



Wednesday, March 16, 2022

Candidate Questionnaire - 2022 Primary

Dear Harrison Douglas Marks,
Congratulations on your decision to run for a seat on the New York Legislature!
Citizens Union appreciates your commitment to serve the public.
In the following pages, you will find questions regarding your positions on various reform issues and your plans for office.
Responses to these questions will be one of several factors Citizens Union uses to evaluate candidates running for office, and to issue our preference for the June primary. Read more about the method, principles, and criteria of the candidate evaluation process [here](#).

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If you wish to be considered, please submit the questionnaire by March 16.

If you seek our support, we will need to schedule an interview with you as part of the evaluation process. Given time constraints and the limited capacity of a member-based organization, we may not be able to evaluate all contests or candidates in this election cycle.

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If you cannot complete the questionnaire in one sitting, you can click Save at the bottom of every page.

Once you submit the questionnaire, you will receive a confirmation email with your responses. Citizens Union will not be able to see your answers unless you submit the form. We plan to make responses to this questionnaire public on our website, printed voters directory, and other appropriate venues (your contact information will not be published).

For any questions, please email candidates@citizensunion.org

We thank you very much for your response.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Name

Harrison Douglas Marks

Office Sought (New York State)

Assembly

District Number

75

In which primary

Democratic

What party line/s are you running under?

Democrat

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

Democrat

Age

34

Education

Yale Law School, JD; Yale College, BA

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement

Led the Reimagine New York Commission's efforts on workforce development, small business, and the arts

Website <https://www.harrisonmarksforny.com/>

Twitter <https://twitter.com/HarrisonDMarks>

Facebook

AFFIRMATIONS

Have you completed the required campaign finance filings?

Yes

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

Yes

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

Signature

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Harrison Mad". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

ETHICS

Do you support replacing Joint Commission on Public Ethics with an effective and independent enforcement body, whose members are not appointed directly by elected officials?

Yes

Do you support the new independent ethics oversight agency to also replace the Legislative Ethics Commission (LEC)?

Yes

Do you support allowing the new ethics body to investigate misconduct more effectively by simplifying its voting rules, giving it the authority to subpoena testimony and documents, empowering it to suspend or terminate public officials (not elected officials), and increasing its transparency?

Yes

Do you support significantly limiting outside compensation earned by state legislators and eliminate stipends, while increasing their pay?

Yes

Do you hold financial interest or serve as an officer on an entity that receives funding from the state? If you do, how will you manage this conflict of interest?

No.

If needed, you may elaborate below on your positions on the previous questions. You may also provide additional information on any actions that you have taken or plan to take to advance your positions on these issues.

No.

ELECTIONS AND VOTING

Election Administration

How would you use your power as a legislator to improve election administration in New York? Feel free to add any policy proposals you support in regards to reforming the BOE.

BOE reform legislation is critical for New Yorkers' right to vote. That's why I would be supportive of bills, like the recent package passed by the Senate Elections Committee, to begin making the changes necessary to such an antiquated agency. Moreover, I would be supportive of any constitutional amendments that would need to be reintroduced to make registering and voting easier in our state.

Do you support removing the constitutional requirement in election administration that empowers the two major political parties to nominate and effectively control election boards?

Yes

Do you support reducing the party-based hiring in boards of elections to the minimum currently required by the constitution?

Yes

Do you support implementing an open, competitive, merit-based hiring process for all election administration staff and certain functions at polls?

Yes

If needed, you may elaborate below on your positions on the previous questions.

Voting Rights

Do you support re-passing the constitutional amendment to enact same-day voter registration, and putting it on the ballot in 2024?

Yes

Do you support re-passing the constitutional amendment to enact no-excuse absentee voting, and putting it on the ballot in 2024?

Yes

If needed, you may elaborate below on your positions on the previous questions. You may also provide additional information on any actions that you have taken or plan to take to advance your positions on these issues.

Open and Competitive Elections

Do you support easing access to the ballot for parties and independent candidates, by returning to the pre-2020 voting and signature thresholds? That includes reducing the voting threshold to become a registered party back to 50,000 votes in a gubernatorial election, and the petition requirement for independent candidates back to 15,000 signatures.

Yes

Do you support reforming the process of filling vacancies in the state legislature by implementing nonpartisan special elections or holding a primary election at least thirty days in advance of the special election?

Yes

Who do you think should draw new district maps every decade in New York? (e.g., the current Independent Redistricting Commission, the Legislature/LATFOR, a new body)

The Independent Redistricting Commission should have the power to draw fair maps. I hope the legislature will make the changes necessary to ensure they are empowered to do that without deadlocking in the future.

If needed, you may elaborate below on your positions on the previous questions. You may also provide additional information on any actions that you have taken or plan to take to advance your positions on these issues.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

Do you support further reducing campaign contribution limits?

Yes

Do you support setting even lower contribution limits for registered lobbyists and those who do business with the state?

Yes

Starting from the next election cycle, New York will have a public campaign finance program, offering matching funds on small donations for candidates who opt in. If you decide to run again in the next election, do you intend to participate in the program?

Yes

Do you support moving the campaign finance matching program to be administered by an independent, nonpartisan body outside of the State Board of Election?

Yes

If needed, you may elaborate below on your positions on the previous questions. You may also provide additional information on any actions that you have taken or plan to take to advance your positions on these issues.

COURT REFORM

Do you support simplifying and consolidating New York State's court system - which includes 11 trial courts - by passing the Chief Judge's proposed constitutional amendment to modernize the courts?

Yes

If needed, you may elaborate below on your positions on the previous questions. You may also provide additional information on any actions that you have taken or plan to take to advance your positions on these issues.

GOALS, PLANS, AND REPRESENTATION

What are the top three campaign promises or goals, and what action will you take to achieve them if elected? Feel free to reference an answer above rather than restate it.

First: Navigate the public health crisis

Second: Fight for a better quality of life

Third: Bring our community and government into the 21st century

If elected, what is the first piece of legislation you would want to introduce? If you are an incumbent, what is the first piece of legislation you would want to pass?

The New York Health Act, continuing Assembly Member Gottfried's legacy

In providing constituent service, what are the major needs of your district's constituents and how will you meet them?

I am excited to serve the people in my district through robust constituent services and by building a responsive team to handle the spectrum of constituent issues that will arise. From my experience, most of my neighbors have called their elected officials' offices to get help with SCRIE/DRIE, quality of life complaints, accessing city and state social services, and questions about how the state budget will affect their life. My approach will be two-pronged: use legislation to address the root of the issue and have an adept team that can troubleshoot the causes of bad policy.

What experience have you had, if any, with good government and reform issues? (e.g. voting and elections, campaign finance, ethics, government transparency and oversight, police accountability). If you've worked to advance these goals, we'd love to hear about it.

I started my career working in the Obama administration, where I saw what it was like to be part of a team looking for new ways to make government work for people. I then came back home to New York, where I met my wife, started my family, and got an inside view on economic growth as I advised business leaders.

After COVID hit, I stepped up to run the Reimagine New York Commission's efforts to support our state's workforce and small businesses in the wake of the pandemic. We worked to rethink how New York can create more opportunities through better jobs, improved regulations, support for small businesses, and

enhanced skill-building.

I've spent countless hours focused on COVID's impact and how we can best move forward. Even still, I felt differently when I began walking around Chelsea with my baby in a stroller. After my son Henry was born this past summer, the vacant storefronts seemed to multiply, the trash seemed to collect, and the streets seemed to empty out. And I saw how the urgent calls from my neighbors for help and change often went unanswered.

At the same time as we face enormous challenges, my work on the Reimagine New York Commission showed me that we also have an unprecedented opportunity to reimagine a brighter future—to provide greater support to working families, to expand access to high-quality careers, and to push our government into the digital age.

How long have you lived in the district in which you are running?

6 years

Have you lived in the district before this year's redistricting?

Yes

For incumbents: If your district has changed significantly following this year's redistricting, how do you intend to run your office to serve the needs of the new constituents you now represent?

PATH TO VICTORY

What is your win number (the number of votes needed to win this race), and what is your plan to achieve that number?

Because of the large field in the primary, I need 30% of the vote or 6300 votes. I am building a broad coalition of neighbors, labor, and good government groups to amplify my message and cross the finish line.

What are your current fundraising numbers, if different than the last campaign finance filing?

More than \$100,000

How many individual donors do you have?

More than 200

Please indicate any endorsements that your campaign has received, if applicable (you can also share a link to a list of endorsements)

ADDITIONAL INFO

Please feel free to attach any additional information such as resume, campaign brochures, or issues statements.



What else would you like us to know about yourself?

Please review your answers by clicking PREVIEW ANSWERS below. You can submit the questionnaire at the bottom of the preview page by clicking SUBMIT. Once you click SUBMIT, you will receive a confirmation email with a PDF file containing your responses. If you don't see the email, please check your spam box.

If you have any further questions, you may contact us at candidates@citizensunion.org

Responses to the questionnaire 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.

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