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 13th Primary Election, and our "Endorsed Candidates" for the November 6th 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: __Andrew Gounardes__ Age: __27__

Campaign Address: __P.O. Box 90310 Brooklyn NY 11209__

Campaign Telephone Number: (347) __422-7422__ Fax: ( ) _____

Party Affiliation(s): __D, WF__ Campaign Manager Name: __Chris McCreight__

Website & Email: __www.andrewgounardes.com   info@andrewgounardes.com__

Education: __BA - Hunter College   JD - George Washington University__

Occupation/Employer (or years in currently held elected office): __Director External Affairs,__
__Citizens Committee for New York City__

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement: _____

_____

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: _____ Date: _____

Citizens Union of the City of New York
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Peter J.W. Sherwin, Chair • Dick Dadey, Executive Director

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
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
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
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
5. What is your position on automatically granting New Yorkers on parole the ability to vote?	Support/Oppose
6. What is your position on amending the constitution to allow for Election Day Registration?	Support/Oppose
7. What is your position on amending the constitution to allow for no-excuse absentee voting?	Support/Oppose
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
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?	Support/Oppose
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
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

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
13. What is your position on lowering campaign contribution limits for legislative and statewide candidates for public office?	Support/Oppose
14. What is your position on restricting campaign contributions from registered lobbyists, placement agents and those who do business with the state?	Support/Oppose
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
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
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

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM (CONTINUED)

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
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
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
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
22. What is your position on creating an enforcement entity independent of the State Board of Elections to oversee campaign finance laws?	Support/Oppose

JUDICIAL REFORM

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?	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?	Support/Oppose

ETHICS REFORM

25. What is your position on empowering the Attorney General to investigate and prosecute cases involving public corruption, including serious election law malfeasance?	Support/Oppose
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?	Support/Oppose

BUDGET REFORM

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
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
29. What is your position on the use of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) rather than cash accounting for the state budget?	Support/Oppose
30. What is your position on distributing member item allocations equally among all legislators and requiring for greater accountability as expressed in S. 7007/A10116?	Support/Oppose
31. 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
32. What is your position on instituting a later start date for the state fiscal year?	Support/Oppose
33. What is your position on limiting the ability of the governor to enact policy changes governing the use of resources in appropriation bills by requiring that such bills be consistent with existing law or proposed changes in separate legislation?	Support/Oppose

ADDITIONAL REFORM

34. What is your position on increasing public access to information by reforming the Freedom of Information and Open Meetings Laws to enhance transparency, as well as the creation of tools such as open data portals to ease public access to information?	Support/Oppose
35. What is your position on enactment of legislative rules reform to strengthen rank-and-file members' roles in the legislative process and create more equity between members?	Support/Oppose

Please use the space provided or a separate sheet of paper to elaborate on your positions on the issues contained in the previous pages. You may also provide additional information on any actions that you have taken or plan to take to advance your positions on these issues.

Please see attached.

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. I make only one promise - to be accountable and responsive to everyone in the district.

2. Goal - reinvest in south Brooklyn public transit

3. Goal - work to address middle and high school overcrowding in South Brooklyn.

4. Goal - Create more spaces and parks, especially along waterfront

5. Goal - promote and encourage local support of small businesses

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
Call us at 212-227-0342 with any questions.

<u>Citizens Union 2012 State Legislative Candidate Questionnaire</u>

Additional Responses

For decades, New York was mired in dysfunction that hurt its citizens and made our state the punch line to too many jokes. Despite Governor Andrew Cuomo's successes so far, there is still a lot of work to do to get New York back on track. After all, one good year doesn't erase the harm done by decades of dysfunction. We deserve nothing less than the most ethical, honest, and accountable state government in the nation.

Finally Reforming Campaign Finance

I believe that the source of most, if not all, of the abuses of political power stem from the presence of too much money in the system. Some elected officials amass most of their hundreds of thousands of campaign dollars from corporations and PACs, diluting the influence of individual voters. With campaign finance reform, we can protect the integrity of our democracy and create a fair playing field. That's why I will work to lower contribution limits and create a statewide system of publicly-financed elections, similar to that in place in New York City.

Demanding Accountability for Our Tax Dollars

Over the last few years, New Yorkers have had to read too many news stories about politicians who misuse tax dollars for their own personal and political gain. Some officials have rightfully been jailed, but many abuses remain legal despite how obviously wrong they are. If we can't create a transparent system that shines light on who requests and receives state funds, we shouldn't be doling them out at all. I'll fight to tighten the rules on government funding, so we stop the growing trend of tax dollars being directed to politicians' friends and partisan organizations.

Restoring Responsive Government

We elect our representatives to be our voice in state government on issues facing our community and our state. That means that before they can speak for us they have to listen to *everyone*, not just their friends. It also means that citizens need to play an active role in setting government priorities.

When I'm elected, I will host town halls in every community and hold open office hours regularly. I plan to create citizens' committees to study local issues and present ideas for legislation, including participatory budgeting, which gives the public a strong say in how their money is spent.

Fighting for Fair and Independent Redistricting Reform

All of the reform positions I support in this questionnaire, and the positions I further explain on this sheet, are meaningless as long as politicians are allowed to continue to draw their own district lines and pick their own voters. The system will continue to be broken as long as there is no incentive for politicians to be responsive and accountable to their constituents.

As Director of External Affairs for Citizens Committee for New York City, I worked closely with Citizens Union and the Reshape NY coalition to push for independent redistricting during the 2011 Legislative Session. We were successful in getting the Legislature to commit to fair and independent redistricting through constitutional amendment, which will require that new districts drawn based on the 2020 census and beyond will be created without regard for partisan gain or gerrymandering.

Once elected, I am committed to seeing this reform through to its completion after it passes the Legislature in the next session and is approved by popular referendum.