



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: Saul Farber Age: 24

Office to Which You Seek (Re) Election: Assembly/Senate Senate District #: 26

Campaign Address: 122 E. 83rd St.

Campaign Telephone Number: (917) 456-7324 Fax: ()

Party Affiliation(s): I, R Campaign Manager Name: Jay Golub

Website & Email: Saulfarber.com ; saul@saulfarber.com

Education: BA Political Science ; history (NYU OS) JD candidate 12'

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

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement: Friends of Saul Farber - candidate for State Assembly - district 75 (2008)

Are you willing to be interviewed by CU's Local Candidates Committee? YES 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 NO

Signature of Candidate: [Signature] Date: 9/20/10

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

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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

14. What is your position on restricting campaign contributions from registered lobbyists and those who do business with the state?	Support/Op pose
15. What is your position on banning campaign contributions from corporations, LLCs, and LLPs, while still allowing such entities to form separate PACs?	Support/Op pose
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/Op pose
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/Op pose
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/Op pose
19. What is your position on stricter requirements on the use of campaign contributions for non-campaign related activity, such as personal use?	Support/Op pose
20. What is your position on requiring disclosure of independent expenditure campaigns?	Support/Op pose

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/Op pose
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/Op pose

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/Op pose
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/Op pose
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/Op pose
26. What is your position on the use of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) rather than cash accounting for the state budget?	Support/Op pose
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/Op pose
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/Op pose
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/Op pose
30. What is your position on instituting a later start date for the state fiscal year?	Support/Op pose
31. What is your position on mandating the use of conference committees in the legislative budget process?	Support/Op pose

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
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

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.

See attached: Thanks, Saul Ferber

Position Elaboration:

I thank you for the opportunity to present material to the Citizen's Union and to be considered for your support. I'd like to expand briefly on a few answers.

With regard to questions 1, 2 and 3, I support a fully Independent Legislative Redistricting Commission and will be one of the loudest voices for reform. Enabling an appointment process or proposing to use better research in the redistricting process may be an improvement from where the process is today, but it would fall significantly short of the goal of reform.

With regard to campaign finance reform, I firmly support increasing transparency and reporting requirements across-the-board. I also support lowering campaign contribution limits, but in an even-handed manner – one that limits municipal labor's ability to contribute manpower and resources in the same manner as private sector special interests. This is the reason why I stated I would oppose banning contributions from corporations, LLCs, LLPs or from PAC's set up by them. All special interests should be treated the same and the same restrictions placed on corporations should be placed on municipal unions and other interests that push for the expansion of government.

Regarding the concept of public financing, I am against it for two reasons; 1) because the state cannot afford to spend millions of dollars on politics at a time when critical services for our children and elderly are being cut; and 2) because I believe the goal of political/electoral reform is to get the money out of politics and in a quick study of the Campaign Finance Board's work for the past 20 years shows that public financing has not worked in that regard.

Again, I thank you for this opportunity to present.

Best,


Saul Farber

My Top Five Campaign Promises or Goals:

1. Seriously investigate the estimated \$18 billion in Medicaid fraud state-wide.
2. Restore the sales tax exemption on items under \$110.
3. Give tax relief to small businesses throughout the state.
4. Support term limits for elected officials.
5. Put pressure on the MTA to expose their records through an independent auditor.