



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: Alessandra Biaggi

Party Affiliation(s): Democrat Age: 32

Education: B.A. New York University, J.D. Fordham Law

Office Sought/District: State Senate District 34

Occupation/Employer: Attorney, Full-Time Candidate

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement:

Counsel’s Office, Executive Chamber, Office of Governor Cuomo, Deputy National Operations Director, Hillary for America, Assistant General Counsel,
New York State Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery, Legal Fellow, New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal
(Please feel free to affix any additional information such as a résumé, campaign brochure, or issue statements.)

Campaign Contact Information

Campaign Manager Name: Ben Nanna Additional Staff Contact: Micky Ayoub, micky@biaggi4ny.com

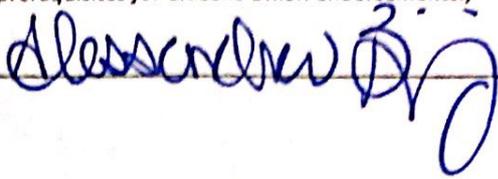
Address: 1039 Peace Street, Pelham, New York 10803

Telephone: 908-875-6387 Fax:

Website: biaggi4ny.com Email: biaggi@biaggi4ny.com

Twitter: @biaggi4ny Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Biaggi4NY/>

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

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: 12 July, 2018

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
---	------------------

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
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

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
--	------------------

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

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. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

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.

Reforming the culture of Albany -- from issues of ethics and transparency to the urgent need for serious campaign finance reform -- is one of the reasons why I got in this race. Having worked in Albany, I experienced first hand how stifling the culture can be. I am running to create a culture in Albany that embraces new ideas, and rejects the notion that things can only be done the way they always have been. This starts by expanding access to voting to ensure that every New Yorker has the ability to use their voice. At a time when voting rights are under attack across the country, New York should affirm voting as a fundamental right. Instead, we have some of the most restrictive laws, and as a result, among the lowest voting rates in the US. In 2016, New York had the 8th worst turnout rate in the country. That is why I strongly support the Voter Empowerment Act of New York which would establish automatic voter registration, allow 16- and 17-year-olds to pre-register, expand access to online voter registration, and increase voter privacy and security of registration records. I also support adding same-day registration to this bill.

Equally important, we need a serious overhaul of campaign finance laws. I support the Fair Elections Act which would create public financing of elections. By matching small dollar contributions, this bill would amplify the voices of New Yorkers and make it easier for people of all social classes to run for office. Additionally, I support closing the LLC loophole which allows individuals to exceed the individual contribution limit by funneling money through limited liability corporations.

We also must increase transparency, especially around economic development. I support creating a public database of companies that receive state subsidies for economic development, including the number of jobs they are supposed to create and the number actually created. Companies that receive state money on the promise of job creation must be held accountable for those goals. Additionally, it is vital that we enact significant reforms to JCOPE. For one, we should eliminate political appointees to JCOPE. And we must increase transparency. It is unacceptable that the public has no information about investigations that JCOPE is conducting. There is an ongoing investigation of allegations of sexual misconduct against my opponent, however, no information about the status of the probe has been released. As I wrote in a letter to legislative leaders calling for a reform of the executive law to allow greater disclosure by JCOPE: the wheels of justice often turn slowly. In cases of sexual assault and harassment, New Yorkers should not have to worry that they are not turning at all.

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) Advocating for and advancing women's rights. First and foremost, we must pass the Reproductive Health Act and Comprehensive Contraceptive Coverage Act, to codify Roe v. Wade in New York State law and ensure that women have access to *all* forms of contraception. I will also fight to require all businesses who contract with the state to have appropriate systems in place to respond to claims of sexual harassment. We also need to work towards universal access to childcare in New York State. New York's Paid Family Leave Policy is an important step, but we must go further to ensure that every family has access to childcare in New York State. This will make it easier for women from all socioeconomic backgrounds to participate in the labor force and reduce a significant economic burden for many families in New York.
- 2) Ensuring that schools in the district are fully funded. District 34 is owed \$88 million in school funding by the state -- these cuts disproportionately impact schools in low income communities and communities of color. I will fight to make sure that the schools in District 34 and across the state receive the funding they are owed under New York State law.
- 3) Making sure that *everyone* in the district has access to affordable housing. Too many people in district 34 and New York are overextended on rent, face unacceptable conditions and harassment from their landlords, and live in fear of eviction day-to-day. In a state as wealthy as New York, this is unacceptable. I will fight to close the loopholes that contribute to the loss of rent stabilized units. This includes closing the eviction bonus that allows landlords to raise the rent by 20% when a unit becomes vacant, banning preferential rent increases, and ending vacancy decontrol. I also want to pass circuit breaker legislation to provide property tax relief for low and middle-income New Yorkers and repeal the Urstadt law which prevents New York from adopting stricter rent restrictions. Housing issues are also of vital concern to the older members of our community. Seniors should never have to worry about losing their housing.
- 4) Passing the New York Health Act. With the Affordable Care Act we have made important progress in expanding access to health care in the United States. But our work is not done. Health care is a human right. Every New Yorker -- and American for that matter -- should have access to quality, affordable care. The New York Health Act will lower health care costs for 98% of New Yorkers and allow us to achieve universal health care coverage in New York State. As the Trump administration continues to gut the Affordable Care Act, moving forward at the state level is more urgent by the day.
- 5) Enacting Serious Campaign Finance Reform. New York has among the least restrictive campaign finance laws in the country, riddled with loopholes that allow special interest money to corrupt the system. We desperately need to lower the contribution limits, close the LLC loophole, and enact public financing of elections—modeled on New York City's successful system. Having a government that truly reflects the public interest depends on this—and fixing this will enable to fix so much else that is wrong in Albany.

These five issues do not begin to scratch the surface of what I would like to see passed in Albany. I will work hard to ensure that issues of governmental reform go to the top of the agenda if I am elected to the State Senate.

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.

Conducting myself in an ethical fashion is of the utmost importance to me. It has been a guiding principle throughout this campaign and in my previous work in government. As State Senator, I will ensure open lines of communication to community groups and constituents. In fact, as I have been talking to voters and organizations throughout this campaign I have been asking them to hold me accountable. I will also make sure to take personal responsibility for creating a culture that values ethical conduct, and has a zero tolerance approach to ethical lapses. I firmly believe it is on the candidate and representative to create a culture in which ethics, transparency, and accountability matter.