does not prefer Assembly Member Espinal in this race because of the overall strength of her opponent, but commends her enthusiasm and dedication to public service.

Yonel E. Letellier Sosa – Dem

Citizens Union was not aware of this candidacy at the time of the evaluation.

STATEN ISLAND

SENATE DISTRICT 23 DEMOCRATIC PARTY PRIMARY

No Preference

Jasmine Robinson – Dem

Candidate has returned a questionnaire, response on p. 10

Age: 37 Occupation: Legal Secretary

Education: College of Staten Island, B.A.

Jasmine Robinson is a legal secretary and community activist who was compelled to run for public office after the death of Eric Garner. She also cites the anti-IDC movement as a catalyst in her decision to challenge Sen. Diane Savino. Robinson is a member of the Staten Island Democratic Association and Staten Island Women Who March, and a co-founder of the Staten Island Women of Color Forum. Her top priorities include bail reform, passing the Climate and Community Protection Act and NY Healthcare Act, supporting the Gender Non-Discrimination Act, and passing the Women's Reproductive Care Act. Robinson feels strongly about implementing reforms to promote police accountability and oversight, such as repealing state Civil Rights Law, Section 50-a, to allow for the public disclosure of police disciplinary records. Additionally, Robinson is in favor of reforming campaign finance laws to close the loopholes that allow undue corporate influence. Citizens Union does not prefer Robinson in this race due to her lack of experience in government and with the legislative process. Nevertheless, Citizens Union commends Robinson on her enthusiasm for good government reform and commitment to community advocacy.

Diane Savino – Dem

Candidate has returned a questionnaire, response on p. 10

Age: 54 Occupation: New York State Senator

Education: Saint John's University, Cornell School of Industrial and Labor Relations, B.A.

Diane Savino was elected to the state Senate in 2004, and is currently seeking an eighth term. Savino's top priorities include expanding the medical cannabis program, promoting retirement security by enacting a secure choice retirement plan, securing funding for the district to promote constituent interest, and safeguarding workers' rights. She expressed support for a number of Citizens Union's good government positions, including a number of voting reforms and capping campaign contributions. However, she does not believe enacting ethics reform would be successful in preventing corruption and would not pursue it with energy. She also opposes establishing public financing of state campaigns, repealing Civil Rights Law, Section 50-a, and making mayoral control of city schools permanent. She abstained from stating her position on reforming the special election process and empowering the Attorney General to investigate and prosecute election law malfeasance and cases of public corruption. Savino acknowledged the need to promote police accountability, citing the importance of a special prosecutor for police killings.

However, she does not think the state should take the lead on police reform by passing legislation, and suggests that municipalities be responsible for enhancing oversight. Citizens Union commends Sen. Savino's service to her district but does not support her in this race due to her opposition to a number of critical reforms.

Brandon P. Stradford – Dem

Citizens Union was not aware of this candidacy at the time of the evaluation.

ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 61 DEMOCRATIC PARTY PRIMARY

★ Preferred Candidate ★

Charles Fall – Dem

Candidate has returned a questionnaire, response on p. 10

Age: 29 Occupation: Chief of Staff to the New York City Parks Commissioner, Staten Island

Education: Southwestern College, B.A.; Pace University, M.P.A.

Charles Fall is the chief of staff to the Staten Island commissioner of the city Parks and Recreation Department. Previously, he served as Borough Director and citywide Islamic Liaison for the Office of Mayor Bill de Blasio. Fall seeks to improve and expand transportation options in the North Shore, revisit the public education funding formula, increase after-school programs for youth, and expand funding for community-based healthcare centers. Additionally, he wants to pass the New York DREAM Act and reduce what he describes as over-criminalization and over-incarceration in the state. Fall is a strong supporter of voting and election reform, like early-voting. He wants to pass legislation to prevent outside compensation for legislators and enact stronger campaign finance laws, especially to diminish the role of corporate interests in elections. Fall supports criminal justice reform like ending the use of cash bail, speedy trial and discovery reform, and re-enfranchising people on parole. He supports increased police oversight and sees the appointment of a special prosecutor in cases of police misconduct as a necessary first step towards ensuring accountability. Citizens Union prefers Fall because of his government experience, concrete legislative priorities, and presentation as an ambitious and capable candidate.

Bobby Digi Olisa – Dem

Candidate has returned a questionnaire, response on p. 10

Age: 44 Occupation: President of the Staten Island Democratic Association

Education: College of Staten Island, B.S. and M.A.

Bobby Digi Olisa is President of the Staten Island Democratic Association and the founder of Island Voice, a community youth development nonprofit. Digi has served on the Governor's New York Rising Committee since 2013 and was part of the 2014 transition committees for Mayor Bill de Blasio and Staten Island Borough President James Oddo, respectively. His top priorities include fixing Staten Island's transportation system, reforming the state's electoral process, closing the LLC loophole for campaign

contributions, and instituting independent redistricting. Additionally, he wants to pass the New York Health Act, legalize marijuana, and pass the DREAM Act. In line with Citizens Union's reform agenda, Digi hopes to implement greater police accountability and ensure the absence of big money in elections. During his interview, he articulated his plan to simplify the complaint process for victims of police abuse and noted the importance of having a police force that is representative of, and responsive to, their community. Despite preferring his opponent, Citizens Union commends Digi on his strong grasp of local issues and many years of community engagement.

Patricia Kane – Dem

Candidate has not returned a questionnaire.

ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 62 REPUBLICAN PARTY PRIMARY

★ Preferred Candidate ★

Glenn Yost – Rep

Candidate has returned a questionnaire, response on p. 10

Age: 54 Occupation: Attorney at The Yost Law Firm

Education: St. John's University, B.S.; New York Law School, J.D.

Glenn Yost is a retired NYPD detective who practices family law on Staten Island, and serves as assistant counsel to state Senator Andrew Lanza. Yost's top legislative priorities include increasing funding to fight opioid addiction, improving infrastructure on the South Shore, reducing property taxes on Staten Island, and funding senior, veteran, and special education programs. Yost supports changes to make it easier for candidates qualify for the ballot. Yost agrees with many of Citizens Union's positions on campaign finance, the budget, and election administration reform. He is the only candidate in this race that supports the public financing of state campaigns, and empowering the Attorney General to prosecute corruption and election law violations. However, Yost disagrees with limiting outside compensation earned by state legislators to 25% of their salary. In an interview with Citizens Union, he committed to downsizing his own law practice if elected. Like the other candidates in this race, Yost does not support the automatic re-enfranchisement of people on parole, publishing police disciplinary records, and permanent mayoral control of city schools – all of which are important to Citizens Union. Yost is the preferred candidate for this seat because he most strongly supports Citizens Union's reform goals and presents as more politically independent than his opponents.

Michael Reilly – Rep

Candidate has returned a questionnaire, response on p. 10

Age: 45 Occupation: Retired NYPD Lieutenant

Education: John Jay College, B.S.

Michael Reilly is a retired NYPD lieutenant and has served as President of New York City Community Education Council 31 since 2014. His top priorities include lowering property

taxes, increasing resources to YMCA counseling and K-12 education programs to combat opioid addiction. Reilly is not particularly supportive of Citizens Union's reform agenda, but he is the only candidate in this race that supports drastically reducing campaign contribution limits, especially from registered lobbyists. Like his opponents, Reilly does not support the automatic re-enfranchisement of people on parole, making police disciplinary records public, and permanent mayoral control of city schools. He also opposes public financing of state campaigns and empowering the Attorney General to investigate corruption. Citizens Union does not prefer Reilly in this primary race because he opposes a significant number of Citizens Union's reform positions and, in particular, is the least supportive of all the candidates of election reform.

Ashley Zanatta – Rep

Candidate has returned a questionnaire, response on p. 10

Age: 27 Occupation: Community Engagement Manager at the Jewish Community Center of Staten Island

Education: St. John's University, B.A.; University at Albany, M.P.H. (in progress)

Ashley Zanatta works as public health advocate for Tobacco-Free Staten Island at the Jewish Community Center of Staten Island. She is also secretary of the Richmond County Young Republicans. Through the course of her work she has become active in local health initiatives, having organized health fairs and trainings, and advocating for tobacco-free policy with local businesses, property owners, and NYCHA. Like her opponents, Zanatta's top priority is to fight opioid addiction on Staten Island. She is also dedicated to improving the borough's aging infrastructure and public transit service, as well as holding monthly town halls to encourage constituent engagement. Zanatta supports automatic and election day voter registration, closing the LLC loophole, and increasing transparency in state spending and government procurement. While there are a few Citizens Union questionnaire items that all of the candidates in the race oppose, Zanatta is alone in her opposition to early voting, consolidating state and federal primaries, and restructuring the two-party division of the board of elections. Citizens Union appreciates Zanatta's passion for public health services, and public service in general, but does not prefer her in this race because of her opposition to a majority of Citizens Union's positions.

Primary Election Snapshot

This section lists primary election races that will take place in New York City on September 13th, and does not include candidates who are unopposed for their party's nomination.

There are a number of primaries for statewide office, including a Democratic Party primary for Governor, and Democratic and Reform party primaries for Attorney General. There are also primaries for New York State Senate and Assembly seats, as well as for judicial positions.

For information about the races in which incumbents face no primary election opposition, please turn to page 34.

† Incumbent

^ Denotes that the candidate submitted the Citizens Union questionnaire. Responses from state Senate and Assembly candidates can be found on pages 8-11.

Questionnaire responses for candidates running for Governor and Attorney General can be found at www.CitizensUnion.org.

Bold denotes the candidate is preferred by Citizens Union in the primary election.

* Denotes that the district overlaps boroughs. Note: These races are repeated in each borough that they fall into.

STATEWIDE OFFICES

Governor

Term of Office: 4 YEARS (no term limit)

Salary: \$179,000

Democratic Primary

Andrew Cuomo†^

Cynthia Nixon^

Lieutenant Governor

Term of Office: 4 YEARS (no term limit)

Salary: \$151,500

Democratic Primary

Kathy Hochult

Jumaane Williams

New York State Attorney General

Term of Office: 4 YEARS (no term limit)

Salary: \$151,500

Democratic Primary

Leecia Eve ^

Letitia James ^

Sean Patrick Maloney ^

Zephyr Teachout ^

Reform Primary

Mike Diederich ^

Christopher Garvey

Nancy Sliwa ^

STATE LEGISLATURE

Bronx

New York State Senator

Term of Office: 2 YEARS (no term limit)

Salary: \$79,500

Democratic Primary

District 34*

Alessandra Biaggi ^

Jeffrey Kleint ^

New York State Assembly Member

Term of Office: 2 YEARS (no term limit)

Salary: \$79,500

Democratic Primaries

District 84

Carmen Arroyo †

Amanda Septimo ^

District 87

Farah Despeignes

John Perez

Karines Reyes

Brooklyn

New York State Senator

Term of Office: 2 YEARS (no term limit)

Salary: \$79,500

Democratic Primaries

District 17

Simcha Felder †

Blake Morris ^

District 18

Martin Malavé Dilan

Julia Salazar ^

District 20

Jesse Hamilton †^

Zellnor Myrie ^

District 22

Ross Barkan ^

Andrew Gounardes ^

District 23*

Jasmine Robinson ^

Diane Savino †^

Brandon Stradford

New York State Assembly Member

Term of Office: 2 YEARS (no term limit)
Salary: \$79,500

Democratic Primaries

District 42

Rodneyse Bichotte †
Victor Jordan

District 46

Mathylde Frontus ^
Ethan Lustig-Elgrably ^

District 53

Maritza Davila †
Humberto Soto

District 60

Charles Barron †
Jaytee Spurgeon

Civil Court Judge

Term of Office: 10 YEARS (no term limit)
Salary: \$193,500

Democratic Primaries

County - Kings

Loren Baily †
Saul Cohen
Ingrid Joseph †
Sheryl Orwel

District - 8th Municipal Court

Olga Fort
Gina Levy

Manhattan

New York State Senator

Term of Office: 2 YEARS (no term limit)
Salary: \$79,500

Democratic Primary

District 31

Marisol Alcantara †^
Robert Jackson ^
Thomas Leon
Tirso Santiago Pina

New York State Assembly Member

Term of Office: 2 YEARS (no term limit)
Salary: \$79,500

Democratic Primaries

District 68

Robert Rodriguez †^
John Ruiz

District 69

Daniel O'Donnell †
Ruben Dario Vargas

District 71

Guillermo Perez
Alfred Taylor †
Luis Tejada

District 72

Carmen De La Rosa †
Sosa Jimenez
Yomaris Smith

District 74

Harvey Epstein †^
Juan Pagan
Akshay Vaishampayan

Civil Court Judge

Term of Office: 10 YEARS (no term limit)
Salary: \$193,500

Democratic Primary

District - 2nd Municipal Court

Wendy Li
Robert Rosenthal

Queens

New York State Senator

Term of Office: 2 YEARS (no term limit)
Salary: \$79,500

Democratic Primaries

District 11

Tony Avella †^
John Liu ^

District 13

Jose Peralta †^
Jessica Ramos ^

Republican Primaries

District 11

Simon Minching ^
Vickie Paladino ^

District 15

Slawomir Platta ^
Thomas Sullivan

New York State Assembly Member

Term of Office: 2 YEARS (no term limit)
Salary: \$79,500

Democratic Primaries

District 30

Brian Barnwell †^
Melissa Sklarz ^

District 33

Oster Bryan
Clyde Vanel †

District 39

Catalina Cruz ^
Ari Espinal †^
Yonel E. Letellier Sosa

Reform Primaries

District 33

Oster Bryan
Lalita Etwaroo

Staten Island

New York State Senator

Term of Office: 2 YEARS (no term limit)
Salary: \$79,500

Democratic Primary

District 23*

Jasmine Robinson ^
Diane Savino †^
Brandon Stradford

New York State Assembly Member

Term of Office: 2 YEARS (no term limit)
Salary: \$79,500

Democratic Primary

District 61

Bobby Digi Olisa ^
Charles Fall ^
Patricia Kane ^

Republican Primary

District 62

Michael Reilly ^
Glenn Yost ^
Ashley Zanatta ^

Reform Primary

District 62

Glenn Yost
Ashley Zanatta

INDEX OF UNCONTESTED INCUMBENTS

Below is a list of incumbents who are uncontested in the 2018 Primary Election.

Of the 91 seats in the NYS Legislature (the state Senate and Assembly combined) representing New York City residents:

- 69 incumbents are uncontested in the primaries. That means that 76% of all of NYC's seats in the state legislature are held by incumbents who do not face any competition in their parties.
- In the state Senate, 20 of NYC's 26 seats – or 77% – are held by incumbents who are running for re-election without primary challengers.
- In the Assembly, 49 of NYC's 65 seats – or 75% – are held by incumbents who are running for re-election without primary challengers.

Bronx UNCONTESTED

Senate District 29*
José M. Serrano (D)

Senate District 32
Luis R. Sepúlveda (D)

Senate District 33
Gustavo Rivera (D)

Senate District 36
Jamaal T. Bailey (D)

Assembly District 77
Latoya Joyner (D)

Assembly District 78
José Rivera (D)

Assembly District 79
Michael Blake (D)

Assembly District 80
Nathalia Fernandez (D)

Assembly District 81
Jeffrey Dinowitz (D)

Assembly District 82
Michael Benedetto (D)

Assembly District 83
Carl E. Heastie (D)

Assembly District 85
Marcos A. Crespo (D)

Assembly District 86
Victor M. Pichardo (D)

Brooklyn UNCONTESTED

Senate District 19
Roxanne J. Persaud (D)

Senate District 21
Kevin S. Parker (D)

Senate District 22
Martin J. Golden (R)

Senate District 25
Velmanette Montgomery (D)

Senate District 26
Brian Kavanagh (D)

Assembly District 41
Helene E. Weinstein (D)

Assembly District 43
Diana C. Richardson (D)

Assembly District 44
Robert C. Carroll (D)

Assembly District 45
Steven Cymbrowitz (D)

Assembly District 47
William Colton (D)

Assembly District 49
Peter J. Abbate, Jr. (D)

Assembly District 50
Joseph R. Lentol (D)

Assembly District 51
Felix W. Ortiz (D)

Assembly District 52
Jo Anne Simon (D)

Assembly District 54
Erik M. Dilan (D)

Assembly District 55
Latrice Walker (D)

Assembly District 56
Tremaine Wright (D)

Assembly District 57
Walter T. Mosley (D)

Assembly District 58
N. Nick Perry (D)

Assembly District 59
Jaime R. Williams (D)

Assembly District 64*
Nicole Malliotakis (R)

Manhattan UNCONTESTED

Senate District 26
Brian Kavanagh (D)

Senate District 27
Brad Hoylman (D)

Senate District 28
Liz Krueger (D)

Senate District 29*
José M. Serrano (D)

Senate District 30
Brian A. Benjamin (D)

Assembly District 65
Yuh-Line Niou (D)

Assembly District 66
Deborah J. Glick (D)

Assembly District 67
Linda B. Rosenthal (D)

Assembly District 70
Inez E. Dickens (D)

Assembly District 73
Dan Quart (D)

Assembly District 75
Richard N. Gottfried (D)

Assembly District 76
Rebecca A. Seawright (D)

Queens UNCONTESTED

Senate District 10
James Sanders Jr. (D)

Senate District 12
Michael Gianaris (D)

Senate District 14
Leroy Comrie (D)

Senate District 15
Joseph P. Addabbo Jr. (D)

Senate District 16
Toby Ann Stavisky (D)

Assembly District 23
Stacey Pheffer Amato (D)

Assembly District 24
David I. Weprin (D)

Assembly District 25
Nily Rozic (D)

Assembly District 26
Edward C. Braunstein (D)

Assembly District 27
Daniel Rosenthal (D)

Assembly District 28
Andrew Hevesi (D)

Assembly District 29
Alicia Hyndman (D)

Assembly District 31
Michele R. Titus (D)

Assembly District 32
Vivian E. Cook (D)

Assembly District 34
Michael G. DenDekker (D)

Assembly District 35
Jeffrion L. Aubry (D)

Assembly District 36
Aravella Simotas (D)

Assembly District 37
Catherine Nolan (D)

Assembly District 38
Michael Miller (D)

Assembly District 40
Ron Kim (D)

Staten Island UNCONTESTED

Senate District 24
Andrew J. Lanza (R)

Assembly District 63
Michael J. Cusick (D)

Assembly District 64*
Nicole Malliotakis (R)

**REPORT ON SPECIAL ELECTIONS
AND OPEN SEATS**

New York State suffers from having a high number of legislative seats filled through special election. A special election is an election that is held at an irregular time for that particular office, in order to fill a vacancy caused by the unexpected departure of the sitting office holder. Candidates for the vacant legislative seat are first chosen by the leadership of their respective political parties in a committee meeting, rather than by the voters registered in that political party during a primary election. The winners of almost all special election contests are determined prior to the special election because the legislative districts are drawn to favor one major political party over another. This means that in almost all special elections, the candidate chosen by the leaders of the dominant party wins, rendering useless the ballots of the voters since they are simply approving the predetermined candidate choices. The result is that voters do not have a meaningful say in who represents them in the state legislature until they stand for re-election as incumbents. Special elections are not really elections but coronations.

In New York City, 23 out of 65 NYS Assembly seats (35%) are held by incumbents who were first elected to office in special elections. Of the state Senate seats in New York City, 7 out of 26 seats (27%) are held by incumbents first elected in special elections. Keeping in mind that incumbency is the strongest factor in a New York City election, this means that approximately 33% of New York City's state lawmakers were first elected in a special election where they were essentially chosen by the party leaders and not by the party's primary voters.

OPEN AND VACANT SEATS IN NEW YORK CITY

In this primary election cycle in New York City, there are 3 open seats in which incumbents are not seeking re-election. There are an additional 2 seats that are vacant with no official currently representing the district. Without incumbents running for re-election, these seats have the potential to be far more competitive in the primary. However, sometimes they are not, as in the case of Assembly District 48, where the Democratic incumbent who has represented the district for 35 years is not standing for re-election. In that race, there is only one candidate running, with the incumbent's endorsement.

BRONX

Assembly District 87 Vacant

BROOKLYN

Assembly District 46 Vacant
Assembly District 48 Currently held by Dov Hikind (D)

STATEN ISLAND

Assembly District 61 Currently held by Matthew Titone (D)
Assembly District 62 Currently held by Ron Castorina, Jr. (R)

Voting and Registration Information

REGISTERING TO VOTE

You are eligible to vote in municipal, federal and state elections if you are:

- 18 years of age (on the date of the election. You can register at 17 if you will be 18 before the election – Send your voter registration card in the year you turn 18 and it will be filed on your 18th birthday);
- United States citizen; AND
- Registered to vote 25 days before the election.

To vote in a party primary:

- You must be a registered member of that party.
- You cannot change your party registration to vote in a primary during that same year.
- Party registration changes must be filed 25 days before the previous year's General Election.

APPLYING FOR AN ABSENTEE BALLOT FOR THE PRIMARY ELECTION

You may vote by absentee ballot if you are:

- absent from New York City (or your county, if you live outside of New York City) on Election Day;
- ill or disabled, or serve as primary caregiver for an ill or disabled individual;
- a patient or inmate in a Veterans' Administration Hospital; OR
- detained in jail awaiting Grand Jury action or are confined in prison for an offense other than a felony.

Deadlines for absentee ballot applications and submissions are as follows:

- Mail your Absentee Ballot Application or Letter of Application by Thursday, September 6th.
- Apply for an Absentee Ballot in Person at your local county board of elections office by Wednesday, September 12th.
- Mail in your Absentee Ballot with a postmark by Wednesday, September 12th – it also must be received by the local board of elections no later than September 20th.
- Drop off your Absentee Ballot in person by Thursday, September 13th to your local board of elections office – a friend or relative can drop it off.

TO OBTAIN A VOTER REGISTRATION FORM OR ABSENTEE BALLOT:

- Go in person to your local county Board of Elections office;
- Call the Board of Elections at 1-866-VOTE-NYC
- Visit the Board of Elections website at <http://www.vote.nyc.ny.us/html/voters/register.shtml>
- Absentee Voting: <http://www.vote.nyc.ny.us/html/voters/absentee.shtml>

VOTING ON ELECTION DAY

The Primary Election will be held on Thursday, September 13th. Polls will be open from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. If you have general questions regarding eligibility or the location of your polling place, please call 1-866-VOTE-NYC. You can also locate your polling place online, including handicap entrances, at <https://nyc.pollsitelocator.com/search>

Under federal law, if you are disabled and choose to vote in person rather than by absentee ballot, you are entitled to assistance. You can rely on the election employees for help.

At the polls, if you are not on the voter registration list, it may be because your registration form was not received in time or was filled out incorrectly. If you believe that you are eligible to vote, you can still vote by requesting an affidavit ballot. After the election, the Board of Elections will check its records and your vote will be counted if you are indeed eligible.

CASTING YOUR BALLOT

Paper ballots will be used for casting votes, which can be marked using either a pen or a ballot marking device (BMD) as described below. Ballots are counted after they are inserted into an electronic scanner. The scanner will then be used to count the votes after the polling place has closed at the end of Election Day. A bin attached to the scanner will capture and keep the paper ballots as a record of all votes. This new process began in 2010 with New York's adoption of a new voting system to meet federal accessibility requirements.

The process works as follows:

- Enter the poll site, sign in, and receive your paper ballot from the poll worker.
- Mark your ballot through one of two means:
 - Go to a privacy booth and fill out your ballot with a pen by marking the appropriate ovals; or
 - Use a Ballot Marking Device (BMD), which is available for those who are in need of assistance (see below for more information).
- Once done, place your ballot in the privacy sleeve, proceed to the scanner area, and insert the marked ballot into the scanner to cast your vote. Your ballot can be inserted in any direction.

If you make a mistake you can request a new ballot. If you mark your ballot incorrectly by marking more choices for one contest than you are supposed to, the scanner will notify you of an “overvote.” To have your vote count, you must obtain a new ballot and mark your choices correctly before submitting your ballot.

BALLOT MARKING DEVICE

Voters will be able to use the Election Systems & Software (ES&S) AutoMARK ballot marking device (BMD), which is mandated to be available at each polling location. Any voter, including voters with disabilities, may use the BMD to view or listen to the ballot in any of the required languages for that poll site (which may include English, Spanish, Chinese - Mandarin, Chinese – Cantonese or Korean). Voters may use the BMD to complete a paper ballot independently and privately on Election Day by using its ATM-style touch screen, Braille-enhanced keypad, sip and puff device or its rocker paddle. More information on the new process is available at the New York City Board of Elections website http://vote.nyc.ny.us/html/newway_en/using_bmd.shtml

RESOURCES FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

To Research Campaign Contributions

NYS Board of Elections (800) 458-3453 www.elections.ny.gov

To Research Candidates and Issues

Citizens Union (212) 227-0342 www.citizensunion.org
Gotham Gazette (212) 227-0342 www.gothamgazette.com
NYPIRG (212) 349-6460 www.nypirg.org
League of Women Voters of NYS (518) 465-4162 www.lwvny.org
Project Vote Smart (888) VOTE-SMART www.votesmart.org

To Research Incumbent Records

New York State Assembly (518) 455-4218 www.assembly.state.ny.us
New York State Senate www.nysenate.gov