



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: **Diane Savino**

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Party Affiliation(s): **Democratic** Age: **54**

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Education: **Graduated Saint John's University, Cornell School of Industrial and Labor Relations, B.A.**

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Office Sought/District: **State Senator**

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Occupation/Employer: **First Elected, Senator, New York state Senate, Nov. 2003, Last Elected Nov. 2016**

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**Up for re-election 2018**

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Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement: **Elected in 2003 to NY State Senate**

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

**Campaign Contact Information**

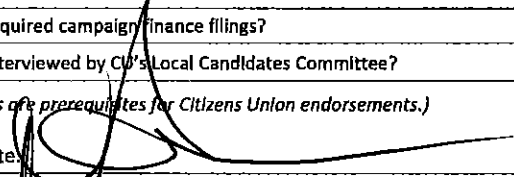
Campaign Manager Name:	Additional Staff Contact:
Address:	
Telephone:	Fax:
Website:	Email:
Twitter:	Facebook:

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

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I. AFFIRMATIONS

Have you completed required campaign finance filings?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES / NO
Are you willing to be interviewed by CU's Local Candidates Committee?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES / NO
<i>(Please note: interviews are prerequisites for Citizens Union endorsements.)</i>	
Signature of Candidate: 	Date: 8/1/18

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.	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 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.	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 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 through legislation, 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	<input checked="" type="radio"/> a Support/Oppose <input checked="" type="radio"/> b Support/Oppose <input checked="" type="radio"/> c Support/Oppose <input checked="" type="radio"/> d Support/Oppose <input checked="" type="radio"/> e Support/Oppose <input checked="" type="radio"/> f Support/Oppose <input checked="" type="radio"/> 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 / <input checked="" type="radio"/> 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.	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 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 / <input checked="" type="radio"/> 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 / <input checked="" type="radio"/> 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 / <input checked="" type="radio"/> 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 / <input checked="" type="radio"/> 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 / <input checked="" type="radio"/> Oppose
12. Empower the attorney general to investigate and prosecute election law malfeasance and cases of public corruption.	Support / <input type="radio"/> 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 / <input checked="" type="radio"/> 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.

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## II. Candidate Questions

Having spent my tenure as a New York State Senator, I believe that it is a necessary quality of elected officials to serve the interests of the people that they represent. During my 14 years serving the 23<sup>rd</sup> District of New York, I believe I have embodied this principle. I voted yes in support of S3331 in order to achieve fair redistricting based on the creation of an independent committee to redistrict New York.

I think it is integral for third parties to join the electoral process in NY so we can have representatives that feel as though they can support their constituency's beliefs without feeling bound to party politics. I formerly belonged to the Independent Democratic Conference in order to fight for my district and represent their beliefs. I support many campaign finance measures which would include eliminating excessive contributions to "housekeeping" accounts, as well as unlimited expenditures by party committees. I believe this would eliminate the abuse of campaign finance.

I voted for the Public Integrity Reform Act in 2011 which created tremendous transparency as it required strict disclosure, and a strong independent monitor and broad oversight of the New York State Government. I have made effort in many years to increase investment in education. Overall, my goal is to achieve a government for all New Yorkers.

## III. Campaign Promises Made to Voters (Past and Current)

### Top Five 2018 Campaign Promises or Goals

1. I am still working to fully execute the campaign promises from last election. My track record shows I have made significant progress in all areas listed.

### Top Five Campaign Promises from Last Election and Action on them

1. Enacting medical cannabis program
2. Promoting retirement securing by enacting secure choice retirement plan
3. Funding for district
4. Funding other constituent interests
5. Protecting rights of workers now more than ever

## III. Ethical Representation of Constituents

I will always represent the public interest to the best of my ability. I have made my job as a senator my top priority and I have no outside employment, however that it is not to say that outside employment is necessarily deleterious.