



## 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: **Anna Lewis, Esq.**

Age: **51**

Office to Which You Seek (Re) Election: Assembly/**Senate** District #: **31**

Campaign Address: **250 West 100<sup>th</sup> Street, #1500, New York, NY 10025**

Campaign Telephone Number: **(646) 283-5942**

Fax: **N/A**

Party Affiliation(s): **Democrat**

Campaign Manager Name: **Michael Oliva**

Website & Email: <http://annain2010.com> - [info@annain2010.com](mailto:info@annain2010.com)

Education: **J.D., New York Law School, Admitted to New York and New Jersey State Bars, B.A., Psychology, Stony Brook University**

Occupation/Employer (or years in currently held elected office): **New York State Health Department, Prosecutor, Division of Legal Affairs; Bureau of Professional Medical Conduct**

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement:

In 2001, I was a Candidate for City Council in NYC District #6. I finished second to Council Member Gale Brewer amid a field of 6 candidates. Last year, I ran for Civil Court Judge, and was knocked off the ballot due to a technicality after being endorsed by the New York Times.

My leadership positions include, or have once included:

- **Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation**, District Captain, 2004-Present
- **NAACP**, Mid-Manhattan Branch, Assistant Secretary, 2006-08, Executive Committee Member, Chair-Legal Redress Committee, Co-Chair-Health Committee
- **Mitchell-Lama Residents Coalition**, Executive Board, 1994-Present
- **Share-A-Walk**, Team Captain, Self help for women with breast or ovarian cancer, 1994
- **Concerned Citizens for Community Action**, Executive Board, 1992-02
- **Brooklyn Women's Political Caucus**, Brooklyn Political Planning Chair, 1984-85
- **504 Democratic Club**, Executive Board Member, 1986-89; Member 1993-Present
- **Manhattan Borough President C. Virginia Fields' Task Force on Mitchell-Lama Housing**, Board Member, 1999-03 Small Claims Court Arbitrator, 1994-05
- **Sondra Thomas**, Leder House, Columbus Park Manor, Independence House and several other tenants associations, Tenant Advocate, 1985-2004
- **New Democratic Coalition**, Vice Chair, 1985-90, New Leadership New York, Steering Committee, 1984-89
- **National Women's Political Caucus/Manhattan Chapter**, Member, 1995-Present
- **NYS Young Democrats**, Board Member, 1983-88

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: Anna Lewis Date: **July 9<sup>th</sup>, 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**

<p>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 ?</p> <p>I support removing redistricting power from the hands of the Legislature, and placing it into the hands of an independent commission.</p> <p>In the case of S.1614B, having an independent body determine apportionment based on census data, rather than it being determined by a legislative task force, is a good first step towards more sensible redistricting.</p> <p>The District I hope to represent is a prime example of the failure of our current process. In an effort to remove Senator Schneiderman from office, State representatives outlined a district that stretches from West 79<sup>th</sup> Street on the Upper West Side, all the way to Northern Riverdale in the Bronx. In essence, its borders run from the heart of the New York City to the Southern border of Westchester.</p> <p>The intention behind this was to remove white, Upper West Side voters from the district, while adding many more Latino voters from Washington Heights, aiding in Schneiderman’s defeat. The problem that resulted from this is the District is now so geographically, economically and culturally diverse that it no longer exists as a cohesive area of the State, but instead is made up of several distinct and separate areas with little in common on a local level.</p> <p>Ironically, Senator Schneiderman retained his seat after changes to his District, proving even the underhanded efforts and bad intentions of lawmakers a failure, and the voters were left to pay for their gerrymandering.</p> <p>Borders determining representation should not be determined by political means, but instead by geography, as well as economic and demographic considerations.</p>	<p><u>Support</u>/Oppose</p>
<p>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?</p> <p>For reasons stated above, I would support a fully independent redistricting commission.</p>	<p>Support/<u>Oppose</u></p>

<p>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)?</p> <p>The current task force, as exists, aids the Legislature on redistricting, rather than advising changes. In addition, several of its 6 members are legislators. I would prefer a completely unelected, separate, much less political, panel.</p>	<p>Support/<b>Oppose</b></p>
<p>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?</p>	<p><b>Support</b>/Oppose</p>
<p>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?</p> <p>I fully support restructuring the NYS Board of Elections. As it is structured now, the agency is literally designed on a model of perpetual patronage, where political parties determine, through a stranglehold on the process, who is employed by the board, as well as what election employees take on leadership and managerial positions, and commissionerships. It is an unhealthy collusion between two political parties and government.</p> <p>When I ran for office last year my petition signatures were challenged by my opponent. A high ranking official responsible for overseeing the Board's report on the validity and amount of my signatures had himself collected petition signatures for the opponent attempting to remove me from the ballot.</p> <p>The commissioners who heard my case were picked by the Democratic County party, which was supporting my opponent at the time. Further, the Judges hearing my case won their own elections through the support of the Democratic County Party.</p> <p>From top to bottom, the two parties hold so much institutional power at the Board of Elections, and in the elective process, that it not only prevents competition from without the party, it additionally prevents them from potential change from within.</p>	<p><b>Support</b>/Oppose</p>

<p>Restricting representation at the agency to only Democrats and Republicans stymies the potential flourishing of legitimately effective third parties, which further closes off the elective process.</p>	
<p>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?</p> <p>As a candidate who last year was removed from the ballot after collecting three times the required amount of petition signatures to qualify, I wholeheartedly support an easier process.</p> <p>Arcane rules invalidating signatures because a voter had signed an earlier “prior” petition should be eliminated, as well as archaic rules such as eliminating the signatures collected by a witness who failed to specify their borough of residency below their witness signature.</p> <p>Whole pages of valid signatures should not be invalidated on technicalities such as party enrollment of the witness, errant marks, or an obvious mistake in dating.</p> <p>A safe rule to live by would be to err on the side of the intention of the petition signers who are enrolled in the party for which one is seeking the nomination. If the intention of the voter who signs the petition is clear, their signature should be counted. Thankfully, legal precedent is trending in this direction – but it has not been enough.</p> <p>I also agree with lowering the number of required signatures for any respective seat. As it stands now, active citizens are institutionally discouraged from running for office, dissuaded by the seemingly daunting task of qualifying for the ballot.</p> <p>In states like California, where ballot access is much less cumbersome, major party candidates with a legitimate chance at winning rise to the top of the process, while novelty or fringe candidates do not. The argument that too many candidates will be on the ballot is facetious, since for the most part only candidates with the intention of running a full campaign will bother collecting nominating signatures.</p>	<p><u>Support</u>/Oppose</p>
<p>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</p>	<p><u>Support</u>/Oppose</p>

<p>charter amendments from appearing on the ballot?</p>	
<p>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?</p> <p>Because for the most part these citizens are not permanently removed from the population, and because I support a former prisoner, specifically a felon, being able to vote if they have proven over time to have fully reformed themselves, I am against them being eliminated from population counts.</p> <p>Moreover, the matter of whether or not one votes, or is able to vote, should not be a determinate of whether or not they are represented by government or its resources. While I fervently support voter participation, and believe voting empowers the community or individual who chooses to do so, I know that as a State Senator it will be my job to represent every member of each community I represent, regardless of their proportion of voter turnout.</p>	<p>Support/<u>Oppose</u></p>
<p>9. What is your position on amending the constitution to allow for Election Day Registration?</p>	<p><u>Support</u>/Oppose</p>
<p>10. What is your position on amending the constitution to allow for no-excuse absentee voting?</p> <p>This is an emotional issue for me.</p> <p>If one chooses to take the time to vote by the more tedious process of absentee voting, their vote should be honored. Oftentimes reasons barring one from physically participating in the voting process on election day are of a personal matter. So as a type 1 diabetic, who for a long time kept my disease a secret, I understand this on a personal level.</p> <p>Every sensible step we can take to open the electoral process to more of our citizens will better the process for all of us, and improve the quality of our government.</p>	<p><u>Support</u>/Oppose</p>

**CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM**

<p>11. What is your position on lowering campaign contribution limits for legislative and statewide candidates for public office?</p> <p>As a candidate without access to large institutional donors, or many wealthy friends, and one running without the power of incumbency, I fully support stricter funding limits. One’s electoral power should be determined more by the amount of total contributions they garner, rather than by the wealth of each of their individual contributors, giving voters a more equal voice in the process, and a better chance to effectively support the candidate of their choice.</p>	<p><u>Support</u>/Oppose</p>
<p>12. What is your position on establishing a system of public financing for state legislative and statewide races?</p>	<p><u>Support</u>/Oppose</p>

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?

This question is a tough one for me.

As a supporter of the freedom of speech, and as someone who believes a candidate should be rewarded for their hard work in all areas of their campaign, I am hesitant to support the full public funding of campaigns.

Add to that the debt our state and country are already in, and the amount of other monetary commitments and potential commitments we have to deal with, it is tough for me, as much as I would like to, to support full public financing.

I also find my support of much more lenient ballot access requirements and the idea of full public funding of campaigns to be a bit contradictory. If we make it much easier to get on the ballot, while also fully funding every campaign that does, we could run into some serious problems in terms of determining how to most legitimately administer taxpayer funds.

As a candidate for office in 2001, who engaged in the NYC CFB (Campaign Finance Board) process, I found matching funds to be a great way to level the playing field for serious and capable, yet underfunded, candidates.

I would suggest reforming the CFB process by eliminating some of the more arcane technical roadblocks, while at the same time understanding the higher scrutiny of process due to it being funded by public revenue.

I also believe the agency needs to streamline its processes so that candidates no longer receive money well after they are able to effectively use it towards winning their elections. In short, I support the program in spirit, but also support sensible reforms to how it is run.

If we are to employ a similar program on the State level it will be of the utmost importance to first examine which logistical components work well, and which fall short of being successful.



<p>14. What is your position on restricting campaign contributions from registered lobbyists and those who do business with the state?</p>	<p><u>Support</u>/Oppose</p>
<p>15. What is your position on banning campaign contributions from corporations, LLCs, and LLPs, while still allowing such entities to form separate PACs?</p>	<p><u>Support</u>/Oppose</p>
<p>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?</p> <p>I believe that when a candidate raises money there exists between them and the donor a bargain of trust, the trust that the funds they give will be spent towards the campaign, and not towards personal matters, the trust that the money one donates will be spent effectively by the campaign, and the trust that it will be directed towards the campaign for office the donor believes they are donating to.</p> <p>For example, if a donor believes a Congress Member is doing a good job in Congress, and supports their reelection to Congress monetarily, yet supports another candidate for Mayor, the redirection of their donation to a campaign for another office is, at least partially, a breach of trust.</p> <p>I also agree with limiting contributions to parties by the same standard that we do for candidates.</p> <p>The more we can do to reform the fundraising process the better.</p>	<p>Support/<u>Oppose</u></p>

<p>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?</p> <p>As they say, sunlight is the best disinfectant, and the more we can shine on the coffers of our elected officials, the better we will be able to examine the pureness of their intentions, and what motivates their voting and funding patterns.</p> <p>That said, we should also make the process of reporting as simple as possible, so that we do not impede a candidate's ability to disclose their records.</p> <p>I personally would take money from any reasonable, law-abiding donor. I say this because I know full well that their donation will in no way effect my decision making. So personally, I see public disclosure as a great way to show my independence as an elected official.</p>	<p><u>Support</u>/Oppose</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p><u>Support</u>/Oppose</p>
<p>19. What is your position on stricter requirements on the use of campaign contributions for non-campaign related activity, such as personal use?</p> <p>As stated in my answer to Question 16, I believe the abuse of campaign finances breaches the trust between the donor and who they choose to donate to, and the public with the electoral process.</p> <p>We need to take every step possible to ensure that this trust is not eroded by personal greed and poor, or unethical, decision-making.</p>	<p><u>Support</u>/Oppose</p>
<p>20. What is your position on requiring disclosure of independent expenditure campaigns?</p>	<p><u>Support</u>/Oppose</p>

**ETHICS REFORM**

<p>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?</p> <p>I believe the deconsolidation of power in this instance is a move in a positive direction. If one individual appoints the majority of the body, they will by nature hold a disproportionate amount of power over that body. The more we can fragment the power in the appointment process, the more independent the Commission will be.</p>	<p><u>Support</u>/Oppose</p>
<p>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?</p> <p>As former Lead Counsel to the New York State Committee on Oversight, Analysis and Investigation, it was my job to seek out, expose and eliminate fraud, mismanagement and waste in State agencies and by elected officials.</p> <p>I found the experience to be enlightening due to the fact that we were successful in finding many unfair practices by agencies and members of agencies. We did not though, have a large role in investigating problems related to campaign finance reform or lobbying. A separate, independent body, such as the Commission on Public Integrity, can become an effective vehicle in filling that role.</p>	<p><u>Support</u>/Oppose</p>

**BUDGET REFORM**

<p>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?</p>	<p><u>Support</u>/Oppose</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p><u>Support</u>/Oppose</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p><u>Support</u>/Oppose</p>
<p>26. What is your position on the use of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) rather than cash accounting for the state budget?</p> <p>As a candidate who has made eliminating as much as possible fraud and waste in New York State one of the centerpieces of my campaign, I believe consistent accounting standards such as GAAP, or GASS for auditing, are a crucial component of achieving that goal.</p>	<p><u>Support</u>/Oppose</p>
<p>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?</p> <p>I am very strongly against members funding organizations where they, or their close relatives, are employed, or receive a salary, or personal resources from.</p>	<p><u>Support</u>/Oppose</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p><u>Support</u>/Oppose</p>
<p>29. What is your position on incorporating the use of performance budgeting and outcome measurement to promote the more rational appropriation of state funds?</p>	<p><u>Support</u>/Oppose</p>

<p>30. What is your position on instituting a later start date for the state fiscal year?</p> <p>I need to examine this issue more closely to give a legitimate, well thought out, answer.</p>	Support/Oppose
<p>31. What is your position on mandating the use of conference committees in the legislative budget process?</p>	<u>Support</u> /Oppose

**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?

While not supporting the election of Judges, I do support citizen involvement, rather than political party involvement, in determining how we assign Judgeships.

I also believe all panels determining judicial qualifications, experience and temperament should be independent of political parties and influence. While the concept or influence of politics cannot ever fully be eliminated in any appointment process, the more we can do to reduce it the better.

As our system exists now, we elect Civil Court Judges in popular elections, while electing Supreme Court Judges by party convention, and later by general election. While I would ultimately like to see the most independent appointment process possible, I do support public elections over judicial conventions. This is because a public election is determined by a much larger, much less political group of citizens than is found at a party convention, which is comprised in totality of a small group of political insiders with personal and ideological intentions.

In a place like New York, a primary generally determines the winner of any election. The problem with judicial conventions is they remove the power of the vote, and remove choices in the general election, since for the most part every party will endorse the winner of a Democratic convention. The nominated candidate only needs one vote to win, his or her own. There is rarely any formidable opposition, if any at all.

I propose, as does the Fund for Modern Courts, that we transition from a public election, not convention, process to an appointment process. As this transition occurs, outdated rules for judicial elections should be removed as well, like making ballot access easier, and providing public financing.

When we finally reach the stage of establishing citizens' committees to determine judgeships they should not be picked by local parties, but instead by an independent offices like a Public Integrity Commission.

As a political outsider who ran against the Democratic party, and was removed from the ballot, I wholeheartedly support independent, not party determined, judicial screening panels as well. As they stand now, panels are filled with political insiders tied to political candidates. Good Judges should be as impartial as possible. Initial screening by political insiders is antithetical to that goal.

Support/Oppose

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?

As Lead Counsel to the New York State Assembly Committee on Oversight, Analysis and Investigation, I investigated abuses of the prevailing wage law, where it was found that contractors awarded New York State contracts were failing to pay their workers the prevailing wage rate, which is determined by a collective bargaining process.

I say this because I became well aware of the abuse that can happen when contractors and government collude to take advantage of taxpayer funds. If there is only one contractor on any large job, illegality can be hidden much more easily. This is another reason I find campaign finance, open government, and oversight so crucial in our day and age in New York State. Large contractors should not be allowed to “buy off” an elected official through donations and later abuse their unmonitored power.

In essence, the more we can deconsolidate the amount of contractors any one job can finance, the less chance there will be for them to abuse our system. A reformed Wicks Law can also do a lot to lessen the power of campaign contributions by removing a winner takes all culture that can lead to procedural abuse and undue influence on our elected officials.

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.

### **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. **Reduce Government Fraud and Waste/Create Better Oversight:** As I stated several in several instances earlier, I served as Lead Counsel to the New York State Assembly's Commission on Oversight Analysis and Investigation. The agency was often successful in unveiling fraud, mismanagement and waste. As a result, we often saved the State very substantial sums of money. With our current deficit crises, this function of our government could not be more important.

The problem that exists in the New York State Senate is that while they do have an Oversight Committee it is run much less successfully, and is much less active, than the Assembly's. I want to bring the will to investigate to this body, as I was a part of doing in the State Assembly.

2. **Build More Affordable Housing:** I sit on the Board of the Mitchell-Lama Residents Coalition. I believe the Mitchell-Lama program was one of the most successful housing programs in the country, and would like to bring a similar model to our State today. We need to work with developers to make it advantageous for them to build affordable housing, while strictly regulating that they do so.

Some have said to me that this is not an ideal time to build affordable housing due to the economy. I say it is the perfect time to do so for several reasons. The first is that there is much more of a need for affordable housing in bad economic times like this one than in times when most people have more money.



Secondly, building affordable housing provides jobs, and with the suggested further reform of Wicks Law we can ensure that jobs are spread out among many employers.

A third reason is to retain the current fiber of our communities through tough times. Mitchell-Lama Housing was originally built to house middle-income and lower middle-income workers like Police Officers, Teachers and Firemen. A new program based on that model can ensure people can live in the neighborhoods they work in, which improves the community for the better. For instance, if a police officer knows the children in the neighborhood he will be much less apt to harass them unreasonably, or to fear them, or suspect them of crimes they are not committing. In turn, the children will more respect the officer knowing he is from their neighborhood, and relates to their problems.

The same would go for teachers and the children they teach. They will be able to relate to them much better, in turn providing them with a better quality of education.

Another aspect of housing I would like to encourage is that we pay more attention to aesthetics in architecture. People will often treat the place they live in based on how it presents itself to them and makes them feel. If you treat people badly by throwing them in drab, confined and isolated, prison-like structures, they will behave badly and have a lack of respect for their surroundings. Provide people with a home they care about and it will change how they treat their home. It is in essence a matter of personal and physical health.

Columbus Avenue, in my district, provides many examples of public, or publicly subsidized housing, which adds to, rather than detracts from, the beauty of the community.

3. **Create Green Jobs, Improved Infrastructure and New Transportation:** I believe our infrastructure, especially in New York City, is crumbling. We can provide jobs to many people by publicly, and privately, funding infrastructure projects. In turn, the increased tax revenues collected as a result of these jobs can do much to close the budget gap.

A great way to subsidize these projects would be to include private interests in the innovation and technology portions of these projects. We should include, through tax incentives, the development of local green businesses located within our State. These businesses will in turn employ more people, further increasing revenue sources.

I would also like to build a high-speed rail system, perhaps in cooperation with other states. This system will provide temporary jobs throughout its construction, and permanent jobs upon its completion. Corporations will be allowed to buy ad space in order to further subsidize the transportation system. Companies large and small can bid on green energy solutions, which will help to power the system, and reduce environmentally hazardous waste.

There is no reason that we cannot, in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, be at the forefront of green technology and innovation. It provides jobs, improves our lives, and makes a healthier world for people and their children.

4. **Improve and Expand Healthcare:** In the area of healthcare, as a long time Type 1 Diabetic and Diabetes Activist, it is my goal to bring a public option to New York, similar to the successful program enjoyed in San Francisco. It works well there and can work well here as

well. The plan passed by President Obama does not provide a true public option, which can compete in the marketplace with private plans. As it stands now, Americans will be forced to purchase health insurance, which will be enforced through the tax code. This leaves people without the money to purchase insurance in a very difficult position, and if there is any matter that requires public funding, it is healthcare. This will force insurance companies to compete and lower their prices, giving taxpayers a choice of better options with which to sustain their good health.

I also have a plan for public and private entities to partner in a healthcare van program that will perform services either free of charge to the patient who cannot afford them, or payable by insurance, which will include screening for various health problems and provide preventative healthcare for people otherwise unable, or unwilling, to see a doctor.

Corporations and hospitals can help to fund the vans by using their ad space, and creating a PR vehicle for their company, where they can leaflet and engage in community outreach.

Preventative healthcare, as well as the healthy maintenance of our environment, will save the State billions of dollars in costs in the long run, which is good for our well being physically, and for the financial health of New York.

5. **Pass Marriage Equality:** I am a strong supporter of any two human beings who want to marry being able to do so, regardless of their gender.

I say this as a firm believer in the separation of Church and State as outlined in the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. As an attorney, I also understand that a marriage, above all things, is an economic contract binding by law, not religion.

In fact, I have no problem with any religious entity or organization disregarding or opposing the marriage between same gender people, and respect their right to do so. What I do not support is these beliefs being legislated into law. As the constitution also states, we are all granted with certain unalienable rights, including life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

These rights should be enjoyed by each and every American, more specifically each and every New Yorker, regardless of who they choose to love or enter into a contract with.

**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 [asenteno@citizensunion.org](mailto:asenteno@citizensunion.org)