



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: Jonathan L. Bing Age: 40

Office to Which You Seek (Re) Election: **Assembly**/Senate District #: 73

Campaign Address: 132 East 43rd Street, #243, New York, New York 10017

Campaign Telephone Number: (212) 628-2464 Fax: (646) 349-4793

Party Affiliation(s): Democrat Campaign Manager Name: Keith Powers

Website & Email: [www.jonathanbing.com](http://www.jonathanbing.com) & Campaign@jonathanbing.com

Education: J.D., New York University School of Law, 1995; B.A., University of Pennsylvania, 1992

Occupation/Employer (or years in currently held elected office): New York State Assembly, 2003-Present

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement: New York State Democratic Committee Member, 73rd A.D, 2000-02; Community Board 6, Manhattan, 1998-2002; Turtle Bay Association Board of Directors, 1997-2002.

Are you willing to be interviewed by CU’s Local Candidates Committee? **YES** 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 YES NO \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Candidate: *Jonathan L. Bing* Date: 7/2/10

## 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 ?	Support/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/Oppose
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/Oppose
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?	Support/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?	Support/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?	Support/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?	Support/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?	Support/Oppose
9. What is your position on amending the constitution to allow for Election Day Registration?	Support/Oppose
10. What is your position on amending the constitution to allow for no-excuse absentee voting?	Support/Oppose

### CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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

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.

I am a cosponsor of A. 5279, which would create an independent, nonpartisan commission for reapportionment, as mentioned in Question #1. While the options presented by the State Senate in Question #2 are preferential to maintaining the status quo in Question #3, it would be inadvisable to settle for half-hearted reform proposals. Partisan gerrymandering is a key to understanding some of the gridlock in the legislature today and the processes which enable those methods of redistricting must be eliminated.

I support the principle outlined in Question #6 because ballot access is an important part of any democratic system. However, some current petitioning requirements, specifically the 500 signatures needed for a 130,000 person Assembly District, are not onerous. The signature requirement serves as an indicator to measure commitment to the race and connection to the community.

In reference to Questions #9 and 10, I am the author of A. 4799 and A. 811, bills that would allow online voter registration through the Board of Elections website and require that voter registration forms be made available to students, respectively.

Additionally, I am the author of A. 3853, legislation which would mandate a standing Conference Committee to reconcile differences between similar but not identical bills. This could produce greater cooperation between the two chambers and become an asset in the budget process, in reference to Question #31.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## CAMPAIGN PROMISES MADE TO VOTERS (PAST and CURRENT)

In addition to evaluating their stances on the issues above, Citizens Union will assess incumbents on how well they kept the promises they made to voters during the previous election.

As an elected official who is seeking re-election,

- a. what were the top five promises or goals you made to your constituents when you ran for your current seat and what progress has been made in keeping those promises, and
- b. what are the top five promises or goals you are making to the voters during this campaign?

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

### TOP FIVE CAMPAIGN PROMISES OR GOALS FROM 2008 AND ACTION ON THEM

1. Public Safety: I authored A. 7014, signed into law in 2008, which provides greater oversight of officials tasked with inspecting cranes, in order to help prevent the deadly crane accidents that occurred in the 73<sup>rd</sup> District in the past few years.
2. Ground Zero health concerns: I have authored two laws to extend workers compensation benefits to 9/11 rescue, recovery and clean-up responders whose claims have been or would be barred on statute of limitations grounds.
3. Protecting a woman's right to choose: I cosponsored A. 11484, the Reproductive Health Act, which would modernize our laws and codify a woman's right to choose in New York.
4. Education: I authored a law signed by the Governor in 2009 which allows the renovations for PS 59 to be completed on time, creating additional seats in the overcrowded school system. I have also opposed the potentially disastrous cuts proposed by the Governor to our public education system, from primary and secondary education to the CUNY and SUNY systems.
5. Affordable Housing: Two bills which I authored to help protect and expand affordable housing were recently passed by the Assembly and Senate. The first, A 9757, would help ensure that disabled tenants are given the same protection by New York state laws that they are under federal law. Another bill which passed each chamber is A 10689, which would prevent landlords from discriminating on the basis of income. A third bill which I authored that passed the Assembly is A. 860, which would raise the thresholds for high-income decontrol. I have also cosponsored A. 1688, legislation which passed the

Assembly and would give New York City authority of its rent regulation laws, in order to better serve tenants.

### **TOP FIVE 2010 CAMPAIGN PROMISES OR GOALS**

1. Work towards passage of reapportionment reform that would go into effect prior to the 2012 election.
2. Restore funding to cuts made in the 2010 Budget to vital services, chiefly public education and healthcare.
3. Continue advocating for affordable housing and protect those currently occupying affordable housing.
4. As Chairman of the Committee on Libraries and Education Technology, advocate for the necessary component that libraries and similar institutions play in communities across New York.
5. Improve the public transit system by providing funds for adequate bus and subway service.

**Please return to: Citizens Union, Local Candidates Committee  
299 Broadway, Suite 700 New York, NY 10007  
via fax to 212.227.0345 or via email to [asenteno@citizensunion.org](mailto:asenteno@citizensunion.org)**