



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.

**Biographical Information**

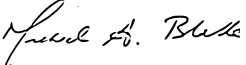
Candidate Name:	Michael Alexander Blake		
Party Affiliation(s):	Democratic	Age:	35
Education:	BA, Journalism, Medill School, Northwestern University		
Office Sought/District:	Assembly, 79th District		
Occupation/Employer:	Assembly, 79th District		
Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement:	Biography is attached.		

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

**Campaign Contact Information**

Campaign Manager Name:	Sabrina Philson	Additional Staff Contact:	Ali Dakich
Address:	PO Box 208		
Telephone:	3176742382	Fax:	
Website:	votemichaelblake.com	Email:	sabrina79districtbx@gmail.com
Twitter:	@MrMikeBlake	Facebook:	Michael Blake
If elected, which legislative conference will you join (e.g., Republican, Democrat, other)?	Democrat		

## 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: 	Date: 1/1 8

## 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
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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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I absolutely support greater transparency. It is necessary for the good of our democracy and our state. We must find ways for more candidates to have fairer opportunities and access to pursuing office while reducing influence of outside entities. I oppose permanent decisions as we simply don't know the parameters of future educational strategies and leadership to make such a decision unilaterally.

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.



### 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. Two years ago, I lead the effort for New York State to become and still be the only state in the country to create the My Brother's Keeper program so that educational strategies on changing the narrative for Boys and Young Men of Color can be implemented.  
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2. Last year, along with Speaker Heastie and Assembly Member Joe Lentol, we lead the charge to Raise The Age of criminal responsibility for 16 and 17 year olds. It is necessary to create fairness for our young people.  
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3. This year, I lead the effort for \$250 million to be dedicated towards New York City Housing Authority developments so that quality of life improvements could begin at scale.  
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4. Along with Assembly Member Crystal Peoples-Stokes, we have successfully secured funding for the Diversity In Medicine Scholarships so that people of color may pursue their medical careers.  
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5. I lead the effort for funding for the waiver of Advanced Placement exam fees across the state.  
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**TOP FIVE 2018 CAMPAIGN PROMISES OR GOALS**

1. Advance the implementation of the Empire State Poverty Reduction Initiative to see a dramatic change as it leads to poverty and affordability

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2. Continue to demand transparency and action on the positive lead testing at NYCHA developments

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3. Demand Discovery For Justice so that Open Discovery laws are implemented within Criminal Justice reform.

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4. Increase the actual spending happening towards Minority and Women Business Enterprises, not just the creation of goals

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5. Specialized High School entrance process

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#### 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 have and will continue to publicly share our priorities, actions, considerations prior to a decision so that constituents understand our rationale. It is critical that we honestly share that there are multiple factors that impact decisions.

Economic Development, Education and Equity is our vision and will continue to be our foundation. More transparency before more action.

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