



## 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. 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:     Liz Krueger     Age:     56    

Campaign Address:     350 East 78th Street, New York NY 10075    

Campaign Telephone Number: (347 )     693-4640     Fax: (    )                     

Party Affiliation(s):     D, WFP     Campaign Manager Name:     Brad Usher    

Website & Email:     [www.lizkrueger.com](http://www.lizkrueger.com), liz@lizkrueger.com    

Education:     see attached biography    

Occupation/Employer (or years in currently held elected office):     State Senator, 12

years                      Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement:     see attached biography

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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: \_\_\_\_\_ Liz Krueger \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 7/7/14 \_\_\_\_\_

I. **QUESTIONS**

**CANDIDATE**

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. – **Responses are in bold**

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

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

**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.)	<b>Support/Oppose</b>
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?	<b>Support/Oppose</b>
18. What is your position on requiring candidates to include the full name, home address, and employer/business name for each contribution and bundler?	<b>Support/Oppose</b>
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?	<b>Support/Oppose</b>
20. What is your position on stricter requirements on the use of campaign contributions for non-campaign related activity, such as personal use?	<b>Support/Oppose</b>
21. What is your position on improving disclosure of independent expenditures such as requiring disclosure of electioneering activities?	<b>Support/Oppose</b>
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?	<b>Support/Oppose</b>
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?	<b>Support/Oppose</b>

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

**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?	<b>Support/Oppose</b>
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?	<b>Support/Oppose</b>

**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?	<b>Support/Oppose</b>
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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?	<b>Support/Oppose</b>
30. What is your position on the use of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) rather than cash accounting for the state budget?	<b>Support/Oppose</b>
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?	<b>Support/Oppose</b>
32. What is your position on incorporating the use of performance budgeting and outcome measurement to promote the more rational appropriation of state funds?	<b>Support/Oppose</b>
33. What is your position on instituting a later start date for the state fiscal year?	<b>Support/Oppose</b>
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?	<b>Support/Oppose</b>

**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?	<b>Support/Oppose</b>
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?	<b>Support/Oppose</b>
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 and New Jersey?	<b>Support/Oppose</b>

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.

1. As a strong supporter of independent redistricting, I was extremely disappointed with the constitutional amendment proposal, which puts this issue off until 2022, effectively undermining voter power for downstate and minority communities. Furthermore, the proposed amendment has multiple flaws, the most serious being that it leaves final approval of the map to the legislature. \_\_\_\_\_
12. I am the lead sponsor of legislation (S.3250B) to establish an instant runoff voting primary. \_\_\_\_\_
13. I cosponsor S4705C which would implement a system of matching funds. \_\_\_\_\_
14. S4705C also establishes contribution limits \_\_\_\_\_
15. I am the lead sponsor of S3271 which would limit lobbyist contributions \_\_\_\_\_
18. S.4705C also includes this provision \_\_\_\_\_
20. My bill S3271 includes such provisions \_\_\_\_\_
27. I am the lead sponsor of S3421 which provides for pension forfeiture for all public officials convicted of felonies \_\_\_\_\_

29. I am the lead sponsor of S3450 which would establish a nonpartisan legislative budget office.

30. I am the lead sponsor of S3420 which would require use of GAAP \_\_\_\_\_

32. I am the lead sponsor of S.1476 which would create a commission charged with implementing performance based budgeting. \_\_\_\_\_

33. I am the lead sponsor of S3418 which would move the start of the fiscal year to June 1. \_\_\_\_\_

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**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. Fight for reform of the state budget process. I have introduced and pushed for passage of reform legislation and to publicly speak about the failure to pass meaningful budget reform. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Fight for electoral process reform. I carry a package of reform bills and have worked with advocates to bring pressure for their passage. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Fight for expanded access to affordable housing. worked with advocates and city officials to push a comprehensive affordable housing agenda. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Fight to protect the safety net and address the economic security of low income and unemployed New Yorkers. Spoke and advocated for a budget that addresses the needs of the most vulnerable New Yorkers and that raises necessary revenue to support such programs. \_\_\_\_\_

5. Fight for environmental protection and clean energy. I have sponsored many pro-environmental bills and continue to work with advocates to protect New Yorkers from the potential dangers of fracking. \_

**TOP FIVE 2014 CAMPAIGN PROMISES OR GOALS**

1. Since the Senate majority coalition has largely avoided taking meaningful action on these and many other progressive issues, my priorities remain the same. Fight for reform of the state budget process. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Fight for electoral process reform. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Fight for expanded access to affordable housing. worked with advocates and city officials to push a comprehensive affordable housing agenda.
4. Fight to protect the safety net and address the economic security of low income and unemployed New Yorkers.
5. Fight for environmental protection and clean energy.  
\_\_\_\_\_

First elected to the New York State Senate in a Special Election in February 2002, Liz Krueger is currently the Ranking Democratic Member of Senate Finance Committee. She is also a member of six other committees: Codes, Elections, Higher Education, Housing, Construction and Community Development, Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities and Rules.

Senator Krueger has made reforming and modernizing New York State’s government, political process, and tax policy the central goals of her legislative agenda. She is one of New York’s most recognized advocates for transformative good-government reforms, from overhauling our outdated, inadequate campaign finance laws to transforming the opaque state budget process.

Senator Krueger is also a strong advocate for tenants’ rights, affordable housing, improved access to health care and prescription drug coverage, social services, more equitable funding for public education – including higher education – and animal welfare.

In 2011 Senator Krueger formed the New York State Bipartisan Pro-Choice Legislative Caucus, a group of more than 75 lawmakers which includes members of both political parties and representatives from both houses of the legislature.

Some of Senator Krueger's other legislative initiatives include: a package of legislation promoting fairness for women in the workplace, such as measures to fight wage discrimination and a measure requiring reasonable accommodations for pregnant employees; a bill to support recycling and expand the bottle bill; a bill repealing the Urstadt Law and restoring local control over New York City housing policy; legislation that would expand access to the Senior Citizen's Rent Increase Exemption; legislation establishing a breastfeeding bill of rights; and legislation expanding access to food stamps and safety net assistance for needy families and individuals.

Senator Liz Krueger has dedicated her career to issues relating to poverty, and she is a nationally recognized expert on the problems of hunger and homelessness, and the lack of affordable housing, healthcare, and job training.

Senator Krueger served as Chair of the New York City Food Stamp Task Force; Co-Facilitator of the New York City Welfare Reform Network; on the board of the City-Wide Task Force on Housing Court; and as a board member of the NYC Federal Emergency Management Agency Emergency Food and Shelter Program administered by the United Way of Greater New York. Liz Krueger has been active in the development of the NYC Coalition for Real Jobs and the NYC Medicaid Managed Care Task Force. She served as Chair of the New York Human Resources Administration Income Support Advisory Council; Co-Chair of the Manhattan Borough President's Task Force on Education, Employment and Welfare; and Board Chair of the New York City Coalition Against Hunger.

For 15 years, Senator Krueger was the Associate Director of the Community Food Resource Center (CFRC) where she was responsible for directing its efforts to expand access to government programs for low-income New Yorkers. She helped monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of Federal and State programs in New York City, identifying barriers to participation, and fighting for improvements in the effectiveness of these programs.

Prior to joining CFRC, Liz Krueger was the founding Director of the New York City Food Bank, building that organization into one that now serves over 1,100 emergency food programs, senior centers, day-care centers, and other community-based programs serving an estimated 5.4 million meals each year.

A graduate of Northwestern University, with a Bachelors degree in Social Policy and Human Development, Senator Krueger also holds a Masters degree from the University of Chicago's Harris Graduate School of Public Policy. Senator Krueger lives on the East Side of Manhattan with her husband, Dr. John E. Seley, a professor of Urban Planning and Geography at The CUNY Graduate Center and Princeton's Woodrow Wilson School of Public Affairs.

**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.**