



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: Joseph Addabbo \_\_\_\_\_ Age: 46 \_\_\_\_\_

Office to Which You Seek (Re) Election: Senate District #: 15 \_\_\_\_\_

Campaign Address: 159-55 102 Street Howard Beach, NY \_\_\_\_\_

Campaign Telephone Number: (718) 848-1111 \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: ( ) N/A \_\_\_\_\_

Party Affiliation(s): Democrat Campaign Manager Name: Doug Forand, Red Horse Strategies \_\_\_\_\_

Website & Email: [www.addabboforsenate.com](http://www.addabboforsenate.com); addabboforsenate@gmail.com \_\_\_\_\_

Education: St John’s University (BS – Accounting); Touro School of Law \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation/Employer (or years in currently held elected office): State Senate, 2009-current; New York City Council, 2002-2008

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement: NYS Committeeman; Ozone Tudor Civic Assoc – President; South Queens Democratic Club – Board Member; Community board 10 Recording Secretary \_\_\_\_\_

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: Joe Addabbo \_\_\_\_\_ Date: June 30<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

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)?	Support
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?	Support
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**

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**

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 (consistent w/ federal date)



## **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. Ensuring great constituent access to elected officials - I have continued my 24 hour live operator service for constituents and opened a second district office in Middle Village which opened May 2010.
2. Fighting for our New York City Schools – In one of the most difficult financial periods in New York State history I fought for fair and equitable funding to protect schools in New York City. I also was a supporter of Charter School legislation that will help expand educational opportunities for all New York City students.
3. Fight to expand healthcare coverage, supporting legislation to protect and make EPIC more accessible – I co-sponsored legislation to establish a prescription drug discount program, SB 121A, which made it easier for less advantaged families to have access to needed prescription drugs. I'm also proud to co-sponsor SB 3591 which ensures that all seniors even in nursing homes will have access to their full EPIC pharmaceutical insurance coverage.
4. Fight to preserve and expand affordable housing – I co-sponsored bill SB 749 which removed provisions prohibiting NYC from strengthening rent regulation laws to provide more comprehensive coverage than state laws. I also co-sponsored SB 1363C which provides special protection top tenants of properties that have been foreclosed.
5. Reform the legislative process – proposed legislation that would create a more transparent and open legislative process including committee and oversight hearings. Ensured the increased equitable distribution of member resources

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

1. Ethics Reform
2. Campaign Finance Reform
3. Protect Senior Interests
4. Maintain efforts to improve education environment for students
5. Increase dialogue with constituents on issues of concern relating to the district

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)