



**2012 QUESTIONNAIRE FOR  
CANDIDATES FOR NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE**

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 September 13<sup>th</sup> Primary Election, and our "Endorsed Candidates" for the November 6<sup>th</sup> 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: Olanike Alabi  
Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Campaign Address: P.O. Box 380075, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11238

Campaign Telephone Number: (718) 398-0750 Fax: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Party Affiliation(s): Democrat, Working Families Party Campaign Manager Name: Keith Kinch

Website & Email: www.olanikealabi.org / olanike.alabi@gmail.com

Education: Temple University, University of London, School of Industrial & Labor Relations at Cornell University

Occupation/Employer (or years in currently held elected office): Part-time employee - United States House of Representatives

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement: Member of the League of Women Voters of the City of New York, Emmanuel Baptist Church, Schomburg Center for Research in Black

Citizens Union 2012 State Legislative Candidate Questionnaire

Page 2/7

Culture, the Community Advisory Board of the Cumberland Diagnostic & Treatment Center. I have  
worked on various political and issue-based campaigns.

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: *Olantika Alali* Date: *6/28/12*

**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 second passage of the constitutional amendment (S.6698/A.9526 of 2012) creating an independent redistricting commission with appointees split evenly between the majority and minority parties?  | Support/Oppose | Formatted: Font: Bold, Underline |
| 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 | Formatted: Font: Bold, Underline |
| 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 | Formatted: Font: Bold, Underline |
| 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 | Formatted: Font: Bold, Underline |
| 5. What is your position on automatically granting New Yorkers on parole the ability to vote?  | Support/Oppose | Formatted: Font: Bold, Underline |
| 6. What is your position on amending the constitution to allow for Election Day Registration?  | Support/Oppose | Formatted: Font: Bold, Underline |
| 7. What is your position on amending the constitution to allow for no-excuse absentee voting?  | Support/Oppose | Formatted: Font: Bold, Underline |
| 8. What is your position on instituting early voting in New York State to allow voters to cast their votes at more convenient times?   | Support/Oppose | Formatted: Font: Bold, Underline |
| 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; and that the ballot is able to split races between multiple pages? <i>As the Democratic State Committeewoman/District Leader in the 52<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District, Brooklyn, I receive many complaints about how our ballots currently appear.</i> | Support/Oppose | Formatted: Font: Bold, Underline |
| 10. What is your position on reforming the special election process, creating a nonpartisan special election for state legislative vacancies, as proposed by A.1369/S.26?  | Support/Oppose | Formatted: Font: Bold, Underline |
| 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 | Formatted: Font: Bold, Underline |

**CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM**

|   |                |                                  |
|---|----------------|----------------------------------|
| 12. What is your position on establishing a matching public financing system for state legislative and statewide races similar to the New York City model?  | Support/Oppose | Formatted: Font: Bold, Underline |
| 13. What is your position on lowering campaign contribution limits for legislative and statewide candidates for public office?  | Support/Oppose | Formatted: Font: Bold, Underline |
| 14. What is your position on restricting campaign contributions from registered lobbyists, placement agents and those who do business with the state?   | Support/Oppose | Formatted: Font: Bold, Underline |
| 15. 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 | Formatted: Font: Bold            |
| 16. 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 | Formatted: Font: Bold            |

Citizens Union 2012 State Legislative Candidate Questionnaire

Page 4/7

|   |                |                                  |
|---|----------------|----------------------------------|
| 17. What is your position on requiring candidates to include full name, home address, and employer/business name for each contribution and bundler?   | Support/Oppose | Formatted: Font: Bold            |
| <b>CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM (CONTINUED)</b>  |                |                                  |
| 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 | Formatted: Font: Bold            |
| 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 | Formatted: Font: Bold, Underline |
| 20. 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 | Formatted: Font: Bold, Underline |
| 21. 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 | Formatted: Font: Bold, Underline |
| 22. What is your position on creating an enforcement entity independent of the State Board of Elections to oversee campaign finance laws?   | Support/Oppose | Formatted: Font: Bold, Underline |
| <b>JUDICIAL REFORM</b>  |                |                                  |
| 23. 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? <u>This question is somewhat complex. Many appointments are political. Merit-based appointments are extremely important as are diversity-based selections. The goal should be to strive to have both.</u>   | Support/Oppose |                                  |
| 24. What is your position simplifying and modernizing the state's court system by consolidating the nine trial courts into a two-tiered system? <u>This question is intricate and complex. Simplifying the process in terms of accessibility to the courts is always a step in the right direction, but costs must be factored in. Essentially, I would have to review a plan before agreeing to the concept.</u>   | Support/Oppose |                                  |
| <b>ETHICS REFORM</b>  |                |                                  |
| 25. What is your position on empowering the Attorney General to investigate and prosecute cases involving public corruption, including serious election law malfeasance? <u>The only drawback here would be that many elected officials are instrumental in the election of Attorney Generals (AG) and the AG may not want to investigate such matters. Essentially, there would be conflicts of interests.</u>   | Support/Oppose | Formatted: Font: Bold, Underline |
| 26. 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? <u>Although this proposal can be viewed as harsh, the betrayal of the public trust deserves punishment. Also, we must note that vested employees have the opportunity to retire whereas non-vested employees would not.</u> | Support/Oppose | Formatted: Font: Bold, Underline |
| <b>BUDGET REFORM</b>  |                |                                  |
| 27. 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 | Formatted: Font: Bold, Underline |
| 28. 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 | Formatted: Font: Bold, Underline |
| 29. What is your position on the use of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) rather than cash accounting for the state budget? <u>We must be able to track all money which ultimately belongs to the public.</u>   | Support/Oppose | Formatted: Font: Bold, Underline |
| 30. What is your position on distributing member item allocations equally among all legislators and requiring for greater accountability as expressed in S. 7007/A101.167   | Support/Oppose | Formatted: Font: Bold, Underline |



---



---



---



---



---



---

**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 2012 CAMPAIGN PROMISES OR GOALS**

1. Support increased funding for healthcare, education and vital social service programs and initiatives.
  
2. Sponsor community advisory meetings on the second Saturday of every month to inform and update constituents about all that's happening in the New York State Legislature. It will also give constituents who are not able to visit the district office during the week, the opportunity to meet with me.
  
3. Advocate and fight for the expansion of the New York State Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage Program (EPIC).

Formatted: Font: (Default) +Body

Formatted: Font: (Default) +Body

Formatted: Font: (Default) +Body

Citizens Union 2012 State Legislative Candidate Questionnaire

Page 7/7

4. Advocate for legislation, initiatives and assistance to address the foreclosure crisis.

---

5. Support training, upgrading and workforce development programs.

---

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 [policy@citizensunion.org](mailto:policy@citizensunion.org)  
Call us at 212-227-0342 with any questions.