



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: Julissa A Gomez

Age: 35

Office to Which You Seek (Re) Election: Assembly District 72

Campaign Address: 4678 Broadway #1011 New York NY 10034

Campaign Telephone Number: 646-319-8180/Office or 646-314-3079/Political Director

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Political Director Name: Cheryl Pahaham

Website & Email: www.votejulissagomez.com or cpahaham@votejulissagomez.com or votejulissagomez@gmail.com

Education: Law degree

Occupation/Employer: Attorney in various private firms; left employment for campaign

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement: Member of Community Board 12, Manhattan; past President and current member of the Dominican Bar Association, past Deputy President of the Hispanic National Bar Association, NY Region, Board Member of the Dominican-American National Roundtable.

Are you willing to be interviewed by CU's Local Candidates Committee? YES
(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? NOT YET, BUT WILL DO SO

Signature of Candidate:

Date: July 2, 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?	Support
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?	Support
10. What is your position on amending the constitution to allow for no-excuse absentee voting?	Support

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?	Oppose
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
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?	Support
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?	Support

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?	No position
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 among all legislators and requiring greater accountability as expressed in S. 7007/A10116?	Support
29. What is your position on incorporating the use of performance budgeting and outcome measurement to promote the more rational appropriation of state funds?	No position

30. What is your position on instituting a later start date for the state fiscal year?	No position
31. What is your position on mandating the use of conference committees in the legislative budget process?	No position

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?	No position
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?	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.

13. I oppose the use of matching funds because this has generated a lot of waste and driven up the cost of local elections in New York City. Candidates with no prospects of ever winning an election get thousands of taxpayer dollars to hire friends and family members. Full public financing could help to limit the growth in spending on local elections and permit better regulation of the use of campaign funds.

25. I have no position on this because it could result in another duplicative government office. We have the New York State Division of the Budget, which could be required to produce what the independent budget office is charged with in that proposal. On the other hand, if reformers feel that the Division of the Budget is not accountable to the public, why not require by statute that it be made accountable to the public instead of creating yet another government office.

29. Performance budgeting and outcome measurement are not objective tools and can be politically manipulated, as evidenced by controversies regarding the rise in New York State standardized test scores and New York City's graduation rate. There is no one method for governance that is accountable and transparent to voters; that will work forever; and, that is not subject to political manipulation. Democracy is not an auto-pilot system or some kind of remote-controlled system set up by elites that works perfectly regardless of who is in office. Sometimes things get messy.

30. It is not clear to me that changing the start of the state's fiscal year will improve its financial condition or financial management.

31. It is not clear to me that using conference committees will ensure an on-time and balanced budget in New York State. I would like to learn more about this proposal.

32. Requiring judges to be appointed as opposed to screened and then elected reduces voter participation in the Democratic process. I have enjoyed meeting judicial candidates campaigning because it gave me a chance to talk to them and to find out more about them and their political identities.

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. I will fight to preserve and expand affordable housing, including home ownership opportunities for low and middle income residents.
2. I will fight to expand child care throughout the state, including building a coalition to advocate for universal publicly funded child care, regardless of family income. Fostering broad participation in a universal child care system is the only way to ensure that child care becomes a protected public good. If we seek only to provide subsidies for low income families, child care is vulnerable to budget cuts and political attacks.
3. I will seek to create jobs by engaging unions and businesses to hear their ideas and preferences, and by supporting or proposing legislation that promotes developing industries, such as renewable energy or that reforms corporations, such as proposals to reform Industrial Development Agencies that give public subsidies and tax incentives to private corporations that then do not create jobs for local residents.
4. I will be an advocate for campaign finance reform, with full public funding of state elections.
5. I will push for tax reform in order to more fairly distribute the responsibility to fund public services among the high income taxpayers, and lift some of the burden off moderate and low income taxpayers.

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