

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: John F. Duane Age: 56

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

Campaign Address: 43-07 Westmoreland Street, Little Neck, NY 11363

Campaign Telephone Number: (917) 279-6520 Fax: (718) 423-8996

Party Affiliation(s): Democrat Campaign Manager Name: Anne Strahle

Website & Email: atstrahle@gmail.com and website under construction

Education: Colgate University B.A. (1975); Columbia Law School J.D. (1978)

Occupation/Employer (or years in currently held elected office) Self-Employment as an attorney in private practice from 1985 to the present time.

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement: Member of Assembly 1983-

84; Member of Westmoreland Civic Association; former Vice-President of Little Neck

Community Association; Little League Soccer, Basketball and Baseball Coach; Vietnam

Veterans of America; Queens Historical Society and Little Neck Douglaston Historical Society.

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: John F. Duane Date: 7/9/10

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 x
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 x
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 x
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 x
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 x
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 x
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 x
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 x
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 x

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 x

14. What is your position on restricting campaign contributions from registered lobbyists and those who do business with the state?	Support/Oppose <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
20. What is your position on requiring disclosure of independent expenditure campaigns?	Support/Oppose <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
26. What is your position on the use of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) rather than cash accounting for the state budget?	Support/Oppose <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
30. What is your position on instituting a later start date for the state fiscal year?	Support/Oppose <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
31. What is your position on mandating the use of conference committees in the legislative budget process?	Support/Oppose <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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 X
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?	need clarification 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.

Radical reform of the Albany legislative culture is absolutely necessary if we are to restore the confidence of the citizenry in the New York State Government. Non-partisan independent redistricting, campaign finance, ethics and budgetary reform must be the highest priorities of elected officials in order to give the citizens of New York State the effective, honest and transparent government they deserve. To that end, I have signed the New York Uprising Pledges and I will be an ardent advocate for reforms championed by Citizens Union.

I also believe that the governing structure of the New York State Assembly should be modified. At the present time, even if a bill has passed the appropriate Assembly Committee, it may only come to the floor for a vote of the full house with the Speaker's approval. I will work to amend the process so that the Committee Chairmen and Chairwomen may bring to the floor any bill which passes his or her committee for a vote of the full house without having first to obtain the permission of the Speaker.

I look forward to working with Citizens Union to achieve our shared values and aims.

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. Non-Partisan redistricting and election reform in accordance with my positions on the first ten questions on the candidate questionnaire.
2. When I was in the Assembly in 1983 and 1984, I was the prime sponsor of the Vietnam Veterans Tuition Assistance Bill which provided tuition assistance to any resident Vietnam-era Veteran who was not dishonorably discharged and wished to attend any private or public college in the State of New York. I will sponsor legislation to afford this type of tuition assistance for the Iraq-era Veterans and the Afghanistan-era Veterans.
3. I am part of a team of attorneys who represent over 1,200,000 consumers in two separate class action suits aimed at reforming the practices of unscrupulous credit counseling enterprises. Specifically, the defendants in these class action suits claim to be non-profit companies providing credit counseling to consumers. In fact, these operations are for-profit enterprises which defraud vulnerable debt-ridden consumers by taking undisclosed fees and often providing absolutely no credit counseling services. I will sponsor legislation modeled on the federal Credit Repair

Organizations Act which will require detailed disclosures by the credit counseling companies before a consumer decides whether or not to engage the services of that company. Most importantly, the legislation will mandate that no fee shall be paid to the credit counseling company unless and until all credit counseling services are completed. In this way, we can guarantee that only true not-for-profit companies are engaged in this important but easily abused business.

4. To reduce employment and assist small businesses, I will sponsor legislation to reduce the payroll tax on businesses of 25 or fewer employees. I am convinced that many small businesses are on the verge of hiring employees but will not do so because of the prohibitive impact of the payroll tax. The reduction of this tax will reduce unemployment and spur the economy because there will be more people with jobs and disposable income.

5. My brother, Tom Duane is the first openly gay, HIV positive member of the New York State Senate. I will be an ardent and outspoken proponent of marriage equality and I will not rest until the civil rights of all New Yorkers are guaranteed in our constitution and statutes.

**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**