



**2014 QUESTIONNAIRE FOR  
CANDIDATES FOR NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE**

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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. 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.

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Candidate Name: MARTIN J. GOLDEN Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Campaign Address: 9712 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11209

Campaign Telephone Number: ( 718 ) 877-8737 Fax: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

Party Affiliation(s): R, C, I Campaign Manager Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Website & Email: [www.martygolden.org](http://www.martygolden.org) ; [friendsofmartygolden@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofmartygolden@gmail.com)

Education: A graduate of St. John’s University.

Occupation/Employer (or years in currently held elected office): NYS Senate, 2003-present

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement: NYC Councilmember (1998-2003)

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: \_\_\_\_\_

### 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.	Oppose
6. What is your position on amending the constitution to allow for Election Day Voter Registration?	Oppose
7. What is your position on amending the constitution to allow for no-excuse absentee voting?	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?	Oppose
9. What is your position on reforming the special election process, utilizing a nonpartisan special election for state legislative vacancies, as proposed by <a href="#">S.161/A.5290</a> ?	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?	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?	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

#### 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?	Oppose
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.)	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
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?	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

**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 wish to elaborate on my positions concerning Early Voting and same day voter registration. While I believe that everyone who is legally entitled to vote should be able, given the recent performance of the Board of Elections in New York City, I am not convinced that they would be able to effectively manage the processes of Early Voting and same day voter registration. Until the Board can demonstrate that they can effectively manage the present voting system, I am not inclined to support changes that could lead to chaos and even more mismanagement.

I oppose publically financed elections because I believe that, in times when we make difficult choices about maintaining critical state services, we should not be using state funds for campaigns. Having been a participant in New York City’s public finance program, I have come to the conclusion that the program does not accomplish its goals. It has not reduced the influence of money in politics; it has not increased competition, and it has not led to higher voter turnout. The public finance program in New York City has actually given incumbents an advantage since their challengers, because of spending limits, are often unable to mount campaigns that will allow them to overcome the advantages that incumbents have. The program has also proven to be ineffective when a participating candidate finds themselves running against wealthy self-financed candidates. While the 2001, 2005, and 2009 mayoral elections are prime examples, there have also been city council races where self-financed candidates have had an advantage.

I do support lower contribution limits, and I believe that competition for public office increases when term limits, which I have been a supporter of for many years, are in place.

**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. **RESPONSE TO SUPERSTORM SANDY.** As you remember, Superstorm Sandy struck just days before the 2012 election. Many neighborhoods in my district were devastated by the storm. At that point, my volunteers and I suspended the campaign to help with the recovery efforts. We helped homeowners by bringing in supplies and helping them find temporary housing. At the time, I pledged to help our neighborhoods recover from the storm.

Since that time, I have continued to work with our neighbors as they continue, even today, to rebuild their lives. My office has held more than a dozen town halls in the last two years in the impacted neighborhoods. We brought together government agencies, non-profit organizations and the private sector to help many homeowners and businesses. Through my office, we assisted a number of residents and businesses who had difficulties navigating the bureaucracy that was put in place following the storm. We interceded with FEMA, the SBA, and an array of state and local agencies when my constituents could not obtain the assistance they were entitled to. We worked with the State Department of Financial Services when homeowners and businesses could not obtain satisfaction from their insurance companies.

Even today, we continue to assist those who are still trying to rebuild. Most recently, on August 20, 2014, we hosted the New York City Recovery Build it Back Program and the New York State Department of Financial Services in an event in Gerritsen Beach for those who are continuing to have issues with Build it Back , insurance and mortgages. I have arranged for the Build it Back customer service team to return to Gerritsen Beach on September 26.

I'm proud to say that, nearly two years after this storm, my staff and I continue to stand shoulder to shoulder with those who need help.

2. **BUILDING A STRONG ECONOMY.** I promised to continue to work to make New York a place with a friendlier business climate by holding the line on taxes and spending and by working to bring more jobs to our state. In my role as Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Science, Technology, Incubation & Entrepreneurship, I just hosted a New Industry and Entrepreneurs Roundtable on the growth of the Computer and Video Game Industry in New York at Kingsborough Community College. I introduced S. 6548-A, the New York State Digital Game Development and Incentive Act, a bill that

would provide grants and tax incentives to encourage the growth of this industry here in New York. As one of the prime movers behind the legislation that created the tax incentives for the film and television industry in New York, I believe that the creation of a similar incentive could lead to the expansion of "Silicon Alley" here in New York, creating even more jobs in what has become a booming industry here in New York.

BioBAT, which I worked with SUNY Downstate and the City's Economic Development Corporation to bring to the Brooklyn Army Terminal, was designed earlier this year as a Start-Up New York zone. I believe that this action will lead to the BioBAT realizing its full potential as the Biotechnology industry continues to expand in New York City.

3. **FIGHTING CRIME.** As a former New York City police officer, I understand how crime can hurt a community. In 2012, I promised to work to keep our communities safe. Despite some misgivings, I voted for Governor Cuomo's SAFE Act, and I continue to advocate for the restoration of the death penalty.
4. **TRANSPORTATION.** In 2012, I promised to continue working on improvements to our mass transportation network, and I have emphasized expanding mass transit and creating additional transit alternatives for the residents of our city.

Subways. On September 16, I joined a bi-partisan group of local elected officials in calling on the MTA to restore "F" train express service, which was discontinued in 1987. I believe that the restoration of this service will cut travel times for Brooklyn commuters, reduce delays caused by congestion, and improve the quality of life for the riders who depend on this line to get them to work, school, or take advantage of all that our city has to offer.

Buses. In 2010, I filed a lawsuit against MTA's decision to eliminate bus routes in Brooklyn (Ryan, et al. v. NYCTA). Our contention was that the MTA's service reductions unfairly and adversely impacted the senior citizens and disabled residents in the area who relied on those transportation lifelines. The lawsuit was settled with the MTA's agreement to restore bus service and make improvements in the Access-A-Ride program. In early 2013, service restorations were made on the B2 (weekend service from Midwood to the Kings Plaza Mall via Avenue R); B4 (restoration of service east of Ocean Parkway to Knapp Street via Neptune Avenue, Sheepshead Bay Road, Emmons Avenue/Shore Parkway); B64 (service restored south of Cropsey Avenue to Stillwell Avenue via Harway Avenue); and the S93 (direct service from Brooklyn to the campus of the College of Staten Island).

Earlier this year, the MTA restored the B37, one of the bus lines eliminated in 2010 that prompted our lawsuit. The restoration of bus service along Third Avenue is important to our senior citizens and disabled residents who have difficulty using the subway (which is not ADA compliant in Bay Ridge) or

walking up to Fifth Avenue. However, I will continue to work to insure that the line is extended from Barclays Center (the current terminus) to Borough Hall.

Ferries. I have been a proponent of ferry services, which I believe continue to be an overlooked transit alternative. I have been a supporter of the Brooklyn Army Terminal service, and I hope it will continue.

Financial Integrity. I continue to support the idea of a “lock box” for funds intended for the MTA. In 2013, I sponsored legislation (the Transit Funding Lockbox Act) that would bar the diversion of funds intended for the MTA. While the bill passed the Assembly and Senate, it was vetoed by Governor Cuomo (he had vetoed the same bill, which I also sponsored in 2011). I have continued to speak out against the use of this fiscal sleight of hand by the governor, and I will continue to work to end this practice. The diversion of funds denies New Yorkers needed service improvements and fare relief.

5. SENIORS. I promised the seniors of my district that I would continue to work to insure that they had the chance to live their lives with independence and dignity in their community. Since the last election, my work for senior citizens has included securing a grant for the Bay Ridge Center to purchase a new van to replace the vehicle that was damaged in an accident; advocating for additional funding for the Community Services for the Elderly Program and for increasing the income limit for the SCRIE program. Each year, my office conducts a number of events designed for senior citizens: senior fairs, the senior boat rides, and the “Senior Idol” contest.

#### **TOP FIVE 2014 CAMPAIGN PROMISES OR GOALS**

1. I will continue to stand shoulder to shoulder with the residents and businesses of our community that are still recovering from Superstorm Sandy.
2. I will continue my efforts to improve mass transit, including the completion restoration of the B37; a permanent ferry service, and improvements to our subway service.
3. I will continue to work to keep our communities safe.
4. I will work to provide additional support to our seniors by advocating an increase in the SCRIE income limit; expansion of the Community Services for the Elderly Program, and the lowering of prescription drug prices by allowing the state to make bulk purchases of drugs and making those lower cost drugs available to seniors through their local pharmacies.

5. I will continue to work to reduce taxes for middle class New Yorkers while encouraging the creation of good-paying jobs through easing the regulatory burden on business and by offering strategic support (through grants and tax incentives) to emerging industries.

**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](mailto:candidates@citizensunion.org)  
Call us at 212-227-0342 with any questions.**