



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:	Martin J. Golden		
Party Affiliation(s):	Republican, Conservative, Independent	Age:	67
Education:	St John's University, A.A.		
Office Sought/District:	State Senate, 22nd District		
Occupation/Employer:	New York State Senator		

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement:

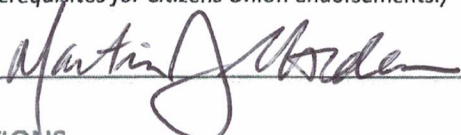
New York City Council member, 1998-2003; NYS Senator, 2003-present

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

Campaign Contact Information

Campaign Manager Name:	Additional Staff Contact: James McKelland		
Address:	7304 5 th Avenue	347-834-3962	
Telephone:	718-238-2726	Fax:	
Website:	www.martygolden.org	Email:	FriendsOfMartyGolden@gmail.com
Twitter:	https://twitter.com/SenMartyGolden	Facebook:	https://www.facebook.com/MartyGolden-699064456892
If elected, which legislative conference will you join (e.g., Republican, Democrat, other)?	Republican		

I. AFFIRMATIONS

Have you completed required campaign finance filings?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES / NO
Are you willing to be interviewed by CU's Local Candidates Committee?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES / NO
<i>(Please note: interviews are prerequisites for Citizens Union endorsements.)</i>	
Signature of Candidate: 	Date: 6/29/2018

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 / <input checked="" type="radio"/> 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="radio"/> 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 / <input checked="" type="radio"/> Oppose b. Support / <input checked="" type="radio"/> Oppose c. Support / <input checked="" type="radio"/> Oppose d. Support / <input checked="" type="radio"/> Oppose e. Support / <input checked="" type="radio"/> Oppose f. <input checked="" type="radio"/> Support / <input checked="" type="radio"/> Oppose g. <input checked="" type="radio"/> Support / <input checked="" type="radio"/> 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="radio"/> 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 / <input checked="" type="radio"/> 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 / <input checked="" type="radio"/> 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 wish to elaborate on my positions concerning Early Voting and Same Day Voter Registration. While I believe that everyone who is legally entitled to vote should be able, given the recent performance of the New York City Board of Elections, I am not convinced they would be able to manage these processes. Until the Board demonstrates its ability to manage the present voting system, I am not inclined to support changes that could lead to chaos and even more mismanagement.

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I wish to elaborate on my positions concerning Early Voting and same day voter registration. While I believe that everyone who is legally entitled to vote should be able, given the recent performance of the Board of Elections in New York City, I am not convinced that they would be able to effectively manage the processes of Early Voting and same day voter registration. Until the Board can demonstrate that they can effectively manage the present voting system, I am not inclined to support to changes that could lead to chaos and even more mismanagement.

I oppose publicly financed elections because I believe that, in times when we make difficult choices about maintaining critical state services, we should not be using state funds for campaigns. Having been a participant in New York City's public finance program, I have come to the conclusion that the program does not accomplish its goals. It has not reduced the influence of money in politics; it has not increased competition, and it has not led to higher voter turnout. The public finance program in New York City has actually given incumbents an advantage since their challengers, because of spending limits, are often unable to mount campaigns that will allow them to overcome the advantages that incumbents have. The program has also proven to be ineffective when a participating candidate finds themselves running against wealthy self-financed candidates. While the 2001, 2005 and 2009 mayoral elections are prime examples, there have also been city council races where self-financed candidates have had an advantage.

I do support lower contribution limits, and I believe that competition for public office increases when term limits, which I have been a supporter of for many years, are in place.

I. CAMPAIGN PROMISES MADE TO VOTERS (PAST AND CURRENT)

In addition to evaluating their stances on the issues above, Citizens Union will assess incumbents on how well they kept the promises they made to voters during the previous election.

As an elected official who is seeking re-election,

- a. what were the top five promises you made to your constituents when you ran for your current seat and what progress has been made in keeping those promises, and
- b. what are the top five promises you are making to the voters during this campaign?

We thank you very much for your response. Please feel free to use additional paper if the space provided is not sufficient.

TOP FIVE CAMPAIGN PROMISES FROM LAST ELECTION AND ACTION ON THEM

1. **RESPONSE TO SUPERSTORM SANDY.** As you remember, Superstorm Sandy struck just days before the 2012 election. Many neighborhoods in my district were devastated by the storm.

At that point, my volunteers and I suspended the campaign to help with the recovery efforts. We helped homeowners by bringing in supplies and helping them find temporary housing. At the time, I pledged to help our neighborhoods recover from the storm.

Since that time I have continued to work with our neighbors as they continue, even today, to rebuild their lives. My office has held more than two dozen town halls in the last six years in the impacted neighborhoods. We brought together government agencies, non-profit organizations and the private sector to help many homeowners and businesses. Through my office, we assisted a number of residents and businesses who had difficulties navigating the bureaucracy that was put in place following the storm. We interceded with FEMA, the SBA, and an array of state and local agencies when my constituents could not obtain the assistance they were entitled to. We worked with the State Department of Financial Services when homeowners and businesses could not obtain satisfaction from their insurance companies.

Even today, we continue to assist those who are still trying to rebuild. Most recently, on June 25, 2018, we hosted, along with NHS Brooklyn, a Homeowner Resource Event in Gerritsen Beach, one of the neighborhoods that was hardest hit by the storm. I'm proud to say that, nearly six years after this storm, my staff and I continue to stand shoulder to shoulder with those who need help.

2. **BUILDING A STRONG ECONOMY.** I promised to continue to work to make New York a place with a friendlier business climate by holding the line on taxes and spending and by working to bring more jobs to our state. In my role as Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Science, Technology, Incubation & Entrepreneurship, I hosted a New Industry and Entrepreneurs Roundtable on the growth of the Computer and Video Game Industry in New York at Kingsborough Community College. I have supported the creation of tax credits for music and video game production throughout the state. As one of the prime movers behind the legislation that created tax incentives for the film and television industry in New York, I believe that the creation of a similar incentive program could lead to the expansion of "Silicon Alley" here in New York, creating even more jobs in what has become a booming industry here in New York, and restore New York's place as the pre-eminent location for music production.
3. **FIGHTING CRIME.** As a former New York City police officer, I understand how crime can hurt a community. In 2016, I promised to work to keep our communities safe. I continue to advocate for the restoration of the death penalty, which I believe is an effective deterrent.
4. **TRANSPORTATION.** In 2016, I promised to continue working on improvements to our mass transportation network, and I have emphasized expanding existing mass transit and creating additional transit alternatives for the residents of our city. I supported the recently enacted budget, which supports the Metropolitan Transportation Authority with a \$334 million - 7 percent – increase in funding over last year for a total of more than \$4.8 billion in operating assistance. This includes \$254 million to fully fund the state's half of this year's \$418 million obligation

towards the \$836 million Subway Action Plan, with New York City responsible for contributing the remaining half. As a member of the MTA's Capital Projects Review Board, I continue to advocate for the commuters of my community as we have sought to make the subway system more accessible by the construction of elevators at subway stations to make it easier for seniors and others who have difficulty walking the stairs, to make full use of the system. In May 2017, the MTA agreed to make permanent weekend express bus service on the X-28 bus line, which I had fought to restore for six years. Just last week, the MTA announced the expansion of service on the X28, X38, B1 and B63 lines, service improvements that I have been seeking for quite some time. I will continue to work with MTA officials to find ways to make our transit more efficient, safe and reliable.

5. SENIORS. I promised the seniors of my district that I would continue to work to insure that they had the chance to live their lives with independence and dignity in their community. Each year, my office conducts a number of events designed for senior citizens: senior fairs, the senior boat rides, and the "Senior Idol" contest.

TOP FIVE 2018 CAMPAIGN PROMISES OR GOALS

1. I will continue to stand shoulder to shoulder with the residents and businesses of our community that are still recovering from Superstorm Sandy.
2. I will continue my efforts to improve mass transit, including making our mass transit system more accessible.
3. I will continue to work to keep our communities safe.
4. I will work to provide additional support to our seniors by continuing to advocate increase in the SCRIE income limit; expansion of the Community Services for the Elderly Program, and the lowering of prescription drug prices by allowing the state

to make bulk purchases of drugs and making those lower cost drugs available to seniors through their local pharmacies.

5. I will continue to work to reduce taxes for middle class New Yorkers while encouraging the creation of good-paying jobs through easing the regulatory burden on business and by offering strategic support (through grants and tax incentives) to emerging industries.