



**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: **Basil A. Smikle Jr**

Age: **38**

Office to Which You Seek (Re) Election: **Senate** District #: **30**

Campaign Address: **2753 Broadway NY, NY 10025**

Campaign Telephone Number: **(917) 521-9715** Fax: **(347) 523-9668**

Party Affiliation(s): **Democrat** Campaign Manager Name: **April Tyler**

Website & Email: / **basil@basilforsenate.com**

Education: **Cornell University 1993 – BS Labor Relations; Columbia Univeristy 1996 – MPA**

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

Basil Smikle Associates – A consulting firm

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement: **First Campaign; Former Board**

Member, Explore Charter School; Board Member, REACH; Member 100 Black Men; Member Prince

Hall Masons; Adjunct Professor Columbia Univ; Adjunct CUNY School of Professional Studies

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? **YES**

Signature of Candidate: _____

Date: **7/10/2010**

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 ?	<u>Support</u>
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?	<u>Oppose</u>
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)?	<u>Oppose</u>
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?	<u>Support</u>
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?	<u>Support</u>
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?	<u>Support</u>
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?	<u>Support</u>
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?	<u>Support</u>
9. What is your position on amending the constitution to allow for Election Day Registration?	<u>Support</u>
10. What is your position on amending the constitution to allow for no-excuse absentee voting?	<u>Support</u>

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

11. What is your position on lowering campaign contribution limits for legislative and statewide candidates for public office?	<u>Support</u>
12. What is your position on establishing a system of public financing for state legislative and statewide races?	<u>Support</u>
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?	<u>Support</u>

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?	<u>Support</u>
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?	<u>Support</u>

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?	<u>Support</u>
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?	<u>Support</u>
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?	<u>Support</u>
26. What is your position on the use of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) rather than cash accounting for the state budget?	<u>Support</u>
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.?	<u>Support</u>
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?	<u>Support</u>
29. What is your position on incorporating the use of performance budgeting and outcome measurement to promote the more rational appropriation of state funds?	<u>Support</u>
30. What is your position on instituting a later start date for the state fiscal year?	<u>Support</u>
31. What is your position on mandating the use of conference committees in the legislative budget process?	<u>Support</u>

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
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?	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.

Regarding redistricting, I do support reform toward more independent and objective system as long as minority/ethnic representation are protected.

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. Work with, and meet with, every public school in the district to assess needs. Marry resources to augment City and outside support for programs within public schools
2. Partner with educational institutions and nonprofits to provide advanced adult education
3. Work with tenant leaders to preserve existing stock of affordable housing

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