



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 September 25<sup>th</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: **Pete Holmberg**

Party Affiliation(s): **Republican**

Age: **52**

Education: **Drake University, Des Moines, IA, Theatre Major. Did not graduate.**

Office Sought/District: **New York State Senator, District 28**

Occupation/Employer: **Real Estate: Keller Williams, Public Relations, Consultant: Code Morris**

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement: **None**

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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: **Pax Hart**

Additional Staff Contact:

Address: **122 East 83<sup>rd</sup> Street, New York, NY 10028**

Telephone: **(917) 501-7434**

Fax:

Website: **www.HolmbergForNewYork.com**

Email:

Twitter: **@PeteHolmbergNYC**

Facebook:

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

## I. AFFIRMATIONS

Have you completed required campaign finance filings?	<b>YES</b> / NO
Are you willing to be interviewed by CU's Local Candidates Committee?	<b>YES</b> / NO
<i>(Please note: interviews are prerequisites for Citizens Union endorsements.)</i>	
Signature of Candidate:	Date: <b>9/21/2018</b>

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

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

**(10.) I believe Corrections Officers are vulnerable enough already without their records being made available to friends and families of inmates.**

**(13.) I cannot support Mayoral control of schools with the current Mayor and his attack on SHS AT.**

### 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. Admit when I am wrong. Admit when I have failed. Admit when I don't know. When a politician becomes the problem, it is usually because of an inability, or unwillingness, to do those three things.**
- 2. Repeal the New, 2019 Cab Riding Tax. This issue is at the core of my campaign because of its strong impact on our District and the fact that it is a prefect example of reckless taxation.**
- 3. Bring Tort Reform to the Forefront. New York is the wild west of liability laws. Scaffold Law must be repealed and for that to happen, the voters need to become engaged with the issue.**
- 4. Fight Against Sanctuary State Status. Political Correctness cannot come at the expense of our safety and our ability to take care of the neediest among us.**
- 5. Serve as an Advocate, Agent, and Attack Dog on Behalf of Manhattan. The Buffalo Billions could have – and should have – been used to fix the subways. I'm a natural born fighter, New York City is my home, and I will fight to protect it. We have a Mayor who is handcuffing NYPD and bloating the administration of our public schools while trying to kill charter schools and diluting the value of education with such measures as removing auditions from the application process to performing arts programs. Other measures -- such as his plan to de-emphasize the Special High Schools Admission Test (SHSAT) for Elite Private Schools – need to go through Albany. And I will be there to stop him.**

#### 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.

**To earn ANYONE’S trust, much less the entire State of New York, you have to give of yourself. You give your time. You give your labor. You give your passion. And you give the unvarnished truth about yourself.**

**As a candidate, I am on a steep learning curve. I make no effort to conceal that fact. I am constantly in listening and learning mode. And I will continue in that mode after I am elected and throughout every term I serve in the New York Senate.**

**As a businessman, I know how to find the root cause of any problem, and then build back upward into a solution. We have laws in this State that only serve to enrich unions and lawyers. As a Public Relations Veteran, I know how to take complex issues and make them understanding and compelling. And that is what we need to do if we want to affect that kind of reform New York needs. Scaffold Law needs to be repealed. Our subways will never be sufficiently repaired without it being eliminated. But we are up against a very well established, well funded, and horribly dysfunctional infrastructure. I’m up for the challenge.**

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