



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: **SERGIO VILLAVRDE** Age: **43**
Office to Which You Seek (Re) Election: Assembly/Senate District #: **NYS ASSEMBLY 78AD**

Campaign Address: **3109 SEDGWICK AVENUE, BRONX, NY 10463**

Campaign Telephone Number: **(718) 404 3018** Fax: **(212) 370 0561**


Party Affiliation(s): **Democrat** Campaign Manager Name: **AJ Montgomery**
Website & Email: **WWW.SERGIO2101.COM, SERGIO@SERGIO2010.COM**

Education: **Juris Doctor (Fordham Law), BA (CCNY), AAS (LaGuardia CC), HS (JFK HS BX)**

Occupation/Employer (or years in currently held elected office): **Law Offices of Sergio Villaverde, PLLC,
United States Coast Guard Reserve**

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement: **Lieutenant Commander United
Stats Coast Guard Reserve, Member Bronx Community Board #8, Chairman Bronx Youth
Services, Inc, Member Bronx Community Board #7, Board Member Bronx County Bar Association,
NYPD Community Police Officer Bronx, Member Puerto Rican Bar Association, Member
Dominican Bar Association**

Are you willing to be interviewed by CU’s Local Candidates Committee? YES **X** 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 **X** NO _____

Signature of Candidate:  Date: **July 4, 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/Oppose 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/Oppose Support concept
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)?	Support/Oppose 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/Oppose Support would have to review exact deviation
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/Oppose Support professional operation
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/Oppose 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/Oppose Oppose
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/Oppose Support
9. What is your position on amending the constitution to allow for Election Day Registration?	Support/Oppose Support
10. What is your position on amending the constitution to allow for no-excuse absentee voting?	Support/Oppose Support

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

11. What is your position on lowering campaign contribution limits for legislative and statewide candidates for public office?	Support/Oppose Oppose
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12. What is your position on establishing a system of public financing for state legislative and statewide races?	Support/Oppose Oppose
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/Oppose Oppose system is flawed and has become tool for professional politicians
14. What is your position on restricting campaign contributions from registered lobbyists and those who do business with the state?	Support/Oppose Support within constitutional limits
15. What is your position on banning campaign contributions from corporations, LLCs, and LLPs, while still allowing such entities to form separate PACs?	Support/Oppose Oppose, direct contribution make it easier to identify supporters
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/Oppose Support concept
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/Oppose Support concept
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/Oppose Support concept
19. What is your position on stricter requirements on the use of campaign contributions for non-campaign related activity, such as personal use?	Support/Oppose Support
20. What is your position on requiring disclosure of independent expenditure campaigns?	Support/Oppose Question is unclear to me

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/Oppose Support concept
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/Oppose 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/Oppose Support concept
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/Oppose Support

	concept
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/Oppose Support concept
26. What is your position on the use of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) rather than cash accounting for the state budget?	Support/Oppose Support concept
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/Oppose 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/Oppose Oppose
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/Oppose No position as of yet
30. What is your position on instituting a later start date for the state fiscal year?	Support/Oppose Support concept
31. What is your position on mandating the use of conference committees in the legislative budget process?	Support/Oppose 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?	Support/Oppose Support concept system would have to ensure fairness
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/Oppose Support concept

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.

I have always held my public service as a sacred trust. Integrity should be a baseline for public service. As a NYC Emergency Medical Technician, at age 19, I learned what it meant to be trusted with a life, as a Community Police Officer in the Bronx I learned the value of promoting quality of life while serving with honesty. Criminals who tried to bribe me were arrested, by me, and prosecuted for the attempted corruption of my public service. I received two integrity awards for such. As a Lieutenant Commander in the US Coast Guard reserve, the past 24 years of service, have also reinforced that my word is my bond. I have been trusted with millions of dollars worth of assets at various times without question or any issue of integrity. Integrity is the hallmark of who I am. It is time that we improved the image of our representation in Albany. I have a small law practice and

can support myself without political office. Integrity is something that cannot be taken it must be given. I have always chosen not to give or sell mine and will continue to do so.

Redistricting reform must occur. The concept that would be my priority is protecting neighborhoods. Making certain that similar interests have a voice that is undiluted. Marble Hill in my neighborhood is a good example. 11 housing project buildings 7 in Manhattan district 4 in the Bronx (all physically within the confines of the Bronx). This community would be better served by being in the same districts. The issues of one building affect the building 30 feet away.

Laws should be in place to increase voter participation. Easier registration will enable people to get involved immediately. This will engender greater participation. Ethics rules must be enforced in a fair and open manner. We must treat all people fairly. Keeping in mind that we must open and encourage more people to run for office. The process must not be one where one should be made to feel that one must be attacked in order to run. This also causes apathy in the community, something we should strive to avoid.

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. My community will have a representative whose integrity is beyond reproach.
2. I intend to work hard to economic development in our community. This is the number one issue.
3. Develop honest intelligent leaders within the community.
4. Provide a professional representative for this community.
5. Focus on educational opportunity for the community as part of a long term economic recovery strategy.

**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**