



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:	Jose R. Peralta		
Party Affiliation(s):	Democratic	Age:	46
Education:	Bachelor of Arts, Queens College (CUNY)		
Office Sought/District:	NYS Senate, 13th District		
Occupation/Employer:	NYS Senator, 13th District		

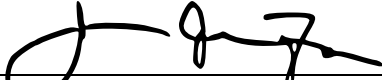
Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement:
~~State Senator, March 2010 - present. Member of the NYS Assembly, 39th District from January 2003 until March 2010. Member of Queens Community Board # 3.~~

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

Campaign Contact Information

Campaign Manager Name:	Michael Olmeda	Additional Staff Contact:	Juan Soto (press)
Address:	32-33 Junction Boulevard, East Elmhurst, New York, 11369		
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Website:	www.peralta4queens.com	Email:	peraltaforsenate2018@
Twitter:	@senatorperalta	Facebook:	www.facebook.com/
If elected, which legislative conference will you join (e.g., Republican, Democrat, other)?	Democratic		

I. AFFIRMATIONS

Have you completed required campaign finance filings?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES / <input type="radio"/> NO
Are you willing to be interviewed by CU's Local Candidates Committee?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES / <input type="radio"/> NO
<i>(Please note: interviews are prerequisites for Citizens Union endorsements.)</i>	
Signature of Candidate: 	Date: July 1, 2019

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="radio"/> Support / <input 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 / <input type="radio"/> 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	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Support / <input type="radio"/> Oppose
b. No-excuse absentee voting	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Support / <input type="radio"/> Oppose
c. Election Day voter registration	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Support / <input type="radio"/> Oppose
d. Re-enfranchisement of people on parole automatically <u>through legislation</u> , without requiring a Certificate of Good Conduct or Relief	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Support / <input type="radio"/> Oppose
e. Automatic voter registration, unless the potential voter opts out	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Support / <input type="radio"/> Oppose
f. Consolidated state and federal primaries	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Support / <input type="radio"/> Oppose
g. Electronic poll books	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Support / <input 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 / <input type="radio"/> 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="radio"/> Support / <input 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.	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Support / <input 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.	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Support <input type="radio"/> 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="radio"/> Support <input type="radio"/> Oppose
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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="radio"/> Support <input type="radio"/> Oppose
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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="radio"/> Support <input type="radio"/> 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="radio"/> Support <input type="radio"/> Oppose
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12. Empower the attorney general to investigate and prosecute election law malfeasance and cases of public corruption.	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Support <input type="radio"/> Oppose
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HOME RULE

13. Make mayoral control of city schools permanent, with a governance system that provides for accountability, transparency, parent engagement, and democratic participation.	See below
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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.

~~supporting permanent Mayoral Control, there continue to be several systemic issues that must be addressed, including the need for a stronger parent role~~

~~in the Panel for Education Policy (PEP) and within individual schools. I will review any proposal that intends to accomplish the ideals set forth in this~~

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

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

As an elected official who is seeking re-election,

- 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?
- 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 CAMPAIGN PROMISES FROM LAST ELECTION AND ACTION ON THEM

1. ~~Pass the New York State DREAM Act. Given the growing anti-immigrant sentiment in Washington after the 2016 election, passing the DREAM Act in a Republican-led State Senate has become increasingly difficult. We have, however, made notable progress on the bill, which now has 27 cosponsors. A recent report~~

~~by the Senate Democratic Conference concludes that not only is passing DREAM the right thing to do, but the economically practical thing to do. In recent months, two of New York's neighbors, Connecticut and New Jersey, enacted laws similar to the DREAM Act. As more states begin to lead on this issue, New York will soon follow.~~

2. ~~Pass Limited-Use Drivers License legislation for the undocumented. As indicated above, the unprecedented anti-immigrant sentiment in Washington, and the host~~

~~surge in threats of deportation to my constituents, I was able to secure \$10 million for immigrant legal services (in FY 2017-18) plus an additional \$5 million this~~

3. ~~Pass SWEAT (Secure Wages Earned Against Theft) legislation to strengthen wage theft claims. Working with a large network of labor and human rights~~

~~advocates, we have made significant strides since first introducing this bill in 2014. While it has passed the Assembly on one occasion, we continue to reach~~

~~roadblocks, either political or procedural, in the Senate. I will continue to fight to enact SWEAT, preferably as a stand-alone bill.~~

4. ~~Pass Predictive Scheduling legislation to strengthen protections for low-Wage Workers. After the City of New York's Fair Work Week Law went into effect last year, Governor Cuomo initiated an administrative rule making process for a similar state-level effort. As the sponsor of a stand-alone predictive scheduling bill,~~

~~I continue to work very closely with labor leaders and advocates to ensure that these pending reforms protect New York's low-wage workers.~~

5. ~~Establish meaningful campaign finance (public financing of elections) and ethics reform (closure of LLC loophole) comprehensive ethics and campaign finance reforms. As you are aware, I have long supported There have been many missed opportunities in recent years. I remain confident that The Legislature is~~

~~drawing closer to passing these reforms and I am eager to vote "AYE" at that time.~~

TOP FIVE 2018 CAMPAIGN PROMISES OR GOALS

1. Pass the New York State Dream Act

2. through 1) a multi-year extender and 2) authorization for at least

3. *Pass SWEAT (Secure Wages Earned Against Theft) legislation to strengthen wage theft claims*

4.

Continue upon my record of securing funding to expand and improve public schools in the 13th Senate District.

5. Continue to advocate for efforts that enrich the lives of seniors in the district and across the state.
