



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: Ed Braunstein Age: 29

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

Campaign Address: PO Box 610181

Campaign Telephone Number: (917) 929-3494 Fax: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Party Affiliation(s): Democrat Campaign Manager Name: Austin Finan

Website & Email: www.braunsteinforassembly.com  
edbraunsteinforassembly@gmail.com

Education: SUNY Albany '03, New York Law School '08

Occupation/Employer (or years in currently held elected office): Legislative Assistant  
New York State Assembly

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement: Member of Community Board 1.

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: 07/13/10

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

**CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM**

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

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



## 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. Greater transparency and oversight of outside business interests
2. Advocate for more transparent and responsible budgeting methods.
3. Clean and transparent member item distributions
4. Public financing of elections - similar to NYC system.
5. Independent redistricting

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 [jsenteno@citizensunion.org](mailto:jsenteno@citizensunion.org)

**Additional Comments**

5. Allowing the administration of elections by a two party system of governance and operation ensures some fairness. The system is not perfect, but the administration of elections is extremely political by nature and any new method is likely to be infected by politics in some way. Creating a new system to administer elections provides an opportunity for those with political agendas to hijack the process without any guarantee of balance. In my opinion, the current system, while not perfect, is better than the alternatives.

11. The 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment provides that individuals have a constitutional right to spend money on candidates who support their views. Rightly, laws have provided a limit on how much one may spend on candidates. In my opinion, New York has reached a fair balance in regard to contribution limits and further restricting these individual rights would be antithetical to the spirit of the Constitution.

12. As stated previously – 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment rights. The law provides that quid pro quo agreements in regard to campaign contributions are illegal and I support all efforts to see that these laws are enforced.

15. New York State laws treat corporations as individuals. In keeping with this tradition, I oppose redistricting separate entities from contributing to candidates whose issues they support.

27. In the past, some legislators have used to the member item process to improperly enrich friends and relatives. However, there may be times when such appropriations do serve the interests of the public and such distributions are appropriate. I believe that such distributions demand strict scrutiny, but I am hesitant to insist on a hard line rule on this issue.

28. Certain legislators may come from districts that are more in need of government funding than others. I feel that member item distributions should not be determined based solely on seniority or loyalty to the leadership. However, a hard line rule of equal member item distribution across the board to all legislators is not the most efficient way to serve New Yorkers. I wholeheartedly support greater oversight and transparency in member item distributions.