



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: Brian Barnwell

Party Affiliation(s): D

Age: 32

Education:

Arizona State University – BA, Albany Law School – JD

Office Sought/District:

NYS Assembly District 30

Occupation/Employer:

NYS Assembly

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Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement:

NYS Assembly District 30

Run a volunteer group that makes PBJ sandwiches for the needy

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

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### Campaign Contact Information

Campaign Manager Name: Brian Barnwell

Additional Staff Contact: Steve Raga

Address:

Po Box 9056, Astoria NY 11103

Telephone: 917 363 7081

Fax:

Website:

Email: [barnwell2016@gmail.com](mailto:barnwell2016@gmail.com)

Twitter: @Barnwell30

Facebook: Barnwell4NY

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

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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: Brian Barnwell	Date: 7/10/18

## 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 <b>(Need more info)</b> 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 (Need more info)
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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.

I have voted time and time again for election law and campaign finance reform. Every time one of these issues came to the floor, I voted for in-favor of reform. Whether it was for no excuse absentee voting, early voting, closing the LLC loophole, and/or taking away the pensions of corrupt officials, I have voted in favor of reform. My record shows my

commitment to reform. Furthermore, I think we can even do better. I think outside income should be banned, not just reduced.



### 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. Reforming the Affordable Housing Formula – I promised to introduce legislation to reform the AMI formula in affordable housing calculations so the affordability calculation would reflect the zip code AMI where the project is located. I did introduce such a bill and have over 20 co-sponsors. A5505A.

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2. Tax Breaks for Seniors as they age. I promised to introduce a bill that would lower Seniors' property taxes as they age. A7628A does just that.

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3. Vote to remove corrupt officials pensions. I voted on that measure introduced by AM Buchwald, and I am also a co-sponsor on the version of Sandy Galef's bill.

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4. Education: I promised to never give up the fight for Foundation Aid. I have continued that fight.

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5. Close the LLC loophole in Campaign Finance.

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I have voted in favor of every bill that has been presented (Kavanagh and Simon) that would close this loophole. I have co-sponsored them as well.

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**TOP FIVE 2018 CAMPAIGN PROMISES OR GOALS**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

Continue the push for Affordable Housing Reform (A5505A)

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Continue the push for lowering Property Taxes for Seniors (A7628A)

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Remove the MCI program that landlords are abusing (Bill # pending)

4. \_\_\_\_\_

Continue with ethics and election law reforms (detailed above in my previous votes)

5. \_\_\_\_\_

Continue to fight for more and more education funding

#### 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.

Continue to be as open as possible in regard to what I am doing and what legislation I am fighting for. I respond to every email and message personally. Furthermore, constituents have my personal cell phone number and are always invited to call me directly. They do.



Via email to [candidates@citizensunion.org](mailto:candidates@citizensunion.org) or fax to 212.227.0345 • Call us at 212-227-0342 with questions