



2010 QUESTIONNAIRE FOR
CANDIDATES FOR NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE

Citizens Union would appreciate your response to the following questionnaire related to policy issues facing the State of New York and our interest in reforming how state government operates. 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 primary election and "Endorsed Candidates" for the general election. If you seek our support, we would also need to schedule an interview with you as part of the evaluation process.

We plan to make responses to this questionnaire public in our Voters Directory and other appropriate venues.

We thank you very much for your response.

Candidate Name: Steve Behar Age: 46

Office to Which You Seek (Re) Election: Assembly/Senate District #: Assembly District 26

Campaign Address: N/A

Campaign Telephone Number: (718) 229 - 4201 Fax: () _____

Party Affiliation(s): Democratic Campaign Manager Name: Lois Marbach

Website & Email: stevebehar.com steve@beharforny.com

Education: B.A. University at Albany (Economics & Political Science) ; M.B.A Tulane University (Finance & Management); J.D Tulane University; I.L.M. (Masters of Law) Georgetown University (Securities and Financial Regulation)

Occupation/Employer (or years in currently held elected office): Attorney & Small Business Owner

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement: Candidate for City Council 2009

Are you willing to be interviewed by CU's Local Candidates Committee? YES NO _____
(Please note: Citizens Union can grant its "Preferred Candidate" and "Endorsed Candidate" rating only to candidates we have interviewed.)
Have you completed requisite campaign finance filings? YES NO _____

Signature of Candidate:  Date: 7/15/10

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 establishing by statute an Independent Legislative Redistricting Commission charged with drawing congressional and state legislative lines and removing the responsibility from the Legislature, through the passage of S.1614B/A.5279B ?	<u>Support/</u> Oppose
2. What is your position on a process where the legislature directly appoints the members of a districting commission, as in S.7881-A or S.7882-A, as an alternative to the independent commission referred to in Question 1?	Support/ <u>Oppose</u>
3. What is your position on maintaining the current redistricting process in which legislative lines are drawn by the legislators with support and research from the New York State Task Force on Demographic Research and Reapportionment (LATFOR)?	Support/ <u>Oppose</u>
4. What is your position on the adoption of stricter redistricting rules that would ensure that every district is: more equal in population (within 1% deviation from the mean), contiguous and compact, formed without regard for protecting an incumbent or political party, mindful of the need to keep neighborhoods intact, and not drawn to undermine racial, linguistic, and ethnic representation?	<u>Support/</u> Oppose
5. 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?	<u>Support/</u> Oppose
6. 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?	<u>Support/</u> Oppose
7. 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?	<u>Support/</u> Oppose
8. What is your position on removing prisoner populations from the census counts for the purpose of redistricting and instead counting those populations in their last known place of residence?	<u>Support/</u> Oppose
9. What is your position on amending the constitution to allow for Election Day Registration?	<u>Support/</u> Oppose
10. What is your position on amending the constitution to allow for no-excuse absentee voting?	<u>Support/</u> Oppose

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

11. What is your position on lowering campaign contribution limits for legislative and statewide candidates for public office?	<u>Support/</u> Oppose
12. What is your position on establishing a system of public financing for state legislative and statewide races?	<u>Support/</u> Oppose

13. If you support public financing, what is your position on a system where public funds are awarded on a matching basis (similar in design and function to the New York City system) rather than a system of full public funding of campaigns?	Support/Oppose
14. What is your position on restricting campaign contributions from registered lobbyists and those who do business with the state?	Support/Oppose
15. What is your position on banning campaign contributions from corporations, LLCs, and LLPs, while still allowing such entities to form separate PACs?	Support/Oppose
16. What is your position on limiting transfers from party committees to candidates, or other committees, to twice the limit set on individual contributors and limiting contributions to party committees to the same ceiling placed on candidates?	Support/Oppose
17. What is your position on increasing disclosure and reporting of campaign contributions and expenditures by requiring candidates to include full name, home address, and employer/business name for each contribution?	Support/Oppose
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/Oppose
19. What is your position on stricter requirements on the use of campaign contributions for non-campaign related activity, such as personal use?	Support/Oppose
20. What is your position on requiring disclosure of independent expenditure campaigns?	Support/Oppose

ETHICS REFORM

21. What is your position on changing the representation of the Commission on Public Integrity so no one elected official makes a majority of the appointments?	Support/Oppose
22. What is your position on expanding the jurisdiction of the newly formed Commission on Public Integrity to include legislative ethics violations, lobbying and campaign finance enforcement?	Support/Oppose

BUDGET REFORM

23. What is your position on requiring all budget documents, including budget bills and legislative additions, to be presented in a format that is organized into programmatic categories and facilitates public and legislative review?	Support/Oppose
24. 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/Oppose
25. 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/Oppose
26. What is your position on the use of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) rather than cash accounting for the state budget?	Support/Oppose
27. What is your position on requiring regular reporting of lump-sum appropriations and member items that includes detailed information on funds distributed, recipients, and remaining funds and bans on member item appropriations to organizations of which a close relative of the Member is on the staff or board?	Support/Oppose
28. What is your position on distributing member item allocations equally amongst all legislators and requiring for greater accountability as expressed in S. 7007/A10116?	Support/Oppose
29. What is your position on incorporating the use of performance budgeting and outcome measurement to promote the more rational appropriation of state funds?	Support/Oppose

30. What is your position on instituting a later start date for the state fiscal year?	Support/Oppose
31. What is your position on mandating the use of conference committees in the legislative budget process?	Support/Oppose

ADDITIONAL REFORM

32. Do you support a system of selecting New York trial court judges through an appointment process in which candidates are recommended by citizens committees on the basis of merit?	Support/Oppose
33. Do you support further reform of the Wicks Law, which requires New York State government entities to award separate prime contracts for the major components of a construction project?	Support/Oppose

Please use the space provided or a separate sheet of paper to elaborate on your positions on the above issues. 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 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 2010 CAMPAIGN PROMISES OR GOALS

1. I would like to eliminate special interest in elections. Today, lobbyists, special interests and monied interests control our government. Campaign Finance Reform can rid our political system of the undue influence of special interests, allow more qualified candidates to run for office and force all elected officials to be accountable to their constituents.
2. My next priority would be creating jobs by strengthening small business. Small businesses create nearly 90% of new jobs in the U.S

There is a growing number of vacant stores in my district. It is frightening to see so many businesses which had been around for decades now closing down for good. Those closed businesses mean less jobs for our community, less tax revenue for our district and state and, with the drop in foot traffic on the avenues, a growing strain on the businesses that remain open.

3. Create more civic engagement. I have been a political and community activist in Northeast Queens for years. I believe that government can work properly only with community involvement. I have lived up to this principle with years of service in northeast Queens and beyond. I understand that the best citizen is the informed citizen, not one left in the dark
4. Reduce overcrowded schools. Smaller class size is one of the most important ways the Department of Education can improve our schools. When classes are too large teachers cannot give students the personal attention they need and deserve.
5. It seems each time New York State has a budget crisis the state tries to balance the budget on the backs of the working and middle class. These are exactly the people who struggle most during an economic downturn and can least afford the added economic strain. As an Assembly member, I promise to tirelessly advocate for the working and middle class and to provide a voice in our government for those whose voices often go unheard,

Please return to: Citizens Union, Local Candidates Committee
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via fax to 212.227.0345 or via email to asenteno@citizensunion.org