



**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 13<sup>th</sup> Primary Election, and our "Endorsed Candidates" for the November 6<sup>th</sup> 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: Barbara M. Clark Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Campaign Address: 120-56 224 Street Cambria Heights New York 11411

Campaign Telephone Number: (718) 712 2877 Fax: (718) 712 2877 - Call before Sending

Party Affiliation(s): Democrat Campaign Manager Name: Jean A. Clark

Website & Email: bclark56@aol.com

Education: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation/Employer (or years in currently held elected office): 13 terms

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement: \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate for Congress - 6th CD 1997-98

Are you willing to be interviewed by CU's Local Candidates Committee? YES  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  NO

Signature of Candidate: Barbara M. Clark Date: 6-28-12

## 1. 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/Oppose
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/Oppose
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/Oppose
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/Oppose
5. What is your position on automatically granting New Yorkers on parole the ability to vote?	Support/Oppose
6. What is your position on amending the constitution to allow for Election Day Registration?	Support/Oppose
7. What is your position on amending the constitution to allow for no-excuse absentee voting?	Support/Oppose
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/Oppose
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/Oppose with change
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/Oppose
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/Oppose

### 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/Oppose
13. What is your position on lowering campaign contribution limits for legislative and statewide candidates for public office?	Support/Oppose
14. What is your position on restricting campaign contributions from registered lobbyists, placement agents and those who do business with the state?	Support/Oppose
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/Oppose
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/Oppose
17. What is your position on requiring candidates to include full name, home address, and employer/business name for each contribution and bundler?	Support/Oppose

**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?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Support <input type="radio"/> Oppose
19. What is your position on stricter requirements on the use of campaign contributions for non-campaign related activity, such as personal use?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Support <input type="radio"/> Oppose
20. What is your position on improving disclosure of independent expenditures such as requiring disclosure of electioneering activities and linking expenditures to candidates targeted?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Support <input type="radio"/> Oppose
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?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Support <input type="radio"/> Oppose
22. What is your position on creating an enforcement entity independent of the State Board of Elections to oversee campaign finance laws?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Support <input type="radio"/> 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?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Support <input type="radio"/> Oppose
24. What is your position simplifying and modernizing the state's court system by consolidating the nine trial courts into a two-tiered system?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Support <input type="radio"/> Oppose

**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?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Support <input type="radio"/> Oppose
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?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Support <input type="radio"/> Oppose

**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?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Support <input type="radio"/> Oppose
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?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Support <input type="radio"/> Oppose
29. What is your position on the use of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) rather than cash accounting for the state budget?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Support <input type="radio"/> Oppose
30. What is your position on distributing member item allocations <del>equally among all legislators</del> and requiring for greater accountability as expressed in S-7097/A10116?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Support <input type="radio"/> Oppose <i>with changes</i>
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 <input checked="" type="radio"/> Oppose
32. What is your position on instituting a later start date for the state fiscal year?	Support <input type="radio"/> Oppose
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 <input type="radio"/> Oppose

**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?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Support <input type="radio"/> Oppose
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 <input type="radio"/> Oppose

Citizens Union 2012 State Legislative Questionnaire

HON. BARBARA M. CLARK-33<sup>RD</sup> AD**ELABORATE ON YOUR POSITIONS ON THE ISSUES**

Question#29: What is your position on incorporating the use of performance budgeting and outcome measurement to promote the more rational appropriation of state funds?

I was undecided on this question in 2010 and in 2012 I lean more towards opposing 'rational or reality based budgeting' as the phrasing has been coined as it applies to education and health care.

**My principal opposition is based on the difficulty in applying performance or outcome measures as a basis for budgeting in education and health care. Numerous factors impact on the ability of cities and education districts to achieve expected service/spending goals. In addition, language like that proposed in the Governor's January-2012-2013 Executive Budget and Reform New York Plan: "eliminating certain automatic inflators and pegging increases in education and Medicaid spending to rational and affordable measures of growth" could have been interpreted as stepping away from the provisions of the Court decree in the Campaign for Fiscal Equity case. Now luckily the Legislature and the Governor in this year's adopted budget enacted an increase in state funding for education, but what about next year and what about the mandate of the court! So, I am inclined to oppose outright legislation adopting performance or outcome measures for budgeting in certain areas.**

Question#13: What is your position on lowering campaign contribution limits for legislative and statewide candidates for public office?

**While I support such measures in order to limit the influence of particular donors in pushing legislators or candidates to support their specific agenda, I believe the better way to minimize the influence of donors in state elections is to amend the constitution to extend the term of office from two years to four years. This would eliminate the burden some legislators feel to emphasize politics over good and sound policy judgments. While I myself have never had, nor maintained a 'war chest' and basically only scramble to collect money when campaign season begins, I observe colleagues spending countless hours fundraising due to the quick turnaround needed to gear up before the next election cycle. If ordinary citizens understood the importance of contributing to their elected officials so that they could remain independent of big money interests, this would also not be a problem.**

## CITIZENS UNION 2012 STATE LEGISLATIVE QUESTIONNAIRE HON. BARBARA M. CLARK-33 AD

TOP FIVE CAMPAIGN PROMISES FROM 2010 AND ACTION ON THEM

1. To enlist the support of CUNY or SUNY to bring a community college to the Southeast Queens communities.

I successfully initiated a program with Queensboro Community College to enable under-credited high school students to take courses and secure additional credits towards graduation.

2. To bring a full service hospital to Southeast Queens, preferably on the grounds of the former St. Albans Naval Hospital.

Negotiations led by the Congressman, with the support of all elected officials in the area continue for the renovation and creation of a full service clinic/treatment facility at St. Albans Naval Hospital. Limited resources and a sour economic climate prevent the development of new full service hospitals at this time.

3. To continue to push for compliance with the CFE decision.

While we do not have full compliance, this year's adopted budget includes an increase in education aid, for the first since 2008. I never fail to raise the issue of CFE and compliance with the court decision in every democratic conference on education issues, and will continue to do so.

4. To continue to push for education reform.

The new uniform curriculum standards proposed by the Governor's association and adopted by most states are being implemented in NYS. I was advocate and supporter of national standards in the Legislature and in my role as current member and former Vice-Chair of the Education Commission of the States.

5. To push for less burdensome compliance requirements for SBA licensing and bidding on public contracts and subcontracts.

Introduced A.10501: a bill which requires contractors on public works projects to pay their subcontractors upon completion of work. In many states, provisions that allow general contractors to pay subcontractors only when they are paid by the public-client have been found to be improper or unfair, but vestiges of the practice of delaying payment to subcontractors, to suit the general contractor's convenience or other purposes still continue. Small business owners are the least able to survive delays and often cash flow and cash payment problems cause many small businesses to walk away from the completion of the subcontract earning the general contractor the benefit of services, labor, and products they never pay for. Often the Small Business Owner cannot afford the legal fees or process of pursuing litigation, mechanic's liens, or even mediation when they've experienced such cash flow disruption in their usually under-capitalized business.

## CITIZENS UNION 2012 STATE LEGISLATIVE QUESTIONNAIRE

HON. BARBARA M. CLARK- 33 AD

## TOP FIVE 2012 CAMPAIGN PROMISES OR GOALS

1. To establish the independent office the Child Advocate in NYS (A.644D). Since the introduction of my legislation many other states have created the independent office of Child Advocate with the express intent of safeguarding the legal rights and protections necessary for children under the State's care. Under my bill the Child Advocate in NYS would examine, evaluate, and report to the Governor and the legislature on multi-systemic issues that impact on the quality of care and services provided to children in NYS. The Child Advocate would also have the authority to investigate and resolve citizen complaints affecting the delivery of state or state funded services to children; monitor and review programs and facilities delivering services direct to children; recommend statutory, regulatory or policy changes aimed at improving outcomes for children. We spend a great deal of money on children with no entity being responsible for ensuring that the continuous infusion of state dollars is generating positive outcomes. This legislative has broad bi-partisan support and has passed the Assembly over the course of several sessions.
2. To continue to fight to ensure that NYS complies with the decision in the Campaign for Fiscal Equity Case. While RACE to the Top dollars has helped to make our school districts whole, that is only temporary.
3. To remain independent and free to make decisions that are in the best interests of my constituents and not lobbyists. My campaign finance reports should reflect that I remain no one's puppet or pawn.
4. To continue to push for education reforms that will aid in closing the achievement gap.
5. To expand the community college program to include technical skills/entry level technical skills training associated with the transportation, railway industries. Employment opportunities exist for unemployed or underemployed workers that can achieve skills training or retraining in the transportation industry.