



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: Charles D. Fall

Party Affiliation(s): Democratic Party

Age: 29

Education: Southwestern College (Sports Scholarship), B.A (2011), Pace University, MPA (2014)

Office Sought/District: Member of the Assembly, 61st District

Occupation/Employer: Chief of Staff, New York City Parks Department, Staten Island

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement: Former Staten Island Borough Director and City-wide Islamic Liaison to the Mayor's Office.

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

Campaign Contact Information

Campaign Manager Name: Neflan Doole

Additional Staff Contact:

Address: 173 Maple Parkway, Staten Island, NY 10303

Telephone: 718-902-3494

Fax:

Website: charlesfallforny.com

Email: charlesfallforny@gmail.com

Twitter: @charlesdfall

Facebook: charles.d.fall

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

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: 6/30/18

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 <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	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
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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.

As a life long Staten Islander, and a millennial, the main reason I am running is because there is too much at stake to stand idly by. There are issues in our community that have not been addressed for decades, and I believe that ushering in a new generation of leadership can change that.

A transparent and accountable government is one that best serves the people, and that is my commitment to those of the 61st District if I am elected.

Whether it's transportation, health care, or election reform, leaders in Albany must have the political courage to fight the good fight and be a megaphone

for the voiceless. As an Assembly Member, that will be my fight. Working tirelessly, every day, to give back to the community that has given me so much,
and to a community that is long overdue for investment and attention.

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. Transportation: The North Shore of Staten Island is a transportation desert. As the population has greatly expanded, we have even fewer transportation options. With the infrastructure still in place, I will fight for the proper funding to truly revitalize the North Shore Railway.
I will also work with my counterparts at the city level to bring Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) to the North Shore, along with a green belt following the route for cyclists. We must also continue resurfacing our beleaguered streets and expand HOV lanes on the West Shore Expressway.
2. Education: As the proud product of NYC public schools, a husband of a public school para professional, and father of a daughter who is working her way through the public school system, fighting in Albany for proper education funding will be a major priority. Legislators must find ways to revisit the education funding formula, and come to a mutual agreement that ones education should not be based on their zip code. Expanding after schools programs for every day kids, and at risk youth, will also be a personal priority of mine in Albany,
3. Health Care: Weather it's mental illness, the opioid epidemic, or the lack of a public hospital, Staten Island faces a multitude of road blocks to health care access and quality care. As an Assembly Member, I will work to expand funding for community based health care centers, along with passage of legislation that will close the gap between the insured and uninsured. I also will work with our local and federal partners to destigmatize and educate the public on opioids, fight for a permanent Staten Island drug court, and greatly expand treatment options across the island.
4. Criminal Justice & Immigration Reform: As immigrant and minority communities face continued threats from the federal government, legislators in Albany must do everything in their power to protect these communities. I will fight for passage of the New York DREAM Act. Our state must also work to reduce over criminalization and over incarceration. Passage of various Criminal Justice reforms that include elimination of cash bail, speedy trial and discovery reform, and restoration of voting rights for those on parole who have served their time, is crucial for a more just New York.
5. Ethics and Voting Reform: Without a legislature that holds itself to a high ethical standard, we will continue to see piecemeal laws passed. In the Assembly, I will demand that in exchange for a pay raise, legislators limit their outside income, move to a full-time legislature, close the LLC loophole, and restrict lobbying in the State Capitol for 2 years after leaving office. I will also fight to bring voting in New York into the 21st Century with automatic voter registration, early voting, consolidation of state and federal primaries, and instituting public financing at the state level.

IV. ETHICAL REPRESENTATION OF CONSTITUENTS

Citizens Union believes that all New Yorkers deserve to be represented by officials who work for the public interest and honor the public trust. With the corruption conviction of recent legislative leaders, we seek to endorse a candidate who will demonstrate that she/he will honor the full commitment of the oath of office, and always represent the public interest above all else.

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.

For far to long, the politics of Albany have failed the voters. The only way to enact meaningful legislative goals in Albany is to change Albany, and it starts from the ground up. As New York has continously been rated as one of the most corrupt states year after year, something must be done.

As a Member of the Assembly, I will hold my self, and my staff, to the highest ethical standard. That means ensuring the people of the North Shore of Staten Island know who I am meeting with, who is influencing me on legislative manners, and fighting backroom deals in Albany. Without the trust of the people, you cannot be an effective leader. I will fight every day to earn the trust of my constituents.

Please return to: Citizens Union, Local Candidates Committee, 299 Broadway, Suite 700 New York, NY 10007
Via email to candidates@citizensunion.org or fax to 212.227.0345 • Call us at 212-227-0342 with questions