



June 8, 2018

Dear Candidate:

Since 1910, Citizens Union has evaluated candidates and published a Voters Directory that provides useful and important information to New Yorkers about candidates' positions on city and statewide issues. With an ongoing desire to ensure that democracy works for all New Yorkers, Citizens Union in 2018 is once again evaluating candidates for state legislative races. Our state government has made improvements since the 2014 elections, however, continue to believe that state government could better serve the broader public interest rather than narrow special interests. To this end, the state must address important reforms in the areas of ethics, transparency and accountability, and elections, among others.

As a candidate for state legislature, we ask that you please complete and return the enclosed questionnaire as soon as possible, and no later than July 1st. Your responses to the candidate questionnaire will be included in our annual Voters Directory and made available on our website. Returning the questionnaire will allow us to inform New Yorkers about your positions on key issues affecting the state. Please email completed questionnaires to candidates@citizensunion.org or via fax to 212-227-0345.

If you wish to be considered by Citizens Union for our designation of "Preferred Candidate" for the Primary Election and "Endorsed Candidate" for the General Election, you must complete this questionnaire and be interviewed by our Local Candidates Committee. To indicate your willingness to be interviewed, please mark the appropriate box on the questionnaire. We will not automatically schedule an interview with you if you return this questionnaire, as we prioritize competitive races, and resources constrain us from evaluating all races. Please contact us if you wish to be interviewed. We also welcome any additional information such as a résumé, campaign brochure, or issue statements.

Support for Citizens Union's reform agenda is the primary criteria used in deciding our support for a candidate. We will also evaluate incumbent legislators and other currently elected officials not only on their views of state government reform, but also on how well they fulfilled the promises and commitments made during the last election. We will examine challengers on their support for reform, their ability to be effective state legislators, and the viability of their candidacy.

Please also see the attached document, which outlines the principles and process that guide our evaluation of candidates. This will help you better understand the criteria we use in our analysis of candidates and what you can expect from the process.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact Ethan Geringer-Sameth, Policy and Program Manager, at egeringer@citizensunion.org or (212) 227-0342 ext. 28. Thank you for your time.

With best wishes,

Handwritten signature of Tony Mattia in black ink.

Tony Mattia
Co-Chair, Local Candidates Committee

Handwritten signature of Betsy Gotbaum in black ink.

Betsy Gotbaum
Executive Director



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:

Kevin Parker

Party Affiliation(s):

Democrat / Working Families Age: 51

Education:

Penn State University, The New School

Office Sought/District:

NYS Senate, District 21

Occupation/Employer:

NYS Senate

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement:

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

Campaign Contact Information

Campaign Manager Name:

Vaughn Mayers

Additional Staff Contact:

Address:

Telephone:

(347) 245-1119

Fax:

Website:

Kevin Parker.org

Email:

vaughnmayers@gmail.com

Twitter:

Senator Kevin Parker

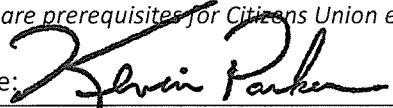
Facebook:

Senator Kevin Parker

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

Democrat

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:

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 / 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	<input checked="" type="radio"/> a. Support / Oppose <input checked="" type="radio"/> b. Support / Oppose <input checked="" type="radio"/> c. Support / Oppose <input checked="" type="radio"/> d. Support / Oppose <input checked="" type="radio"/> e. Support / Oppose <input checked="" type="radio"/> f. Support / Oppose <input checked="" type="radio"/> g. Support / 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.	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 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.	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 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.

I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to meet and discuss these issues regarding our great state.

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. The creation of meaningful jobs
2. Raise the Age of Criminal Responsibility in NYS.
3. Combating the housing crisis in NYC
4. Passing the DREAM Act for immigrant children.
5. Reducing our Carbon Footprint & increasing the use of renewables