



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 11th**. 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: Richard N. Gottfried Age: 67

Campaign Address: c/o Paster, 80 LaSalle St., #18F, New York, NY 10027

Campaign Telephone Number: (917) 723-5646 Fax: _____

Party Affiliation(s): D, WFP Campaign Manager Name: Wendi Paster

Website & Email: Campaign: dickgottfried.org; friendsofdickgottfried@gmail.com,
Assembly: assembly.state.ny.us/gottfried; GottfriedR@assembly.state.ny.us

Education: Cornell University, BA, 1968. Columbia University, Law School, JD, 1973


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

NY State Assembly, 1971 to present. Licensed to practice law, but do not practice.

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement: Fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine and a member of the American Public Health Association, the National Academy for State Health Policy, the Reforming States Group, the New York City Bar Association, the New York Civil Liberties Union, the Art Students League of New York City, and the China Institute.

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: July 14, 2014

I. CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

• = See note in space provided.

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?	• Don't know
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 <i>(I have a bill to do this)</i>
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 ?	• Oppose
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?	Depends on details

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?	Don’t know
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?	Oppose

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?	Don’t know
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?	Don’t know
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?	Don’t know

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.

#2 – Would need to see specific proposal.

#4 – I am the sponsor of the bill to do this.

#9 – Party affiliation is informative. A few years ago, in response to a Charter amendment proposal to implement non-partisan elections in New York City, I joined a letter in opposition to this proposal which stated in part: that non-partisan elections undermine democratic politics and the ability of our citizenry to participate fully and knowledgeably in the electoral process; put less-informed voters - who tend to be lower-income, minority, and immigrants - at a disadvantage; depress voter turnout; and favor incumbents or other candidates with name recognition.

#12 – Would need to see specific proposal.

#13 – I was the original sponsor of the Assembly matching fund bill in 1979, which became the model for the NYC law.

#16. It would be important to make sure that such PACs clearly identified the corporation with which each is affiliated. Also essential to apply a single contribution limit to all of an entity’s affiliates, subsidiaries, etc.

#35 – Would need to see specific proposal.

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 LAST ELECTION AND ACTION ON THEM

I tell people what I stand for, what I have done, and what I plan to work for. Here are some of the major things I talked about in 2012 and what I have done since then:

1. Health care. As chair of the Assembly Health Committee, I consider moving to universal health care the most important public policy issue facing New York. I support publicly-sponsored publicly-funded health coverage for everyone, though my single-payer bill, "New York Health." This year we have developed dramatically increased support, especially in the labor movement.

For many years I have been sponsoring and working to enact medical marijuana legislation in New York. We have finally achieved that goal, with legislation just signed into law by the Governor.

I helped protect eligibility and benefits under Medicaid. I led the successful fight to have New York State enact a law this year to take advantage of the Basic Health Program option under the Affordable Care Act. This will enable hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers to receive free or more heavily subsidized health coverage.

As the state moves virtually all Medicaid coverage into various forms of managed care, I have been working to protect the rights of patients and health care providers.

I worked on implementing federal health care reform and take advantage of new provisions to promote "medical homes," accountable care organizations, and a health benefit exchange.

I also worked to protect funding for "safety net" health care providers, especially community health centers and school-based health centers.

I continue to be the leader in the Assembly in protecting reproductive choice.

2. LGBT rights. I continue to be the lead sponsor of GENDA (transgender civil rights), which has over 70 Assembly co-sponsors and passed the Assembly again. As Health chair, I have fought to protect funding for the LGBT health and human services network.

3. Promoting economic fairness and opportunity. I sponsor and co-sponsor a broad range of bills to strengthen tenant rights and the rent laws. I devote a large portion of the work of my district staff to helping tenants with rent and housing problems and protect and increase the supply of affordable housing in my district. This includes protecting affordable housing from being replaced with high-priced housing, and fighting to increase the portion of new housing that is affordable.

I supported universal pre-K and middle school after-school programs, including funding through a high-income surcharge.

I supported a higher minimum wage and the right of New York City and other municipalities to set a higher minimum wage.

4. Protect and improve neighborhoods. I have continued to work with tenants, community groups, community boards, and others against excessive development and to include as much affordable housing as possible in new development. I help get buildings landmarked and areas designated as historic districts. I also work to protect tenants whose landlords are trying to force them out to replace them with higher-paying tenants.

The 1998 legislation that created the Hudson River Park, which I authored, was the result of decades of work by me and many others. I have constantly worked to protect the Park and get funding for it. The Park now faces extraordinary capital maintenance costs. I worked with the Hudson River Park Trust, the community, and park advocates to enact legislation in 2013 to provide additional financial resources for the Park, and am working with that coalition to implement that legislation.

5. Provide superb constituent service. An important part of my job is to provide a high level of constituent service. I am proud that my district office is widely regarded as one of the best there is in that regard. We work with community groups and individuals on a broad range of issues and problems,

including rent and housing (see above), problems with public benefits, quality of life issues (e.g., problems with some late-night bars and clubs), utility problems, etc.

TOP FIVE 2014 CAMPAIGN PROMISES OR GOALS

For 2014 and my coming legislative term, if I am re-elected, I expect that my priorities will be similar to those in the current term. There will be special emphasis on:

1. working for a state single-payer health coverage system;
2. passing GENDA, getting New York City to liberalize its birth certificate amendment requirements for transgender people to match recent state changes, and promoting Medicaid coverage for transgender hormone and surgical treatment;
3. preventing excessive development;
4. promoting affordable housing and strengthening the rent laws (which are up for renewal in 2015); and
5. promoting more equal opportunity through support for education, mass transit, a higher minimum wage, and more equitable taxation.

**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.**