



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: Al Taylor

Party Affiliation(s): Democrat

Age: 60

Education: NYC Public Schools; Lehman College, BA; Nyack College/Alliance Theological Seminary, Master of Divinity

Office Sought/District: NYS Assembly, District 71

Occupation/Employer: Assembly member

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement: Chief of Staff for Assemblyman Denny Farrell,

District Leader, State Committee member

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

Campaign Contact Information

Campaign Manager Name: Richard Fife

Additional Staff Contact:

Address: 2542 7th Avenue, New York, NY 10039

Telephone: 917-617-4188

Fax:

Website: ALTaylor.org


Email: info@ALTaylor.org

Twitter:

Facebook:

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="checkbox"/> YES / NO
Are you willing to be interviewed by CU's Local Candidates Committee?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES / NO
<i>(Please note: interviews are prerequisites for Citizens Union endorsements.)</i>	
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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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="checkbox"/> 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. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support / Oppose
b. No-excuse absentee voting	b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support / Oppose
c. Election Day voter registration	c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support / Oppose
d. Re-enfranchisement of people on parole automatically <u>through legislation</u> , without requiring a Certificate of Good Conduct or Relief	d. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support / Oppose
e. Automatic voter registration, unless the potential voter opts out	e. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support / Oppose
f. Consolidated state and federal primaries	f. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support / Oppose
g. Electronic poll books	g. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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="checkbox"/> 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="checkbox"/> 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="checkbox"/> 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 / Oppose
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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. Reducing gun violence – continue my lifetime work to reduce gun violence through work in the community and by passing sensible gun control laws.
2. Fighting for tenants and to protect affordable housing – work to protect tenants and to close New York’s loophole ridden rent laws by repealing vacancy decontrol and preferential rent law.
3. Improving our public schools – so every child has the opportunity to succeed including finally meeting the State’s CFE commitment.
4. Passing election, campaign finance and ethics reform – must take money out of politics and make it easier for people to vote.
5. Provide excellent constituent service – residents of this district need someone who is there for them and can cut through the red tape to get them the help they need.

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.

I will conduct my political affairs with honesty and integrity. Being an elected official is truly an honor. It is public service – literally serving the public. I take that trust very seriously. From growing up poor, to serving as a Minister and as Denny Farrell’s Chief of Staff, and now as an Assembly member, I see the trust people place in their elected officials and the difference we can make in people’s lives. I will not violate that trust and will work tirelessly to serve the people who elected me. And with a President that continues to attack our values and marginalize our people, it is more important than ever that we provide honest leadership people can believe in. I look forward to working with Citizens Union to advance a reform agenda.

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