



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: Adriano Espaillat

Age: 59

Campaign Address: 210 Sherman Avenue Suite B, New York, NY 10032.

Contact Number: (917) 544-2213

Contact Email: jonathan.davis@gmail.com

Party Affiliation(s): Democrat & Working Families Party

Education: B.A., Queens College.

Occupation/Employer: I have served in the Senate since 2011; and previously served in the Assembly from 1997-2010. Before joining the legislature, I worked at several non-profit organizations, including the NYC Criminal Justice Agency, Washington Heights Victims Services Community Office, and served as the Director of Project Right Start, a national initiative funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Are you willing to be interviewed by CU's Local Candidates Committee? YES

Have you completed requisite campaign finance filings? YES

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adriano Espaillat", written over a horizontal line.

Signature of Candidate:

Date: 07/14/2014

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.	Support
6. What is your position on amending the constitution to allow for Election Day Voter Registration?	Support
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 their votes at more convenient times over a period of several days?	Support
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
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
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
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?	Support
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.)	Support
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?	Support
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	Support

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. **Government & elections reform:** I stood with Citizens Union in opposing the Board of Elections' use of lever voting machines for the 2013 election. I have continued to push for matching funds and campaign finance reforms.
2. **Minimum Wage:** I have aggressively pushed for a meaningful minimum wage increase; I spoke out against the bad deal that low-income workers received through the 2013-14 SFY budget. I was the first member of the legislature to introduce a local minimum wage pre-emption will and continue to lead my conference in the fight for a minimum wage that can support struggling families.
3. **Hydrofracking:** We have successfully stopped oil and gas special interests from enacting hydrofracking in New York, and I have continued to educate my constituents on this issue and fight for a permanent ban.
4. **Health Care Funding:** I successfully opposed executive branch healthcare proposals that would have hurt low-income communities of color. I also led a concerted effort to enroll my constituents in health care coverage through the Affordable Care Act.
5. **Engaging New Constituents:** I have fought for people disconnected from the political process, helping immigrant assisting communities fight worker exploitation and access government services they are unfairly denied.

TOP FIVE 2014 CAMPAIGN PROMISES OR GOALS

1. **Minimum Wage:** Achieving a legitimate and impactful minimum wage that indexes future increases to inflation, and allows for a New York City
2. **Emergency Tenant Protection Act Renewal:** The ETPA is set to expire in 2015. In 2011, I led the Senate Democratic Conference's effort to renew and strengthen the rent laws and achieved the first pro-tenant victories in decades. This includes the creation of the Tenant Protection Unit to address landlord abuse.
3. **Campaign Finance Reform:** I remain staunchly committed to reigning in special interests in Albany by reducing contribution limits, closing the multiple LLC loophole, enacting a matching funds system for all state-level campaigns; other crucial reforms.
4. **DREAM Act:** Advocates for this basic civil rights reform were heartbreakingly close to victory in 2014, and I am committed to passing the DREAM Act in 2015.
5. **Farmworkers Bill of Rights:** After decades of inaction, I have continued to make progress on bringing this bill through the Senate. I successfully pushed for the bill's first successful Labor Committee vote in years in 2014, and earned support from all three Senate conferences.

