



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: Bobby Digi Olisa

Party Affiliation(s): Democrat Age: 44

Education: Masters Degree from College of Staten Island

Office Sought/District: State Assembly 61st District

Occupation/Employer: Small Business Owner/Entrepreneur

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement:

President of Staten Island Democratic Association, Founder of Occupy the Block, and on numerous boards that provide essential services to residents of Staten Island

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

#### Campaign Contact Information

Campaign Manager Name: Jonathan Yedin

Additional Staff Contact:

Address: 190 Ward Avenue Staten Island, NY 10304

Telephone: 917 589 7855

Fax:

Website: bobbydigi.com

Email: bobbydigi4assembly@gmail.com

Twitter: @bobbydigi

Facebook: Digi for Assembly

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

Democrat

## I. AFFIRMATIONS

Have you completed required campaign finance filings?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES / <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Are you willing to be interviewed by CU's Local Candidates Committee?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES / <input type="checkbox"/> NO
(Please note: interviews are prerequisites for Citizens Union endorsements.)	
Signature of Candidate: <i>Bobby Digi Olisa</i>	Date: 7/1/18

## 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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support / <input type="checkbox"/> 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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support / <input type="checkbox"/> 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. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support / <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support / <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support / <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose d. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support / <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose e. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support / <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose f. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support / <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose g. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support / <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose
4. Reform the special election process, utilizing a nonpartisan special election for state legislative seats and eliminate delays in filling vacancies.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support / <input type="checkbox"/> 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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support / <input type="checkbox"/> 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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support / <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose

7. Drastically reduce campaign contribution limits and reduce them even further from registered lobbyists and those who do business with the state.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support / <input type="checkbox"/> 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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support / <input type="checkbox"/> 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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support / <input type="checkbox"/> 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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support / <input type="checkbox"/> 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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support / <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose
12. Empower the attorney general to investigate and prosecute election law malfeasance and cases of public corruption.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support / <input type="checkbox"/> 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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support / <input type="checkbox"/> 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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### 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 our public transportation system by raising revenue and committing state revenue to the MTA for immediate capital improvements.  

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2. Reform our electoral system by instituting a series of reforms that ban outside income, close the LLC loophole, independent redistricting, early voting, no-excuse absentee voting, shorter window for party switching to take effect, reform the board of elections so it is not run by party bosses, and more.  

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3. Pass the New York Health Act- healthcare is a right, not a privilege. We need to take the for-profit culture of healthcare and remove it from our society.  

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4. Legalize Marijuana- The war on marijuana has been a complete failure that has severely hurt communities of color. I support full legalization and would use the revenue to for state school aid, specifically the aid owed to NYC public schools as a result of the CFE lawsuit.  

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5. Pass the DREAM Act- This district has a very high number of dreamers and I would be a strong advocate of theirs and do what I can to get the Senate to pass and the Governor to sign into law.  

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#### IV. ETHICAL REPRESENTATION OF CONSTITUENTS

Citizens Union believes that all New Yorkers deserve to be represented by officials who work for the public interest and honor the public trust. With the corruption conviction of recent legislative leaders, we seek to endorse a candidate who will demonstrate that she/he will honor the full commitment of the oath of office, and always represent the public interest above all else.

Please tell us how you have and would continue to conduct the political affairs of this office in an upright manner, and maintain the public trust.

I would subscribe to many of the positions laid out in this document. I would hire an office staff that resembles the make up of this diverse district.

Please return to: Citizens Union, Local Candidates Committee, 299 Broadway, Suite 700 New York, NY 10007  
Via email to [candidates@citizensunion.org](mailto:candidates@citizensunion.org) or fax to 212.227.0345 • Call us at 212-227-0342 with questions