



**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: Jose Peralta Age: 42

Campaign Address: 35-45 79th St, Apt 2d, Jackson Heights, NY 11372

Campaign Telephone Number: (347) 920-8971 Fax: () N/A

Party Affiliation(s): Dem. Campaign Manager Name: Yonel Letellier

Website & Email: N/A ccjose1@gmail.com

Education: B.A. Queens College

Occupation/Employer (or years in currently held elected office): State Senator, 13th District, 4 years

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement: New York State Assemblymember, 39th District, 2002-2010

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: 7/7/14
Citizens Union of the City of New York

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/Oppose
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/Oppose
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 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
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/Oppose
6. What is your position on amending the constitution to allow for Election Day Voter Registration?	Support/Oppose
7. What is your position on amending the constitution to allow for no-excuse absentee voting?	Support/Oppose
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/Oppose
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/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/Oppose
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/Oppose
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/Oppose

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

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/Oppose
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/Oppose
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/Oppose
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/Oppose
20. What is your position on stricter requirements on the use of campaign contributions for non-campaign related activity, such as personal use?	Support/Oppose
21. What is your position on improving disclosure of independent expenditures such as requiring disclosure of electioneering activities?	Support/Oppose
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/Oppose
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/Oppose

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/Oppose
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/Oppose

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/Oppose
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/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/Oppose
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/Oppose
30. What is your position on the use of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) rather than cash accounting for the state budget?	Support/Oppose
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/Oppose
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/Oppose
33. What is your position on instituting a later start date for the state fiscal year?	Support/Oppose
34. What is your position on limiting the ability of the governor to enact policy changes	Support/Oppose

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

1. See Attached
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

TOP FIVE 2014 CAMPAIGN PROMISES OR GOALS

1. See Attached
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

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

2014 Citizen's Union Questionnaire Addendum (Jose Peralta)

Elaborate on Your Positions on the Issues Contained in Previous Pages

- 1) **Independent Redistricting:** While I opposed the enacting legislation because of the delay in enacting independent redistricting, I strongly support its eventual enactment.
- 3) **Lowering the Signature Requirement:** I am a strong supporter of public campaign financing which will make it easier for new voices to enter the political sphere, I do not believe current signature requirements to be overly burdensome.
- 13) **Public Campaign Financing:** I strongly believe that we need to pass statewide public financing legislation to dampen the disproportionate effect of money on our elections and to give people from outside the system the opportunity to conduct meaningful campaigns. Making this a reality is one of my top goals for the upcoming legislative session.

Top Five Campaign Promises From Last Election and Action on Them

- 1) **Pass Meaningful Gun Control Legislation:** At the start of 2013, we passed the New York SAFE Act, and secured New York's place as the national leader in the fight against gun violence. I have long fought for more sensible gun laws, and I was proud that five of my bills were made part of the Governor's final package, including legislation that would require background checks on the sale of all guns and ammunition, and bills that would make it easier to get guns out of the hands of domestic abusers, criminals, and the dangerously mentally ill.
- 2) **Raise the Minimum Wage:** I have been fighting for years to raise New York's minimum wage above poverty levels. We were finally able to achieve that goal in the 2013 budget. Unfortunately the increases are too low and too slow, and we have not yet been able to give municipalities control over their own local minimum wage, nor index the minimum wage to inflation. Still, the increases were an important first step.
- 3) **Advance the DREAM Act:** While we were not able to pass the DREAM Act through the Senate this session we were able to bring it to the floor for a vote and come within a mere two votes of passage (and receive a majority of the votes from those Senators present). More importantly, I believe we have put the DREAM Act in a position where it will be passed into law next year. We have substantial momentum, the opposition's reasoning in black and white, and it has become a central issue in campaigns across the state, from the Gubernatorial race on down.

- 4) **Strengthen Wage Theft Protections:** Despite the passage of the landmark Wage Theft Prevention Act in 2010, wage theft remains rampant, particularly in the restaurant industry. I sponsor legislation that would help workers hold predatory employers accountable by creating a wage theft lien on businesses, which I am hoping to pass into law next year.
- 5) **Reduce School Overcrowding and Get Rid of Temporary Trailers:** While school overcrowding remains a serious and pervasive issue, we took an important step towards getting kids into real classrooms, with the inclusion of funding for eliminating temporary trailers in the Smart Schools Bond Act which was passed in the 2014 budget. If all children, no matter where they live or how much money their parents have, are to get a genuine chance to succeed in school, we need to provide them with real classrooms in which to learn. This year we took a critical step toward making that a reality in New York.

Top Five 2014 Campaign Promises and Goals

- 1) **Pass the DREAM Act into Law**
- 2) **Pass Meaningful Statewide Public Campaign Financing**
- 3) **Enact the Full Ten-Point Women's Equality Act**
- 4) **Allow Immigrants to Obtain Limited Purpose Drivers Licenses**
- 5) **Increase Protections for Workers Against Wage Theft**