



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: VICKIE PALADINO
 Party Affiliation(s): REPUBLICAN Age: 63
 Education: HIGH SCHOOL
 Office Sought/District: NEW YORK STATE SENATE, DISTRICT 11
 Occupation/Employer: RETIRED, SMALL BUSINESS OWNER

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement:

No previous office or political campaigns. Extensive community involvement over several decades.

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

Campaign Contact Information

Campaign Manager Name: ROBERT HORNAK Additional Staff Contact: THOMAS PALADINO
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 If elected, which legislative conference will you join (e.g., Republican, Democrat, other)? REPUBLICAN

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:	Date:

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.

My biggest concern as a candidate is that many of the reforms mentioned above may be either impossible to implement in New York's current political environment without the risk of extreme corruption, making the situations they're meant to remedy even worse. For example, on issue eleven, while a nonpartisan administration over the division of governance sounds like a smart reform, in effect it would almost definitely lead to the further consolidation of

Democrat power in the state, as the Democrats currently control such a vast amount of political power already, including all the administrative agencies that are already supposed to be 'non partisan' but in a practical sense function as organs of the party.

I believe in effective reform, and will work towards anything that helps drive government towards that goal. Right now the biggest engine of reform is ensuring the continued division of power in the New York State Senate.

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.

Protect the communities in my district from an increasingly hostile city administration, blocking the breakup of

Rikers Island and the construction of new jails, homeless shelters, and drug injection sites in residential

neighborhoods -- among many other ongoing quality of life issues important to my district.

2.

Serve as a firewall in the State Senate against increasingly radical Democrat policies, both economic and social,

and maintain the division of government to help moderate the overall legislative agenda.

3.

Enact reforms of administrative and regulatory agencies, calling for investigations as necessary, with the goal

of reducing the overwhelming regulatory burden on small business in New York State.

4.

Push for lower taxes across the board, and vote against any tax bill that raises taxes, particularly on small

businesses and working families.

5.

Work towards ethics reform with fellow Republicans, and use my bully pulpit in the senate to keep the people

of my district and my state informed of the state of their government.
