



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: Jessica Ramos

Party Affiliation(s): Democratic

Age: 34

Education: Hofstra University

Office Sought/District: New York Senate District 13

Occupation/Employer: My current occupation is my campaign

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement: Previously, I was Director of Latino Media for NYC Mayor Bill De Blasio. Before that, I worked with Social Service Employees Union Local 371 of AFSCME District Council 37 and 32BJ of the Service

Employees International Union

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

Campaign Contact Information

Campaign Manager Name: Karina Jimenez

Additional Staff Contact: John Benjamin

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If elected, which legislative conference will you join
(e.g., Republican, Democrat, other)? Democratic. I am running
against an IDC turncoat

I. AFFIRMATIONS

Have you completed required campaign finance filings?	YES
Are you willing to be interviewed by CU's Local Candidates Committee?	YES
<i>(Please note: interviews are prerequisites for Citizens Union endorsements.)</i> Signature of Candidate:	Date:

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.	
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

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. Support
- b. No-excuse absentee voting b. Support
- c. Election Day voter registration c. Support
- d. Re-enfranchisement of people on parole automatically through legislation, without requiring a Certificate of Good Conduct or Relief d. Support
- e. Automatic voter registration, unless the potential voter opts out e. Support
- f. Consolidated state and federal primaries f. Support
- g. Electronic poll books g. Support

4. Reform the special election process, utilizing a nonpartisan special election for state legislative seats and eliminate delays in filling vacancies. Support

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
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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
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7. Drastically reduce campaign contribution limits and reduce them even further from

registered lobbyists and those who do business with the state. Support

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
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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
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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

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

12. Empower the attorney general to investigate and prosecute election law malfeasance and cases of public corruption.

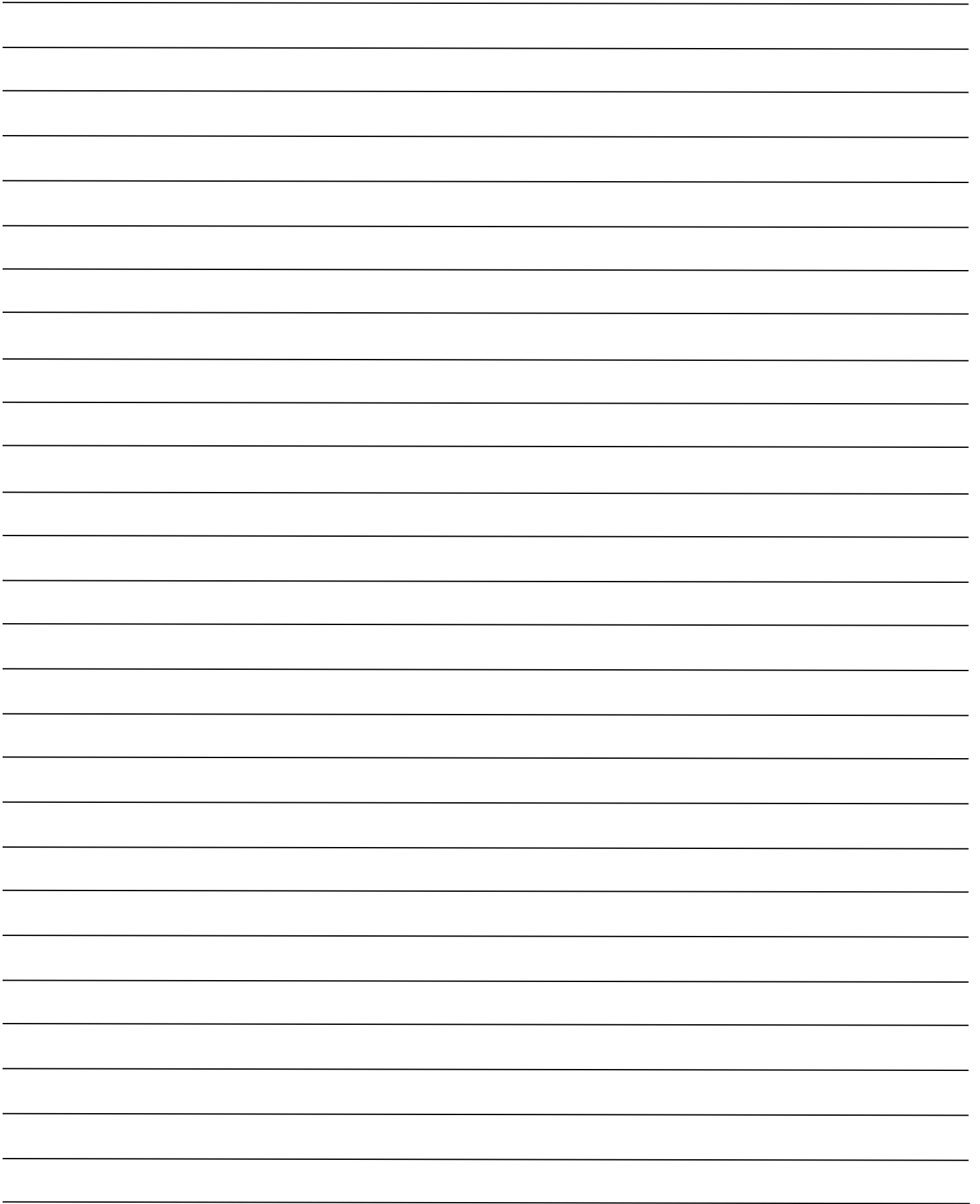
Support

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

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

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. My first priority is to fix the MTA. Millions of New Yorkers rely on our public transit every day. Delays and cancellations on trains and buses mean people are late for work, risking loss of hours and pay. I am a lifelong straphanger, and have experienced all the ups and downs of the MTA with the rest of this city. The state controls the MTA budget and it must be expanded so that our transport can best serve New Yorkers.
2. Second, our public schools need to be properly funded. New York City public schools, especially those in communities of color, are owed nearly \$4 billion in foundation aid by the state. The Republicans who control the senate, enabled and aided by IDC members like my opponent, have held this funding from our schools. I will ensure that our schools get all the money they are owed.
3. Third, I want to keep rents affordable. I want to empower the city to make its own decisions with regard to rent laws, reform the Major Capital Improvements law, and end the preferential rent scam. I also want to repeal vacancy decontrol, so that rents don't shoot up when a rent-controlled tenant moves out, and to repeal the vacancy bonus, so there's no incentive for landlords to harass tenants in order to increase turnover.
4. Fourth, I am running to serve the second largest LGBTQI population in New York. Recently, I released my LGBTQI agenda with seven points, one for every color of the rainbow. 1. I want to ban "conversion therapy" for minors. 2. I want to increase funding for LGBTQI homeless youth and seniors. 3. I want to legally stop the "gay and trans panic" defense for violence against LGBTQI people. 4. I support the Child-Parent Security Act, to compensate surrogacy to help LGBTQI people start families. Reproductive justice is for everyone! 5. I want to ensure that condoms cannot be used as evidence for prostitution. 6. I support the Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act to protect trans, non-binary, and other individuals as a protected class. 7. I want to expand MWBE contracting opportunities to trans entrepreneurs.
5. Fifth, climate change is one of the most pressing issues of our time. I pledge to support the expansion of green energy, including solar, wind, and hydro power, to replace outdated fossil fuels. New York State should be at the cutting edge of clean power, clean air, clean water, and a safe environment. Where we can, we must take advantage of natural, renewable energy. Where we cannot, we must use the cleanest possible fuels to reduce carbon pollution and emissions that present a danger to our health. I will fight for an environmental justice platform, to address economic and demographic disparities in environmental safety, to reduce exposure to pollutants, health problems, and childhood lead exposure.

IV. ETHICAL REPRESENTATION OF CONSTITUENTS

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