

CITIZENS UNION CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Date: July 13, 2018

Candidate Name: Leecia Eve

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Office Seeking: New York State Attorney General

Age: 53

Education: Buffalo Public Schools, Smith College (AB), Harvard Law School (JD), John F. Kennedy School of Government (MPA)

Occupation/Employer: Verizon, VP for State Government Affairs (NY, NJ, CT)

Previous Offices, Campaigns, Community/Civic Involvement: I was a candidate for New York Lieutenant Governor in 2005/2006. Most of my career has been in public service. See attached bio.

Campaign Manager: Eric Eve

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I. AFFIRMATIONS

YES, I have completed the required campaign finance filings.

YES, I would be willing to be interviewed by CU's Candidates Committee.

II. CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

1. What will be your top priorities if elected Attorney General?

We are facing a hostile White House that is seeking to roll back the progress we have achieved in New York. Priority One will be standing up for the rights of all New Yorkers, and ensuring that the rule of law wins the day here in New York. New York needs a chief legal officer who will ensure that everyone has a fair shot and an opportunity to thrive while also establishing legal standards that will stand the rest of time. In terms of specific policies, I will focus on criminal justice reform, housing discrimination, safeguarding environmental protections, advancing the rights of women and protecting vulnerable New Yorkers.

2. How would you address fraud and public misconduct of elected officials? Do you believe that greater responsibility should be given to the office to investigate corruption and how would you achieve that?

I will use every tool, including prosecuting corrupt individuals to the fullest extent of the law. I will also champion legislation that strengthens the state's ethics laws.

Yes.

3. What do you think the role of Attorney General should be in enforcing election and campaign finance laws? Would you publicly ask the governor to empower you with greater authority to oversee public corruption and enforce related laws, particularly in those areas?

The Attorney General should play the central role in prosecuting the most significant violations of election and campaign finance laws.

Yes.

4. Do you support measures to limit the role of money in elections and politics, such as substantially reducing contribution limits and/or instituting a matching public campaign financing system at the state level? If elected, would you set an example on campaign finance reform by voluntarily limiting the size of campaign contributions you receive by an amount significantly less than the current limit, should reforms not be enacted?

Yes, I support substantially reducing contribution limits and public financing of elections at the state level.

No.

5. Do you believe there is a conflict of interest in raising funds from companies you may regulate and have to take action against? Are there parameters you set or you believe should be established in statute to limit potential conflicts of interest?

I believe there can be a conflict of interest. I do not believe a statute on the issue is required or is practicable but I would make great efforts to reduce the appearance of any potential conflict of interest.

6. What do you believe is the proper role of the Office of Attorney General in monitoring the financial industries and ensuring Wall Street's compliance with finance regulations, as well as any related criminal laws? If elected, would you push to reform legislation regarding oversight of financial industries?

The proper role is as an aggressive one in ensuring compliance with finance regulations and related criminal laws.

Yes.

7. The previous Attorneys General have given priority to litigating against federal action that they deemed harmful to the state. What would be your approach to addressing such federal policy?

Litigation against federal action is more important than ever given the assault by the Trump Administration against so many fundamental rights that we as New Yorkers hold dear, have fought hard to achieve and for which we have championed nationally. I would aggressively continue those litigation efforts.

8. If elected Attorney General, what organizational changes would you make to the Department of Law, if any?

In running any large organizations, it is almost always best to first experience the organization's functioning first hand to facilitate the best assessment of the need for any structural or organizational changes. That is the approach I would take if elected.

9. What are your thoughts on striking the appropriate balance between the Attorney General's role as the lawyer representing the state's officials, and as an independently elected government official?

I expect that there will be instances where striking that balance could present challenges, especially if a state entity I am representing as the Attorney General takes a position that may have a sound legal basis but is one that I do not believe from a policy perspective is in the best interest of New Yorkers. In such instances, negotiating a settlement of a matter where the state is a defendant may be the most appropriate way to strike that balance and best serve justice and New Yorkers. Striking that balance in the most appropriate way is where my legal experience with the state's highest court, my litigation experience in state and federal courts in New York and in Washington, DC and my policy experience at the state and federal levels of government will best serve New Yorkers.

10. What, if any, are the key social issues of the state that you would address should you be elected to the Office of Attorney General? How would you address them?

At the federal level, I would prioritize fighting as strongly as possible against the assault on immigrant, civil, voting, reproductive, LGBTQ and environmental rights. At the state level, I will focus on housing discrimination and making our criminal justice system more fair while continuing to advance the rights of women and protecting vulnerable New Yorkers.

11. What, if any, would be your top legislative priorities to pursue should you be elected to the Office of Attorney General? What specific solutions would you put forward?

Criminal Justice Reform, including: (1) the legalization of the recreational use of marijuana; (2) the expungement of records of those of who have been convicted based on recreational use; and (3) expansion of alternatives to incarceration for non-violent felons.

Reproductive Rights – I would aggressively advocate for legislation that codifies Roe v. Wade under New York law.

Strengthening our Democracy – I would champion ethics reform and comprehensive election reform that includes, among other provisions, same day registration and “no excuse” absentee ballot voting and other provisions included in federal legislation I crafted called the “Count Every Vote Action”, which the New York Times editorialized as the “Gold Standard for Election Reform.”

III. CAMPAIGN PROMISES MADE TO VOTERS (PAST AND CURRENT)

Top 5 Campaign Promises or Goals

- **Be the strongest fighter possible against the Trump assault on New Yorker’s most fundamental rights.**
- **Criminal Justice Reform**
- **Protecting Reproductive Rights**
- **Making our Democracy Stronger than Ever – Election Reform, Ethics Reform and Campaign Finance Reform**
- **Protecting Vulnerable New Yorkers, including immigrants, survivors of domestic violence and low-wage workers**

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 would lead by example in terms of ethics, have regular public discussions with New Yorkers and publish with specificity my public schedule.

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