



**2012 QUESTIONNAIRE FOR
CANDIDATES FOR NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE**

Citizens Union would appreciate your response to the following questionnaire related to policy issues facing New York State and our interest in reforming state government. Responses to these questions will be one of several factors Citizens Union will use to evaluate candidates who are running for office in order to determine our "Preferred Candidates" for the September 13th Primary Election, and our "Endorsed Candidates" for the November 6th General Election.

If you seek our support, we would also need to schedule an interview with you as part of the evaluation process. We will not automatically schedule an interview with you if you return this questionnaire, as we prioritize competitive races and resources constrain us from evaluating all races. Please contact us if you wish to be interviewed.

We plan to make responses to this questionnaire public on our website, Voters Directory and other appropriate venues. We thank you very much for your response.

Candidate Name: Etienne David Adorno Age: 27

Campaign Address: 91-56 91st Woodhaven, NY 11421

Campaign Telephone Number: (347) 384 3663 Fax: (718) 217 7898

Party Affiliation(s): Democrat Campaign Manager Name: Miriam Colon

Website & Email: www.voteforadorno.com adornofor2012@gmail.com

Education: Bachelor's in Criminal Justice with a concentration in Due Process

Occupation/Employer (or years in currently held elected office): Legislative and Budget Liaison at City Hall for NYC Councilmember Robert Jackson

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement: Member of Community Board 9 and the Education as well as the Consumer Affairs Committee, the Woodhaven residents block association, 102 precinct community council, and the Coalition of Latino American Voters

Are you willing to be interviewed by CU's Local Candidates Committee? YES X NO
(Please note: Citizens Union can grant its "Endorsed Candidate" rating only to candidates we have interviewed.)

Have you completed requisite campaign finance filings? YES X NO

Signature of Candidate: _____ Date: 8/8/12

I. CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

Please state your position on the following reform measures. Specify whether you support or oppose each. You may elaborate in the space provided at the end or on additional paper.

ELECTION REFORM

1. What is your position on second passage of the constitutional amendment (S.6698/A.9526 of 2012) creating an independent redistricting commission with appointees split evenly between the majority and minority parties?	Support
2. What is your position on restructuring the state Board of Elections and changing the administration of elections by amending the constitution to abolish the two-party system of governance and operation?	Support
3. What is your position on making it easier for candidates to appear on the ballot by, for example, lowering signature requirements and utilizing less burdensome witness signature requirements?	Support
4. What is your position on amending 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
5. What is your position on automatically granting New Yorkers on parole the ability to vote?	Support
6. What is your position on amending the constitution to allow for Election Day Registration?	Support
7. What is your position on amending the constitution to allow for no-excuse absentee voting?	Support
8. What is your position on instituting early voting in New York State to allow voters to cast their votes at more convenient times?	Support
9. What is your position on redesigning the ballot to ensure that voters are able to clearly read candidates' names, titles of offices, designations and ballot questions; that instructions are clear and accurate; that bilingual ballots are required; and that the ballot is able to split races between multiple pages?	Support
10. What is your position on reforming the special election process, creating a nonpartisan special election for state legislative vacancies, as proposed by A.1369/S.26?	Support
11. What is your position regarding automatic voter registration in which voter registration information of individuals who consent to be registered is provided electronically to the Board of Elections, and address information is automatically updated?	Support

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

12. What is your position on establishing a matching public financing system for state legislative and statewide races similar to the New York City model?	Support
13. What is your position on lowering campaign contribution limits for legislative and statewide candidates for public office?	Support
14. What is your position on restricting campaign contributions from registered lobbyists, placement agents and those who do business with the state?	Support
15. What is your position on limiting or banning campaign contributions from corporations, LLCs, and LLPs? (Note: such entities would be able to form separate political action committees due to constitutional issues regarding freedom of speech.)	Support
16. What is your position on closing "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
17. What is your position on requiring candidates to include full name, home address, and employer/business name for each contribution and bundler?	Support

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM (CONTINUED)

18. What is your position on requiring that two periodic campaign finance reports be filed during the legislative session to reflect contributions given during the session?	Support
19. What is your position on stricter requirements on the use of campaign contributions for non-campaign related activity, such as personal use?	Support
20. What is your position on improving disclosure of independent expenditures such as requiring disclosure of electioneering activities and linking expenditures to candidates targeted?	Support
21. What is your position on limiting the ability of candidates to accumulate "war chests" and then transferring funds raised in one race to another?	Support
22. What is your position on creating an enforcement entity independent of the State Board of Elections to oversee campaign finance laws?	Oppose

JUDICIAL REFORM

23. What is your position on a merit-based appointment system through creation of a commission for the selection of judges in all of New York's trial courts?	Support
24. What is your position simplifying and modernizing the state's court system by consolidating the nine trial courts into a two-tiered system?	Support

ETHICS REFORM

25. What is your position on empowering the Attorney General to investigate and prosecute cases involving public corruption, including serious election law malfeasance?	Support
26. What is your position on amending the State Constitution to extend pension forfeiture, subject to due process safeguards, to all public officers and legislators who have been convicted of felonies, building on the 2011 ethics reforms which only apply to future state employees?	Support

BUDGET REFORM

27. 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
28. What is your position on establishing 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
29. What is your position on the use of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) rather than cash accounting for the state budget?	Support
30. What is your position on distributing member item allocations equally among all legislators and requiring for greater accountability as expressed in S.1681A/A.00855?	Support
31. What is your position on incorporating the use of performance budgeting and outcome measurement to promote the more rational appropriation of state funds?	Support
32. What is your position on instituting a later start date for the state fiscal year?	Support
33. What is your position on limiting the ability of the governor to enact policy changes governing the use of resources in appropriation bills by requiring that such bills be consistent with existing law or proposed changes in separate legislation?	Support

ADDITIONAL REFORM

34. What is your position on increasing public access to information by reforming the Freedom of Information and Open Meetings Laws to enhance transparency, as well as the creation of tools such as open data portals to ease public access to information?	Support
35. What is your position on enactment of legislative rules reform to strengthen rank-and-file members' roles in the legislative process and create more equity between members?	Support

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.

As a candidate for the NYS Assembly, and as a lifelong resident of New York, I have been exposed to many different administrations on both the city and state level, from Former Governor Mario Cuomo to Former Mayor Rudy Giuliani, through to present administrations. I have witnessed how different leadership can have a major impact on the quality of life for New Yorkers. I have also witnessed how faulty policy decisions can have a lasting negative impact on the city and state-at-large.

One prominent matter, however, is the lack of government communication with the constituency. Some may say that the government does in fact communicate with the public through the media. However, this is not the communication to which I refer. What I am referring to is true one-on-one communication. For too long there has been a disconnect between the decision-making government and the citizenry. Why does the community feel disaffected with the government? The overwhelming feeling is that the government simply does not represent their needs. The taxpayer consistently feels shortchanged, receiving little benefit from those he entrusted with their quality-of-life.

Our government has changed, and so has its best interests. Instead of focusing on the people that make up this great state, they are more focused on the corporate donors and lobbyists they are beholden to. I share many of Citizen Union's views. We need a more transparent government, or we invite corruption. We need legislation that will push such an agenda and create a more level playing field so that each member of the legislature has a fair say in what goes on in Albany. We need more accountability when things go wrong and taxpayers' money is wasted. We need a more common sense approach to government, one that puts the people and their issues first, not those of the special interest groups, lobbying firms, and corporations. We need to change the system, ground up, so that those who have learned how to work it, can no longer take advantage of it. We need new representation, new perspectives, and more effective leadership that is more focused on good policies, rather than on the next election, and their contributors.

Many issues were featured in the questionnaire, as you can tell I support all the positions mentioned because they all come from a place of common sense. This is the type of approach we need, and more. We need to simplify the process so that we can have a more informed electorate making informed decisions that will ultimately lead to better government and a better state for all of us.

Comment on individual issues:

1. The amendment ensures a much fairer redistricting process, although passage will not take effect until the next census, in 2020. A proposed statute limiting the legislature's power to appoint members to the redistricting commission, and to turn over appointing power to the governor if the houses fail to pass the amendment again next year should also be enacted, to ensure reform actually takes place.
2. Amending the constitution to abolish the two-party system would go a long way toward ending the deadlock that characterizes many legislatures, both state and federal. The entire political party power structure would be weakened to the extent that elections would become more meaningful, allowing

- candidates who didn't have a chance to run, and making the citizen a much more meaningful part of the process.
3. The ballot system is open to abuse by clever and sinister challenges. While the system gets the candidates out into the community and gets them known, which is valuable, election lawyers can figure out ways to get them bumped off by challenging every technicality. Ballot access also clearly favors the incumbents, who are understandably quick to stymie the process of change.
 4. The charter revision commission, as it stands, is clearly a political tool of the mayor, and serves in his best interest. I support the amendment which keeps the mayor's power and influence in check.
 5. Many New Yorkers on parole are now contributing members of society and must be allowed to participate in the process. The law barring them from voting can be easily construed as racist, as it mirrors similar laws from the Jim Crow era.
 6. Election Day Registration has proved to be a significant boost to voter turnout, and should be implemented with the proper requirements.
 7. There are risks involved with no excuse voting. As long as these risks are carefully managed, it should be allowed, as it has proved successful elsewhere.
 8. As above, early voting may be allowed and encouraged, as long as the risks are managed and made known to the voters casting ballots prior to the end of the campaign.
 9. Redesigning the ballot is a common-sense initiative to make the ballot more understandable to the voter, and to reduce error.
 10. The current process is nothing less than secretive and controlled by select party committees. A non-partisan special election would be more reflective of the democratic process.
 11. Automatic voter registration would streamline the system, which currently allows registration in a variety of methods, opening the possibility for fraud.
 12. A system of public financing would tend to help level the playing field, and ameliorate the influence of special interests in getting their candidate elected. Such a measure would be difficult in present economic conditions, but must nonetheless receive support.
 13. The contribution limits are too high, and should be more in line with local (NYC) levels.
 14. This again is a common-sense issue -- restricting contributions from such entities greatly reduces the possibility of corrupting the system.
 15. Limiting or banning the influence of such entities has, of course, been largely circumvented by action of the Supreme Court. This was an unfortunate decision, and will hopefully come up for review following the 2012 election cycle. On the state level, I would support legislation limiting such contributions, and in the case of LLPs and LLCs, identifying the principals involved.
 16. Closing "soft-money" loopholes is vitally necessary to a full and fair election process. It simply allows the machine process to continue and perpetuate itself by getting its own players elected.
 17. Including full identification for each source of campaign revenue allows any party to track and investigate as appropriate such sources. It is another control in the process that insures free and fair elections.
 18. As before, such measures are designed to keep the process transparent, and I fully support such a measure.
 19. Campaign contributions have no business being directed to personal use or other non-campaign activity. Such is not the intent of the contributors.
 20. These are fairly simple bookkeeping requirements that all campaigns should adopt, if they have not already. Otherwise expenditures can become murky.
 21. A "war chest" is intended for one campaign, only. The funds should pay off that campaign's debts, be returned to contributors, donated to charities, or turned over to the party. Contributors to whom the money is returned may feel free to contribute to the new campaign, if they so wish.

22. An independent enforcement entity could provide further separation from the potential for corruption; however, if the Board of Elections cannot do its job and provide full and fair enforcement, then we should be looking into why they cannot adequately perform their duties and work to resolve those issues instead of creating a separate entity to do the job for them.
23. If the commission is truly independent of political tampering, then I would support it. The current system is too vulnerable to political vagaries and must be reformed.
24. The current court system is antiquated and unwieldy. It is long past time to bring it up to modern-day standards. The efficiency of such a system would insure swifter justice and help ease taxpayer burden.
25. Allowing the attorney general to prosecute such violations of the public's trust would not only bring considerable resources into play, but also insure that the prosecution is kept clearly in the public arena, where it belongs.
26. Absolutely support such legislation. No one should be exempt from penalties for felony convictions.
27. Foregoing full disclosure would mean, in effect, hiding tens of billions in public-authority debt. Subsequent approved budgets would be meaningless without taking all obligations into consideration.
28. This is another common-sense proposal that can only benefit the state by removing the budget from the political fun-house mirror.
29. GAAP would require legislators to deal with current problems, rather than defer them to later years. This is a step in the right direction, although much could be accomplished by using balanced budget requirements already in place and unenforced.
30. The proposed legislation will provide for more equitable and transparent distribution of discretionary funding based on necessity, not power and influence. I will work for its passage.
31. Again, a common-sense measure that rewards achievement and progress, and would benefit all New Yorkers.
32. While a later start date would enable a more accurate read on projected tax revenue, the state budget is not the only one. City and county budgets are tied to and dependent on the state budget, so all entities must work together to the advantage of all.
33. The governor must act within the guidelines of the wishes of the people, as expressed through the elected legislature. Otherwise he has free reign to act like a maverick.
34. The more transparent the process is, the more responsive government will be.
35. Giving all members a say in the legislative process stanches the ability of the power structure to have its way in all matters; in other words the process is more democratic.

II. CAMPAIGN PROMISES MADE TO VOTERS

As a candidate who presently does not hold elected office, CU is interested in knowing your top five campaign promises or goals you are making to the voters during this campaign for this position.

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

We thank you very much for your response. Please feel free to use additional paper if the space provided is not sufficient.

TOP FIVE 2012 CAMPAIGN PROMISES OR GOALS

1. Work to improve the economy and increase job availability by encouraging small business creation
2. Work to improve Government transparency and communication.
3. Work to improve Education in our public schools and create a safe learning environment.
4. Work to create more options for senior housing and improve senior services.
5. Work to improve quality of life by addressing public safety and cost of living issues.

**Please return to: Citizens Union, Local Candidates Committee
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via fax to 212.227.0345 or via email to policy@citizensunion.org
Call us at 212-227-0342 with any questions.**