

# 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 11<sup>th</sup>.** 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 9<sup>th</sup> Primary Election, and our "Endorsed Candidates" for the November 4<sup>th</sup> 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. <u>Please contact us if you wish to be interviewed and have not heard from us.</u>

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.

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gree in Economics
cted office: Long time community advocate, Small-
District 22 Part B
nvolvement: President of MinKwon Center, Member
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lidates Committee? YES lidate" rating only to candidates we have interviewed.)
Ngs? YES
Date: July 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2014
he City of New York New York, NY, 10007-1976

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## 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	Support	
	between the majority and minority parties?		
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	Support	
	division of governance and operation?		
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	Support	
	from appearing on the ballot?		
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	<b>.</b> .	
	right to vote restored, but few of these are granted, and they cannot be applied for	Support	
	immediately upon release.		
6.	What is your position on amending the constitution to allow for Election Day Voter	Support	
	Registration?		
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	Support	
	their votes at more convenient times over a period of several days?		
9.	What is your position on reforming the special election process, utilizing a nonpartisan	Support	
	special election for state legislative vacancies, as proposed by <u>S.161/A.5290</u> ?		
10.	What is your position regarding automatic voter registration in which voter registration	Support	
	information of individuals who consent to be registered is provided electronically to the		
	Board of Elections, and address information is updated automatically?		
11.	What is your position on consolidating the state and federal primary to the third week in	Support	
	June, while ensuring that the legislative session ends at least two weeks prior?		
12.	What is your position on instituting Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) for primary elections in	Support	
	citywide election in New York City, effectively eliminating the need for a separate runoff		
	election?		

#### **CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM**

13. What is your position on establishing a matching public financing system for state legislative	Support
and statewide races similar to the New York City model?	
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,	Support
placement agents and those who do business with the state?	

## CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM (CONTINUED)

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

#### 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	Support
the nine trial courts into a two-tiered system?	

#### **ETHICS REFORM**

26. What is your position on empowering the Attorney General to investigate and prosecute	Support
cases involving public corruption, including serious election law malfeasance?	
27. What is your position on amending the State Constitution to extend pension forfeiture,	Support
subject to due process safeguards, to all public officers and legislators who have been	
convicted of felonies?	

#### **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	Support

## with existing law or proposed changes in separate legislation?

35. What is your position on enactment of legislative rules reform to strengthen rank-and-file	Support
members' roles in the legislative process and create more equity between members?	
36. What is your position on the webcasting of all legislative proceedings for both houses of	Support
the legislature, including committee meetings, hearings and session proceedings?	
37. What is your position on having the Executive Director of the Port Authority of New York	Support
and New Jersey appointed directly by the Board of Commissioners, and having the	
position of Chair of the Board rotated between representatives of New and New Jersey?	

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.

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Government reform is at the front and center of both my campaign and my legislative priorities. Specifically, campaign finance reform and ethics reform are long overdue. I will be a reformer to help restore public faith in our government by fighting public corruption and putting an end to the distorted policy-making process as we know it.

I put government reform as my top priority because it is a linchpin issue for the entire state. Substantive progress in many other aspects of governance in Albany depends on cleaning up our house and putting our house in order.

This is why government reform is so important to me. Once we solve corruption and address inefficiency, we can make much greater progress on other issues as well.

Let me emphasize, I am running for New York State Senate because I reject politics as usual. For the past 26 years, I have committed my time and efforts to turn a small nonprofit into one of the most vibrant community organizations in New York and organize grassroots advocacy for pressing issues facing immigrant New Yorkers and working families. I aim to create an even more power political momentum that will finally achieve meaningful reform in Albany by combining the powers of the state senator position and my know-how in grassroots organizing.

I am looking forward to working with civic and grassroots organizations as a state senator to create an unstoppable political force for reform.

## **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. Campaign Finance Reform
- 2. Ethics Reform
- 3. Fair Budget for Under-represented and Under-served New Yorkers
- 4. Higher Minimum Wage
- 5. New York State Dream Act

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 <u>candidates@citizensunion.org</u> Call us at 212-227-0342 with any questions.