



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.

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Candidate Name: Bill Perkins

Age: 60

Office to Which You Seek (Re) Election: State Senate, District 30

Campaign Address: PO Box 1355, Morningside Station, New York, NY 10026

Campaign Telephone Number: (212 )316-9434 Fax: (212) 496-0181

Party Affiliation(s): DEM/WFP Campaign Manager Name: Richard Fife

Website & Email: [www.BillPerkins.org](http://www.BillPerkins.org) info@BillPerkins.org

Education: BA, Political Science, Brown University, 1972

Occupation/Employer (or years in currently held elected office):\_State Senator, Elected 2006

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement: New York City Council, 1998-2006,  
District Leader

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:  Date: 7/20/2010

## 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

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| 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?  | Support |
| 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?  | 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? | 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 |
| 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**

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| 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**

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| 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 |
| 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 |
| 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

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| 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 |
|---|---------|

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.

Anyone can check boxes on a paper, I've been on the front lines fighting for openness, fairness and reform my entire career as a public official from helping establish and monitor NYC's Campaign Finance Law in the City Council to this year sponsoring and passing Public Authorities Reform in the State Senate.

### 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. Fight for better schools -- A strong supporter of public education, I've fought to insure that our public resources support the opportunity for a good public school education for all of our students and held the first ever public hearings on charter schools that helped lead to more transparency, greater accountability and new rules concerning co-location.
2. Promote Albany Reform -- As Chairman of the Corporations, Authorities & Commissions Committee, I led the fight in the State Senate for the law to reform our public authorities like the MTA, and to take their operations out of the shadows, making sure their finances are scrutinized and that they are serving the people.
3. Create Jobs and Opportunity -- Worked to pass the Power for Jobs Plan which helped create thousands of good-paying jobs and to extend unemployment benefits for over 120,000 New Yorkers who had lost their jobs.
4. Promote Healthy environment -- sponsored the new law to reduce sulphur in heating oil, to improve our air quality and give New Yorkers cleaner, healthier air that doesn't make them sick and bill to protect children from lead poisoning.
5. Knock down barriers and promote equality -- Worked to pass marriage equality bill and sponsored domestic workers rights bill.

## **TOP FIVE 2010 CAMPAIGN PROMISES OR GOALS**

1. Improve our schools
2. Increase Accountability and Transparency
3. Create Jobs and opportunity
4. Preserve and create affordable housing
5. Promote healthy environment

**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)