



Candidate Questionnaire

Local Candidates Committee

District Attorney Elections 2019

Citizens Union appreciates your response to the following questionnaire related to policy issues facing New York City and our interest in reforming city and state government. **Please return the questionnaire to us as soon as possible, and no later than May 1st.** Responses to these questions will be one of several factors Citizens Union uses to evaluate candidates running for District Attorney, 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: Betty Lugo	Candidate Cell Phone: 917 200-6017
Party Affiliation(s): Democrat	Age: 59
Education: Juris Doctor, Albany Law School	
Office Sought (including district): Queens District Attorney	
Occupation/Employer: Pacheco & Lugo, PLLC, Managing Member	

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement:
 President, Puerto Rican Bar Association (2015-2016); Regional President, HNBA. See Resume attached.

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

Campaign Contact Information

Campaign Manager Name: Carmen A. Pacheco	Additional Staff Contact: Alejandro Zayas
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Affirmations

Have you completed required campaign finance filings?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES / NO
Are you willing to be interviewed by CU's Local Candidates Committee?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES / NO

(Please note: interviews are prerequisites of being considered for Citizens Union endorsements.)

Signature of Candidate: Betty Lugo	Date: 5/3/19
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I. CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

Please state your position on the following issues by using the space provided below each question or a separate sheet of paper. You may also provide additional information on any actions that you have taken or plan to take to advance your positions on these issues.

1. What trends do you see in criminal activity that the district attorney's office should address?

No Cash Bail ; education and outreach to all communities,
open file discovery. Mediation Unit will be established to handle all
nonviolent low level offenses that do not involve violence, fraud or
vehicular assaults.
The D.A.'s office must reduce incarceration and focus on homicide and
violent crimes, as well as fraud and corruption matters. Low level offenses
e.g. broken windows, petit larceny, loitering, open beer, will not be
prosecuted.
low level drug possession and no prosecution of sex offenders.

2. What would your priorities be as district attorney? What would you change in the incumbent's approach to fulfilling the responsibilities of the district attorney?

Diversity in the office, make the office more representative of the
diverse community it serves.
2. Establish new units: Elder Abuse and Prevention Unit; Conviction
Integrity Unit; Community relations unit;
3. Transition team with diversity and inclusion unit to review all
staff, hire, promote, train staff with my new policies.
4. Monitor all staff on a daily/weekly basis.
5. Organize meetings with judiciary, defense bar, community organizations,
bar associations, etc. to explain new policies and promote respect.

3. What about your background and approach to the position differentiates you from the others running for district attorney?

I have been an attorney for 35 years. I was the first Hispanic Woman
to work in the Nassau County District Attorney's Office. I also
worked at the Manhattan and Albany County District Attorneys office
as a law student.
I am a founding partner of Pacheco & Lugo, PLLC, the first Hispanic
Woman owned law firm in New York.

I have represented individuals and community, faith based and
nonprofit organizations to increase diversity and inclusion
in the community and the legal profession and for true justice

for all in our society. One of those cases was a federal case against an entity that was preying on the minority and small business community charging them usurious interest rate.
RCM Executive Gallery v. Rols Capital (1997) Cypress Hills Cemetery

4. What role do you think the district attorney plays in anti-corruption efforts and building public trust, and how would you fulfill that role once in office?

The District Attorney should be instrumental in building public trust Hence, anti-corruption and prosecutorial integrity is of utmost concern. Education and outreach programs will be held to inform all communities of the role of the D.A's office and how they can report instances of corruption anonymously if necessary. A 24 hour hotline will be established for this purpose.

Misconduct and corruption will not be tolerated and will be prosecuted firm but fair.

5. To what extent would your office use the district attorney's existing authority to investigate and monitor elected officials' conduct in relation to issues like campaign finance compliance and proper use of government resources and influence?

My office will work closely with all law enforcement agencies, including the attorney general's office to investigate and properly monitor and combat corruption. Confidential complaints will be taken to protect the victims of political and other corruption.

6. Do you believe more needs to be done to ease the re-entry of formerly incarcerated persons into society and, if so, what would you propose?

Absolutely. I have already worked on a Re-entry career fair for the recently incarcerated with the Doe Fund and the Puerto Rican Bar Assn and other Minority bar assns. We are planning another program in southeast queens with the minority bar associations, Judge Milton Tingling, NY County Clerk and other community organizations that

will assist in providing jobs, assistance, clothing, and legal services as well as voter's registration and motor vehicle applications to assist the recently incarcerated in re-entering the workforce. Also work with licensed social works and faith based leaders to assist them.

7. Do you think that the number of incidents of police misconduct is a problem? If so, what would you propose to facilitate more effective oversight of police misconduct? What data do you have to support your point of view?

Yes, incidents of police misconduct is a major problem as it lessens the public trust in the criminal justice system. There must be more transparency and accountability and disclosure of misconduct to the public. I am in favor of repealing 50A and letting the respective Judge view the history of police misconduct information to prevent wrongful convictions and to promote true justice for all and respect for all communities.

The law enforcement communities will be educated on my policies and reforms and compliance will be mandatory. My Early Case Assessment bureau and felony screening unit will ensure that the charges are proper and mediate those charges and decline to prosecute where necessary.

8. What are your views on the state legislation recently enacted with regard to discovery and use of bail?

I wholly support the open discovery legislation and am happy it passed. Open discovery assists in the prompt resolution of matters.

Bail should not be used to punish the poor or minority communities. As such

I will not ask for bail in nonviolent misdemeanor matters and will look to faith based organizations and community organizations to assist with more community involvement of the accused so that the lives of the accused are not unfairly penalized.

9. Do you support requiring police interrogations to be videotaped?

yes. Transparency and accountability is of utmost priority. In addition, where confidentiality is an issue, alternatives will be made to protect the victim and the innocent.

10. How do you feel about the city's plan to close the Rikers Island complex? What concerns do you have and what are the potential benefits and pitfalls of the plan?

While I am in favor of closing the Rikers Island Complex, I believe the jails should be refurbished and split of into categories, violent v. nonviolent. I will review and consider reduction of bails and/or eliminate bail on pending cases for nonviolent offenses and anyone that has been incarcerated for more than five years on violent offenses.

My community relations unit and re-entry program will include members of all diverse groups from the community to report on status of an accused.

I am against the jails coming into established communities, e.g. kew gardens or others. The jails should remain at Riker's Island.

Additional Comments:

As an experienced trial attorney and former prosecutor, I am the best qualified candidate to serve as the Queens District Attorney. My respected background and involvement with the community and my demonstrated success of representing individuals and communities of all different backgrounds in Queens County and throughout New York State have prepared me for this position. In addition, my bar association involvement and leadership in the legal profession, Past President, Puerto Rican Bar Association, Past Regional President, Hispanic National Bar Association, Vice Chair, NYSBA Trial Lawyers Section and House of Delegates Member, past Chair Committee on Diversity and Inclusion as well as many others, see resume attached. has prepared me for this position, I am demonstrated and proven leader in the legal profession and in the community. As Chair, of the PRBA Judiciary Co Committee, I am familiar with most of all of the Judges in New York City and have their respect and admiration for all my work in the legal profession I am endorsed by Retired Judge Luis A. Gonzalez, former presiding Judge of the Appellate Division, First Department, Retired Judge Gilbert Badillo, Retired Judge Gloria Sosa-Lintner, Assemblywoman Latrice Walker and Joanne Simon, Former Congressman Ed Townes, District Leader Dilia Schack Rodriguez Cesar A. Perales (former N.Y.S. Secretary of State)

II. CAMPAIGN PROMISES MADE TO VOTERS

What are the top five campaign promises you are making to the voters during this campaign?

If elected, Citizens Union will use these promises to evaluate your performance while in office, as well as to evaluate your candidacy in the future.

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 2019 CAMPAIGN PROMISES OR GOALS

1. True Justice for All- Hire, retain and promote diverse staff and have
policy that all ADA, investigators and staff become involved of a
diverse and minority community based organization. Respect for victims
of all backgrounds, proper involvement of faith orgs and interpreters.

2. Firm but Fair prosecution with transparency and accountability

3. New Units: Conviction Integrity Unit to monitor and prosecute
justly and fairly; review prior convictions and overturn wrongful
convictions as well as monitor and prosecute prosecutorial misconduct
and law enforcement misconduct.

4. Felony Screening Unit: to prevent overcharge and limit felony conviction
Crime Victim protection Act - unit under Domestic Violence
Elder Abuse prevention unit; Economic Fraud unit

5. Promote Safety and Security of all communities without discrimination
Promote education and outreach to J.H.S. and have regular meetings with
PTA, education, law enforcement, faith based orgs. and community orgs to
establish better relations with all communities.

