



Candidate Questionnaire
 Local Candidates Committee
 NYS 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 September 14th.** Responses to these questions will be one of several factors Citizens Union uses to evaluate candidates running for New York State Comptroller, and to issue an endorsement in 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: Mark Dunlea

Party Affiliation(s): Green Party

Age: 64

Education: BS Management RPI; Juris Doctor Albany School

Office Sought/District: NYS Comptroller

Occupation/Employer: Organizer / Attorney

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement:

Resume attached

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

Campaign Contact Information

Campaign Manager Name: Peter LaVenja

Additional Staff Contact:

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I. AFFIRMATIONS

Have you completed required campaign finance filings?

YES

Are you willing to be interviewed by CU's Local Candidates Committee?

YES

(Please note: interviews are prerequisites for Citizens Union endorsements.)

Signature of Candidate:

Date: 9/17/18

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8. What are the key areas in state government, local government, and in school districts that you have identified where New York State can realize significant fiscal savings? How would you use the Office of the NYS Comptroller to help achieve those savings?

The single biggest way the state could save money is by enacting a single payer universal health care system. Various studies have indicated that overall health care spending would decrease by \$30 to \$50 billion a year. A state single payer system could also help eliminate the need to devote most of the county property tax levy to paying for Medicaid. I helped re-organize the single payer movement in NYS by co-founding Single Payer NY which has passed NY Health the last four years in the state Assembly. I unsuccessfully tried to convince Tom DiNapoli to have the state comptroller do a study of the fiscal impact on a single payer healthcare system.

As Comptroller, I will be an advocate for fair taxes. I will oppose state budgets that fail to comply with the resolution to the lawsuits on school funding requiring the state to increase funding for inner-city and rural schools. I will advocate to restore state revenue sharing with local governments to the 8% level required by the former Section 54 of the state finance law, as opposed to the current 0.4%. It is also under that the janitor in Trump Tower pays a higher percentage of their income for state and local taxes than Trump and other wealthy New Yorkers.

For nearly two decades I have campaigned to overhaul the corporate welfare slush fund – known as economic development – that is too often used to waste billions of tax dollars to reward political campaign contributors. As Executive Director of Hunger Action Network one of my roles is to help identify and create jobs to assist low and moderate income individuals, including welfare participants, to become economically independent. I helped draft legislation to set corporate accountability standards for such payments, including clear contractual obligations as to the number of jobs to be created; claw back provisions if the jobs were not created; and wage and labor standards for the jobs that were created. These reforms have still not been adopted.

The state should establish benchmarks to compare economic development subsidies to investments in traditional public infrastructure. Economic development projects are presented without an alternatives analyses that presents different options for public investments.

sources can assist with siting of renewables. She added that in Europe it has been public pension funds that have led the development of off shore wind, where the newest projects are coming in at 5.5 cents per kwh without the need for subsidies.

One issue that has hindered the state's program for solar on schools is the need to have third-party agreements. The state Comptroller should assist in facilitating this happen.

The comptroller should also address the credit obstacles that have hindered the state's implementation of the law to energy retrofit a million homes and create tens of thousands of living wage jobs.

We should also look at a public bank as a way to lower costs for local government, especially school boards.

Unfair and abusive monetary and lending practices by the banking system are a major cause of economic problems. Many small business and community initiatives are unable to raise the capital needed to finance their work and/or are forced to pay usurious rates. New York should create a state-owned bank to target investment into the new technologies and businesses of a sustainable green economy. Public investment is the fastest way to jump-start private job creation.

The state bank would be capitalized by the deposits of state tax revenues, and possibly a portion of state pension funds if agreed to by government workers.

For nearly 100 years the state of North Dakota has operated a public bank that provides, in partnership with community banks and credit unions, low-cost financing for farms and businesses, home mortgages and student loans and public infrastructure projects. More recently, the newly elected Democratic governor of New Jersey, Phil Murphy, has voiced support for creating a public bank in his state. Residents of Los Angeles will vote on whether to create a city public bank this November.

North Dakota has the lowest foreclosure rate in the country, the lowest credit card default rate, and the lowest unemployment rate. It has no debt at all, and it has had no bank failures at least in the last decade. The bank has been extremely profitable, providing significant revenue to the state budget.

Unlike private banks, which are legally bound to think first of the quarterly profits of their shareholders, the Bank of North Dakota is obligated to serve the community. Like private banks, a publicly-owned bank has the ability to create money in the form of bank credit on its books, and it provides, in partnership with community banks and credit unions, low-cost financing for farms and businesses, home mortgages and student loans and public infrastructure projects.

A coalition of groups recently called for the creation of a public bank for NYC. The bank would make equitable investments that support low-income housing, union and living wage jobs for residents, democratically-controlled clean energy, public infrastructure, cooperative ownership, and small businesses, prioritizing minority and women-owned businesses and locally-based enterprises. The bank would foster community wealth-building and neighborhood-led development, including by financing cooperative and not-for-profit models that provide long-term public benefit. The bank would offer high-quality, affordable financial services to low-income, immigrant and communities of color.

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 their stances on the issues above, Citizens Union will assess candidates on the commitments they are making to voters during the campaign. What are the top five promises or goals you are making to the voters during this campaign?

We thank you very much for your response. Please feel free to use additional paper if the space provided is not sufficient.

TOP FIVE 2018 CAMPAIGN PROMISES OR GOALS

1. _____ Divest the state pension funds from fossil Fuels.

2. Advocate for fair taxes.

3. Increased efforts to address corruption at the state and local level.

4. Increase audits of state and local government performance.

5. Advocate for public campaign finance and ethics reform.

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.

My career has been devoted to public service. As a student at RPI, I was one of the co-founders of NYPIRG (New York

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