

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: Felix W. Ortiz Age: _____

Office to Which You Seek (Re) Election: Assembly/Senate District #: 51

Campaign Address: ____142 Chester ave Brooklyn, NY 11218

Campaign Telephone Number: (347) 420-6240 Fax: () _____

Party Affiliation(s): __Democrat____ Campaign Manager Name:

Website & Email:

Education: Masters in Public Administration from New York University.

Occupation/Employer (or years in currently held elected
office): _____16____ years _____

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 "Preferred Candidate" and "Endorsed Candidate" rating only to candidates we have interviewed.)

Have you completed requisite campaign finance filings? **YES**
NO

Signature of Candidate: 
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	Support/ Oppose

on the ballot by, for example, lowering signature requirements and utilizing less burdensome witness signature requirements?	
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/Oppose
15. What is your position on banning campaign contributions from corporations, LLCs, and LLPs, while still allowing such entities to form separate PACs?	Support/Oppose
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/Oppose
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	Support/Oppose

contribution?	
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 requiring disclosure of independent expenditure campaigns?	Support/Oppose

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/Oppose
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/Oppose

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/Oppose
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/Oppose
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/Oppose
26. What is your position on the use of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) rather than cash accounting for the state budget?	Support/Oppose
27. What is your position on requiring regular reporting of lump-sum appropriations and member items that includes detailed information on	Support/Oppose

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.?	
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/Oppose
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/Oppose
30. What is your position on instituting a later start date for the state fiscal year?	Support/Oppose
31. What is your position on mandating the use of conference committees in the legislative budget process?	Support/Oppose

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.

I am a strong supporter of Campaign Finance Reform and have sponsored legislation on this issue since 1998.

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. Affordable and Quality Health Care for all New Yorkers
2. Improve Educational Standards in our Schools
3. Bring Job Creation through Economic Development Opportunities to our Community
4. Protect and Enhance Senior Programs
5. Work with Law Enforcement Officials to keep Community Safe

TOP FIVE 2010 CAMPAIGN PROMISES OR GOALS

6. Affordable and Quality Health Care for all New Yorkers
7. Improve Educational Standards in our Schools
8. Bring Job Creation through Economic Development Opportunities to our Community
9. Protect and Enhance Senior Programs
10. Work with Law Enforcement Officials to keep Community Safe

I have made and continue to make progress on all the promises/goals mentioned. Through legislative initiatives and programs I have fought for affordable quality health care for our citizens and I have been a leader in the fight against Obesity. I am the author of New York's Childhood Obesity Program and I was the first legislator to tackle the issue of Menu Labeling and the ban of trans fats in the preparation of food.

I have always fought for better schools for our children. I advocated tirelessly to bring a high school to our community of Sunset Park. I have sponsored College Fairs for the students in my district. Each year I sponsor a Children Awareness Project in my District Office where students learn about our State Government. I visit with the children, teachers, and principals of the schools in my district on a regular basis to make sure that I am aware of their needs. It is imperative that our future generation is well-educated and equipped with a solid foundation so that they are prepared to compete in our global society. As a state legislator, I am committed to ensuring that every child in our state receives a quality education and the opportunity to succeed.

I have been a strong proponent of bringing new businesses to our community as witnessed by the waterfront development and I will continue to fight for economic development opportunities for our area. Employment opportunities for our residents will continue to improve and flourish with the influx of new businesses.

Our Senior population has always been very important to me. There are several senior citizen programs in my district that I work with to ensure that our seniors are well cared for. It is important that they are aware of the resources available to them to enhance their quality of life and my office is committed to helping them access such services. I have and will continue to sponsor programs and initiatives in the Assembly to protect and assist our seniors.

Since first taking office, I have been committed to working with our law enforcement officials to ensure that our community is a safe place to live, work and raise a family. I have sponsored Town Hall meetings and brought law enforcement officials to these meetings to hear the concerns of our community, I have concurred with our law enforcement officials to develop many of my bills in the Assembly to make our community and our highways safer, including the ban on the use of cell phones while driving. I currently have legislation pending in the Assembly which would mandate that interlock ignition devices be installed in all vehicles in an effort to prevent alcohol related accidents. I have worked alongside the District Attorney's office to enforce stricter laws in an effort to save lives and protect victims of domestic violence.

My goals/promises for the current campaign remain the same. I am committed to continuing fighting for the people that I represent. My pledge to them is that I will continue to work in their behalf to improve and enhance their livelihoods and those of the next generation. My office has always had an open-door policy and I encourage my constituents to enlist my help if they ever have a need to do so.

**Please return to: Citizens Union, Local Candidates
Committee 299 Broadway, Suite 700 New York, NY 10007
via fax to 212.227.0345**