



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: BARBARA M. CLARK Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Office to Which You Seek (Re) Election: Assembly/Senate: Re-Election to 33<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District

Campaign Address: 120-56 224<sup>th</sup> Street Cambria Heights, New York 11411

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

Party Affiliation(s): DEMOCRATIC Campaign Manager's Name: JAN A. CLARK

Website & Email: BCLARK56@AOL.COM

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

Occupation/Employer (or years in currently held elected Office): 23 YEARS

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

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

Signature of Candidate: BARBARA CLARK *Barbara M. Clark* Date: JULY 1, 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
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?	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)?	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
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?	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
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
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
9. What is your position on amending the constitution to allow for Election Day Registration?	UNDECIDED
10. What is your position on amending the constitution to allow for no-excuse absentee voting?	UNDECIDED

### CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

11. What is your position on lowering campaign contribution limits for legislative and statewide candidates for public office?	Support
12. What is your position on establishing a system of public financing for state legislative and statewide races?	Support
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
14. What is your position on restricting campaign contributions from registered lobbyists and those who do business with the state?	Support
15. What is your position on banning campaign contributions from corporations, LLCs, and LLPs, while still allowing such entities to form separate PACs?	Support BAN AND NO PACS
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
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
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?	UNDECIDED
19. What is your position on stricter requirements on the use of campaign contributions for non-campaign related activity, such as personal use?	Support
20. What is your position on requiring disclosure of independent expenditure campaigns?	Support

### 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
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?	UNDECIDED

**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
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
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
26. What is your position on the use of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) rather than cash accounting for the state budget?	Support
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
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 ACCOUNTABILITY PROVISIONS
29. What is your position on incorporating the use of performance budgeting and outcome measurement to promote the more rational appropriation of state funds?	UNDECIDED
30. What is your position on instituting a later start date for the state fiscal year?	Support
31. What is your position on mandating the use of conference committees in the legislative budget process?	Support

**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
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

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 strongly support many of the budget reforms included in your questionnaire, in fact I was the sole elected official to testify on behalf of the plaintiffs in the Campaign for Fiscal Equity (CFE) case challenging the budgeting process for education. In addition, I endorse most of the reforms recommended in the 2007 report of the Citizens Budget Commission calling for greater transparency in legislative process; decisions that will result in long term fiscal stewardship rather than fiscal year 'balance'; closer scrutiny of public authorities revenues; and an end to 'back door' borrowing by those same public entities, as just some of the positions I support.

Transparency in member items is equally important in terms of budget and ethics. Currently, any organization receiving member item funding from me must present receipts to the Secretary of State for how those monies were spent in order to draw down the member item funds. Many years back that was not possible, but in recent years technology and reporting have fostered this practice. This achieves accountability and transparency.

In terms of election reform I am a multi-sponsor of A5279B. I also endorse a number of measures to ease ballot access. In fact, I sponsor a bill to decrease the number of signatures and lessen the burdensome requirements on subscribing witnesses in congressional elections.

One additional reform I would like to see happen and one which might ease some of the above issues is to extend the term of state elected office from two years to four years. This would eliminate the burden some legislators feel to emphasize politics or good policy and judgment. They would no longer feel as if every vote and every decision may impact on his or her next election. I know that may sound self-serving and a little idealistic but lobbyist and unions have so much more sway with legislators when they face the expense and burden of election every two years.

## 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. 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 am no one's puppet or pawn.
2. To continue to fight to ensure that NYS State complies with the decision in the Campaign for Fiscal Equity Case and funds education at the negotiated amounts statewide. The economic downturn has made this a difficult issue, but hopefully Race to the Top dollars will make our schools whole, in the interim.
3. To continue to push for education reforms that will aid in closing the achievement gap. In my capacity as the Vice-Chair of the Education Commission of the States I continue to endorse national curriculum standards; a longer school day and community based support programs. In order to address the tangential but critical issues that affect children learning, I use my position to advocate support for the National Governor's Association Commission proposal for national curricular standards.

TOP FIVE 2010 CAMPAIGN PROMISES OR GOALS

1. To enlist the support of CUNY or SUNY to bring a community college to the Southeast Queens communities.
2. To bring a full service hospital to Southeast Queens, preferably on the grounds of the former St. Albans Naval Hospital. In addition to the health care need for an acute care facility in this community it would create long term job growth, ancillary businesses and services, internships and volunteer activities for young people. Such an entity might also serve as the economic revitalization of the surrounding communities.
3. To continue to push for compliance with the CFE decision.
4. To continue to push for education reform.
5. To push for less burdensome compliance requirements for SBA licensing and bidding on public contracts and subcontracts.

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](mailto:asenteno@citizensunion.org)