



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: Ashley F. Zanatta

Party Affiliation(s): Republican

Age: 27

Education: BA from St. John's University, pursuing MPH from University at Albany

Office Sought/District: New York State Assembly 62nd District

Occupation/Employer: Public Health advocate and educator for Tobacco-Free Staten Island at the Jewish Community Center

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement:

Richmond County Young Republicans, Volunteer on Assemblywoman Nicole Malliotakis campaign

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

**Campaign Contact Information**

Campaign Manager Name: Anthony Antico

Additional Staff Contact: Teresa Notaristefano

Address: 710 Marcy Avenue

Telephone: 917.282.7822

Fax: n/a

Website: [www.zanattaforassembly.com](http://www.zanattaforassembly.com)

Email: [tnott08@gmail.com](mailto:tnott08@gmail.com)

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/Zanattafor62>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/>

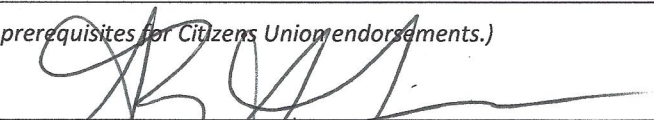
If elected, which legislative conference will you join (e.g., Republican, Democrat, other)?

ZanattaForAssembly/

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## 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: 8/1/18

## 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.	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

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

On 10/10/54, the following information was received from the [redacted] regarding the [redacted] of [redacted] on [redacted] at [redacted].

The [redacted] was [redacted] by [redacted] and [redacted] on [redacted] at [redacted]. The [redacted] was [redacted] and [redacted] on [redacted] at [redacted].

The [redacted] was [redacted] by [redacted] and [redacted] on [redacted] at [redacted]. The [redacted] was [redacted] and [redacted] on [redacted] at [redacted].

The [redacted] was [redacted] by [redacted] and [redacted] on [redacted] at [redacted]. The [redacted] was [redacted] and [redacted] on [redacted] at [redacted].

The [redacted] was [redacted] by [redacted] and [redacted] on [redacted] at [redacted]. The [redacted] was [redacted] and [redacted] on [redacted] at [redacted].

The [redacted] was [redacted] by [redacted] and [redacted] on [redacted] at [redacted]. The [redacted] was [redacted] and [redacted] on [redacted] at [redacted].

The [redacted] was [redacted] by [redacted] and [redacted] on [redacted] at [redacted]. The [redacted] was [redacted] and [redacted] on [redacted] at [redacted].



7. Drastically reduce campaign contribution limits and reduce them even further from registered lobbyists and those who do business with the state.	Support / <b>Oppose</b>
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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.	<b>Support</b> / 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.	<b>Support</b> / 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 / <b>Oppose</b>
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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 / <b>Oppose</b>
12. Empower the attorney general to investigate and prosecute election law malfeasance and cases of public corruption.	Support / <b>Oppose</b>

**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 / <b>Oppose</b>
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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.

While, I believe there should be a limit of outside compensation earned by state legislators and statewide officials, they should be fairly compensated. An increased income coupled with a restriction on income from outside sources can deter corruption and improve governance.

I completely support the reformation of JCOPE to prohibit the ability of one party to halt an investigation. I understand the parties may disagree on many issue however accountability should not be one of them. No matter what party maintains a majority in the Assembly, all should be held to the same standards of Honesty, Accountability, and Transparency. These standards should also apply to JCOPE itself. As a commission for Public Integrity, Ethics, and Transparency, JCOPE should be accountable to the public and more transparent in its investigations and decision making.



~~Although, traditionally, voter turnout is low, allowing for easier manipulation of the voting system will not increase turnout. I oppose early voting because it allows for candidates in some states to secure votes weeks in advance. Voters can end up changing their support for a candidate within that period yet stuck, with a vote they regret casting. I support and encourage a large voter turnout however, a smaller turnout of honest and informed voters can improve our system. I support election day voter registration because, politics are evolving, landscapes and platforms change. All this occurs up until the day a decision is made in the voter booth. Forcing someone to wait 6-7 months to simply transfer parties is completely absurd and undemocratic. When candidates are able to engage unregistered voters and rally them to support a cause, they should be able to vote, hence I support election day voter registration. Additionally, I support automatic voter registration since it easier makes it easier to do their civic duties and encourages democracy. By creating an automatic voter registration, we are simply making it easier to vote. Consolidated state and federal primaries allows candidates to campaign together on the same platform, increasing the possibility of future corruption. E-poll books without a hard copy backup leaves the voter registrations at the mercy of technology. With the prevalence of hackers, and Internet crime, electronic poll books create risks for tampering and the complete destruction of voter records. Without the voter records it will be harder to track the integrity of an election.~~

~~I completely support reforming the special election process to elimination delays in filing vacancies. America is based on a Republican form of government where the officials are elected to represent larger groups of people. Therefore, I believe we need to reform the Special election process and fill the vacancy faster.~~

~~As a candidate for office, I understand the temptations for the public financing of a campaign. However, I am a NYC tax paying resident first, and I do not believe anybody's taxes should be going to politicians they may disagree with. This will only increase taxes and taxes are already exorbitant in NYC and NYS. Creating such a program on a state level would make a politician's life easier, however it will make a New Yorkers life harder. I am running to represent New Yorkers not the politicians.~~

~~Disclosure and reform to the budget and campaign process can reduce corruption and restore faith to the individuals who feel government has failed them. I agree with requiring the complete disclosure of grants and contracts issued by the state. This is exactly where a New Yorker's taxes are going. We all deserve the right to know how our taxes are being used.~~

~~Our current system provides structure to voters however, there are many non-partisan issues that require collaboration and partnership.~~

~~I support a system that provides for accountability, transparency, parental engagement, and democratic participation. A mayor knows his/her city more intimately then a state department in Albany therefore a local approach would be best suited for the constituents. However, because New York City is so populated and the boroughs so diverse, I would promote and encourage borough control.~~





### 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. Fight and work with the community to combat the drug epidemic. Apply evidence based practices that adequately address addiction, abuse, misuse, access, dependence and poor mental health.  

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2. Improve the infrastructure on the south shore of Staten Island. Decrease commuter time, foster communication between city and state departments to expedite projects that will improve transportation.  

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3. Fight and advocate for sustained resources that support healthy and independent lives for those that need services that are not available to them and or are limited.  

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4. Reduce tick-borne illnesses, reduce vehicle-deer collisions and create safer streets.  

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5. Be accountable to the constituents by hosting monthly town halls for an open discussion of issues that impact the community. Ensure the line of communication is opened to all community members.  

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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.

~~After recognizing the need and importance for new leadership in my community, I decided to run for office in my district. My commitment in life and my profession has always been for honesty, transparency and the ability to work with all people. As a Republican, recently cross endorsed by the Democratic Party I know that our issues do not discriminate by party affiliation. The concerns we have in Staten Island are similar to those across the state and the country. Community members from all sides are facing a war on drugs, poor infrastructure, lack of resources that sustain independent lives and fear their safety in schools and public places. I will be a voice for all community members and will not fall in line with an establishment or with the status quo but know that problems can be solved by opening the lines of communication and working in collaboration with parties. My goal and my mission is to work to break barriers, open communication lines and make changes for the betterment of the constituents I work to serve. If endorsed, I will continue to live and work and put the interest of the public above all else. I strongly believe that elections have consequences that outweigh personal sacrifice, which is why I would appreciate an opportunity and a chance to continue creating a better community and better future with your support as the voice for the people. I have not been tarnished or promised but have taken on this endeavor because I strongly believe my district and my state needs change and it starts now.~~

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

