



## Candidate Questionnaire

Local Candidates Committee

NYS Legislative Elections 2018

Citizens Union appreciates your response to the following questionnaire related to policy issues facing New York State, and our interest in reforming state government. **Please return the questionnaire to us as soon as possible, and no later than July 1<sup>st</sup>.** Responses to these questions will be one of several factors Citizens Union uses to evaluate candidates running for the New York State Legislature, and to issue our preference for the Primary and endorsement for the General Election. Please feel free to affix any additional information such as a résumé, campaign brochure, or issue statements.

If you seek our support, we will also need to schedule an interview with you as part of the evaluation process. **Please contact us if you wish to be interviewed.**

We plan to make responses to this questionnaire public on our website, printed voters directory, and other appropriate venues.

We thank you very much for your response.

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### Biographical Information

Candidate Name: **Catalina Cruz**

Party Affiliation(s): **Democrat**

Age:

Education: **John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY Law School**

Office Sought/District: **New York State Assembly, District 39th**

Occupation/Employer:

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement:

*(Please feel free to affix any additional information such as a résumé, campaign brochure, or issue statements.)*

### Campaign Contact Information

Campaign Manager Name: **Monica Sibri**

Additional Staff Contact: **Sandra Riano**

Address: **78-27 37th Ave, Suite 9. Jackson Heights New York 11372**

Telephone: **347-460-4486**

Fax:

Website: **www.VoteCatalina.com**

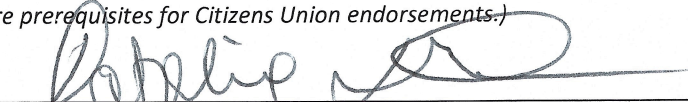
Email: **monicasibriny@gmail.com**

Twitter: **@CatalinaCruzNY**

Facebook: **Catalina Cruz NY**

If elected, which legislative conference will you join (e.g., Republican, Democrat, other)? **Democrat**

## I. AFFIRMATIONS

Have you completed required campaign finance filings?	YES / NO
Are you willing to be interviewed by CU's Local Candidates Committee?	YES / NO
(Please note: interviews are prerequisites for Citizens Union endorsements.) Signature of Candidate: 	Date: July 1st, 2018

## II. CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

Please state whether you support or oppose the following reform measures, and feel free to may elaborate in the space provided at the end or on additional paper.

### 2018 PRIORITY ISSUES:

#### ETHICS

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 / Oppose
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 / Oppose

#### ELECTIONS AND VOTING

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

#### 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 / Oppose
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 / Oppose

7. Drastically reduce campaign contribution limits and reduce them even further from registered lobbyists and those who do business with the state.	Support / Oppose
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**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 / Oppose
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 / Oppose

**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 / Oppose
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**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. 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 / Oppose
12. Empower the attorney general to investigate and prosecute election law malfeasance and cases of public corruption.	Support / Oppose

**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 / Oppose
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Please use the space provided or a separate sheet of paper to elaborate on your positions on the issues contained in the previous pages. You may also provide additional information on any actions that you have taken or plan to take to advance your positions on these issues.

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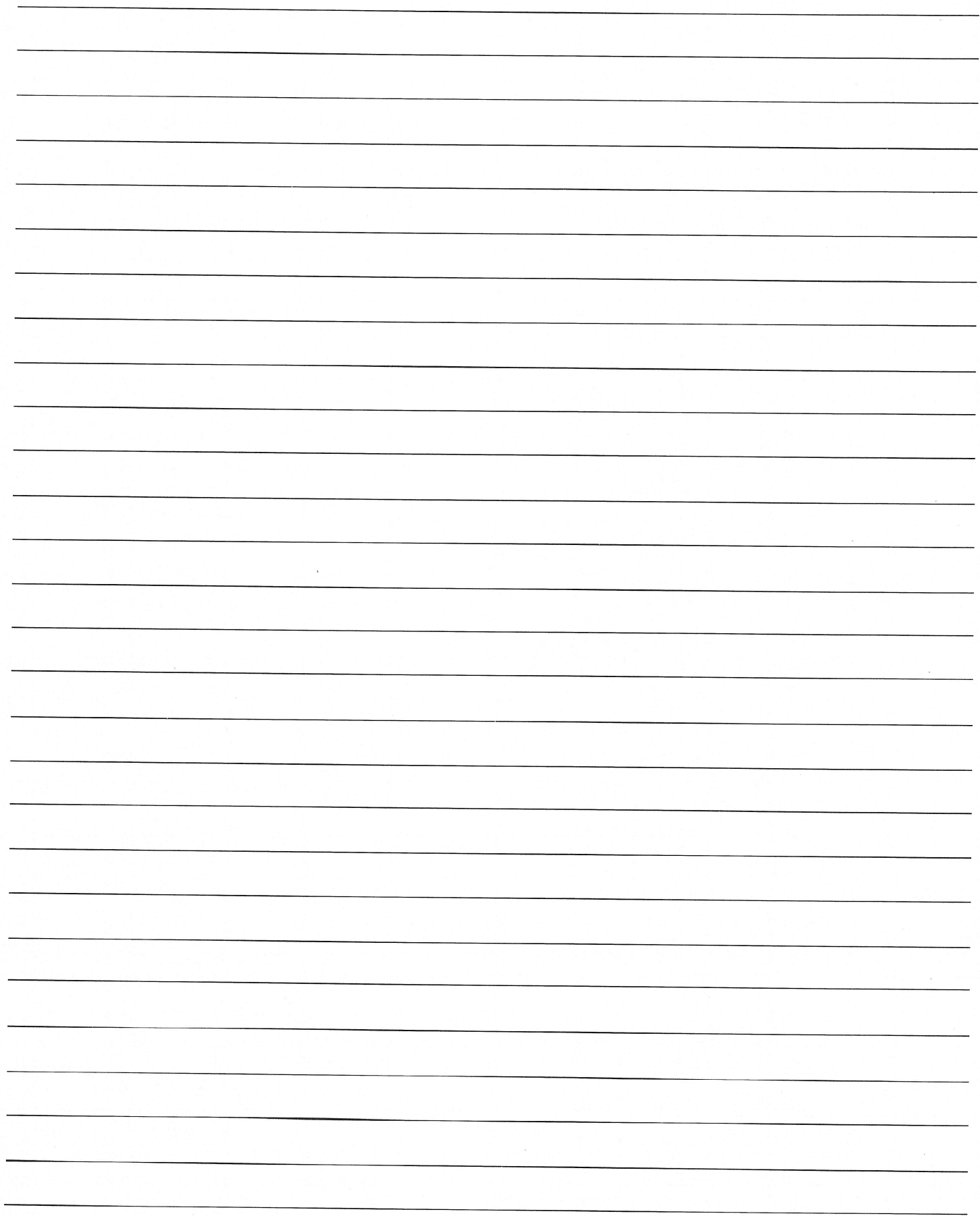
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### III. CAMPAIGN PROMISES MADE TO VOTERS

In addition to evaluating stances on the issues above, Citizens Union also considers the campaign goals articulated to voters.

What are the top five promises you are making to the voters during this campaign?

Please feel free to use additional paper if the space provided is not sufficient, and to affix additional information such as a résumé, campaign brochure, or issue statements. We thank you very much for your response.

#### TOP FIVE 2018 CAMPAIGN PROMISES OR GOALS

##### 1. Fix the MTA

Working families in our community rely on public transportation to get to work, to get to school, to get around our city. The never-ending delays on trains and buses are costing us our livelihood. Short and long-term solutions are needed in order to provide New Yorkers with the quality of service they deserve and have paid for over the decades: 1) The MTA must work to immediately decrease the existing times allotted for repairs to be made, and concentrate on repairs that effect on time ridership, rather than cosmetic upgrades, 2) The MTA, as it exists must be broken up into several agencies capable of managing smaller systems. Control over the City's transit system (train and buses) must be handed over to New York City, and 3) The existing debt must be restructured to facilitate free cash flow and allow for spending on repairs.

##### 2. Invest in our Public Schools.

Schools in the 39th Assembly District remain one of the most overcrowded in the city, affecting how the educational needs of our children are met. To truly provide our children with the resources they need and deserve, we must: 1) Prioritize capital funding to build new schools and end permanently end the use of trailers, 2) Increase funding for STEM Programs and Tech upgrades at schools in our community, and 3) Demand that the District receives all Foundation Aid still due to our schools, providing much-needed funding.

##### 3. Medicare for All.

In order to create a healthier district, we must: 1) Expand existing health programs to provide holistic community-based services that truly address the underlying causes of physical and mental health afflictions of our community, and 2) Establish a true Single Payer healthcare in New York state, where costs can be cut down significantly. Under this system, a single government entity, and not private insurance companies, would pay medical bills. This system would be funded by taxes and not payroll deductions or disposable income.

##### 4. Affordable Housing.

Higher rents, combined with insufficient income, often forces families in our community into an overcrowded living conditions, creating health and safety risks, as well as negatively impacting cognitive and behavioral development of children. For many, overcrowding is also the step before homelessness. To combat this crisis, we must: 1) Increase the deregulation threshold to \$3,000 when the current law expires in 2019, 2) Ensure that all affordable housing remains permanently affordable by tying it to any incentives provided to real estate developers, and 3) Prevent and reduce the need for transitional housing by increasing funding for holistic programs that address the underlying causes of homelessness (legal, mental health, employment services, etc.).

##### 5. Immigrant Rights.

We must enact stronger policies and laws that integrate immigrants and establish true sanctuary state policies that protect their rights: 1) Provide driver licenses for all New Yorkers, regardless of immigration status, 2) Increase funding for the Office of New Americans and fully fund the immigrant Right to Counsel program for immigrants facing removal proceedings, and 3) Ensure equitable access to college for immigrants, regardless of immigration status, by passing the DREAM Act and allowing undocumented students access to in-state financial Aid and the Governor's Excelsior Scholarship.

