

**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: G. Oliver Koppell Age: 73

Campaign Address: 5911 Riverdale Avenue, Bronx, NY 10471

Campaign Telephone Number: (718) 543-3333 Fax: ()

Party Affiliation(s): Democratic Campaign Manager Name: Jen Firestone (jenfirestone3@gmail.com)

Website & Email: www.oliverkoppell.com; info@oliverkoppell.com

Education: Bronx HS of Science; Harvard College; Harvard Law School

Occupation/Employer (or years in currently held elected office): G. Oliver Koppell & Associates law firm

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement:

Member, NYS Assembly, 1970-1993

Attorney General of New York State, 1994

President, School Board 10, Bronx, NY, 1997-2001

Member, NYC Council, 2002-2013

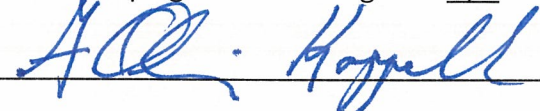
Board Member, Anti-Defamation League; Former Board Member, NY Lawyers for the Public Interest;

Volunteer, Small Claims Court Arbitrator

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? N/A YES NO

Signature of Candidate:  Date: 7/8/14

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

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

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

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

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?	<u>Support/Op</u> pose
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?	<u>Support/Op</u> pose [See note]

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

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

My last election was to the City Council of the City of New York (District 11) in 2009.

1. Support for a living wage for workers in government-supported projects / Koppell-sponsored legislation was passed by the City Council.
2. Support for public education / Council-enacted increases in education aid and substantial capital monies for schools, including schools in my district.
3. Support for environmental protections / Active membership in environmental protection committee and co-sponsorship of numerous environmental improvements.
4. Support for civil liberties and individual rights / I was recognized by the Brennan Center of NYU for my commitment and record on civil liberties.
5. Support for the mentally ill, developmentally disabled, and the physically disabled / Successful chairmanship of the Council Committee on Mental Health, Developmental Disability, Alcoholism, Drug Abuse, and Disability Rights

TOP FIVE 2014 CAMPAIGN PROMISES OR GOALS

1. A higher minimum wage
2. Passage of the Women's Equality agenda
3. Comprehensive campaign finance reform, including public financing
4. Passage of the DREAM Act for immigrant students
5. Moratorium on fracking and stronger environmental protections

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.