



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**

Candidate Name: Jaime Williams

Party Affiliation(s): Democratic

Age: 38

Education: Masters Degree

Office Sought/District: 59th Assembly District

Occupation/Employer: NYS Assembly

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement: Incumbent Assembly Member 59th AD, Former Chief of Staff to AM Roxanne Persaud , Thomas Jefferson Democratic Club, Catholic Charities

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

**Campaign Contact Information**

Campaign Manager Name: Jean Joseph

Additional Staff Contact: Ian Girshek

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Fax:

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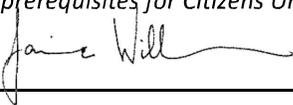
Email: Jeanjosephcpa@aol.com

Twitter:

Facebook:

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

## I. AFFIRMATIONS

Have you completed required campaign finance filings? Yes	YES / NO
Are you willing to be interviewed by CU's Local Candidates Committee? Yes	YES / NO
<i>(Please note: interviews are prerequisites for Citizens Union endorsements.)</i>	
Signature of Candidate: 	Date: 06/22/2018

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

It is a grave injustice towards our voters put forward by elected officials who have utilized their power and position to direct either influence or contributions in inappropriate ways. I have held fast towards tenets of transparency and honesty and have drawn on my background as a social worker to help further these tenets in my current position. As a mother of a teenager in a New York City Public School I subscribe once again to transparency and accountability. Education is a key ingredient in allowing for dynamic change,



### 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. My promises have always been and will always be to preserve and restore our environment. I have helped create and currently chair the sSubcommittee on Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response. The critical nature of our environment must be a central platform. The most recent tornadoes in upstate New York to the continuing ramifications of Super Storm Sandy illustrate everyone's need to be properly informed on how to respond and react, my subcommitte has already worked hand in hand with other agencies to afford our resident vital informations and kits.
2. My other promises can't be limited to number but general thoughts and actions. I have assured our areras that we will improve our schools. To date I have assisted in helping fund essential programs to our libraries and our schools insuring the next generation have proper resources for education.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

**TOP FIVE 2018 CAMPAIGN PROMISES OR GOALS**

1. It is my goal to further highlight the importance of transparency in government and the ability to have greater accountability for our elected officials. We have witnessed so many injustices that it can stand any longer. As our founding fathers intended our role as elected officials requires the adherence to democratic principles and we must answer to one authority namely our constituents whom we serve.

2.

3.

4.

5.

