



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 1<sup>st</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**

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Candidate Name: Mathylde Frontus

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Party Affiliation(s): Democrat

Age: 40

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Education: Ph.D., Columbia University; MTS, Harvard Divinity School; MA, Columbia University; MSW & BSW, NYU

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Office Sought/District: NYS Assembly, District 46

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Occupation/Employer: Principal Owner, Avant-Garde Consulting & Avant-Garde Behavioral Health Resources  
(c/o MKF Ventures, LLC)

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Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement: Please see bio and campaign palm card attached.

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

**Campaign Contact Information**

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Campaign Manager Name: Joe Herrera

Additional Staff Contact:

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Address: 1610 Mermaid Avenue

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Telephone: (917) 450-6174

Fax:

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Website: FrontusForNY.com

Email: Frontus4NY@gmail.com

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Twitter: @FrontusForNY

Facebook: Facebook.com/FrontusForNY

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

Democrat

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## 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
<i>(Please note: interviews are prerequisites for Citizens Union endorsements.)</i>	
Signature of Candidate: <i>Mathylde Frontus</i>	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	✓ a. Support/Oppose
b. No-excuse absentee voting	✓ b. Support/Oppose
c. Election Day voter registration	✓ c. Support/Oppose
d. Re-enfranchisement of people on parole automatically <u>through legislation</u> , without requiring a Certificate of Good Conduct or Relief	✓ d. Support/Oppose
e. Automatic voter registration, unless the potential voter opts out	✓ e. Support/Oppose
f. Consolidated state and federal primaries	✓ f. Support/Oppose
g. Electronic poll books	✓ 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
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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
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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.	✓ Support / 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.	✓ 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
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12. Empower the attorney general to investigate and prosecute election law malfeasance and cases of public corruption.	✓ Support / 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.	✗ 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.

13) Mayoral Control: While I am in support of a governance system that provides for accountability, transparency, parent engagement, and democratic participation, I am not in favor of establishing permanent mayoral control of city schools. The success of mayoral control is contingent on too many variable factors which can't be controlled for. It makes more sense to keep extending it as needed until more research is known about the benefits.



### 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. Community Inclusion & Engagement-- In light of the corruption which has been associated with Southern Brooklyn over the years and with this assembly seat in particular, I plan to begin anew by establishing the first Southern Brooklyn Community Think Tank where residents will be able to come together and agree on the most important needs of their neighborhood and then discuss how they envision their assembly member working to bring forth solutions. It would be the first collaboration of its kind.
2. Transparency in Government Spending-- Albany continues to lack transparency in how funding is appropriated by legislators, especially with regards to the \$2 billion pork barrel slush fund. I will be transparent about every dollar which is allocated from my office by sharing it freely with my constituents. I will also fight for greater transparency and accountability in Albany with regards to the budget. A simple online tool would allow constituents to quickly see where their legislator has spent money throughout the district.
3. Civic Engagement Series-- As I meet with voters on the campaign trail, I have promised to implement the first civic engagement series in partnership with other partners across NYC, in order to teach my constituents about electoral politics and how to run for office. This is another key step in fighting corruption as it democratizes information and ensures that it is not only a privileged few who know how local politics work in their community. It will also empower residents to get involved in grassroots leadership of their community.
4. Public Schools-- As a product of public k-12 education, I understand how important it is for our schools to be fully funded. I will fight vigorously for the schools in my district to be fully funded and receive their fair share of the state budget. I will also advocate for the availability and accessibility of mental health services for all k-12 students. The latter is particularly important as there are schools in the district with hundreds of students but not one part-time or full-time mental health professional.
5. Affordable Housing and Homeownership-- Safe and affordable housing remain one of the top concerns of families in the district. Whether it's the illegal home conversions in Bay Ridge and Dyker Heights, or the luxury apartments going up in Coney Island without affordable units, I will stand up and fight on behalf of the community. It is important that local residents be given priority for new apartments and home. Additionally, my office will invite homeownership assistance programs such as HPD and NACA to facilitate paths to affordable homeownership throughout the district.

