



Candidate Questionnaire

Local Candidates Committee - NYS Legislative
Election - 2020 General

Thursday, September 3, 2020

Dear candidate,

Congratulations on your decision to run for office in the New York State Legislature!

In the following pages, you will find questions regarding your positions on various reform measures, campaign promises, and ethics in public office.

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 endorsement for the General Election.

This is a document confirming your responses to the Citizens Union questionnaire.

We plan to make responses to this questionnaire public on our website, printed voters directory, and other appropriate venues. If you seek our support, we will also 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 in this election cycle.

★★

Citizens Union is a nonpartisan democratic reform and good government group dedicated to making democracy work for all New Yorkers. Citizens Union serves as a civic watchdog, combating corruption and fighting for political reform. We have been evaluating candidates for public office in New York City since 1911, and our comprehensive Voter Directory has been a source of reliable information for New Yorkers for over a century.

You can read Citizens Union's [principles and criteria for our candidate evaluation process here](#).

We thank you very much for your response.

Your Info

Name

Patrick Allan Bobilin

Office Sought (New York State)

☒ Assembly

District Number

76

Email

patrickfornyc@gmail.com

Biographical Information

Party Affiliation(s)

Democratic Party

Age

37

Education

MFA, MA

Occupation/Employer

Digital Marketing

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement

Executive Vice President, East River Democratic Club, 2018-2020
Candidate for City Council, 2017 (Democratic Primary)

Volunteer, All Souls Unitarian Church (since 2017)
Volunteer, Temple Shaaray Tefila (since 2018)

Campaign Contact Information

Campaign Manager Name

Patrick Bobilin

Campaign Manager Email

patrickbobilin@gmail.com

Additional Staff Contact

Phone Number

(312) 804-7669

Address

537 East 81st Street
New york, NY, 10028

Website

<https://patrickfornewyork.com>

Twitter

twitter.com/patrickfornyc

Facebook

facebook.com/patrickfornyc

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

Affirmations

Have you completed the required campaign finance filings?

☒ Yes ☐ No

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

☒ Yes ☐ No

(Please note: interviews are prerequisites for Citizens Union's endorsements)

Signature



CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

Please state whether you support or oppose the following reform measures. If you wish to elaborate on your answers, you may do so in the provided space at the bottom of this page.

Ethics

1. Replace the Joint Commission on Public Ethics and the Legislative Ethics Commission with an effective and independent enforcement body (S594A/A1282A).

☒ Support ☐ Oppose

2. Limit outside compensation earned by state legislators and statewide officials to 25% of their salaries and eliminate stipends.

☒ Support ☐ Oppose

Elections and Voting

3. Do you support or oppose the following changes to the state's current registration and voting system?

	Support	Oppose
a. No-excuse absentee voting (second passage of constitutional amendment)	✓	-
b. Election Day voter registration (second passage of constitutional amendment)	✓	-
c. Re-enfranchisement of people on parole automatically through legislation, without requiring a Certificate of Good Conduct or Relief	✓	-
d. Mandating poll sites on college campuses	✓	-

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

☒ Support ☐ Oppose

5. Reduce the vote threshold to become a registered party back to 50,000 votes and keep the gubernatorial election as the qualifying election, and reduce the petition requirement for independent candidates back to 15,000 signatures.

☒ Support ☐ Oppose

Campaign Finance

6. Amend the state's public campaign financing system, approved in the 2021 budget, by

	Support	Oppose
a. Drastically reduce campaign contribution limits	✓	-
b. Set even lower contribution limits for registered lobbyists and those who do business with the state	✓	-
c. Move the campaign finance matching program to be administered by an independent, nonpartisan body outside of the NY Board of Election	✓	-
d. Simplify the matching system by making both in- and out-of-district donations eligible and by eliminating the three different tiers for matching	✓	-

Budget Process

7. 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

Election Administration

8. Provide for effective 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

9. Restructure the state Board of Elections to abolish the strict two-party division of governance and operation and put in place professional, nonpartisan administration.

☒ Support ☐ Oppose

Home Rule

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

☒ Support ☐ Oppose

11. Local Board of Elections are largely funded by their county. Given the many changes to election administration introduced in New York recently, the state should provide additional funding to county BOEs.

☒ Support ☐ Oppose

Court Reform

12. Make mayoral control of city schools permanent, with a governance system that provides for accountability, transparency, parent engagement, and democratic participation.

☒ Support ☐ Oppose

Redistricting

13. Simplify and consolidate New York State's court system by passing the Chief Judge's proposed constitutional amendment to modernize the courts.

☒ Support ☐ Oppose

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.

Regarding elections and voting, I support the aforementioned reforms as well as an automatic, opt-out system for mailing absentee ballots to all registered voters. This addresses safety concerns during the pandemic as well as the many access issues that keep NY turnout as one of the lowest in the US. I would also consider working to make both primary and general election days statewide holidays.

Regarding campaign finance, I support reforming the "matching funds" program and spoke about this with City Limits last year. I advocate creating a campaign finance program that includes comparatively low spending caps and public direction of funding akin to Seattle's program of "democracy vouchers".
<https://citylimits.org/2019/10/09/city-campaign-finance-system-charts-path-and-highlights-challenges-for-state-reform/>

Regarding the budget process, we need to reform executive budgeting wherein the governor is allowed to legislate via the budget. New Yorkers deserve a non-partisan legislative budget office.

RESPONDING TO THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK

Government under the COVID-19 outbreak

14. Maintain the current redistricting process, supported by voters through a 2014 constitutional amendment, and particularly the elements that provide minority parties a voice in the process, allow the Independent Redistricting Commission to play a central role, and takes redistricting power away from the hands of incumbent lawmakers.

☒ Support ☐ Oppose

15. Provide public access to observe and participate in government proceedings, in meetings that would be public under the New York Open Meetings Law, via live and recorded video available on government websites.

☒ Support ☐ Oppose

16. The Legislature stopped holding regular meetings soon after the COVID-19 outbreak, and later reconvened in July and August for short sessions that dealt with urgent matters. Should the Legislature return to its regular, pre-COVID calendar next session?

☒ Yes ☐ No

17. The ability of citizens and advocates to make their voices heard in Albany has been severely curtailed since the Legislature shifted to work remotely. How can the Legislature remain open and accessible for New Yorkers who seek to engage their representatives?

All members of the state legislature should be required to hold monthly, publicly advertised town halls to give their constituents an opportunity to speak to issues in the community. Whether it's access to PPE, information about school reopening, or help with unemployment insurance, it's incumbent upon elected officials to truly serve their communities right now.

Serving the public under the COVID-19 outbreak

18. What are your concerns regarding the use of emergency powers during this crisis, and how do you think NY government can maintain public accountability standards at this time?

The best thing the legislature could do is to convene through the crisis so that the state is less reliant on executive orders. There should also be a short expiration to all executive orders, which places pressure on the legislature to make them into law.

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.

19. What are the biggest challenges in your district in dealing with the coronavirus outbreak?

Parents are worried about schools reopening.
Families are also worried about working from home while sharing teaching duties.
Residents living in long-term care facilities are worried about catching coronavirus.

The biggest challenge in dealing with all of these is to ensure everyone feels they have the support they need whether through adequate training or financial help.

20. What are the appropriate roles of city, state, and federal governments in a crisis such as this?

The role of the government is to keep people safe, keep people housed, keep people fed, and keep people employed. The role of the government is to keep businesses open, to cancel financial burdens, to create mandates (like mask-wearing), and to get control over the virus before opening any essential services back up.

21. How will you help your future constituents, residents and businesses, access potential funding from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, or any other future government relief funds?

Staff will be dedicated to outreach to both businesses and residents who are most impacted by the crisis and in most need of relief. I will also work to mobilize my colleagues to create oversight to ensure that any future relief is put into the hands of constituents, not to fill holes in the budget that could be filled by increasing taxes on the wealthy.

I will advocate and advertise for businesses and residents to contact my office while also organizing and advocating for more relief funding. I will spend time organizing with my colleagues to support AM Niu's

Bill A10826 to cancel rent and mortgage payments. New Yorkers shouldn't be rent-burdened because of a pandemic.

I advocate rent cancelation, for both commercial and residential renters.

CAMPAIGN PROMISES MADE TO VOTERS

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

Campaign Promise 1

Organize support for and pass the NY Health Act

Campaign Promise 2

Extend voting to permanent resident Green Card holders

Campaign Promise 3

Organize support for and implement universal rent control

Campaign Promise 4

End qualified immunity

Campaign Promise 5

Organize support for and create a program for childcare and housing vouchers for CUNY and SUNY students.

Additional material

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



AssemblyPalmCard.pdf

ETHICAL REPRESENTATION OF CONSTITUENTS

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 they 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.

I support public disclosures and full transparency for elected officials. However, transparency isn't the same as accountability. As an elected official, I will endorse, support, and create legislation that ensures fiscal and legislative accountability to my own constituents as well as residents throughout the state.

I also have a public history as a teller of hard truths. I stood up to criticism for outing a friend, who I discovered was a long-time, well-known sexual harasser at a county Democratic convention. I was more concerned with the future dignity of New York politics than my own political future.

I've spent the last 95 days (as of this writing) as the organizer of the nightly gathering for black lives outside Gracie Mansion, known as UES4BLM. I have worked to ensure the physical safety of my neighbors through de-escalation training and training of protest marshals for our nightly march. I have put myself in harm's way when agitators have attempted to harm protesting neighbors.

While I'm not yet serving in public office, I spend time each day considering my role as a community organizer with solemnity, sobriety, and seriousness. I will continue to honor this community by serving with dignity and honesty.

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 endorsement for the General Election.

If you seek our support, we will also need to schedule an interview with you as part of the evaluation process.

We plan to make responses to this questionnaire public on our website, printed voters directory, and other appropriate venues.