



**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: _____ Jeffrey D. Klein _____ Age: ___ 54 ___

Campaign Address: _____ 3602 E. Tremont Ave., Suite 205; Bronx NY 10465 _____

Campaign Telephone Number: (718) _____ 684-2074 _____ Fax: (718) _____ 684-2075 _____

Party Affiliation(s): ___ DEM ___ Campaign Manager Name: Joseph Cooper

Website & Email: ___ www.jeffkleinny.com ; jeffkleinny@gmail.com _____

Education: ___ NYC Public Schools; BA Queens College; MPA Columbia University; JD CUNY School of Law ___

Occupation/Employer (or years in currently held elected office): ___ NYS Senate 2005 - present _____
___ Attorney/Partner at Klein Calderoni & Santucci, LLP _____

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement: ___ NYS Assembly 1995-2004 _____

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/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.)	<input type="text"/> Support/ <input type="text"/> 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?	<input type="text"/> Support/ <input type="text"/> 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?	<input type="text"/> Support/ <input type="text"/> 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?	<input type="text"/> Support/ <input type="text"/> Oppose
20. What is your position on stricter requirements on the use of campaign contributions for non-campaign related activity, such as personal use?	<input type="text"/> Support/ <input type="text"/> Oppose
21. What is your position on improving disclosure of independent expenditures such as requiring disclosure of electioneering activities?	<input type="text"/> Support/ <input type="text"/> 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?	<input type="text"/> Support/ <input type="text"/> 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?	<input type="text"/> Support/ <input type="text"/> 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?	<input type="text"/> Support/ <input type="text"/> 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?	<input type="text"/> Support/ <input type="text"/> 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?	<input type="text"/> Support/ <input type="text"/> 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?	<input type="text"/> Support/ <input type="text"/> 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?	<input type="text"/> Support/ <input type="text"/> 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?	<input type="text"/> Support/ <input type="text"/> Oppose
30. What is your position on the use of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) rather than cash accounting for the state budget?	<input type="text"/> Support/ <input type="text"/> 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?	<input type="text"/> Support/ <input type="text"/> 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?	<input type="text"/> Support/ <input type="text"/> Oppose
33. What is your position on instituting a later start date for the state fiscal year?	<input type="text"/> Support/ <input type="text"/> Oppose
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	<input type="text"/> Support/ <input type="text"/> Oppose

with existing law or proposed changes in separate legislation?	
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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/Oppose
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/Oppose
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?	Support/Oppose

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.

On Question #1 -- I believe that New York’s redistricting process is in desperate need of reform. The reform measure on the ballot in November 2014 is not perfect but it is a significant improvement over the current process in which each legislative (majority) leader is afforded absolute control over the district lines of his or her house, at the expense of voters, the legislative minorities and communities of interest. In addition there are a number of statutory changes that I am interested in developing and exploring in the coming legislative session

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. _Increase access to affordable and effective public education – I secured state funding for universal pre-K, fought for a Common Core implementation that is fair to students and teachers, and brought the Dream Act to a Senate floor vote._____
2. _Improve public safety – I secured a lower speed limit and school speed zone cameras to make NYC streets safer. I also passed the NY SAFE Act and have championed further common sense gun laws such as Nicholas’ Law (safe storage) and Luisito’ Law (playground gun violence)_____

3. _Economic relief for seniors and working families – I secured the first significant increase in NY’s minimum wage since 2007 and provided income and property tax relief to middle-income families. I also worked to expand popular EPIC, SCRIE and DRIE programs to help seniors and the disabled save money and stay in their homes.___
4. _Expand and protect affordable housing – I passed laws giving distressed homeowners more opportunities to re-finance mortgages and protecting them from unscrupulous lenders. ____
5. _Protecting quality of life in the 34th SD – I have worked tirelessly to protect my community from developers and local officials who charge forward with massive development projects but fail to seek community input or respond to local concerns, in cases such as the proposed City Island bridge, the Montefiore medical facility in Riverdale and the new LG headquarters rising up over the NJ Palisades.

TOP FIVE 2014 CAMPAIGN PROMISES OR GOALS

1. _Affordable Housing – protect tenants by renewing and strengthening rent stabilization and securing funding for the development of affordable middle class housing with a new Mitchell-Lama 2020 program. _
2. _Support working families by passing Paid Family Leave, improving access to daycare, and allowing local governments to set their own minimum wage rates._
3. _Improve educational opportunities by increasing school funding, making it easier for families to save and pay for college and passing the Dream Act, _
4. _Continue to grow New York’s economy and create good-paying jobs with policies to reduce taxes, stimulate investment and modernize both our infrastructure and regulatory framework to encourage businesses to locate or expand in our state. _
5. _Continue to fight to preserve the character and local parks and resources of the 34th SD._

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
Call us at 212-227-0342 with any questions.