



**2013 QUESTIONNAIRE FOR
CANDIDATES FOR NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE - VACANCIES**

Citizens Union would appreciate your response to the following questionnaire related to policy issues facing New York State and our interest in reforming state government. 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 our "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 will not automatically schedule an interview with you if you return this questionnaire, as we prioritize competitive races and resources constrain us from evaluating all races. Please contact us if you wish to be interviewed.

We plan to make responses to this questionnaire public on our website, Voters Directory and other appropriate venues. We thank you very much for your response.

Candidate Name: HAICE RIVERA Age: 36

Campaign Address: 157 E. 181st Street Bronx, NY 10457

Campaign Telephone Number: (416) 393-5340 Fax: () N/A

Party Affiliation(s): Dem. Campaign Manager Name: Nick Tejeda

Website & Email: www.VoteRIVERA2013.com

Education: AAS - Public Administration BA - Political Science
(Husky CC) Lehman College

Occupation/Employer (or years in currently held elected office): (2014)

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement:

Founder/Executive Director: Hands On New York, Inc. 2007-Pres.
Field Staffer, DFA (2008)

Are you willing to be interviewed by CU's Local Candidates Committee? YES ☒ NO ☐
(Please note: Citizens Union can grant its "Endorsed Candidate" rating only to candidates we have interviewed.)

Have you completed requisite campaign finance filings? YES ☒ NO ☐

Signature of Candidate: Haice Rivera Date: 07/30/13

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. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions about any of the reform measures below.

ELECTION REFORM

| | |
|---|----------------|
| 1. What is your position on the recently passed constitutional amendment (S.2107/A.2086 of 2013) creating an independent redistricting commission with appointees split evenly between the majority and minority parties which will be on the ballot in 2014? | Support/Oppose |
| 2. 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 |
| 3. 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 |
| 4. 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 |
| 5. What is your position on automatically granting New Yorkers on parole the ability to vote? | Support/Oppose |
| 6. What is your position on amending the constitution to allow for Election Day Registration? | Support/Oppose |
| 7. What is your position on amending the constitution to allow for no-excuse absentee voting? | Support/Oppose |
| 8. What is your position on instituting early voting in New York State to allow voters to cast their votes at more convenient times as proposed by A.689-A of 2013? | Support/Oppose |
| 9. What is your position on redesigning the ballot to ensure that voters are able to clearly read candidates' names, titles of offices, designations and ballot questions; that instructions are clear and accurate; that bilingual ballots are required, as proposed by A.204-A of 2013? | Support/Oppose |
| 10. What is your position on reforming the special election process, creating a nonpartisan special election for state legislative vacancies, as proposed by A.5290/S.161 of 2013? | Support/Oppose |
| 11. What is your position regarding automatic voter registration in which voter registration information of individuals who consent to be registered is provided electronically to the Board of Elections, and address information is automatically updated? | Support/Oppose |
| 12. What is your position on eliminating the runoff election in New York City for citywide elections, and instead utilizing Instant Runoff Voting, as proposed by A.7013 of 2013? | Support/Oppose |

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

| | |
|---|----------------|
| 13. What is your position on establishing a public matching financing system for state legislative and statewide races similar to the New York City model? | Support/Oppose |
| 14. What is your position on lowering campaign contribution limits for legislative and statewide candidates for public office? | Support/Oppose |
| 15. What is your position on restricting campaign contributions from registered lobbyists, placement agents and those who do business with the state? | Support/Oppose |
| 16. What is your position on limiting or banning campaign contributions from corporations, LLCs, and LLPs? (Note: such entities would be able to form separate political action committees due to constitutional issues regarding freedom of speech.) | Support/Oppose |

| | |
|---|----------------|
| 17. What is your position on closing "soft money" loopholes such as limiting transfers from party committees to candidates or other committees to twice the limit set on individual contributors and limiting contributions to party committees, including housekeeping accounts, to the same ceiling placed on candidates? | Support/Oppose |
| 18. What is your position on requiring candidates to include the full name, home address, and employer/business name for each contribution and bundler? | Support/Oppose |
| 19. 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 |
| 20. What is your position on stricter requirements on the use of campaign contributions for non-campaign related activity, such as personal use? | Support/Oppose |
| 21. What is your position on improving disclosure of independent expenditures such as requiring disclosure of electioneering activities and linking expenditures to candidates targeted? | Support/Oppose |
| 22. What is your position on limiting the ability of candidates to accumulate "war chests" and then transferring funds raised in one race to another? | Support/Oppose |
| 23. What is your position on creating an enforcement entity independent of the State Board of Elections to oversee campaign finance laws? | Support/Oppose |

JUDICIAL REFORM

| | |
|---|----------------|
| 24. What is your position on a merit-based appointment system through creation of a commission for the selection of judges in all of New York's trial courts? | Support/Oppose |
| 25. What is your position simplifying and modernizing the state's court system by consolidating the nine trial courts into a two-tiered system? | Support/Oppose |

ETHICS REFORM

| | |
|---|----------------|
| 26. What is your position on empowering the Attorney General to investigate and prosecute cases involving public corruption, including serious election law malfeasance? | Support/Oppose |
| 27. What is your position on amending the State Constitution to extend pension forfeiture, subject to due process safeguards, to all public officers and legislators who have been convicted of felonies, building on the 2011 ethics reforms which only apply to future state employees? | Support/Oppose |
| 28. What is your position regarding changing the voting structure and procedures of the Joint Commission on Public Ethics to remove the ability of a superminority of three commissioners from blocking investigations from proceeding, and requiring further transparency of commission votes and the names of persons who are the subject of substantial basis reports? | Support/Oppose |

BUDGET REFORM

| | |
|---|----------------|
| 29. 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 |
| 30. What is your position on the use of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) rather than cash accounting for the state budget? | Support/Oppose |
| 31. What is your position on distributing member item allocations equally among all legislators and requiring for greater accountability, as expressed in A.641/S.920 of 2013? | Support/Oppose |
| 32. 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 |
| 33. What is your position on instituting a later start date for the state fiscal year? | Support/Oppose |
| 34. What is your position on limiting the ability of the governor to enact policy changes governing the use of resources in appropriation bills by requiring that such bills be consistent with existing law or proposed changes in separate legislation? | Support/Oppose |

Please use the space provided or a separate sheet of paper to elaborate on your positions on the issues contained in the previous pages. You may also provide additional information on any actions that you have taken or plan to take to advance your positions on these issues.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no text or other markings on the paper.

II. 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 2013 CAMPAIGN PROMISES OR GOALS

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

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 candidates@citizensunion.org
Call us at 212-227-0342 with any questions.

HAILE RIVERA

Democratic Candidate for 86th Assembly District (Bronx)

I would like to take this opportunity to expand on my position on some of the issues presented in this questionnaire. As a candidate in a special primary election for State Assembly, question #10 is of particular interest. Had Governor Cuomo made the decision to allow a special election to take place, independent of the natural electoral cycle, I would not be sitting here today. A County Boss would have appointed the Democratic candidate, and in doing so anointed the next Assemblymember. I agree with the intent of bill A5290/S161 but disagree with its structure of requiring an election to take place 45 days later. Candidates need extensive amounts of time to prepare an effective campaign and the public deserves to be able to investigate and scrutinize the credibility of the person who wishes to represent them. For that reason I would propose a bill that will have a fixed "Special Election" date. For example, a vacancy in a State office requiring a special election would fall on this pre-selected date. For instance, if there is less than 90 days between the date of the vacancy and the Special Election day then the election will be held alongside the regular statewide election calendar. If less than 90 days prior to the November election then it would take place on this designated day. This would remove the ability of a County Boss to make a selection that undermines the power of the people and allows for predictability in the democratic process.

Question #3: As for question #3, I oppose it on the grounds that the petitioning process already has a low threshold for signature and witnessing requirements. Despite this low threshold there are previous and current examples of fraud and other tactics used to meet the requirements set forth by State law. Lessening the requirements, in my opinion, will make it extremely easy to become a candidate and will require insufficient input from the people. There should be a balance between allowing for ample participation of candidates and assuring that those who achieve being on the ballot are well vetted. I believe our current system achieves that balance.

Question #31: I agree on distributing funds evenly for all members so as remove favoritism and possible corruption that may arise from the current system. In NYC members get funds as the discretion of the Speaker and there have been presumed issues that the Speaker has punished some members through reducing their share. At the end of the day it is the people of a particular district that suffer and that is not a fair system.

Question #33: I oppose a later start to the State fiscal year as noted in question #33. My reasons for doing so are twofold. First, adjusting the State fiscal year without making concurrent changes in other City or County fiscal year start dates will have a detrimental affect on the ability of these municipal governments to provide accurate budgets that depend on State funds. Secondly, the Legislative Session, beginning in January and ending in June, is already largely occupied with the budgetary process. Extending the time to have budgetary proceedings and negotiations, while it may have positive benefits, will take up an even larger portion of the Session and not allow ample time to carry out the other business of the State legislature.

Top Five 2013 Campaign Promises or Goals

- 1) Introduce Special Election Reform- as mentioned previously.
- 2) Introduce and pass Per Diem Reform
 - a. Currently members of the legislature are reimbursed for expenses related to lodging, travel and food while conducting business. In November of 2012, the State Controller found that Assemblyman William Boyland spent \$153,089 between January 2007 and January 2011. That is an average of \$38,274/year. Insufficient documentation was provided and he was mandated to repay \$67,497 of those receipts. In another report by a news outlet in 2012 it was found that Assemblyman Eric Stevenson spent \$31,350 and William Scarborough spent another \$30,000 of taxpayer dollars to cover these expenses. A cap should be instituted to curb abuses and protect the people's money.
- 3) Introduce/Support Legislation for Early Voting in NYS: The fact is that Early Voting increases voter turnout, especially among African-Americans and Latinos who are consistently disenfranchised.
- 4) Work with my colleagues in the Legislature to increase funding for CUNY and ensure it remains affordable. Increasingly students at our community and senior colleges are being asked to fit a larger portion of the bill for public education. This at the same time that administrative officials are getting hefty salaries and raises. Both the level of tuition must be adjusted to remain affordable and there must be transparency and integrity in its use.
- 5) Work with HUD to revise their use of the area median income for the development of real estate and as an indicator for rents. Very few people in the Bronx make the AMI of \$81,300 as dictated by HUD. Yet, this figure is used when determining rents and eventually exasperates gentrification and the expelling of mass amounts of people out of their own neighborhoods.