



## CANDIDATE EVALUATIONS 2016 QUESTIONNAIRE: LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATES

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Below each question, please find a tabulation of answers from all 78 primary candidates who responded to the questionnaire – and not only from those candidates whom CU interviewed.

### ETHICS

1. Limit outside income earned by state legislators up to 25 percent, while enacting a salary increase and eliminating stipends.  
*Support:62 Conditional Support:2 Undecided or No Answer:6 Oppose:8*
2. Reform the Joint Commission on Public Ethics, giving it greater jurisdiction over investigations and hearings, reforming its voting procedures, and increasing disclosure of its decision-making.  
*Support:78 Conditional Support:0 Undecided or No Answer:0 Oppose:0*
3. Empower the attorney general to investigate and prosecute cases involving public corruption, including serious election law malfeasance.  
*Support:76 Conditional Support:1 Undecided or No Answer:0 Oppose:1*
4. Amend the state constitution to extend pension forfeiture, subject to due process safeguards, to public officers and elected officials who have been convicted of felonies.  
*Support:73 Conditional Support:1 Undecided or No Answer:0 Oppose:4*

### ELECTIONS AND VOTING

5. Amend the constitution to allow for same-day voter registration on Election Day.  
*Support:68 Conditional Support:0 Undecided or No Answer:0 Oppose:9*
6. Institute automatic, electronic voter registration, in which an individual's voter information is provided electronically to the Board of Elections unless they opt out, and address information is updated automatically.  
*Support:72 Conditional Support:0 Undecided or No Answer:3 Oppose:2*
7. Remove barriers to voter participation by allowing for no-excuse absentee voting and for voters to cast their votes at more convenient times over a period of several days, otherwise known as early voting  
*Support:72 Conditional Support:0 Undecided or No Answer:0 Oppose:6*
8. Grant New Yorkers on parole the ability to vote automatically, without the need to obtain a Certificate of Good Conduct or Relief.  
*Support:69 Conditional Support:1 Undecided or No Answer:1 Oppose:7*
9. Consolidate the state and federal primary to the third week in June, while ensuring that the legislative session ends at least two weeks prior.  
*Support:60 Conditional Support:2 Undecided or No Answer:3 Oppose:13*
10. Institute Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) for primary elections in citywide election in New York City, effectively eliminating the need for a separate runoff election.  
*Support:67 Conditional Support:0 Undecided or No Answer:7 Oppose:4*



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11. Reform the special election process, utilizing a nonpartisan special election for state legislative seats, eliminating delays for filling vacancies, and increasing voter choice.  
*Support:71 Conditional Support:0 Undecided or No Answer:4 Oppose:3*
12. Allow primary winners to decline party nominations, ending use of judicial appointments to lure candidates off the ballot.  
*Support:68 Conditional Support:0 Undecided or No Answer:7 Oppose:3*
13. Restructure the state Board of Elections and change election administration by amending the constitution to abolish the strict two-party division of governance and operation and putting in place professional, nonpartisan administration.  
*Support:66 Conditional Support:0 Undecided or No Answer:7 Oppose:5*

### **CAMPAIGN FINANCE**

14. Establish matching public financing system for state legislative and statewide races similar to the New York City model, and lower campaign contribution limits for legislative and statewide candidates for public office.  
*Support:70 Conditional Support:0 Undecided or No Answer:1 Oppose:7*
15. Close the LLC loophole to ensure that limited liability companies have the same contribution limits as other corporations, rather than the higher limit for individuals.  
*Support:72 Conditional Support:0 Undecided or No Answer:5 Oppose:1*
16. Close “soft money” loopholes such as: limiting transfers from party committees to candidates or other committees to twice the limit set on individual contributors; and limiting contributions to party committees, including housekeeping accounts, to the same ceiling placed on candidates.  
*Support:73 Conditional Support:0 Undecided or No Answer:2 Oppose:3*
17. Restrict campaign contributions from registered lobbyists, placement agents, and those who do business with the state.  
*Support:75 Conditional Support:75 Undecided or No Answer:0 Oppose:2*
18. Improve disclosure of independent expenditures such as requiring disclosure of electioneering activities.  
*Support:76 Conditional Support:0 Undecided or No Answer:1 Oppose:1*
19. Require candidates to include the full name, home address, and employer/business name for each contribution and bundler.  
*Support:73 Conditional Support:0 Undecided or No Answer:2 Oppose:3*
20. Require that two periodic campaign finance reports be filed during the legislative session to reflect contributions given during the session.  
*Support:71 Conditional Support:0 Undecided or No Answer:2 Oppose:5*

### **LEGISLATIVE RULES AND PROCEDURES**

21. Reorganize the committee system to encourage greater and use conference committees, particularly during the budget process, and improve public disclosure of committee proceedings via webcasting all legislative proceedings for both



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houses of the legislature, including committee meetings, hearings and session proceedings.

*Support:77 Conditional Support:1 Undecided or No Answer:0 Oppose:0*

22. Enact legislative rules reform to strengthen rank-and-file members' roles in the legislative process, create more equity between members, and establish equitable distribution of funds to legislators for staffing and resources regardless of party affiliation, and increase opportunities for public testimony at legislative committee proceedings.

*Support:78 Conditional Support:0 Undecided or No Answer:0 Oppose:0*

### BUDGET PROCESS

23. Require state use of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles rather than cash accounting.

*Support:71 Conditional Support:0 Undecided or No Answer:6 Oppose:1*

24. Provide for adequate disclosure and itemization of elected officials' lump sum appropriations and member items to eliminate vague placeholders in budget legislation, report on their usage, address conflicts of interest, and report all spending online.

*Support:75 Conditional Support:0 Undecided or No Answer:2 Oppose:1*

25. Establish an independent nonpartisan budget office to provide revenue projections, display economic and policy analysis and require that the state engage in long term, multi-year budget planning.

*Support:76 Conditional Support:0 Undecided or No Answer:2 Oppose:0*

26. What is your position on requiring the governor's budget submission to present the full scope of the state's financial obligations, including its public authorities?

*Support:75 Conditional Support:0 Undecided or No Answer:3 Oppose:0*

27. Limit governor's ability to change policy via appropriation bills, by requiring that such bills be consistent with existing law or proposed changes in separate legislation.

*Support:76 Conditional Support:1 Undecided or No Answer:1 Oppose:*

28. Establish a later start date for the fiscal year.

*Support:53 Conditional Support:1 Undecided or No Answer:13 Oppose:11*

29. Incorporate performance budgeting with outcome measurement, to promote the more rational appropriation of state funds

*Support:76 Conditional Support:1 Undecided or No Answer:1 Oppose:0*

### JUDICIARY

30. Ensure that proposals to increase the retirement age of judges include all of the state's trial court judges.

*Support:65 Conditional Support:0 Undecided or No Answer:7 Oppose:6*

31. Simplify the state's court system by consolidating the nine trial courts into a two-tiered system.

*Support:55 Conditional Support:1 Undecided or No Answer:16 Oppose:6*



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32. Create a merit appointment system for all state judges.  
*Support:65 Conditional Support:0 Undecided or No Answer:5 Oppose:8*

**MUNICIPAL HOME RULE**

33. Make mayoral control of city schools permanent, with a governance system that provides for accountability, transparency, parent engagement, and democratic participation.  
*Support:51 Conditional Support:2 Undecided or No Answer:8 Oppose:17*
34. Amend the Municipal Home Rule Law to limit the ability of a mayor-appointed charter revision commission to “bump” other local charter amendments from appearing on the ballot.  
*Support:68 Conditional Support:0 Undecided or No Answer:5 Oppose:5*

**CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION**

35. Vote “yes” on the 2017 ballot question: whether to hold a state constitutional convention.  
*Support:40 Conditional Support:2 Undecided or No Answer:10 Oppose :26*
36. Eliminate “double dipping” by requiring state legislators to vacate their seats if elected as delegates and limit accruing of pensions for all government officials.  
*Support:61 Conditional Support:0 Undecided or No Answer:9 Oppose:8*
37. Improve delegate elections by simplifying voting for delegates by allowing voters to cast one vote for district delegates and eliminating slate voting for at-large delegates, and by reducing barriers for delegate candidates by lowering petition signature requirements and provide public financing.  
*Support:66 Conditional Support:1 Undecided or No Answer:7 Oppose:4*

**ADDITIONAL STATE GOVERNMENT ISSUES**

38. Reform the governance structure of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to have the Executive Director appointed directly by the Board of Commissioners, rotate the position of Chair of the Board between representatives of NY and NJ, place tighter rules on the Board, and extend the open meetings law to the Port Authority.  
*Support:75 Conditional Support:1 Undecided or No Answer:1 Oppose:1*
39. Ensure continued posting of data on NYS open data portal, and improve transparency of lobbying, campaign finance, and budget.  
*Support:78 Conditional Support:0 Undecided or No Answer:0 Oppose:0*
40. Enact legislation that expands upon the Governor’s Executive Order on faster appeals for Freedom of Information Law requests for all government bodies and allows for greater judicial consideration of payment of attorneys’ fees.  
*Support:75 Conditional Support:0 Undecided or No Answer:2 Oppose:1*



CANDIDATE EVALUATIONS 2016
QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES



CANDIDATE EVALUATIONS 2016
QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES

Table with columns for candidate names and 40 questionnaire items (Q1-Q40). Rows include candidates from BRONX, BROOKLYN, and MANHATTAN. Responses are marked as S (Support), O (Oppose), N/A (No answer or undecided), or \* (Nuanced answer).

KEY: Citizens Union preferred candidates in bold. ^ Incumbent legislator S = Support

O = Oppose N/A = No answer or undecided \* = Nuanced answer

