



## 2012 QUESTIONNAIRE FOR CANDIDATES FOR NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE

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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.

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Candidate Name: Guillermo Linares Age: 60

Campaign Address: 5000 Broadway, Suite A, New York, NY 10034

Campaign Telephone Number: (212 ) 569-1111 Fax: n/a

Party Affiliation(s): Democrat Campaign Manager Name: Mark Guma

Website & Email: [linaresforsenate.com](http://linaresforsenate.com) [linaresforsenate2012@gmail.com](mailto:linaresforsenate2012@gmail.com)

Education: Bachelor of Arts, City College; Master’s of Science, City College; Professional Diploma in Administration and Supervision, Fordham University; Doctorate in Education, Teachers College, Columbia University

Occupation/Employer (or years in currently held elected office): State Assemblymember (2011-Present)

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement: New York City Councilmember (1992-2001); NYC Commissioner of Immigrant Affairs (2004-2009); Chair, President Clinton’s Initiative on Excellence in Education for Hispanic Americans (1999-2000); Former Board Member, National Council of La Raza; Co-convener, Encuentro 2000 and Beyond

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

Signature of Candidate: Guillermo Linares Date: 8/7/12

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

#### 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
13. What is your position on lowering campaign contribution limits for legislative and statewide candidates for public office?	Support
14. What is your position on restricting campaign contributions from registered lobbyists, placement agents and those who do business with the state?	Support
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
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
17. What is your position on requiring candidates to include full name, home address, and employer/business name for each contribution and bundler?	Support

**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
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 improving disclosure of independent expenditures such as requiring disclosure of electioneering activities and linking expenditures to candidates targeted?	Support
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
22. What is your position on creating an enforcement entity independent of the State Board of Elections to oversee campaign finance laws?	Support

**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
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

**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
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

**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
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
29. What is your position on the use of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) rather than cash accounting for the state budget?	Support
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
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
32. What is your position on instituting a later start date for the state fiscal year?	Support
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

**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
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

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 I have always been a strong supporter of campaign finance reform, and especially of public financing of elections. New York City's program, which I participated in as a member of the City Council, has been a model for reducing the influence of big money on municipal elections and encouraging the participation of average working New Yorkers in their government. It should serve as a model for the state to replicate. In addition, I have been a strong supporter of efforts to liberalize the state's ballot access laws to reduce barriers to run and I am a strong supporter of further reforms to voting such as same day voter registration.

## II. 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 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 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 FROM 2010 AND ACTION ON THEM

1. Fighting for Immigrant Rights: I've led the fight in Albany, and am the prime sponsor, of the New York Dream Act which will help make college and higher education affordable for the children of undocumented immigrants here in New York.
2. Working to Create Jobs and Helping Small Businesses: I have championed the cause of New York's livery cab drivers, many of whom live in my Northern Manhattan district, and played a lead role in passing legislation this spring that gives livery drivers the ability to legally pick up street hails throughout the city.
3. Helping Struggling Working Families: I have helped lead the fight for many measures that help New Yorkers struggling in this tough economy, including: voting to raise the minimum wage in New York State, eliminating the sales tax on clothing and footwear sales of under \$110, restoring funding for the EPIC program to make prescription drugs more affordable for seniors.
4. Increasing Public Safety: This has long been a priority for me since my first days in elected office when I led the successful fight to bring a new police precinct to my district. Over the past two years,

I've fought to strengthen legislation to reduce gun violence, including microstamping which will give law enforcement an important new crime fighting tool, and to combat domestic violence, proudly voting for legislation that increases penalties for repeat abusers.

5. Improving Public Education: As a former teacher married to a public school principal, education will always be a top priority for me. In addition to fighting for the New York Dream Act which will expand educational opportunities for so many immigrants, I am proud that this year we passed legislation mandating kindergarten for all 5 year-olds and that we expanded support for CUNY and SUNY.

### **TOP FIVE 2012 CAMPAIGN PROMISES OR GOALS**

1. Fight for Passage of the New York Dream: a critical step in making a college education affordable for the children of undocumented immigrants in New York
2. Work to Strengthen Public Education in New York: we need to not only ensure that New York City schools get the funding they need and deal with overcrowding issues citywide, we need to place special emphasis on early childhood education and increasing parental involvement
3. Raise the Minimum Wage: it's past time that we raise the minimum wage to at least \$8.25 per hour to help struggling entry level workers make ends meet—and we should index it to inflation so that workers can keep pace with the higher cost of food, housing and goods
4. Strengthen New York's Gun Control Laws: we should be leading the way in reducing gun violence by requiring licenses for all handguns, rifles and shotguns; requiring background checks on ammunition sales; and implementing microstamping technology to help law enforcement fight crime.
5. Passing Campaign Finance Reform: New York State desperately needs a system of public campaign financing, similar to New York City's successful model, to reduce the influence of moneyed interests on government and to encourage the involvement of average New Yorkers.

**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.