



2014 QUESTIONNAIRE FOR CANDIDATES FOR THE
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR

Citizens Union would appreciate your responses to the following questions 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 running for office in order to determine our "Endorsed Candidates" for the General Election.

We plan to make public your responses to this questionnaire in our Voters Directory and in other appropriate venues.

We thank you very much for your response.

Candidate Name: Governor Andrew M. Cuomo Age: 56

Campaign Address: 750 Third Avenue, 31st Floor, New York, NY 10017

Campaign Telephone Number: (212) 551-9441 Fax: (646) 597-6195

Party Affiliation(s):Democratic Campaign Manager Name: Joseph Percoco

Website & Email: www.andrewcuomo.com; info@andrewcuomo.com

Education: Fordham University (BA); Albany Law School (JD)

Occupation/Employer (or years in currently held elected office):NYS Governor (4 years)

Previous Offices and Campaigns: NYS Attorney General (2006-2010); Secretary of United States Department of Housing and Urban Renewal (1997-2001)

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: X NO _____

Signature of Candidate:  Date: 10/16/2014

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I. REFORM ISSUES**ELECTION REFORM**

1. 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/Oppose
2. 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.	I would have to review the details of any legislation.
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/Oppose
4. 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/Oppose
5. 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/Oppose
6. 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/Oppose

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

7. 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/Oppose
8. What is your position on lowering campaign contribution limits for legislative and statewide candidates for public office?	Support/Oppose
9. What is your position on restricting campaign contributions from registered lobbyists, placement agents and those who do business with the state?	Support/Oppose
10. 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/Oppose
11. 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/Oppose
12. What is your position on requiring candidates to include the full name, home address, and employer/business name for each contribution and bundler?	Support/Oppose
13. 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
14. 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/Oppose
15. What is your position on clarifying the definition of coordination between candidates and outside political committees to ensure contribution limits are not exceeded with in-kind contributions, and expenditures and contributions are properly reported?	Support/Oppose

JUDICIAL REFORM

16. 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/Oppose
17. What is your position simplifying and modernizing the state’s court system by consolidating the nine trial courts into a two-tiered system?	Support/Oppose

I am committed to working with the Legislature and stakeholders to reform our courts to make them simpler, more efficient, and more effective as a result. At present, we have the most complicated court system in the country and that complexity has ill served litigants and judges in many ways, documented at length by organizations like the Fund for Modern Courts and others

ETHICS REFORM

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

I would have to review specific legislation.

My ethics reform package in 2011 included pension forfeiture.

BUDGET REFORM

20. 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
21. 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
22. What is your position on the use of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) rather than cash accounting for the state budget?	Support/Oppose
23. 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/Oppose
24. 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
25. What is your position on instituting a later start date for the state fiscal year?	Support/Oppose
26. 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/Oppose

With regard to the budget, I am very proud of the reforms we introduced into the budgeting process. We have significantly improved our fiscal condition by proposing fiscally responsible transparent budgets that have limited spending growth by adopting sensible parameters for our major spending priorities. The success of this approach has led to upgrades by all three major rating agencies. These outside experts have commented favorably on our competent fiscal management and budget practices. We have held spending growth in state operating funds to below 2 percent overall while allowing Medicaid spending and school aid to grow at higher but realistic rates. We have used conservative revenue projections and adhered to the consensus revenue forecasting process in state statute. We have improved the States debt position dramatically staying comfortably below the State

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statutory debt cap. In fact, prudent practice has resulted in two years in a row of year to year declines in debt outstanding. Our debt to personal income ratios are at levels not seen since the 1960's. Tax policy has been forward-looking with the most comprehensive corporate tax reform in decades. Our income tax has been made more progressive at the same time that all taxpayers are paying less than four years ago. In summary, our overall fiscal condition is the strongest in decades and this has been achieved in one of the most fiscal environments in decades as we have worked through the aftermath of the great recession.

ADDITIONAL REFORM

27. 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, as appointed by the respective governors?	Support/Oppose
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These are certainly reforms worth considering. But, as noted below, I am awaiting the final report of the bi-state Special Panel on the Future of the Port Authority, and will rely on the experts we have convened to provide guidance on how we should further reform the Port Authority.

Regarding your views on the issues listed previously, the questions below on the next page are intended for candidates to further describe their positions on these and other issues related to political reform.

1. What is your position on Proposition 1, the redistricting reform constitutional amendment that voters will consider this November?

I support it. Thanks in large part to the hard work and leadership of the Citizens Union, this amendment reflects our best hope for redistricting reform in a century. Its express ban on partisan gerrymandering alone deserves support, and the process it would establish for drawing the lines would require much greater protections against gerrymandering and greater transparency than the current process.

4. What steps, if any, do you support to improve the operations and structure of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to ensure it is able to fulfill its regional mission in a more apolitical manner? Do you support S.6718-C/A.8785-C of 2014 (Ranzenhofer/Paulin) that would ensure the Port Authority is subject to the Freedom of Information Law, and the "Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Transparency and Accountability Act of 2014," S.7721/A.3944-C (Lanza/Brennan)? On the state's other public authorities, how would you support and engage the Authorities Budget Office to fulfill its oversight mandate?

It is vital that the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey fulfill its regional mission. In 2011, at the direction of Governor Christie and myself, the Port Authority undertook a comprehensive review that led to improvements in operations, capital planning, and financial controls . However, it is clear that more remains to be done – as result, in May of this year, we created a bi-state Special Panel on the Future of the Port Authority. We charged the panel to review and evaluate reforms of the Port Authority's mission, structure, management, operations and governance. The panel has already presented an initial status report, and will return to us with a set of comprehensive recommendations for reform by the end of this year.

5. What is your view about measures to limit the role of money in elections and politics? Do you support substantially reducing contribution limits and instituting a public matching campaign financing system at the state level? What is your position on requiring further disclosure of independent expenditures? If elected, would you set an example on campaign finance reform by voluntarily limiting the size of campaign contributions you receive by an amount significantly less than the current limit, should reforms not be enacted?

I support and have proposed public financing of campaigns well as reducing contribution limits and reforming and limiting contributions by LLC, the use of money in housekeeping accounts and

“personal use” of funds by candidates.

6. What is your position on reforming and restructuring the State Board of Elections and improving the administration of elections by: abolishing the constitutionally mandated two-party system of governance and operation, and replacing it with a more centralized system that includes a sole chief elections officer and a nonpartisan board? How would you ensure there is proper enforcement of campaign finance violations at the Board of Elections, given the appointment of a new Enforcement Counsel?

This past year, the Legislature enacted my reform of the Board of Elections enforcement arm by creating an independent enforcement counsel. We need to see how this reform develops and then determine if further changes are needed.

by incentivizing shared services and consolidations.

2. What would be your approach to education? How would you ensure the provision of funding needed to ensure a sound basic education under the Campaign for Fiscal Equity decisions to all of New York’s school districts? What changes would you seek, if any, to implementation of the Common Core Standards as the state seeks Race to the Top funds?

Under my Administration education spending is at the highest level in the State’s history. However, the focus of my Administration has been about performance—through spending money on programs that improve education outcomes and our teacher and principal evaluation law. I believe in higher standards in the Common Core. However, given the challenges implementing the new standards we passed a law protecting students from the results being used against them for five years or until it is properly implemented.

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moving to a system in the private insurance market that pays for performance and outcomes so that the risk of improving care and reducing costs is shared by providers.

We have had one of the most successful launches of a health exchange in the country. To date, nearly 1.6 million New Yorkers have enrolled through the exchange. Nearly 80 percent of those did not previously have health coverage. We will continue to target our efforts to those who remain without insurance so they too receive appropriate coverage.

One of my top priorities has been lowering Medicaid costs without sacrificing quality. Through a collaborative process that considered a wide variety of interests, known as the Medicaid Redesign Team, the state has slowed Medicaid cost growth to the point where spending on Medicaid beneficiaries is the lowest since 2003.

5. What is your plan for ensuring that New York State is economically positioned in the years ahead including preparing residents to secure jobs in the technology sector, and with regard to the growth of the upstate economy? How would you evaluate the effectiveness of the Regional Economic Development Council program, and how would you plan for future growth?

As Governor I have made economic development across the state a priority, but nowhere more so than in Upstate New York. My commitment to this region is evident in our Buffalo Billion investment that has served to transform the Buffalo region, investment in the Eastman Business Park, the successful passage of the constitutional amendment to authorize casinos Upstate, and industry summits to support tourism, yogurt and the craft beverage industries. To continue this success I have committed to \$1.5 billion on local economic development programs to benefit Upstate communities as well as a transformational \$500 million investment in rural broadband infrastructure.

These investments will help to attract and retain employers, especially those in the fast-growing technology sector. Existing programs launched during my administration will continue to drive growth in the innovation economy, including START-UP NY and ongoing public investment in nanotechnology. The State will continue to build on these successes and expand these programs in areas of opportunity. To prepare New Yorkers for jobs in these growing fields, I launched the demand-driven Next Generation Job Linkage Program, created a STEM scholarship program for college students, increased the number of P-TECH 6-year high schools, and announced a \$2 billion

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education technology bond act to expand access to technology in the K-12 classroom. I will expand on these initiatives during a second term.

These, and other investments, were made through the Regional Economic Development Councils, a new bottom-up approach to economic development that engages diverse regional stakeholders in a strategic planning process to drive job creation and retention in a region. The model has proven successful and will continue. In the first three rounds of REDC competition, more than \$2 billion has been awarded for job creation and community development projects that will result in creation and retention of more than 100,000 jobs, and up to \$750 million will be awarded through the 2014 process.

6. How would you address rising income inequality and address the affordable housing needs of the state, particularly in the cities?

We need to continue to address rising income inequality by focusing on improving educational outcomes across all age groups, from pre-k to college and beyond. We need to continue to expand economic opportunities for everyone – this means continuing to make job creation the central concern of everything that we do, improving our workforce development strategies, ensuring that there is equal pay for equal work, and raising the minimum wage. We also need to continue to create affordable housing throughout the state. Over the past four years we have made vast improvements in protecting tenants, in overseeing the State's regulated housing, and in the administration of housing development and community preservation programs that finance the construction and preservation of affordable housing. For example, in just over two years, the State's new Tenant Protection Unit (TPU), has returned more than 33,000 housing units in over 3,000 buildings to rent regulation. In combination with the strengthening of the State's Rent Stabilization laws in 2011, the number of rent-regulated units in New York State is now growing. The State's \$1 billion House New York program is the largest investment in affordable housing in more than 15 years. Under this initiative alone, the State is preserving and creating nearly 14,300 units of affordable housing. This includes the preservation of 8,600 middle-income Mitchell-Lama homes that will remain affordable for the next 40 years.

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7. What is your plan for sustainability and resiliency of the state, particularly in light of climate change and the possibility of future disasters? What steps would you take to ensure that the state's emergency preparedness plan is sufficiently robust?

In June 2013– following the occurrence of Hurricane Irene, Tropical Storm Lee and most recently Superstorm Sandy– we moved to centralize recovery and rebuilding efforts in impacted areas of New York State. By establishing the Office of Storm Recovery, we aimed to address communities' most urgent needs, while also encouraging the identification of innovative and enduring solutions to strengthen the State's infrastructure and critical systems. Throughout the rebuilding process, the State is capturing opportunities to not just restore communities, but to build them back better and stronger to withstand increasingly more frequent and destructive major weather events. Recovery programs are a part of a cohesive vision to invest in the resiliency of every aspect of the community – rebuilding, retrofitting and elevating homes; bottom-up planning process for the development of locally-specific resiliency projects; and necessary investment in roads, bridges, shorelines, water treatment, gas and energy to ensure our infrastructure is able to withstand future severe weather events.

In addition, in the months after Sandy, we also formed three important commissions – the NYS Ready Commission, the NYS Responds Commission, and the NYS 2100 Commissions, all to focus on our emergency preparedness plans, and we are following the commissions recommendations to ensure that we are prepared for future events. Among the steps we are taking: training tens of thousands of New Yorkers to better respond in disaster situations; reinvigorating the Disaster Preparedness Commission to ensure efficient coordination between state agencies and counties in an emergency; building the most advanced weather gathering and forecasting system in the country; maintaining sufficient supplies in our strategic fuel reserves as well as placing backup power capacity at gas stations along evacuation routes to ensure fuel supplies are available in an emergency.

8. What is your position on permitting hydraulic fracturing in New York State? What environmental and health impact assessments do you believe are appropriate and/or necessary in examining this issue?

1. Imposing a property tax cap to provide tax relief to New Yorkers . A property tax cap was successfully enacted and as a result New Yorkers have seen real tax relief.

2. Transforming statewide economic development by creating Regional Development Councils. The Regional Economic Development Councils were created, and have dramatically improved the ways in which regions coordinate economic development, leading to clear improvements in economic outcomes.

3. Rightsizing the budget and the budget process.

4. Social justice, like passing marriage equality, increasing MWBE goals, and creating the Justice Center

5. Improving education performance including implementing a principal and teacher evaluation system.

TOP FIVE 2014 CAMPAIGN PROMISES OR GOALS

1. Continuing to provide property tax relief
2. Revitalizing upstate New York
3. Statewide universal broadband
4. Passing the womens' equality act
5. Improving education at all levels – K-12, and higher education

**Please return to: Citizens Union, Local Candidates Committee
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