



2014 QUESTIONNAIRE FOR CANDIDATES FOR NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE

Citizens Union appreciates your response to the following questionnaire related to policy issues facing New York State and our interest in reforming state government. **Please return the questionnaire to us as soon as possible, and no later than July 23rd.** Responses to these questions will be one of several factors Citizens Union uses to evaluate candidates running for office in order to determine our “Preferred Candidates” for the September 9th Primary Election, and our “Endorsed Candidates” for the November 4th General Election.

If you seek our support, we will 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 and have not heard from us.**

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: Latrice Monique Walker, Esq.

Age: 34

Campaign Address: 2194 Fulton Street, Brooklyn, New York, 12233

Campaign Telephone Number: (347) 470-7092 Fax: () _____

Party Affiliation(s): Democratic

Campaign Manager Name: Peter Williams

Website & Email: <https://walkerforny.nationbuilder.com/> WalkerforNY@gmail.com

Education: B.A. State University of New York, Purchase, J.D., Pace University

Occupation/Employer (or years in currently held elected office): Counsel to Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement: Attorney, Campaign for Fiscal Equity, Counsel, Coalition of Black Brooklyn Legislators, Treasurer and Campaign , Letitia James for Public Advocate 2013, Campaign Manager for Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke, Election Day Site Coordinator for the Bill de Blasio for Mayor Campaign in the 55th Assembly District, Vice President and General Counsel to the Vanguard Independent Democratic Association, member of the Progressive Democratic Political Association, member, Black New Yorkers for Fair Redistricting, and founding member of the Ocean Hill-Brownsville Coalition of Young Professionals.

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:  _____

Date: 07/27/2014 _____

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 the redistricting proposition amending the constitution on the November ballot that would create an independent 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 strict two-party division of governance and operation?	Support
3. What is your position on making it easier for candidates to appear on the ballot by 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? Currently those on parole may obtain a Certificate of Good Conduct or Relief to have their right to vote restored, but few of these are granted, and they cannot be applied for immediately upon release.	Support
6. What is your position on amending the constitution to allow for Election Day Voter 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 over a period of several days?	Support
9. What is your position on reforming the special election process, utilizing a nonpartisan special election for state legislative vacancies, as proposed by S.161/A.5290 ?	Support
10. 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 updated automatically?	Support
11. What is your position on consolidating the state and federal primary to the third week in June, while ensuring that the legislative session ends at least two weeks prior?	Support
12. What is your position on instituting Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) for primary elections in citywide election in New York City, effectively eliminating the need for a separate runoff election?	Support

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM (CONTINUED)

16. What is your position on limiting or banning campaign contributions from corporations, LLCs, and LLPs? (Note: such entities would have the constitutionally-protected right to form separate political action committees.)	Support
17. 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
18. What is your position on requiring candidates to include the full name, home address, and employer/business name for each contribution and bundler?	Support
19. 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
20. What is your position on stricter requirements on the use of campaign contributions for non-campaign related activity, such as personal use?	Support
21. What is your position on improving disclosure of independent expenditures such as requiring disclosure of electioneering activities?	Support
22. What is your position on limiting the ability of candidates to accumulate “war chests” and then transferring funds raised in one race to another in which they run?	Support
23. What is your position on clarifying the definition of coordination between candidates and political committees to ensure candidate contribution limits are not exceeded, and expenditures and contributions are properly reported?	Support

JUDICIAL REFORM

24. 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
25. 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

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

BUDGET REFORM

28. 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
29. 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
30. What is your position on the use of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) rather than cash accounting for the state budget?	Support
31. What is your position on ensuring adequate disclosure and itemization of discretionary funds, including member items and lump sum funds, as well as reporting on their usage?	Support
32. What is your position on incorporating the use of performance budgeting and outcome measurement to promote the more rational appropriation of state funds?	Support
33. What is your position on instituting a later start date for the state fiscal year?	Support
34. 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

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
36. What is your position on the webcasting of all legislative proceedings for both houses of the legislature, including committee meetings, hearings and session proceedings?	Support
37. What is your position on having the Executive Director of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey appointed directly by the Board of Commissioners, and having the position of Chair of the Board rotated between representatives of New York and New Jersey?	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 have taken or plan to take to advance your positions on these issues.

I believe that we must return the government of New York State to the people. Under the system that exists today, many of our policies are developed only by “three men in a room.” – the Governor, the State Senate Majority Leader, and the Speaker of the State Assembly. This system has failed the people: many communities, particularly communities of color, are effectively excluded from the process by which decisions are reached.

As Counsel to Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke and an attorney with the Campaign for Fiscal Equity, I have worked to return control of our schools and other institutions to the people in each community. For example, I prepared testimony and other evidence for the New York State Legislative Task Force on Demographic Research and Reapportionment, to guarantee that communities of color are not disenfranchised by gerrymandering that prevents their selection of a candidate of choice.

As a member of the State Assembly, I want to focus on reform of legislative process. For example, I believe that individual members of the State Assembly should have the opportunity to negotiate each section of the budget, rather than simply voting on a completed budget that have previously been negotiated behind closed doors. A transparent process would allow the public to have a voice in the process, to insist hat their representatives focus on their interests, not on the interests of party leaders or lobbyists.

I also want to expand participation in the process. Until we have an electorate that genuinely represents the people of New York State, we will not have elected officials who represent heir constituents. For example, the requirements for voter registration are much more difficult than in other states. We need to pursue same-day voter registration, automatic updates to voter registration information, and the restoration of voting rights for men and women who have been incarcerated.

II. CAMPAIGN PROMISES MADE TO VOTERS (PAST AND CURRENT)

As a candidate who presently does not hold elected office, CU is interested in knowing your top five campaign promises you are making to the voters during this campaign for this position.

If elected, Citizens Union will use these promises 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 2014 CAMPAIGN PROMISES OR GOALS

1. Protect (and improve on) rent regulations and support the development of affordable housing for working families.
2. Expand access to government, by increasing voter turnout among disenfranchised residents of New York State.
3. Increase transparency in government, by enacting real campaign finance reform laws and allowing the people to have a voice in the legislative process, particularly on the budget.
4. Restore funding to our social services, such as schools and hospitals that have for many years been under-funded in Brooklyn,
5. Renew faith in the electoral process, by dedicating myself to the needs of my constituents, not party leaders or lobbyists.

**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 candidates@citizensunion.org
Call us at 212-227-0342 with any questions.**