



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: Jeffrey D. Klein

Party Affiliation(s): Democrat Age: 57

Education: _____

Office Sought/District: Senate 34

Occupation/Employer: NYS Senator

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement: Assembly 80th, CBII board member, District header

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

Campaign Contact Information

Campaign Manager Name: Dana Carotenuto Additional Staff Contact: _____

Address: 2018 Williamsbridge Road

Telephone: 718 684 2074 Fax: _____

Website: jeffkleinny.com Email: jeffkleinforsonate@gmail.com

Twitter: @JeffKleinNY Facebook: _____

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

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

(Please note: interviews are prerequisites for Citizens Union endorsements.)

Signature of Candidate:

Date:

7/1/18

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 through legislation, 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

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

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

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.

Please see attachment

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. Please see attachment

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

TOP FIVE 2018 CAMPAIGN PROMISES OR GOALS

1. *Please see attachment*

2.

3.

4.

5.

Elaboration on Positions

Election and Voting – We must push to eliminate barriers to voting by passing extensive voting reform legislation. New York constantly falls behind in voter turnout, which only results in under representation. Voting reform must to happen in New York State, which is why I have supported this legislation either by sponsoring, co-sponsoring, or backing legislation which establishes no-excuse absentee voting, expanded voting hours, automatic voter registration, pre-registration of 16- and 17-year olds, and extension of voter registration deadlines. I will continue to advocate for widespread voter reform, which is why I have also made it a key priority of my campaign this year.

Campaign Finance Reform – In 2013, I presented the “Integrity in Elections Act,” which establishes extensive campaign finance reform, limitation on independent expenditure campaigns, and imposes spending limits on participating candidates. I am serious about passing ethics reforms through limiting outside income for legislators; closing the LLC loophole; and increasing transparency in government spending. I have specifically taken action on limiting outside income by example and forgoing outside work. New Yorkers deserve a strong, transparent government.

TOP FIVE CAMPAIGN PROMISES FROM LAST ELECTION AND ACTION ON THEM

- (1) Middle income housing – Providing affordable housing for my constituents has always been a must. Preserving and expanding programs such as the middle income housing program and Mitchell–Lama is something I have committed to delivering for New Yorkers. Specifically in areas of the Bronx, as well as New York City as a whole, it is important we continue to advocate and provide affordable housing options. In the 2017, I secured \$150 million, meant to help preserve Mitchell-Lama and other middle income buildings. I have also successfully pushed for oversight and funding for NYCHA developments and secured a historic \$250 million in NYCHA capital in this year’s budget.
- (2) Funding for Education - I have always fought to ensure funding for public schools remains at its highest levels and that children across our communities have access to pre-kindergarten. Over the last two years, we have increased funding to pre-k by \$20 million. I have also supported growing school aid each year by a billion dollars over the last two years to make sure our schools receive the resources they need for our children to succeed.
- (3) Raise the Age – raising of the age of criminal responsibility was a top priority for myself. New York once fell behind on how our state treated 16 and 17 year olds in the court of law, preventing our youth from being properly rehabilitated and allowing them to have a productive future. This is why I pushed for the legislation to be successfully enacted in the 2017-2018 budget.
- (4) During my campaign, I promised to my constituents to help with the quality of life in the Bronx by helping individuals stay in their home and making sure the community did not become saturated by abandoned properties. Securing funding in the budget to help fund

foreclosure prevention programs allowed me to deliver on this promise by funding this program that provided crucial services to keep people in their homes was funded.

- (5) Our country is a country made up of immigrants. Our immigrant community deserves to be acknowledged and protected, which is why I had promised to deliver for these individuals too. While in office, I secured \$15M for an immigrant legal aid fund meant to help immigrants with legal services, green card application processing, job training and more.

TOP FIVE 2018 CAMPAIGN PROMISES OR GOALS

- (1) I recognize New York State has many problems with its elections system, which has resulted in low voter turnout and disenfranchised voters. Without reform, our state will continue to fail at having the representation it deserves. This is why I will push for expansive voter reform including no excuse absentee ballots, pre-registration of 16 and 17 year olds, early voting, and automatic voter registration.
- (2) Making New York more affordable by decreasing the burden on hardworking New York taxpayers is key. It is important we push back against the negative effects of the federal tax plan, which is why I will support tax relief programs such as the creation of a state deduction, which will allow New Yorkers to deduct any state and local taxes that exceed the federal cap of \$10,000 from their state income taxes. Such a new deduction is of particularly need for those families and individuals that have high levels of property taxes and/or income taxes.
- (3) Early education has long-term impacts on academic success, and accomplishments in both the workforce and in life. Without dedicated statewide Pre-K funding, our children do not have equal opportunities to succeed. I will advocate for an expansion of 4-year old Pre-k throughout New York State and an investment by the state in 3-year old Pre-K programs in New York City.
- (4) Under the current federal administration, women's health continues to be under attack and many women are left uncertain on what their healthcare options will look like in the future. I promise to continue to push and advocate for the passage of the Comprehensive Contraceptive Care Act and the codification of Roe v Wade in New York State.
- (5) Jails and prisons continue to be filled with those among us who have the least resources and opportunities to succeed. Bail reform is a must because while our system is meant to view someone as innocent until they are proven guilty, that is not always true for the poor. We must fight to end to cash bail for those accused of nonviolent crimes in order to address the inequality in our justice system.

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.

Being elected to public service as a State Representative is an honor. I will continue to prioritize serving my constituents, the families of those constituents, as well as the underrepresented individuals of my community. I have continued to take actions in order to deliver for my constituents by enacting extensive gun reform through the SAFE Act, raising minimum wage to \$15 a hour, establishing 12 weeks of paid family leave, and providing for middle income housing options. I will continue to listen to their feedback as well as their needs and proudly represent them in the district and in Albany.

By speaking to individuals in the community, reading their e-mails and their letters, and being active in my community I have heard what they are asking for and I will continue to work hard to deliver on those requests this upcoming year. It is through their voices, and only their voices, that I have prioritized what needs to get done. I am elected to serve those who elected me, which is how I believe I can best serve the public interest, maintain the public's trust, and properly uphold my duties while in office.