



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: Doug Biviano Age: 41

Office to Which You Seek (Re) Election: Assembly/Senate District #: 52

Campaign Address: 169 Glambin Hts Apt. 104

Campaign Telephone Number: (718) 855-1999 Fax: (718) 522-5994

Party Affiliation(s): Dem Campaign Manager Name: Gary Tilzer

Website & Email: bivforbrooklyn.com bivforbrooklyn@gmail.com

Education: B.S. ^{Civil} Engineering Cornell University M.E. Environmental Engineering

Occupation/Employer (or years in currently held elected office): Taxons Management
Building Superintendent

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement: 2009 City Council 33rd
Peace NYC Proposal for Anti-violence Outreach & Infrastructure
(see website), Squibb Park Resurfacing for P.S. 8 - started petition & phone calls to get done

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: [Signature] Date: 7/19/2010

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

st to sign N.Y.P.S. by Pledges

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

*Not sure
would like to
hear pros & cons*

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.

I wrote an OP-ED for the Brooklyn Paper explaining my position on Election Law, Campaign Finance, Lobbyists, & Party Insiders & Member Items. It was published June 8, 2010 and I've attached it.

A few notes to show I'm in sync with your thoughtful "LONG TERM" approach to Reform:

1. We would love to create Campaign Finance Public Matching System on State level like you helped establish on City level!
2. Full Disclosure of Income of Public elected officials - INCLUDING LAWYERS!
3. Member Item reform - I like what you propose but would maybe even consider further reform like independent oversight and Ratings or perhaps moving much of this to general budget.
4. Get lobbyists out of the Chamber.
5. I would take your Petition Reform proposal to its natural limit and abolish "Ballot Petition" Challenges. They have no place in our system other than to take choice away from voters & protect incumbents.

NOTE: I would be very happy to work with Citizens Union in introducing legislation & PASSING IT!

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. Electin Law Reform
2. Campaign Finance Reform & Matchy Funds
3. Fixing MTA (economic engine) See my website for Plan 4
4. Preventing the Assembly from Raiding the state
5. Pension Fund by allowing Municipalities

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

- 212-227-0342
- Don't borrow from it to pay it.
This is a dangerous game.
6. (I.E. - stop relying on Debt as I support your GAAP goal).
5. Fiscal Responsibility.
Protect the voters & taxpayers
instead of protecting one's bid
for re-election and their special
interests.

The Brooklyn Paper

Your Neighborhood - Your News®

New York's BEST political coverage

Boro Politics.com 

June 8, 2010 / Perspective

Biviano: Albany pols protect themselves, not you

By Doug Biviano

for *The Brooklyn Paper*

Despite warnings over the last decade of the dangers of a dysfunctional and corrupt Albany, New Yorkers re-elected almost every incumbent running for office. Now we must live with not only a broken government, but, worse, the busted state economy caused by it. In this coming year, our children will sit in more overcrowded classrooms. Seventy-five senior centers will be cut, firehouses closed, and doctors cut from hospitals where any one of us could wind-up in an emergency. Thousands more jobs will be lost.

All of us are badly affected by these government cuts, but our local elected officials who are responsible have perfected a re-election system that always gets them re-elected. They get off scot-free.



The Brooklyn Paper / Julie Rosenberg

Doug Biviano

Tucked Away on a Coveted Block...



Beautiful Cobble Hill Townhouse

BROOKLYN *Bridge* Realty, Ltd.

My opponent, Assemblywoman Joan Millman, and her colleagues have built local support by annually distributing millions in tax revenue to schools, senior centers, parks and other nonprofits that provide vital services to our community. This “member item” system keeps huge blocks of voters under incumbents’ thumbs — and lobbyists and party insiders keep the contributions flowing.

Coupled with the state's arcane election law, it is virtually impossible for challengers to win. Legally complicated by design, election law is used by the incumbents to throw hundreds of challengers off the ballot, resulting in 98 percent being re-elected no matter how bad of a job they are doing, no matter how badly they hurt us and the state.

Assemblywoman Millman is directly responsible for this crisis in democracy because she chairs the Assembly's Election Law Committee, the sole chairperson who has the power to affect real reform, yet she has done nothing of substance and has not been held one bit accountable, not even for her \$12,500 lulu. But has the broken election law that Millman protects knocked off challengers with the skills to fix this state? Yes.

In 2004, a New York Times editorial, frustrated with the corruption, dysfunction, and the fact that so few incumbents were being challenged, recommended that voters "throw the bums out" in every race there was one. Unfortunately, there were only four competitive races in the city. The editorial was published before we even heard of Pedro Espada and Hiram Monserrate, before the felony convictions of Bruno, Brian McLaughlin, Anthony Seminerio and a legislature that to this very day refuses to make the hard choices every family in our community makes cutting the budget in hard economic times.

In my campaign for Council last year, I warned the voters that the campaign promises other candidates were making were fantasy. This year I am again warning the voters of this district that unless the old Albany gang is removed and we start making the hard decisions needed to rebuild our state's economy, we will see runaway public debt and a 25-percent cut in state funding over the next two years that will endanger everyone's future.

Albany resembles political organized crime, not a democratic body that is protecting the people of New York. Incumbents act just like the mob, ripping off our money, never ever criticizing any of their colleagues convicted in corruption scandals and doing whatever's good for them regardless of who they hurt.

We cannot reform political organized crime. We have to lock them up or vote the bums out on Sept. 14. For challengers to win on primary day, you must help them now. Get involved.

Doug Biviano is running against Assemblywoman Joan Millman, whose district includes Carroll Gardens and Cobble Hill.

©2010 Community Newspaper Group

PERSPECTIVE: Squadron: Albany →
can fix the mess — with your help

READER FEEDBACK

View discussion (1)

d from gh says:

Do something about illegal immigrants who steal work from US citizens. Unemployment in the US would be zero if all the illegals had to pay taxes and worked for the same price as US persons.

June 9, 12:30 pm