



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 1st.** 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.

Biographical Information

Candidate Name: **Anthony Beckford**

Party Affiliation(s): **Green Party**

Age: **36**

Education: **College**

Office Sought/District: **NYS Assembly – 42nd District**

Occupation/Employer: **Self Employed**

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement:

Brooklyn for Anthony Beckford, New York Health Act Lobby Day, Anti-Gun Violence March, Keep Families Together March, Occupy ICE, Housing Advocacy, March 4 Our Lives, leader of the Brooklyn Sector of Copwatch Patrol Unit, Close Rikers, Caribbean Unity Alliance's Caribbean Unity Day, Women's March, Women's Rights Rallies, NYC against ICE, Democratic Socialist Actions, Tenants rights actions.

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

Campaign Contact Information

Campaign Manager Name: **Donna Heyward**

Additional Staff Contact:

Address: **2054 Nostrand Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11210**

Telephone: **347-206-0244**

Fax:

Website: **http://voteforbeckford.nationbuilder.com**

Email: **voteforanthonybeckford@gmail.com**

Twitter: **@Vote4Becford**

Facebook: **AnthonyBecfordForStateAssembly**

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

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
<i>(Please note: interviews are prerequisites for Citizens Union endorsements.)</i>	
Signature of Candidate: <i>Anthony Beckford</i>	Date: 6/30/18

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.

I am a big believer in accountability, transparency and the power of the people. If a party vetoes an investigation; that usually means that there is something that is being hidden. This cannot be allowed to continue. Investigations are to happen uninterrupted and without bias. Whatever decisions are made, must be public knowledge to increase transparency.

I am a huge supporter of voter and election reform. Voter turn-out is usually low due to many things such as; disenfranchised voters, limited access to poll centers, multiple primary dates that cause confusion amongst the voters and so on. Many voters are not able to get off work

during the election dates and early voting would be very convenient for them. As far as the electronic poll book goes, it can be very convenient. Each state has their own use for them. I would still like to see the poll workers have paper books as a back-up, but the electronic poll book should be used for the main purpose of speeding up the check in process. No background checks into voting history or facial recognition or ID requirement. I have pushed for this these reforms through petitions and just talking about it at forums and advocating for it at actions.

When it comes to campaign finance, I definitely support closing the LLC loophole. Many corporations have various LLCs that are either affiliated or actually owned by them. These are ways that they are able to fund certain candidates who are willing participants in the pay to play scheme. The same goes with reducing campaign contribution limits of lobbyists. There are too many candidates who are willing to Side with lobbyists and their special interests instead of the people and that is unacceptable.

On the subject of police accountability, I am the leader of the Brooklyn sector of Copwatch Patrol unit. We are a grassroots organization on the frontlines of the fight for police accountability. I have also supported and have participated in actions with End Broken Windows Coalition and others, calling for the repeal of 50-a. 50-a blocks the transparency that is needed.

On many of these issues, I am looking into introducing and Co-sponsoring legislation to bring about the true reform and changes that we need.

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. I promise to maintain my integrity, transparency and advocacy. I will not be bought out and I will not be intimidated by others to go against the people. As a New York State Assembly member, I would be working for the people and that is who I will answer to.

2. My goal for housing is to strengthen rent laws, eliminate preferential rent, make MCIs temporary, push for the median income level to be based on census of the area or zip code and push for rent rollbacks. There needs to be more true affordable units than what is being falsely claimed. None of the new developments are affordable for those who love on the community and I will be pushing to increase the number of true affordable units, as well hold the landlords and developers accountable for harassment and intimidation.

3. I promise to continue to fight for immigration rights. I will continue to fight to end family separations and detentions. I will fight to create a way for all TPS and DACA holders to receive permanent residency and for all immigrants to be able to have a fast track unbiased process for citizenship.

4. I promise to continue my push for full legalization and decriminalization of marijuana. The records of those arrested must be cleared and those who are locked up must be released. The racist agenda of the "War on Drugs" must be brought to an end.

5. _____

My goal is to obtain more finding for our public schools and to integrate the schools in New York. Segregation has gone on for a long time unchecked. Our children have been failed and their voices are being talked over by the elected officials and agencies who choose to ignore their needs and the racial disparities. No longer shall this be. The same way I helped stop the rezoning of my School district when I was 12 years old, the same way I will fight for the students of today to make sure they have a better tomorrow.
