

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: Vincent J. Tabone, Esq. Age: 44

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

Campaign Address: 24-55 Francis Lewis Blvd. Whitestone NY 11357

Campaign Telephone Number: (718) 690-3737 Fax: (718) 746-6356

Party Affiliation(s): Rep, Cons. A Campaign Manager Name: Anthony Casello

Website & Email: www.Taboneforassembly.com VJTabone@hotmail.com

Education: Juris Doctorate, BBA

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

Red Apple Group, Inc., Attorney, Government Affairs, Corporate, general

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement: President, NERCAN,

Counsel to Front of Oakland Lake, former Community District Education Council member

former gubernatorial appointee, former EDC official (see bio)

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

Have you completed requisite campaign finance filings? YES [checked] NO

Signature of Candidate: Vincent J. Tabone Date: 6/24

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? <i>*Dangers in a one party town</i>	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? <i>(concerns about fraud)</i>	Support/Oppose
10. What is your position on amending the constitution to allow for no-excuse absentee voting? <i>(concerns about fraud)</i>	Support/Oppose

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

11. What is your position on lowering campaign contribution limits for legislative and statewide candidates for public office? <i>may no longer be constitutional</i>	Support/Oppose
12. What is your position on establishing a system of public financing for state legislative and statewide races? <i>NYC CFB has not met its goals *</i>	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 contribution?	Support/ Oppose
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 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/ Oppose
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?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Support <input type="radio"/> 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?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Support <input type="radio"/> 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 reform pledge confirmation, biography emphasizing my experience in public service, private practice + community involvement, as well as a Campaign Update.

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 2010 CAMPAIGN PROMISES OR GOALS

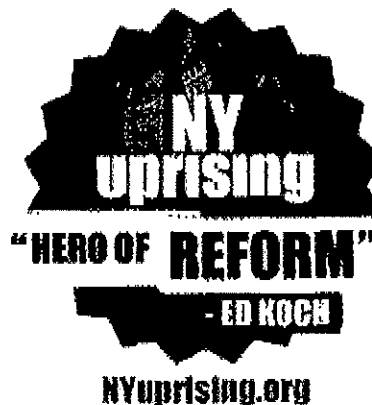
1. Spurring Economic growth & job creation through fiscal restraint & lower taxes
2. Improving Schools & Educational Opportunities for children & young Adults
3. Preserving our Neighborhood's quality of life (including combatting
4. Preserving our environment including our green spaces & parks
5. Implementing reforms to clean up the dysfunction in Albany

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 asenteno@citizensunion.org

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Scale
developments)

From: [Ed Koch \(ed@nyuprising.org\)](mailto:ed@nyuprising.org)
Sent: Tue 6/22/10 10:56 AM
To: vjtabone@hotmail.com
Dear Vince,

Thank you for publicly affirming your commitment to reform New York State government by signing New York Uprising's three pledges.



As the founder of New York Uprising, and on behalf of the other Trustees, I am pleased to award you with this Seal of Approval. It denotes that you have signed the three pledges committing to support the specific reforms that we believe will provide good government if implemented. As you know, these reforms are in the areas of: Independent Redistricting, Ethical Government and Responsible Budgeting.

At this moment we are not taking a position favoring one candidate over another. However, this seal attests to your commitment to reform, and we encourage you to use it to promote that fact. Please let us know if you would like a high-res copy for the web, direct mail, etc. You may also use this quote from me for the same purpose:

"I applaud Vince Tabone as a "Hero of Reform" for signing the three New York Uprising pledges. This year voters are counting on candidates to commit to specific reforms in advance, as Vince has done. I look forward to working with him to see them swiftly implemented should he be elected." —Former NYC Mayor Ed Koch, Founder, NY Uprising

Mark Botnick and Adam Riff, New York Uprising Co-Executive Directors, are always available to you. Feel free to reach them at adam@nyuprising.org and mark@nyuprising.org.

I am very pleased we are working together in our endeavor to reform the Albany legislature and make it once again a legislature that we can praise and be proud of. Hopefully, the word "dysfunctional" will no longer aptly describe the legislature as it presently does. I look forward to our working together to see these reforms accomplished.

All the best.

Sincerely,

Ed Koch

Bayside attorney and community leader Vince Tabone is a lifelong resident of Queens. He and his wife Saida are raising their two daughters and one son in their home one block off of Northern Boulevard, where their daughters have attended P.S. 31 and M.S. 158. Saida is an Assistant Principal at a Queens High School. The Tabones are parishioners at St. Robert Bellarmine in Bayside and Vince is a 3rd Degree Knight of Columbus.

As a young man, Vince earned his Bachelors in Business Administration from Baruch College in New York City while working full time. Vince went on to attend New York Law School on a merit scholarship while continuing to work full time and raising a young family. Vince has served on the Alumni Board of Directors of New York Law School.

Before entering the private practice of law, Vince served in both the Giuliani and Bloomberg Administrations as a high ranking official in the New York City Economic Development Corporation (EDC), where as Vice President under the Deputy Mayor for Economic Development and Rebuilding, he was responsible for Queens economic development projects, creating thousands of jobs and investing millions in our local economy. In this capacity he also served on a number of Mayoral and Borough President task-forces and represented EDC and City Hall at the Queens Chamber of Commerce and numerous other forums. Vince has the experience we need to revitalize our economy by investing in small businesses, creating good-paying jobs and providing real middle-class tax relief and economic opportunity.

Most recently, Vince served under both Republican and Democratic Governors as the General Counsel and an Assistant Special Deputy Superintendent at a New York State agency overseeing all litigation, corporate, and contracting matters for insolvent insurers, with billions in assets at stake.

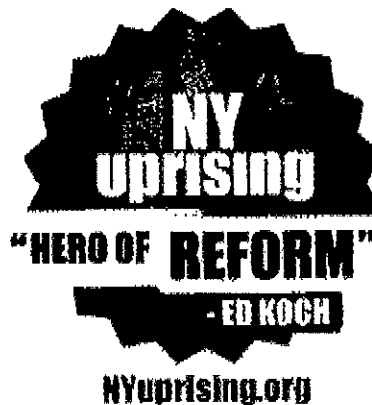
Vince also worked at the NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development on many successful affordable and senior housing development projects.

Vince is raising his family right here in Northeast Queens and is committed to our neighborhood's future. He has been fighting to improve our community's quality of life and protect our local environment for years. Vince serves on a pro bono basis as General Counsel to Friends of Oakland Lake, a parks and lake preservation not-for-profit group in Bayside and is a member of the Alley Pond Environmental Center. He remains a Board Member of the Bayside Historical Society, working to protect our community's unique character and heritage. Vince is also a member of the 111th Precinct Community Council. Vince founded the North Eastern Queens Community Action Network, Inc to assist area residents and neighborhood civics in tackling quality of life issues and community concerns drawing on his experience working in several city and state administration and working with local and state elected and appointed officials,

Vince has been a strong advocate for our children's education. Vince has served effectively as a Council Member on Community Education Council District 26. He will fight for accountability in our schools and demand Queens gets its fair share of state education funding, for smaller class sizes and giving teachers the tools they need to prepare our kids for life.

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To: vjtabone@hotmail.com
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All the best.

Sincerely,

Ed Koch

TABONE

for STATE ASSEMBLY

April 2010

Senate Leader Dean Skelos set the tone for a successful fundraiser for Vince Tabone hosted at the Compass restaurant on April 15th by contributing \$500 dollars himself.

Distinguished guests included leading New York businessman and philanthropist John Catsimatidis, Nassau County Comptroller George Maragos and State GOP Chairman Edward Cox as well as advocates for small businesses and unions. Vince Tabone, who is counsel to John Catsimatidis and served as an economic development official in both the Giuliani and Bloomberg administrations and as a gubernatorial appointee addressed the capacity crowd talking about how his experience cutting red tape, facilitating private sector business expansion and job creation and private investment in Queens was important experience in getting New York's economy moving again and New Yorkers working again.

Assembly Candidate Vince Tabone stated "I am honored beyond words to see this level of support for my candidacy. I am grateful to all of Democrats, Independents and Republicans who are here today supporting my candidacy because there is an appreciation that we need to restore fiscal sanity and restraint in Albany and we need representatives who will fight for our community and respect our community's values."

Vince Tabone has been endorsed by Senator Frank Padavan and both area Council members that cover the 26th Assembly District. **Shortly after he announced his candidacy last month, the incumbent Assemblywoman announced she would not seek re-election.**

In This Issue

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[Tabone locks up more endorsements](#)

[Campaign Update](#)

[Stand Against Animal Cruelty](#)

[Quality Of Life In Action](#)

**Featured Article: Tabone with Padavan, Koo and Halloran
All area elected officials support Tabone for Assembly.**



Dear Friends,

Since formally announcing his candidacy in March Vince Tabone has raised approximately \$89,000 in contributions, well ahead of potential opponents for the 26th Assembly District seat. The campaign is on track to exceed our fundraising goals.

Tabone is the official candidate endorsed by the Republican, Conservative and Libertarian Parties and is making an aggressive appeal to area Democrats and independents to vote to help change the culture of corruption in Albany. Vince Tabone resides in Bayside, Queens with his wife and three children who attend our public schools.

From the desk of Senator Frank Padavan



Dear Friend:

I'm writing to ask for your help in my good friend **Vince Tabone's** campaign to be our next State Assemblyman in the 26th District, representing **Whitestone, Bay Terrace, Bayside, Auburndale, Douglaston, Little Neck, Floral Park and Glen Oaks.**

As you know, I have always made it a priority to keep our neighborhoods safe, our schools strong and our community a great place to live, work and raise our children. But we can't do it alone. That is why I'm asking for you to **JOIN ME IN SUPPORTING VINCE TABONE FOR STATE ASSEMBLY.** He will be my partner in the Assembly, working together to fight for common-sense legislative priorities and delivering for our constituents.

Vince Tabone has been my partner in fighting for Northeast Queens for many years. As a Council Member of our Community District Education Council, a Board Member of the Bayside Historical Society, pro-bono legal counsel to the Friends of Oakland Lake and a member of the Alley Pond Environmental Center and the 111th Precinct Community Council, Vince has been a strong leader for our kids education, protecting our local environment and preserving and improving our community's character and quality of life. Vince has been a strong supporter of mine and a valuable part of my re-election teams.

Moreover, as a high ranking economic development official in both the Giuliani and Bloomberg Administrations, Vince was responsible for Queens economic development projects, creating thousands of jobs and investing millions in our local economy. He has the experience we need to revitalize our economy by investing in small businesses, creating good-paying jobs and providing real middle-class tax relief and economic opportunity.

Just as I have put the best interests of our community and state ahead of party politics and worked across the aisle to do what's right in Queens and in Albany, Vince will do the same. That is

by the enthusiastic responses to our fundraising appeals, a necessary component of running effective, modern campaigns.

This level of support demonstrates the strong desire for change in Albany and for restoring real, responsible and accountable Assembly representation for Northeast Queens.

Vince Tabone said, "I greatly appreciate the confidence in our campaign to return fiscal sanity to Albany, revitalize our economy, improve our schools and protect our quality of life. I thank our supporters for their trust and generosity."

The continued support of concerned New Yorkers who believe our neighborhood and state can do better will enable us to run a vigorous campaign based on Vince's commitment to Queens and vision for common sense community-based leadership in Albany.

Sincerely,

Daniel Egers
Vince Tabone for Assembly

why he has earned the support of Democrats, Republicans and Independents who agree we need Vince Tabone's leadership in the Assembly.

But Vince can't do it alone. He needs the support of so many of you who have been friends to me in so many ways over the years. Your donation of \$250, \$500, \$1000 or more will help **Vince get out his message of commitment to our community, fiscal responsibility and accountability.**

Checks should be made payable to "Vince Tabone for Assembly" and mailed to Tabone campaign headquarters (see below).

I am honored to call Vince my friend and I know he will make us all proud when he is our State Assemblyman. Vote for Vince Tabone next November for State Assembly.

Sincerely,

Frank Padavan

About Vince Tabone



Vince Tabone is a community activist and attorney living in Bayside with his wife and children. He serves on a pro bono basis as General Counsel to the Friends of Oakland Lake, and is a member of the Alley Pond Environmental Center and the 111th Precinct Community Council. Vince has served as a Council Member on Community Education Council District 26 and a Board Member of the Bayside Historical Society.

Professionally, Vince Tabone served in the Giuliani and Bloomberg Administrations as an official in the New York City Economic Development Corporation and the Housing Preservation Department. He has also served under both Republican and Democratic Governors as the General Counsel and an Assistant Special Deputy Superintendent at a State agency overseeing matters concerning insolvent insurers. Currently Vince Tabone serves as counsel to John Catsimatidis

Vince Tabone is a candidate for New York's 26th Assembly District, encompassing the Queens neighborhoods of Auburndale, Bayside, Bay Terrace, Douglaston, Little Neck, Malba, Floral Park, Flushing, Glen Oaks, and Whitestone. He has been endorsed by Senator Frank Padavan, the Queens County Republican Party, the Correction Captains' Association, the United Council of Veterans and Republicans, Conservatives, Libertarians as well as Democratic and Independent voters living

in Northeast Queens.

Civic organizes cleanup of Station Road greenery

By Ivan Pereira Thursday, April 15, 2010 11:12 AM EDT



Arelio Rorriquez (l.) and Vincent Tabone pitch in during the Station Road Civic Association's cleanup of the grassland located at Station Road and 171st Street. Photo by Christina Santucci

Behind a group of well-kept brick homes in Auburndale lies a small green space on Station Road.

Years of neglectful maintenance, however, had turned the spot into a dumping ground for trash, but with three years of annual spring cleaning, homeowners who live around the spot were able to transform the eyesore into a pleasant mound.

Members of the Station Road Civic Association joined elected officials, teenage volunteers and professional landscapers in a massive cleanup of the green space Saturday at Station Road between 171st Street and Auburndale Place. Since the civic began leasing the land from the city at a price of \$50 a month in 2007, it has worked hard to make sure the space does not stick out in the community like a bad weed.

"It used to be a dumping ground and we keep it looking nice so it will keep the community pretty," said Rhea O'Gorman, president of the civic.

Every year trash and other debris piles up on the mound, especially during the winter months, according to the civic. When the weather gets better, the members come out and volunteer their time to improve the conditions.

This year the civic was joined by volunteers from John Bowne High School and professional gardeners from the Astoria-based landscaping business Garden Works to pick up empty bottles, bricks, candy wrappers and other trash left at the field. The Garden Works crew helped to plant new flowers and used their tools to speed up the efforts.

"We've never done it on this magnitude," said civic member Chrissy Voskerichian.

State Sen. Frank Padavan (R-Bellerose), who also volunteered with City Councilman Dan Halloran (D-Whitestone) and state Assembly candidate Vince Tabone, noted the civic had been working hard to beautify their neighborhood even before the city leased the land to them.

He said it worked with his office and other elected officials to install more trees and create "no standing" parking regulations to deter people from loitering in their cars around the greenspace.

"You'd have all kinds of trucks going up and down in the morning going 'boom boom,'" he said.

**April 20th 2010 Stand Against Animal Cruelty Videos
Vince Tabone calls for passage of NY law prohibiting 'crush videos'**

Says possession and distribution of videos depicting violence against animals is just as disturbing as the actions in the videos themselves

[Bayside, NY] - In light of this morning's Supreme Court decision in Stevens, striking down a federal law aimed at banning videos depicting graphic violence against animals, Assembly candidate Vince Tabone called on the legislature to enact a law that would outlaw videos depicting specific types of extreme animal cruelty, called 'crush videos.'

"Possession and distribution of videos showing these extreme acts of violence against animals are just as despicable and disturbing as the acts themselves," said Tabone. "We need to make sure that this type of abhorrent deviant behavior carries a punishment comparable with other animal cruelty laws."

The federal law was enacted in 1999 to forbid sales of so-called 'crush videos,' which appeal to a certain sexual fetish by depicting the torture of animals or showing them being crushed to death by women with stiletto heels or their bare feet.

This morning's Supreme Court decision essentially makes these videos legal again, which is why New York State should make

the effort to enact a specific law that would criminalize these videos again, without calling the constitutionality of the law into question.

Tabone also called for enhanced criminal penalties for animal cruelty in general. "I urge the legislature to act quickly to protect animals in New York State from unspeakable acts of cruelty. As an Assemblyman, I will be committed to making humane legislation a top priority," said Tabone.

Tabone, an accomplished lawyer and former Giuliani and Bloomberg Administration official, calls on leaders in the state legislature to take today's Supreme Court decision as a lesson and draft appropriate legislation that would pass strict scrutiny by higher courts.

Support Vince Tabone for Assembly!

To volunteer or make a donation to
Vince Tabone's grassroots campaign, visit:

www.taboneforassembly.com

and click on DONATE.

Vince Tabone for Assembly

24-55 Francis Lewis Boulevard | Whitestone, NY 11357 | (718)
690-3737

This email was sent to you by the Vince Tabone For Assembly campaign
Email us if you do not wish to continue to receive campaign updates
Just REPLY to this EMAIL and PUT UNSUBSCRIBE IN THE SUBJECT FIELD.
Vince Tabone For Assembly | 24-55 Francis Lewis Blvd | Bayside | NY | 11361