



CITIZENS UNION  
OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

# 2010 CITIZENS UNION VOTERS DIRECTORY

A Nonpartisan Guide to Informed Voting

PRIMARY ELECTION **VOTE TUESDAY  
SEPTEMBER, 14TH**

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UPDATED INFORMATION

100  
YEARS OF  
INFORMING  
VOTERS  
1910-2010



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Rachael Fauss, <i>Policy and Research Manager</i>	Sally McCullough, <i>Office and Finance Director</i>		Vera Willensky, <i>Volunteer Coordinator</i>

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## INTERNS AND VOLUNTEERS

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Mariya Abrosikova	Sarah Goff	Zachary Malter	Brandon West
Jeffrey Aser	Thomas Humphreys	Stephanie Pak	

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of securing the honest and efficient  
government of the City of New York.”*

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ABOUT THIS DIRECTORY AND CITIZENS UNION'S EVALUATION PROCESS

CITIZENS UNION 'S EVALUATION PROCESS

New Yorkers this September will be voting on September 14, 2010 in primary elections to select party candidates for U.S. senate, the U.S. house of representatives, governor, state attorney general, state senate and state assembly in the first state-wide election since 2006. While the number of challengers running against incumbents in state legislative races is disappointingly low, Citizens Union still believes that there will be important choices to be made on September 14th.

This year's primary and general election directories are particularly special, as 2010 marks the 100th anniversary of Citizens Union evaluating candidates and publishing voters directories. With voters understandably sour on state government performance, reform issues are front and center in this years' elections. We are hopeful that Citizens Union's mission will be addressed by newly elected and otherwise reform-minded legislators in 2011. This year is also historic for New York in that all voters will be voting in a new way. The antiquated Shoup lever machines have finally been replaced with a new voting system in which voters will fill out paper ballots. Ballot Marking Devices (BMDs) first introduced last fall will continue to be available at poll sites for those who need assistance filling out their ballots. For more information on the new voting process, see the final pages of this booklet. We will be holding a voting machine demonstration in early September with the Board of Elections in the City of New York, so please check for invites to this event.

To help our supportive and loyal Citizens Union members prepare for the upcoming primary election, we bring you our 2010 Primary Election Voters Directory, which would not be possible without the hard work of members of the Citizens Union Local Candidates Committee, Citizens Union Board, Citizens Union's staff, and our summer interns. This directory lists every contest for all federal and state offices that will be on the ballot in New York City on September 14th. We caution voters that New York's confusing and cumbersome election laws may result in the last minute elimination or reinstatement of some candidates on the ballot, so the list contained in this directory may have changed since this document was printed.

Members of Citizens Union's Board of Directors and Citizens Union's Local Candidates Committee members formed nonpartisan member interview teams and evaluated candidates for attorney general, and many state senate and assembly races. We thank them for contributing their time, energy, expertise and commitment this summer to interviewing candidates, analyzing races, evaluating candidates



ABOUT THIS DIRECTORY AND CITIZENS UNION'S EVALUATION PROCESS

and assisting in making these important decisions. It should be noted that we only prefer candidates for state offices, so contested races for federal office are listed for your information in this directory, but have not been evaluated by Citizens Union.

In our candidate evaluation process, we rely on information from many sources, including candidates' responses to our questionnaire, previous track record on reform, and ability to represent their districts well. Citizens Union's interview teams were charged with soliciting candidates' views on key proposals aimed at reforming state government, with special emphasis on the process by which legislative districts are drawn, assessing the candidates' general experience, and their knowledge of district and statewide issues. No single answer by a candidate ensures – or rules out – a preference. We will evaluate candidates with competitive general election contests in the coming months, so please look out for our November general election directory.

Recommendations for a "Preferred" rating are made by the Local Candidates Committee on the basis of the interview, research, questionnaire responses, and first-hand knowledge of the candidate. These recommendations are advisory and are reviewed by the Citizens Union Board, which makes the final decision. The "Preferred" rating reflects a candidate that Citizens Union deems not only qualified for the office being sought, but committed to an agenda of positive reform. Candidates not preferred may nevertheless be highly regarded by Citizens Union. These distinctions are generally reflected in the commentaries. Citizens Union issues "Preferences" during the Primary Election and an "Endorsed" rating applies only to General Election contests. A "No Preference" rating may result when there is insufficient information available, when one or more of the candidates have not been interviewed, or when a determination has been made that the candidates are of equal merit or neither are believed to sufficiently effective or capable to deserve the support of Citizens Union.

To view candidates' complete questionnaires, please visit Citizens Union's website at [www.citizensunion.org](http://www.citizensunion.org).



PREFERENCES

Citizens Union 2010 Primary Election Preferences

Statewide

Governor Rick Lazio (R)
Attorney General Eric Schneiderman (D)

Bronx

Senate District 28\* Jose M. Serrano (D, WF)
Senate District 32 Carlos "Charlie" Ramos, Jr. (D)
Senate District 33 J. Gustavo Rivera (D, WF)

Assembly District 76 Peter M. Rivera (D, WF)
Assembly District 78 Sergio Villaverde (D)
Assembly District 86 No preference

Brooklyn

Senate District 18 Mark Pollard (D, I)

Assembly District 42 No preference
Assembly District 50 No preference
Assembly District 52 No preference

Manhattan

Senate District 30 Bill Perkins (D, WF)
Senate District 31\* Adriano Espaillat (D, WF)

Assembly District 68 Robert Rodriguez (D)
Assembly District 71 No preference
Assembly District 72 Guillermo Linares, Jr. (D, WF)
Assembly District 73 Jonathan Bing (D)

Queens

Senate District 10 Lynn Nunes (D)
Senate District 16 Toby Ann Stavisky (D, WF, I)

Assembly District 26 John Duane (D)
Assembly District 28 Andrew Hevesi (D, WF)
Assembly District 33 No preference
Assembly District 35 Anthony Miranda (D)
Assembly District 38 No preference
Assembly District 39 Francisco Moya (D)

\*Includes portions of more than one borough.



CONTESTED PRIMARY ELECTIONS

FEDERAL ELECTIONS

UNITED STATES SENATE

TERM OF OFFICE: SIX YEARS • SALARY: \$174,000

Full Term

Republican Primary

Gary Berntsen Jay Townsend

Special Election (2 Year Unexpired Term)

Democratic Primary

Kirsten Gillibrand^
Gail Goode

Republican Primary

Joseph J. DioGuardi
Bruce Blakeman
David Malpass

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TERM OF OFFICE: TWO YEARS • SALARY: \$174,000

BRONX

Republican Primary

District 17 York Jay Kleinhandler Anthony Mele

BROOKLYN

Democratic Primary

District 10 Kevin Powell
Edolphus Towns^

Republican Primary

District 13\* Michael A. Allegretti
Michael G. Grimm

MANHATTAN

Democratic Primaries

District 14\* Carolyn B. Maloney^
Reshma M. Saujani

District 15\* Joyce S. Johnson
Vincent Scott Morgan
Adam Clayton Powell IV
Charles B. Rangel^
Jonathan Tasini
Ruben D. Vargas

Republican Primary

District 14\* Roger S. Blank
David Ryan Brumberg
Dino L. LaVerghetta

QUEENS

Democratic Primary

District 14\* Carolyn B. Maloney

Reshma M. Saujani

Republican Primaries

District 5 Elizabeth Berney
James Milano

District 14\* Roger S. Blank
David Ryan Brumberg
Dino L. LaVerghetta

STATEN ISLAND

Republican Primary

District 13\* Michael A. Allegretti

Michael G. Grimm



CONTESTED PRIMARY ELECTIONS

STATEWIDE ELECTIONS

NEW YORK STATE GOVERNOR

TERM OF OFFICE: FOUR YEARS • SALARY: \$179,500

Republican Primary

Rick Lazio †
Carl Paladino

Conservative Primary

Rick Lazio
Ralph Lorigo

NEW YORK STATE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

TERM OF OFFICE: FOUR YEARS • SALARY: \$151,500

Republican Primary

Gregory J. Edwards

Thomas V. Ognibene

NEW YORK STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL

TERM OF OFFICE: FOUR YEARS • SALARY: \$151,500

Democratic Primary

Richard Brodsky †
Sean Coffey †
Eric Dinallo †

Kathleen Rice †
Eric Schneiderman †

STATE LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS

NEW YORK STATE SENATE

TERM OF OFFICE: TWO YEARS • SALARY: \$79,500

BRONX

Democratic Primaries

District 28\* Mark Escoffery-Bey
Jose M. Serrano ^ †

District 32 Ruben Diaz ^
Carlos Charlie Ramos, Jr. †

District 31\* Adriano Espaillat †
Mark Levine †
Anna Lewis †
Miosotis Muñoz †

District 33 Pedro Espada, Jr. ^
Daniel A. Padernacht †
J. Gustavo Rivera †

Republican Primary

District 28 Jon Girodes †

Keesha S. Weiner

Citizens Union preferred candidate in bold.

^ Incumbent

\* District overlaps boroughs

† Has returned candidate questionnaire; responses on page 12 or for statewide candidates at www.citizensunion.org.



CONTESTED PRIMARY ELECTIONS

NEW YORK STATE SENATE (CONTINUED)

TERM OF OFFICE: TWO YEARS • SALARY: \$79,500

BROOKLYN

Democratic Primaries

District 18 Velmanette Montgomery ^ †
Mark H. Pollard †

District 21 Kevin Parker ^
Wellington Sharpe

MANHATTAN

Democratic Primaries

District 28\* Mark Escoffery-Bey
Jose M. Serrano ^ †

District 31\* Adriano Espaillat †
Mark Levine †
Anna Lewis †
Miosotis Muñoz †

District 30 Bill Perkins ^ †
Basil Smikle, Jr. †

QUEENS

Democratic Primaries

District 10 Shirley Huntley ^
Lynn Nunes †

District 16 John A. Messer †
Isaac Sasson †
Toby Ann Stavisky ^ †

NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY

TERM OF OFFICE: TWO YEARS • SALARY: \$79,500

BRONX

Democratic Primaries

District 76 Peter M. Rivera ^ †
Luis Sepulveda †

District 82 Michael Benedetto ^
Rafael Dominguez
Herbert Moreira-Brown

District 78 Jose Rivera ^
Sergio Villaverde †

District 85 Marcus Crespo ^
Israel Cruz

District 80 Robert Giuffre †
Naomi Rivera ^

District 86 Nelson L. Castro ^ †
Hector R. Ramirez

BROOKLYN

Democratic Primaries

District 40 Inez Barron ^
Kenneth Evans

District 50 Joseph R. Lentol ^ †
Andre R. Solei †

District 42 Michelle Adolphe †
Rhoda S. Jacobs ^

District 52 Douglas Biviano †
Joan Millman ^ †

Republican Primary

District 49 Peter Cipriano †
Lucretia Regina-Potter



CONTESTED PRIMARY ELECTIONS

NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY (CONTINUED)
TERM OF OFFICE: TWO YEARS • SALARY: \$79,500

MANHATTAN

Democratic Primaries

Table with 4 columns: District, Candidate Name, District, Candidate Name. Includes Marion L. Bell, Edward Gibbs, Alvin Johnson, Robert J. Rodriguez, Felix Rosado, John Ruiz, Evette Zayas, Herman D. Farrell, Jr., Ariel M. Ferreira, Nelson Antonio Denis, Miguel Estrella, Julissa A. Gomez, Guillermo Linares, Jr., Gabriela Rosa, Jonathan L. Bing, Gregory J. Lundahl.

QUEENS

Democratic Primaries

Table with 4 columns: District, Candidate Name, District, Candidate Name. Includes Bob Friedrich, David I. Weprin, Steven Anthony Behar, Edward Braunstein, John F. Duane, Elio Forcina, Joseph L. Fox, Andrew D. Hevesi, Barbara M. Clark, Clyde Vanel, Jeffrion Aubrey, Anthony Miranda, Nick Comaianni, Michael G. Miller, Hiram Monserrate, Francisco Moya.

Citizens Union preferred candidate in bold.
^ Incumbent
\* District overlaps boroughs
† Has returned candidate questionnaire; responses on page 12 or for statewide candidates at www.citizensunion.org.



CANDIDATE EVALUATIONS AND QUESTIONNAIRE

OUR VALUES AND AIMS

Citizens Union (CU) is an independent, non-partisan organization dedicated to promoting good government and advancing political reform in the City and State of New York. For more than 100 years, CU has worked to combat the corrupting influence of Tammany Hall and its inheritors.

In keeping with this tradition, CU aims to promote a competitive and diverse political culture, a fair and open political process, and accountable and responsible governance. Through public education, issue advocacy, and civic engagement, CU seeks to inform the citizens of New York, influence debate, and advance the cause for which it was founded. To that end, CU evaluates candidates for elected office and backs those who strongly support and can advance our stated agenda for reform.

When CU evaluates and supports candidates, it focuses on significant, competitive races; on races in which an incumbent has earned our support by his or her diligence in pursuing our agenda; and on races in which an incumbent has earned our opposition by either being an obstacle to reform in office or through inappropriate personal behavior. Races considered for evaluation and support shall be limited to the following for the 2010 primary and general elections:

- a) State-wide—Governor, Attorney General and Comptroller
b) Legislative—State Senate and State Assembly

OUR CRITERIA

The following guidelines are used by the Local Candidates Committee and Citizens Union Board of Directors in the evaluation of candidates:

- 1. Support for Citizens Union's reform agenda shall be the primary criteria used in deciding its support for a candidate.
2. Evidence of ability to wage an effective and competitive campaign shall be considered, but not be determinative.
3. Ability to advance CU's goals, if elected, shall be considered, but not determinative.
4. Incumbents will be held accountable for their record of reform in office and shall be judged accordingly on the basis of their demonstrated support for CU's issues.
5. State, local, or community issues specific to the race's jurisdiction shall be considered as will candidates' ability to grasp these issues and propose thoughtful solutions to represent their constituents' interests.
6. Evaluation of the candidates and the decision to support a particular candidate shall be made without regard to political party and in a non-partisan manner.

LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

ELECTION REFORM

- 1. What is your position on establishing by statute an Independent Legislative Redistricting Commission charged with drawing congressional and state legislative lines and removing the responsibility from the Legislature, through the passage of S.1614B/A.5279B?
2. What is your position on a process where the legislature directly appoints the members of a districting commission, as in S.7881-A or S.7882-A, as an alternative to the independent commission referred to in Question 1?
3. What is your position on maintaining the current redistricting process in which



CANDIDATE EVALUATIONS AND QUESTIONNAIRE

legislative lines are drawn by the legislators with support and New York State Task Force on Demographic Research and Reapportionment (LATFOR)?

- 4. What is your position on the adoption of stricter redistricting rules that would ensure that every district is: more equal in population (within 1% deviation from the mean), contiguous and compact, formed without regard for protecting an incumbent or political party, mindful of the need to keep neighborhoods intact, and not drawn to undermine racial, linguistic, and ethnic representation?
5. What is your position on restructuring the state Board of Elections and changing the administration of elections by amending the constitution to abolish the two-party system of governance and operation?
6. What is your position on making it easier for candidates to appear on the ballot by, for example, lowering signature requirements and utilizing less burdensome witness signature requirements?
7. 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?
8. What is your position on removing prisoner populations from the census counts for the purpose of redistricting and instead counting those populations in their last known place of residence?
9. What is your position on amending the constitution to allow for Election Day Registration?
10. What is your position on amending the constitution to allow for no excuse absentee voting?

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

- 11. What is your position on lowering campaign contribution limits for legislative and statewide candidates for public office?
12. What is your position on establishing a system of public financing for state legislative and statewide races?
13. If you support public financing, what is your position on a system where public funds are awarded on a matching basis (similar in design and function to the New York City system) rather than a system of full public funding of campaigns?
14. What is your position on restricting campaign contributions from registered lobbyists and those who do business with the state?
15. What is your position on banning campaign contributions from corporations, LLCs, and LLPs, while still allowing such entities to form separate PACs?
16. What is your position on limiting transfers from party committees to candidates, or other committees, to twice the limit set on individual contributors and limiting contributions to party committees to the same ceiling placed on candidates?
17. What is your position on increasing disclosure and reporting of campaign contributions and expenditures by requiring candidates to include full name, home address, and employer/business name for each contribution?
18. 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?
19. What is your position on stricter requirements on the use of campaign contributions for non-campaign related activity, such as personal use?
20. What is your position on requiring disclosure of independent expenditure campaigns?



CANDIDATE EVALUATIONS AND QUESTIONNAIRE

ETHICS REFORM

- 21. What is your position on changing the representation of the Commission on Public Integrity so no one elected official makes a majority of the appointments?
22. What is your position on expanding the jurisdiction of the newly formed Commission on Public Integrity to include legislative ethics violations, lobbying and campaign finance enforcement?

BUDGET REFORM

- 23. What is your position on requiring all budget documents, including budget bills and legislative additions, to be presented in a format that is organized into programmatic categories and facilitates public and legislative review?
24. 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?
25. 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?
26. What is your position on the use of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) rather than cash accounting for the state budget?
27. What is your position on requiring regular reporting of lump-sum appropriations and member items that includes detailed information on funds distributed, recipients, and remaining funds and bans on member item appropriations to organizations of which a close relative of the Member is on the staff or board?
28. What is your position on distributing member item allocations equally amongst all legislators and requiring for greater accountability as expressed in S.7007/A.10116?
29. What is your position on incorporating the use of performance budgeting and outcome measurement to promote the more rational appropriation of state funds?
30. What is your position on instituting a later start date for the state fiscal year?
31. What is your position on mandating the use of conference committees in the legislative budget process?

ADDITIONAL REFORM

- 32. Do you support a system of selecting New York trial court judges through an appointment process in which candidates are recommended by citizens committees on the basis of merit?
33. Do you support further reform of the Wicks Law, which requires New York State government entities to award separate prime contracts for the major components of a construction project?

Key for Questionnaire Response Grid on Pages 12 - 13
Citizens Union preferred candidate in bold.
^ Incumbent legislator
S = Support
O = Oppose
N/A = No answer or undecided
\* = Nuanced answer







## STATEWIDE RACES

### GOVERNOR

#### Republican Primary

##### ★ PREFERRED CANDIDATE – RICK LAZIO – REP ★

*Has returned questionnaire, available on Citizens Union website (<http://www.citizensunion.org>)*

*Age: 52 Occupation: former President and CEO of The Financial Services Forum*

*Education: Vassar College (AB), American University Washington College of Law (JD)*

Rick Lazio is running in the Republican primary for governor on the platform that New York needs stability and predictability in government, particularly in regards to the budget, and a path to strong economic growth by creating an environment more favorable to business expansion and job creation. He cited as additional priorities improving education and defending public safety. He brings experience in both the public and private sectors, notably serving as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives from New York's 2nd district from 1993-2001, a member of the Suffolk County Legislature from 1990-1993, and having most recently been the President and CEO of The Financial Services Forum and a Managing Director at J.P. Morgan Chase. Lazio credits his experience in both sectors as giving strength to his candidacy, as well as his being an "outsider" to the politics of Albany.

Lazio has a number of reform initiatives he would institute as governor in the areas of budget reform, ethics, campaign finance, and redistricting reform. He supports a constitutional convention as a means of accomplishing widespread reforms, believing that there needs to be an open conversation about how to reform the structure of government. Lazio has pledged to veto district lines that have been drawn by the legislature, supporting the creation of an independent redistricting commission. In order to achieve this reform, he has committed to hold accountable those legislators who have already made pledges to end the practice of partisan gerrymandering and to appeal to the constituents of lawmakers who have not pledged their support. Budget reform is also prominent in his platform, including requiring the state comptroller to certify that the budget is balanced, using Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), implementing performance-based budgeting, and eliminating member items. In regards to ethics reform, Lazio supports requiring complete disclosure of outside income. He supports giving the state attorney general original jurisdiction over public corruption cases along with the institution of a strong, independent ethics Moreland-type commission to route out corruption in government. He also supports reforms in the area of campaign finance, including banning fundraisers in the capital area during the legislative session, more regular reporting of campaign finances, creating limits on the rolling over of campaign war chests from one election to another, limiting donations from registered lobbyists doing business with New York State government, and the disclosure of independent expenditures.

A central tenet of Lazio's campaign is to reinvigorate the economy, which he aims to accomplish through lowering taxes and creating jobs. In regards to taxes, he has proposed capping property taxes at 2.5% of the assessed value of a home, as well as phasing out the corporate tax by first eliminating it upstate and on small businesses. In order to create jobs, Lazio presents a start-up strategy using New York colleges and universities as catalysts for development, and plans to work with the private sector to create "business clusters" centered around these institutions, as well as create more research parks centered around emerging technologies.

Lazio proposes to address the state's fiscal woes through reforms to the state pension system,



## STATEWIDE RACES

and Medicaid and education spending. As public employee contracts come up for renegotiation in 2011, Lazio would like to see their benefits harmonized with comparable workers in the private sector and move to establish 401k-style plans for elected officials and new employees. In order to address rising Medicaid costs, Lazio proposes to implement managed care, patient incentives programs and means-testing for eligibility. Regarding education, Mr. Lazio is committed to seeing that the funds from the Campaign for Fiscal Equity lawsuit are awarded, and also favors modest new programs such as merit pay for teachers and a pilot program for early childhood education.

Citizens Union believes that Lazio presents a thoughtful vision for the state of New York with comprehensive policy recommendations to fulfill this vision. His breadth of knowledge regarding various issues was impressive, and it is clear that his experience in the federal government and the private sector have enriched his understanding of complex governance issues. Citizens Union did not raise with Lazio his campaigns focus on the placement of an Islamic Cultural Center in downtown Manhattan, but how he has addressed it was later discussed during our board's evaluation of him. Although justifiable concerns exist about the tenor of his comments concerning this issue, we did not factor that into our decision, because we did not raise it with him. Citizens Union believes that Rick Lazio is a strong candidate with a broad platform that includes needed political and government reforms, and prefers him for the Republican Primary Election for governor.

#### CARL PALADINO – REP, TAXPAYERS

*Has not returned questionnaire*

*Candidate could not be scheduled for an interview*

### ATTORNEY GENERAL

##### ★ PREFERRED CANDIDATE - ERIC SCHNEIDERMAN- DEM ★

*Age: 55 Occupation: Senator, NYS Senate*

*Education: Harvard Law School (JD); Amherst College (BA)*

A long-time advocate on reform issues, Eric Schneiderman hopes to utilize his legal expertise obtained as a public interest lawyer and state senator to leverage the attorney general's office to restore public confidence in both government and the state's large public and private institutions. Schneiderman, a state senator representing parts of Washington Heights and Riverdale since 1998, believes the state is at a critical juncture where a window of opportunity exists to achieve significant reform. Having been at the center of the peaks and valleys of the reform movement over the last two decades, Schneiderman casts himself as best suited to take advantage of that opportunity to meaningfully reshape Albany through the attorney general's office.

More than any other candidate in the race for attorney general, Schneiderman has experienced firsthand the dysfunction of Albany. Mired in the Democratic minority in the senate for a decade, Schneiderman conveyed how "collegiality at the expense of the public interest" relegated his service to introducing bills that went nowhere. Schneiderman indicated how he refused to accept the status quo arrangement in the legislature, taking action by launching a coup against the Democratic minority leader that elevated David Paterson to the top position among the Democrats in the senate. Consequently, Schneiderman's district's boundaries were



## STATEWIDE RACES

drawn to bring about his electoral defeat. Instead, Schneiderman and the Democrats took the majority in the senate in 2008.

According to Schneiderman, this legislative experience has shaped his understanding of the imperative for an independent redistricting process along with a host of other reforms. He counts as among his most significant accomplishments the rules reform in 2009 that allowed for rank and file members of the senate to more easily put bills on the floor and on committee agendas, something they previously had virtually no ability to do in a system that continues to be largely dominated by a strong leader. Schneiderman also cites his leadership of the bipartisan committee that expelled Senator Hiram Monserrate following his misdemeanor conviction for domestic violence as indicative of his commitment to changing behavior in Albany.

As attorney general, Schneiderman believes he can apply the authority of the office to more effectively continue the ongoing struggle for reform. His ideas include aggressively expanding use of the False Claims Act, which Schneiderman strengthened in the legislature this past session, to engage whistleblowers to hold those accountable who defraud the state or local governments. If elected, Schneiderman will also place a public integrity officer in each regional office of the attorney general to root out local wrongdoing. Schneiderman is also a forceful advocate for pushing the governor to grant original jurisdiction to the attorney general to investigate and prosecute political corruption cases, showing zeal on the issue that was matched by few of his competitors. He also intends to push the many reforms he advocated for in the legislature through the attorney general's bully pulpit and ability to introduce program bills, including public financing of campaigns and giving the attorney general the ability to permanently enforce election and campaign finance law.

Beyond government reform issues, Schneiderman plans to closely monitor dramatic changes at the federal level related to health care and finance laws, and to weigh in on federal rules as they develop while keeping a close eye on the industry to ensure they play by the rules during a time of transition. He also stated that he would build on his experience related to criminal issues, establishing an Innocence Unit in the Criminal Division of the attorney general's office. Schneiderman also drew on his own legal experience in proposing new efforts to extend the capacity of the office, utilizing more pro bono lawyers and decentralizing offices to less expensive localities throughout the state.

Citizens Union feels that Schneiderman has been a consistent and independent force for change in state government, regardless of whether he was in the minority or majority party in the State Senate. A champion for a more transparent and accountable government that treats all New Yorkers with dignity and respect, Senator Schneiderman has not just talked about reform these past few years, but forcefully - and at times successfully - challenged the status quo, even when there were political risks. As such, his experience in state government is not a liability, but a valuable source of knowledge to better navigate in an office with expanded powers to more greatly advance the reform agenda. Combined with his legal and law enforcement experience, Schneiderman should be able to effectively continue the expanding prestige and influence of the attorney general's office, and use it to creatively bring change to a State in desperate need of it. While his competitors bring their own unique skills in what is a talented field of candidates, Citizens Union believes Schneiderman is the best of a well-qualified and skilled group. We prefer him in the primary for attorney general.



## STATEWIDE RACES

### **RICHARD BRODSKY- DEM**

*Age: 64 Occupation: Assembly member, NYS Assembly*

*Education: Harvard Law School (JD), Brandeis*

Richard Brodsky, a long-time Assembly member, private-practice lawyer and former Westchester County legislator, is touting his many political accomplishments and successful lawsuits as being the right meld of experience and skill needed in the attorney general's office. Brodsky believes that his sense of how to blend public pressure, artful compromise and legal challenge makes him best positioned to be a champion for governmental, social and economic reform as attorney general.

Brodsky, who has been in the assembly since 1982, has established a reputation as being one of the most intelligent and capable legislators as the chair of the committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions as well as through his previous leadership of the committees related to the environment, and oversight and investigation. Among his most notable achievements, Brodsky cites the recent passage of the Public Authorities Reform Act, which built on earlier reforms Brodsky initiated of these shadow government entities in 2005. Together, these reforms resulted in the creation of an Authorities Budget Office with subpoena power, independent authority directors with direct responsibility to the public, timely reporting of information, among other changes to management, auditing, and reporting processes. Authorities' reform is seemingly emblematic of much of Brodsky's legislative career and legal actions. From the New York Yankees to the MTA, Brodsky is adept at penetrating dense and complicated entities that make most legislators' eyes glaze over, and exposing their wrongdoing to create accountability and transparency momentarily, if not through structural permanent reform.

Brodsky cites authorities' reform as indicative of the type of results and reform he can achieve in the attorney general's office through deft negotiating learned as a legislator and combining the threat of or actual legal action with the positing of what he calls, "yessable propositions." He believes that the application of this approach to the attorney general's office can achieve essential government and societal reforms, noting, "reform of state government does not require novel approaches. The failure of the reform movement in recent years ... is a consequence of inadequate and misapplied political activities and skills." Brodsky suggests that process is more important than new powers gained for the office or concrete proposals but as for achieving specific reforms, Brodsky believes most need to be done through constitutional amendments through the legislature like changing the state's budget process, redistricting, elections and monitoring, and enforcement of ethics. He foresees a coming struggle between the legislative and executive branch over powers related to the budget process, and thinks as attorney general that he can play an influential role as a neutral independent arbiter between the two.

Aside from governmental reform, Brodsky wants to use the attorney general's power to investigate non-profits to change the way energy is bought and sold through the state's non-profit Independent Systems Operator to save consumers 15 to 20 percent on energy bills monthly. This proposal dovetails with Brodsky's historical focus on environmental reform, something he has addressed in bringing lawsuits and passing legislation to clean up the Hudson River and holding the Indian Point nuclear facility to account in Westchester. Brodsky has also tackled the ever-changing world of technology and its impact on people's privacy. He is proposing creating a special privacy task force within the AG's office in addition to proposals to



## STATEWIDE RACES

create a registry modeled on the “Do Not Call” registry that would allow internet users to opt out of tracking commonly used for advertising purposes.

Citizens Union was very impressed with Brodsky’s vision for how to best leverage the office of attorney general to achieve change, and his foresight on upcoming challenges related to the budget process. Authorities reform is indicative of his commitment and success in achieving reform as well as his ability to penetrate issues often abandoned due to their complexity. His recent proposal tackling energy pricing shows his creative thinking applied to the office of attorney general.

He is one of the strongest candidates among an exceptional group, but Citizens Union feels his experience in building coalitions and advocating for our broader reform agenda is exceeded by Senator Eric Schneiderman. Should he not win election as attorney general, Albany will be all the poorer for not having Brodsky in the legislature, where he is a natural talent and effective reformer.

### **SEAN COFFEY- DEM**

*Age: 54 Occupation: Attorney;*

*Education: U.S. Naval Academy (BS); Georgetown University Law Center (JD)*

Sean Coffey, no stranger to public service as a former Naval officer and Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Southern District of New York, emphasizes his status as a true political outsider who has never held office. He has been politically involved in Washington, D.C. think tanks and in supporting candidates for federal office as well. More recently, he was on President Obama’s litigation team. Coffey is self-financing a significant part of his campaign, although he raised \$1.5 million first to prove his viability. Like many of his fellow candidates, he believes that state government is badly broken and would like to be the catalyst for reform in Albany. Having completed his naval service, he hopes to continue public service by applying his diverse legal experience as attorney general.

Coffey has a broad and ambitious slate of reform issues he wishes to pursue if elected. With no experience in Albany as an elected official or in state government and having largely self-funded his campaign, he believes he is best situated to strongly drive the reform agenda. He would focus on reforms such as redistricting, public financing for the Offices of the Comptroller and Attorney General, obtaining original jurisdiction for the attorney general to investigate public corruption, merit selection of judges, an independent ethics committee, and reduction in the number of petition signatures and petition challenges. Admitting that some of these efforts are outside the primary purview of the attorney general, he cites reform and watching Wall Street as the broad themes of his policy goals. Despite some of the current limitations on the attorney general, Coffey is willing to use whatever authority and powers the office currently provides. For example, he finds the Tweed Law suboptimal, but would be more aggressive in its application. He also hopes to cut “public corruption taxes” for back-room dealings and strengthen the False Claims Act. Together, these efforts would result in trying more cases.

Coffey views the relationship between the attorney general and the governor as a partnership, particularly when it comes to reform issues; if the governor is unwilling to take the lead or press issues strong enough, as attorney general he will fill the void and ensure reform is a priority. To obtain original jurisdiction for the attorney general’s office, Coffey would lobby the governor. Should that fall short, he would seek the power through passing legislation.



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To protect economically vulnerable consumers from predatory lenders, Coffey would begin by identifying the perpetrators, then testing cases. He recalls certain points in his childhood when his family struggled with unemployment, and is genuinely sympathetic to these victims. For recovering funds of Medicaid fraud, Coffey views the issue as not directly related to the attorney general’s office. Yet he adds that precautionary measures can be taken, such as scrutinizing its relationship to the Office of the Medicaid Inspector General.

Addressing concern over he and his firm’s previous contributions to candidates, particularly comptrollers, across many states, Coffey assures Citizens Union that the donations were all legal and that he mostly gave to federal candidates who support his beliefs. On measures to prevent lawyers from making contributions to firms whose cases they may be working on, Coffey would consider such prohibitions. Referring to such possible conflicts of interest and misconceptions about his own contributions, he urges public financing of all offices, starting with those of the comptroller and attorney general, to remove the appearance, if not the practice, of undue influence by contributors. Coffey also notes that some of his supporters include those who opposed him in court in his previous positions, and that this is recognition of his integrity and professionalism within the legal community.

Citizens Union believes Coffey, though a newcomer to running for office, is nonetheless a dynamic and focused candidate. Citizens Union is pleased with the way he has embraced the reform agenda and prioritized it in his campaign, and by extension made it more visible in the public debate. His service to the country, work as a trial lawyer, and grasp of the issues suggest he could be a strong attorney general. Citizens Union’s decision not to prefer Coffey was due in part to our concern over the disconnect created by he and his firm’s legal political contributions made to comptroller candidates across the country and in New York - some of whom later awarded state contracts to his firm - and his pledge to reduce the influence of money in politics in Albany.

### **ERIC DINALLO- DEM**

*Age: 46 Occupation: Kaufman Visiting Professor of Finance; NYU Stern School of Business;*

*Education: JD, NYU; MA, Duke University (BA); Vassar College*

Eric Dinallo highlights his long service as former New York State Superintendent of Insurance and Assistant Attorney General in distinguishing himself as the best candidate. Dinallo cites his skill set learned from these positions and the current political and financial crises as reasons why he is running for attorney general.

Dinallo believes he is best suited for attorney general given his track record of success in senior level positions in state agencies and offices achieved through an apolitical and dispassionate approach. Dinallo is emphatic that much of the campaign for attorney general has focused on areas tangential to the actual work of the office, which largely involves defending state government. Dinallo believes that creativity within the existing structure and law is what is most important for success, indicating his knowledge of the Tweed Law, and Martin and Donnelly Acts, for example, will be levers for taking action to bring about change, rather than through program bills that must wind their way through the legislature. He does, however, believe that the law should be changed to allow the attorney general to have original jurisdiction in public corruption cases and his efforts to obtain it from the current governor have been second to none. To assure his independence from whomever is governor, Dinallo was the first



## STATEWIDE RACES

candidate to say that he agreed with the current attorney general and gubernatorial candidate Andrew Cuomo’s New York Agenda, but would not sign his pledge, arguing that it was inappropriate for an attorney general hopeful to sign such a pledge.

Dinallo would place assistant attorney generals in each county to assist the office in being more responsive to local needs. If elected, Dinallo would focus on civil rights issues, which he feels have not been as strongly emphasized as they could be under the attorney general’s office. He hopes to combat housing discrimination and to look more closely into stop and frisk cases. Despite the success of stop and frisk in decreasing gun possession, Dinallo thinks that the practice today has turned into police enforcement, warranting enough cause for an investigation. Dinallo also plans to use the office more as a consumer protector. To combat predatory lenders who target the economically vulnerable, Dinallo wants to confront the banks through powers granted by the federal government to attorneys general to act against such lenders. Dinallo also would target mortgage brokers who are involved in predatory lending schemes.

Dinallo envisions simplifying the structure of the attorney general’s office and increasing diversity. Although the office is still accessible, Dinallo has seen it become more top-heavy over the years. He would like the office to more closely resemble the model of the U.S. Attorney’s office in the Southern District of New York. He also feels that the staff in the office can be more diverse. To recruit personnel from a broader and fresher pool, he would consider eliminating the two-year practice rule, which requires that all staff members have at least two years of legal experience.

Dinallo is first to admit that he is not a great, smooth-talking politician but sees this as an asset. He notes his independence, and his responsible use of the power he had while in government, which he said he never used for political purposes. Dinallo has no intentions of seeking higher office through the position of attorney general. He has both private and public sector experience that will no doubt aid in his work in the attorney general’s office. His approach of viewing the office internally and working within its existing system to bring it closer to New Yorkers distinguishes him from his competitors as well. Citizens Union found Dinallo knowledgeable and thoughtful, and valued greatly his familiarity with the office. With a track record in leading an agency as Superintendent of Insurance during a time of great financial tumult when a smart mind and steady hand were needed, Dinallo also possesses significant management skills that would also serve him well should he win.

### **KATHLEEN RICE - DEM**

*Age: 45 Occupation: District Attorney of Nassau County, NY;*

*Education: JD, Touro Law School (BA); The Catholic University of America*

The only woman in field of five, Kathleen Rice distinguishes herself not only as the female candidate for attorney general but also as a 19-year legal advocate, having served as an assistant district attorney in New York City, a homicide prosecutor in Brooklyn, an assistant United States attorney, and currently as the District Attorney of Nassau County. She believes her political independence, never having been a legislator in Albany or a player on Wall Street, makes her best suited to reform state government and police Wall Street. She is passionate about being a public servant more than a politician, achieving legal outcomes that benefit the general public.



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As attorney general, Rice would pursue reforms that require full financial disclosure of outside income from state elected officials including lawyers’ outside clients, establishing independent redistricting to end gerrymandering and “superincumbency”, and creating an independent state ethics commission. She would also strengthen campaign finance laws—significantly lowering contribution limits for individuals and businesses, outlawing contributions from companies that do business with the state, and introducing a public financing system. On issues more closely aligned with the scope of the office, Rice would ask the governor for permission for independent attorney general jurisdiction of public corruption cases. If the governor denied that permission, she would pursue a legislative fix to obtain the permission. Rice also indicated she would use the Tweed Law to go after the misuse of public funds.

Drawing on her experience, Rice casts herself as a people’s advocate. In her current office, she has investigated public corruption, reduced crime by targeting drug markets, combated internet crime, and was the first DA in the nation to found a Medicaid Fraud Office to save the county money. Rice also pointed to her dark horse candidacy that defeated a 30-year Republican incumbent for Nassau District Attorney and later retaining the seat when other Democrats such as County Executive Tom Suozzi were ousted as further evidence of her support from a wide, diverse set of people across the state.

Rice, who failed to vote for 18 consecutive years before casting her first vote in 2002, described her lack of voting as a youthful indiscretion that she deeply regrets. She said she has voted in every election since, including primaries, evidence that she has learned from her errors. She feels that people shouldn’t be unduly jeopardized by past mistakes. She stated that after 9/11 as a federal prosecutor, she became more engaged in the political process. Now she strives to help people with little faith to become empowered to speak up on issues, to realize that being politically active can be a way to achieve civil rights and social justice.

According to Rice, “good judgment” is the single most important quality an attorney general must possess. She used two examples to illustrate her record of good judgment. As Nassau County district attorney, she took legal action against Walmart, against the advice of others, where a worker was trampled by shoppers. Rice ultimately reached a historic agreement with Walmart that forced them to implement new safety plans for all their stores in New York, safety plans that were ultimately adopted across the nation. When an 18-year old girl falsely claimed that she was gang-raped, Rice as District Attorney got the girl to admit her fabrication and undergo mental health treatment and community service rather than be prosecuted or arrested.

Citizens Union was impressed by Rice’s examples of good judgment, her overall thoughtful and clear presentation, and her ability to connect her experience and accomplishments to how she would be a successful attorney general, Citizens Union, however, found it difficult as a good government group to back her given her absence from voting throughout much of her adult life. Her answer to why she did not vote for eighteen years did not dissuade us of our belief that a candidate for statewide office should be setting a strong example for consistent civic responsibility. We also felt there are other candidates in the race who expressed a stronger commitment to seek and obtain from the governor the power to handle public corruption.



BRONX RACES

**BRONX STATE SENATE RACES**

**DISTRICT 28**

**★ PREFERRED CANDIDATE – JOSÉ SERRANO – DEM, WF ★**

*Has returned questionnaire, response on page 12*

*Age: 38 Occupation: Senator, NYS Senate*

*Education: Manhattan College (BA)*

José Serrano, the incumbent state senator for the 28th district, is running for reelection. His top priority is to increase affordable housing throughout the district. Senator Serrano is a leader on reform in the legislature, specifically authoring the member item reform bill (S.7007) and refusing to accept member items for his high-need district as evidence of his commitment to meaningful reform. A supporter of public campaign financing, Senator Serrano plans to make campaign finance reform a major priority should he serve another term, believing that campaign finance reform is the foundation for all other reform as it makes legislators more accountable to their constituents than campaign donors. Serrano also supports the creation of an independent redistricting commission, believing that transparency of the process of drawing district lines and empowerment of minority communities are essential elements of a redistricting reform package. Serrano has been responsive to his constituents and has proven that he is a leader in the Senate on reform issues, which is why Citizens Union has opted to prefer Senator Serrano for reelection in the 28th district.

**MARK ESCOFFEREY-BEY – DEM**

*Has not returned questionnaire*

*Candidate could not be scheduled for an interview*

**DISTRICT 32**

**★ PREFERRED CANDIDATE – CARLOS “CHARLIE” RAMOS, JR. – DEM ★**

*Has returned questionnaire, response on page 12*

*Age: 40 Occupation: Bronx Democratic County Committee*

*Education: Stony Brook University (BA); New York Law School (JD)*

A former delegate to the 2008 Democratic Party convention and a frequent staffer and volunteer for progressive causes and political campaigns in several states, Charlie Ramos states that his primary reason for seeking office is to offer voters a distinct alternative to sitting Senator Ruben Diaz, Sr. Upset by continually low voter turnout within his district, Ramos proposes several reforms aimed at combating the trend such as establishing election days as holidays during which the sale of liquor would be prohibited. Additionally, Ramos advocates for stronger enforcement against voter fraud and for instituting a lower threshold of ballot petitions for political candidates for state office. Preferred by several groups supporting marriage equality, Ramos stresses his support for same-sex marriage as an important policy distinction, with Senator Diaz having voted against it. When asked about his position on redistricting bills, Ramos states that he would support an independent redistricting commission that creates a buffer between legislators and apportionment commission members who draw district lines. He opposes the current reapportionment process that allows legislators to draw district boundaries themselves or directly choose those who do. While Citizens Union questions the depth of support for Ramos’ campaign in the face of a well-financed incumbent and notes his uneven knowledge of complex reform issues, he is more deeply committed to reform than his opponent, so Citizens Union prefers Charlie Ramos in the primary.



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**RUBEN DIAZ, SR. – DEM**

*Has not returned questionnaire*

*Candidate declined to be interviewed by Citizens Union*

**DISTRICT 33**

**★ PREFERRED CANDIDATE – GUSTAVO RIVERA – DEM, WF ★**

*Has returned questionnaire, response on page 12*

*Age: 34 Occupation: Currently campaigning full-time*

*Education: University of Puerto Rico (BA)*

Gustavo Rivera is the former director of outreach for U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand and a former part-time adjunct lecturer at Pace University. Rivera’s top priority, in contrast to the record of the incumbent, Senator Pedro Espada Jr., is to open up a district office in a timely fashion as he believes that being accessible to constituents is of paramount importance. Rivera also emphasized the importance of bringing responsible economic development to his district. Rivera, for example, plans on getting involved immediately in the Kingsbridge Armory debate because he believes that leadership from the Senate is needed on the issue in order to bring necessary economic development and jobs to the district. Other top priorities for Rivera include making healthcare more accessible and improving education in the district. With regard to reform, Rivera supports the creation of an independent redistricting commission. Rivera stated that he does not support distributing member item equally among elected officials but does support making the process more transparent and efficient. Rivera is a young and energetic candidate that has a thorough understanding of the issues affecting his district. Citizens Union was impressed by Rivera’s knowledge of reform issues and his ideas for bringing change to Albany. For these reasons, CU has chosen to prefer Gustavo Rivera.

**PEDRO ESPADA, JR. – DEM**

*Has not returned questionnaire*

*Candidate could not be scheduled for an interview*

**DANIEL PADERNACHT – DEM**

*Has returned questionnaire, response on page 12*

*Age: 33 Occupation: Attorney*

*Education: Fairfield University (BA); John Marshall Law School (JD)*

Daniel Padernacht is a lawyer and a lifelong resident of the district. Padernacht is running for senate because he believes he has the right skill set and greatest knowledge of the district to help its residents. Quality of life issues would be a top priority for Padernacht, such as increasing available parking within the district. He also would seek to improve education. Padernacht stressed the importance of bringing transparency and openness to government and plans on publishing explanations of his votes on his website. With regard to reform issues, Padernacht has not fully developed his views on many issues critical to Citizens Union. His questionnaire was incomplete and he deferred on taking positions on concepts, preferring to withhold judgment until reviewing specific bills. It was difficult to determine, for example, the extent of his support for an independent redistricting commission. When asked why he would be a better senator than the incumbent, Senator Espada, Padernacht stated that he would be a different kind of senator rather than a better senator. Given that Padernacht is still considering his position on issues of great importance to Citizens Union, we do not prefer him.



**BRONX STATE ASSEMBLY RACES**

**DISTRICT 76**

**★ PREFERRED CANDIDATE – PETER RIVERA – DEM ★**

*Has returned questionnaire, response on page 12*

*Age: 62 Occupation: Member, NYS Assembly*

*Education: Pace College (BA); St. John’s Law School (JD)*

Peter Rivera has an extensive background in politics dating back to when he was first elected to the Assembly in 1992. Rivera, who received Citizens Union’s endorsement in the 2008 general election, agrees with Citizens Union’s position supporting the establishment of an independent redistricting commission, but opposes the organization’s positions on several other issues such as making it easier for candidates to appear on the ballot by lowering signature requirements, and restricting campaign contributions from registered lobbyists and those who do business with the state. Rivera stated that his overall top priorities, if reelected, will be addressing issues related to education, crime, and redistricting. Assemblymember Rivera cites establishing the position of New York State Director of Diversity and founding a Bronx college fair that attracts 7,000 students as some of his greatest accomplishments while in office. Though Citizens Union has concerns about his use of campaign contributions for out-of-state travel expenditures, which Rivera believes is necessary being a national Hispanic political leader, Citizens Union acknowledges his ability to deliver for his district and admires his overall record as a legislator. Therefore, we again prefer Peter Rivera in this race.

**LUIS SEPULVEDA – DEM**

*Has returned questionnaire, response on page 12*

*Age: 46 Occupation: Attorney and Adjunct Professor at Mercy College*

*Education: BA (name of degree-granting institution not provided); JD (name of degree-granting institution not provided)*

Luis Sepulveda, an attorney and newcomer to politics, is challenging incumbent Peter Rivera in the 76th Assembly district. Sepulveda stated that he decided to run when his grandmother was sick and the incumbent, Assemblymember Peter Rivera, opposed a prescription drug bill while receiving contributions from the pharmaceutical industry. Sepulveda is committed to a grassroots campaign, refusing donations from special interests, and testified that he knocked on 17,000 doors by the end of July. On reform issues, he supports an independent redistricting commission, noting how the current process unduly favors incumbents. His reform priorities include initiating budget reform and promoting openness in how the government operates. On policy issues unrelated to reform, he does not differ vastly from Assemblymember Rivera; both are pro-choice and support same-sex marriage. If elected, Sepulveda hopes to aid his district by fostering economic development in Parkchester and by ensuring there is halal food in schools to accommodate the growing population of Bangladeshi students. He also will work to restore bus lines and senior center funding, both of which have been recently cut. Citizens Union commends Sepulveda’s commitment to reform and his dedication to his district. We question whether Sepulveda could match the incumbent’s positive contributions to his district, despite his favorable positions on reform-related issues.



**DISTRICT 78**

**★ PREFERRED CANDIDATE – SERGIO VILLAVERDE – DEM ★**

*Has returned questionnaire, response on page 12*

*Age: 43 Occupation: Lieutenant Commander, United States Coast Guard Reserve*

*Education: LaGuardia Community College (AAS); CCNY (BA); Fordham Law School (JD)*

Sergio Villaverde, a lawyer and U.S. Coast Guard reservist, is running for the assembly because as a former EMT and police officer, he has seen firsthand the needs of the district and believes that he has the skills, experience, and honesty to help the community. One of his top priorities is working for economic development benefiting residents in the district. He specifically supports creating an economic empowerment zone without borders that would allow employers, within or outside the Bronx, to hire residents of the district in return for tax incentives. He also wants to push for more government involvement in the Kingsbridge Armory development and emphasized his desire for mixed-use development there. Villaverde also emphasized the importance of education as well as public safety. On reform issues, Villaverde supports the creation of an independent redistricting commission. He also backs election reforms, including election-day voter registration and no-excuse absentee voting. However, Villaverde does not support lowering the signature requirement to make it easier for candidates to appear on the ballot because he believes that the current limit is not prohibitively high. He also opposes public financing because he believes the system is flawed and takes money away from other worthy needs. Villaverde is an impressive candidate with a clear understanding of his districts needs and who has a proven commitment to public service. Although he may not agree with Citizens Union’s position on all reform issues, Mr. Villaverde is dedicated and has the integrity to bring reform to Albany, which is why we prefer him in the primary.

**JOSE RIVERA – DEM, WFP**

*Has not returned questionnaire*

*Candidate declined to be interviewed by Citizens Union*

**DISTRICT 86**

**NO PREFERENCE**

**NELSON CASTRO – DEM**

*Has returned questionnaire, response on page 12*

*Age: 38 Occupation: Member, NYS Assembly*

*Education: Andrews University (BA)*

Nelson Castro, a former chief of staff to Assemblymember Adriano Espaillat (AD 72), is seeking reelection for the first time. Castro supports Citizens Union’s agenda on many issues, as reflected by his affirmative responses to every question on our questionnaire. He spoke to the need for election-day voter registration and establishing a public campaign finance system to provide matching funds for state elections. Castro also expressed the need to overhaul the New York State electoral system by getting rid of the petition process altogether and removing parties from electoral administration. Nevertheless, some of his responses on reform issues lacked depth or clarity. It is uncertain where he stands on the issue of redistricting since he failed to commit to either establishing an independent redistricting commission or granting legislators a direct role in drawing district boundaries when questioned by the Local Candidates Committee, after having indicated his support behind both on



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his responses to the questionnaire. When speaking of his district, Assemblyman Castro states that his top priorities are lowering his district's high unemployment rate through tax credits and job-training programs, and promoting the expansion of affordable housing for working families and seniors. He is opposed to requiring prevailing wages for jobs connected to the Kingsbridge Armory, arguing that the mandate has led to the lack of job creation. While Citizens Union recognizes Castro's appeal, it has concerns over his depth of knowledge on certain reform issues. Citizens Union has thus decided to prefer neither Assemblymember Nelson Castro nor his challenger Hector Ramirez, who did not schedule an interview with us.

**HECTOR RAMIREZ- DEM**

*Has not returned questionnaire  
Candidate declined to be interviewed by Citizens Union*



BROOKLYN RACES

**BROOKLYN STATE SENATE RACES**

**DISTRICT 18**

**★ PREFERRED CANDIDATE – MARK POLLARD – DEM, IND ★**

*Has returned questionnaire; responses on page 12.*

*Age: 47 Occupation: Attorney, Law Office of Mark Pollard*

*Education: State University of New York College at Purchase (B.A); State University of New York at Buffalo Law School (JD)*

Mark Pollard, who is engaging in his third campaign for office, is an attorney and a college professor. Pollard has fulfilled his desire to work in the area of civil rights and as an assistant district attorney, but believes he could do more as a state senator. The major issues Pollard would focus on if elected are education, responsible economic development, and reducing crime. Pollard believes that he can bring the police and community together, having been on both sides of conversations related to crime reduction and instilling public confidence. Regarding the Atlantic Yards development, Pollard proposed dedicating staff to monitor the ongoing project to ensure promises to the community are realized. On reform issues, Pollard enthusiastically supports the creation of an independent redistricting commission. Pollard also spoke about the importance of reforming campaign finance and access to the ballot. Pollard intends to be a full-time legislator. Citizens Union was impressed with Pollard's approach, believing that though he lacks experience as a legislator, he has the right temperament to be effective. His knowledge of how the system works and his enthusiastic support for our reform agenda results in our preference for his candidacy in this race.

**VELMANETTE MONTGOMERY – DEM, WF**

*Has returned questionnaire; responses on page 12.*

*Age: N/A Occupation: Senator, NYS Senate*

*Education: N/A*

Elected to the State Senate in 1984, Velmanette Montgomery is chair of the Committee on Children and Families. Montgomery spoke at great length of her interest in supporting seniors and young people in her district, especially in the area of juvenile justice, as her main legislative priority. Montgomery spoke of her effort to pass a bill that would allow parents who are incarcerated to maintain their relationship with their parents. She also noted her work on reforming the Rockefeller drug laws, and her focus on the issue of HIV and AIDS in her district. Regarding reform issues, Montgomery supports an independent redistricting commission, but refused to commit to vote against bills insufficient in adequately reforming the redistricting process. Her noncommittal approach is based in part on her belief that Republican legislators will need to support a redistricting bill for it to pass the Senate. Montgomery also opposes equal distribution of member items between legislators because she believes it will result in fewer dollars for nonprofits in her district that rely on the money to run their programs. Citizens Union is impressed by Montgomery's dedication to specific issues that affect her district; however, we are not sufficiently convinced that after 25 years in office that reform is among her important priorities.





**BROOKLYN STATE ASSEMBLY RACES**

**DISTRICT 42**

**NO PREFERENCE  
MICHELE ADOLPHE – DEM**

*Has returned questionnaire, response on page 12*

*Age: 44 Occupation: School Director, Brooklyn Institute for Children*

*Education: BS (name of degree-granting institution not provided); MS (name of degree-granting institution not provided)*

Michele Adolphe, running for office for her second time, is a former teacher and executive director of a performing arts center for youth. Adolphe previously worked as a community organizer and founded the Brooklyn Institute for Children, which has become a major early childhood facility in the borough. Adolphe believes her understanding of the underserved community in the district will enable her to provide more effective representation in Albany. Adolphe’s major priorities are providing more support for seniors, education, and greater accountability of government. Adolphe stated that the first bill she would introduce in the legislature would allow students to graduate high school with diplomas other than Regents diplomas so that more students would have the opportunity to go to college. Adolphe supports an independent redistricting commission, a public campaign finance system with matching public funds similar to the one currently in use in New York City, and terms limits for the state legislature. Adolphe feels she has the coalition-building skills needed to effectively move proposals if elected, having been part of Jumaane Williams’ campaign for City Council and having had experience organizing seniors. Citizens Union was impressed by Adolphe’s knowledge of her community, her suggestions on how to improve certain segments of it leading CU to believe that she would be effective in providing constituent services. CU is, however, concerned about her lack of financial and organizational strength as a candidate given her strong roots in the community because she did not file required campaign financial disclosure forms with the NYS Board of Elections, even though there was evidence that her campaign had spent money.

**RHODA S. JACOBS – DEM**

*Has not returned questionnaire*

*Candidate declined to be interviewed by Citizens Union*

**DISTRICT 50**

**NO PREFERENCE  
JOSEPH R. LENTOL – DEM**

*Has returned questionnaire, response on page 12*

*Age: 67 Occupation: Member, NYS Assembly*

*Education: University of Dayton (BA); Baltimore University School of Law (JD)*

First elected in 1972 to the State Assembly, Joseph Lentol is a member of the committees on Rules, Election Law, Ways and Means, and is chair of the committee on Codes. Lentol is seeking reelection because he enjoys his job in public service, which has long been a tradition in his family with his father and grandfather having served in the State Assembly. Lentol counts among his achievements advocating for reform of the Rockefeller drug laws and working on legislation that enables greater access to DNA testing for criminal defendants. On reform issues, Lentol supported a recently created law that counts prisoners at their former place



of residence for the purposes of redistricting. He has also worked to amend the municipal home rule law, specifically to strip the mayor of authority over term limits. Lentol backs public financing of campaigns and no-excuse absentee voting, but opposes election-day registration. He is also opposed to the creation of an independent redistricting commission because he believes that legislators are most familiar with the communities they serve, and therefore are best suited to draw boundaries reflecting those communities. Lentol is open to changing the current redistricting process but feels legislators should not be excluded from it. Citizens Union recognizes Lentol’s efforts to pass legislation benefiting constituencies in his district, but his opposition to key elements of our reform agenda prevents CU from preferring him in the Democratic primary.

**ANDRE SOLEIL – DEM, IND**

*Has returned questionnaire, response on page 12*

*Age: 42 Occupation: Attorney, Soleil & Company, PAGEC.*

*Education: LaSalle University (BS); MCNY (MBA); CUNY School of Law (JD)*

Andre Soleil, running his fourth campaign for the state legislature, is an attorney and former Pentecostal minister. Soleil previously worked in the Republican administrations of Mayor Rudy Giuliani and Governor George Pataki and was also secretary of the NYC Libertarian Party. He is running to bring change to what he called a fundamentally flawed State Assembly. Soleil, if elected, would attempt to reform the assembly rules to diminish the power of the speaker. He would, for example, change the process whereby committee chairs are appointed by the speaker with a more democratic process in which all members could nominate a slate of candidates. Soleil’s reform priorities also include replacing the Board of Elections with a nonpartisan commission appointed by the governor and confirmed by the senate. Soleil would authorize this independent elections board to conduct redistricting, with lines drawn according to a formula set by the legislature. With regard to campaign finance reform, Soleil opposes disclosure of independent campaign expenditures. Aside from good government policy, Soleil identified the importance of mandatory testing, health care, and counseling for HIV and hepatitis in prisons to aid those infected and reduce the spread of these diseases in communities where former prisoners are released. Soleil also would prioritize extending more tax credits and tax breaks to areas of highest unemployment to create more jobs. While Soleil exhibits thoughtfulness in confronting state issues, Citizens Union was concerned that he appears to lack an ideological focus given the number of parties with which he has been affiliated.

**DISTRICT 52**

**NO PREFERENCE  
DOUG BIVIANO – DEM**

*Has returned questionnaire, response on page 12*

*Age: 41 Occupation: Building Superintendent at Taurus Management*

*Education: Cornell University (BS); ME (name of degree-granting institution not provided)*

Doug Biviano, who is running for his second campaign for elected office, has a degree in civil engineering and is a community activist. Biviano indicated that the failure of leadership of the current representative, Assemblymember Joan Millman, was his motivation for running for State Assembly. If elected, Biviano’s top reform priorities would be the creation of an independent redistricting commission, reform of candidate financial disclosure requirements,



## BROOKLYN RACES

and the institution of term limits. Biviano also seeks to replicate the City's public campaign financing system at the state level and require greater disclosure of outside income for legislators, including clients of legislators who are lawyers. He vowed to work with good government groups to pass these reforms. Aside from reform issues, Biviano discussed the need for a plan to refinance the MTA's debt through a low-interest infrastructure loan from the federal government. Biviano also noted his experience advocating for the creation of a city committee on anti-violence and peace to address a series of hate crimes in the City. Citizens Union was encouraged by Biviano's enthusiasm and energy to achieve reform at the state level, but thought he had not yet demonstrated enough support from the community to receive our preference.

### **JOAN L. MILLMAN – DEM, WF**

*Has returned questionnaire, response on page 12*

*Age: N/A Occupation: Member, NYS Assembly*

*Education: Brooklyn College (BS); Pratt Institute (MLS); Long Island University (Professional Diploma)*

Elected to the State Assembly in 1997, Joan Millman has served on the committees on Transportation, Labor, Education, Corporations, Authorities and Commissions, and has become chair of the committee on Election Law. Millman conveyed that her motivation for running again is to finish initiatives she has begun. She believes her legislative experience distinguishes her in this race. She cited among her accomplishments the passage of Billy's Law, which brought youth housed in residential treatment centers around the country back to New York State, designation of the Gowanus Canal as a superfund site, and a law mandating that New York City trucks have convex mirrors to allow them to better see pedestrians. In terms of the state budget, Millman touted her effort to close under-populated prisons, and said she would take a critical look going forward at the roughly 700 authorities throughout the state to eliminate wasteful spending. If reelected, she hopes to advance the creation of state-of-the-art facilities for youth with disabilities in upstate New York, which she believes would serve as an economic engine in depressed areas. She would also prioritize moving forward on congestion pricing in New York City. On reform issues, Millman co-sponsored a bill to override the Governor's veto of an ethics reform backed by Citizens Union which passed both houses of the legislature. She also voted in favor of the initial bill. She noted her effort to get a National Popular Vote bill onto the floor, as well as her support for an independent redistricting commission and nonpartisan state Board of Elections. While Citizens Union appreciates her support for the reform agenda, we would like to see her assume a more active leadership role in pressing for reform.



## MANHATTAN RACES

### **MANHATTAN STATE SENATE RACES**

#### **DISTRICT 30**

#### **★ PREFERRED CANDIDATE – BILL PERKINS – DEM, WF ★**

*Has returned questionnaire, response on page 12*

*Age: 60 Occupation: Senator, NYS Senate*

*Education: Brown University (BA)*

Senator Bill Perkins is seeking reelection after serving two previous terms. He is Chair of the Corporations, Authorities, and Commissions Committee. By leading the successful effort to make New York State's hundreds of authorities more accountable and transparent, Bill Perkins has helped to deliver arguably the most significant reform of governance in Albany in recent years. On reform issues, Perkins mostly aligns with Citizens Union's reform agenda. He supports the creation of an independent redistricting commission, though would support a compromise bill that was not fully independent. He favors the mandatory disclosure of outside income, but did not believe that legislators should be obliged to work full time. On other issues, Perkins was well-versed in the dynamics of his district and passionate about strengthening public housing and education. He has held hearings soliciting input on district issues ranging from Columbia's eminent domain plans to the MTA's operations. On charter schools, Perkins expressed concerns about a number of issues: the co-location of charter and public schools, the lack of auditing power for the comptroller, and the profit-motive of particular charter school management organizations and officials. He also wants to make sure students in traditional public schools are not ignored due to the emphasis on charter schools. That being said, he does not strictly oppose charter schools and voted in favor of the recent bill raising the state cap on charter schools. Overall, Perkins' three chief priorities will be education, housing, and economic development. CU admires Perkins' demonstrated leadership and hard-work. CU prefers Perkins due to his experience with the issues and impressive work in reforming public authorities, and sees him as the best candidate in the race to deliver much-needed change in Albany.

#### **BASIL SMIKLE – DEM**

*Has returned questionnaire, response on page 12*

*Age: 38 Occupation: Political Consultant, Basil Smikle Associates*

*Education: Cornell University (BS); Columbia University (MPA)*

Basil Smikle, a first-time candidate for office, has worked for the Harlem Empowerment Zone, Fernando Ferrer, and Hillary Clinton, and founded a political consulting firm, Smikle Associates, in 2003. He also taught at Columbia University and CUNY. On reform issues, Smikle wants to lend a voice to the like-minded camp of reformers and results-oriented elected officials. Mr. Smikle supports independent redistricting because he wants to remove politics and supports giving minorities a voice in the process. He supports the entirety of Citizens Union's reform agenda. Beyond reform, Smikle's top priority is improving education, which he said would result in reduced unemployment and lower incarceration rates. Smikle plans to bring parents, teachers, and administrators to the table around education-related decisions, and has been a vocal proponent of charter schools. Smikle said he will be a more proactive leader, pushing job creation through programs where underskilled workers go back to school to gain skills tailored to certain jobs. He also wants to advocate for the preservation of affordable housing. On the issue of the Columbia University development, he raised particular concerns about how the development will lead to increased property values and less affordable housing,



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while recognizing that development can be beneficial. Overall, Smikle is a knowledgeable and passionate candidate, who showed much promise with his emphasis on accountability and achievement, particularly with regard to elected officials. While Citizens Union believes that Smikle is a well-qualified candidate, he did not present a compelling enough case as to why he was better suited for the position than the incumbent who has a strong record on reform.

DISTRICT 31

★ PREFERRED CANDIDATE – ADRIANO ESPAILLAT – DEM, WF ★

Has returned questionnaire, response on page 12
Age: 55 Occupation: Member, NYS Assembly
Education: Queens College (BA)

After being elected as the first Dominican American to state office in the United States and serving in the Assembly since 1996, Adriano Espailat is now running for Senate in the 31st district. With regard to reform issues, Espailat supports strengthening campaign finance rules and creating a publicly funded system. Espailat also backs the use of a conference committee process, which he believes would provide an open forum for both houses of the legislature to find common ground. He does believe that all outside income should be declared, but was ambiguous on how specific and rigorous this declaration process would have to be for clients. Most important to Espailat is redistricting, as it was the proper redistricting of Assembly District 72 that originally allowed him to be elected. He cites his support of the Assembly's redistricting bill even when he was chair of LATFOR as proof that this is an issue to which he is strongly committed. Espailat believes that the state legislature should be a full-time position, but that the salary should be raised. Although Mr. Espailat wants to be a voice for reform in the Senate, he realizes he cannot do it alone, believing that he will be a consensus builder. Beyond reform, if elected, Espailat would make affordable housing, jobs, and education his top three priorities. Espailat is clearly an experienced and capable elected official who has proven that he can represent his constituents and be a leader in the legislature. In preferring Espailat, Citizens Union envisions a reform minded legislator moving to a bigger stage to help lead the fight to change Albany and believes he has the skills and experience necessary to be a very effective senator representing his very diverse district.

MIOSOTIS MUNOZ – DEM

Has returned questionnaire, response on page 12
Age: 41 Occupation: Self-employed, community relations
Education: Fordham University (BA)

Miosotis Munoz is a self-employed community relations consultant and former Director of Dominican Affairs for Congressman Charles B. Rangel. who is running for office because the pace of needed change has been too slow. If elected, improving access to healthcare, reforming immigration policy, and making transportation more accessible, especially for seniors, would be her main priorities. With regard to reform issues, Munoz is a strong supporter of lobbying reform. She also backs reforming the member item process to make it more transparent. Additionally, Munoz supports redistricting reform citing her own district as proof that the current system does not function properly. Munoz stated that she has already reached out to members of the Senate including Jose Peralta to discuss plans to achieve her reform goals. She further believes that she can bridge the cultural and ethnic divides that she thinks fetter efforts for consensus and progress. Munoz is an energetic candidate who appears



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to understand the need for reform. Munoz is an exciting newcomer to the political arena but CU believes that she is not the best candidate in this race.

MARK LEVINE – DEM

Has returned questionnaire, response on page 12
Age: 41 Occupation: Executive Director, Center for After-School Excellence
Education: Haverford College (BA); Harvard University (MA)

After unsuccessfully running for City Council District 7 in 2001 as the Citizens Union preferred candidate, Mark Levine is now running for State Senate in the 31st district. Levine is currently the Executive Director for the Center for After-School Excellence and is also a District Leader for northern Manhattan. Mr. Levine is running for office because he believes that the current government in Albany is incapable of delivering for the people and must be reformed. He strongly supports many of the CU reform issues. For example, if elected, he promises to personally reject lulus if reforms are not enacted. He also believes that every district should receive the same amount of member items funding but acknowledges he will accept and lobby for pork if the process does not change. Levine also supports reform measures like an independent ethics commission, independent budget office, , and an independent redistricting commission. When asked how he would achieve these reforms in Albany, Mr. Levine stressed that public opinion would provide the necessary momentum to challenge party leaders on reform. He also stressed his relationship with current reform-minded legislators who he believes he can form coalitions with. Regarding his plan to cut the deficit, Levine provided a comprehensive and detailed list of possible solutions including a more progressive tax rate, a 5th pension tier for new state workers, implementing a soda tax, selling wine at grocery stores, reinstating the commuter tax, tolling East River Bridges (though not the Harlem River Bridges), and some form of taxed linked to traffic congestion. Levine is clearly a reform candidate, has deep connections within his district, and broad support among potential voters. CU was also impressed by Levine's extensive knowledge of the issues affecting his district and his detailed and pragmatic plan for achieving reform in Albany, and should he be elected, he would make an effective legislator.

ANNA LEWIS – DEM

Has returned questionnaire, response on page 12
Age: 51 Occupation: Attorney, New York State Health Dept.
Education: Stony Brook University (BA); New York Law School (JD)

After unsuccessfully running for both City Council in 2001 and Civil Court Judge in 2009, Anna Lewis is running for State Senate for the 31st district. She is currently a prosecutor for the New York State Health Department. Ms. Lewis is running for senate because she has a strong desire to help people, which also influenced her career choice in law and involvement in many civic organizations throughout her adult life. One of her top priorities if elected to office is to increase affordable housing, especially in her district. She supports, for example, increasing the amount of affordable housing developers are required to build from 20 percent to 40 percent in order to receive tax credits as well as building more Mitchell-Lama housing. Affordable healthcare is another issue of particular importance to Lewis, in part because she has Type 1 diabetes and has been active in diabetes issues and education in the City. She supports a public option for the State and also suggests that City of New York (in a public-private partnership) support medical-van program throughout the City that would provide basic medical services. Fixing the state's infrastructure is another top priority for Lewis which



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she believes will invigorate the economy and provide jobs for the unemployed. To reduce the State's deficit, Lewis proposes controlling the pension system, eliminating waste, reinstating the commuter tax, restructuring the tax structure, and furloughs for state employees. Lewis supports many Citizens Union reforms in the area of ethics, budgeting, and redistricting.

### MANHATTAN STATE ASSEMBLY RACES

#### DISTRICT 68

##### ★ PREFERRED CANDIDATE – ROBERT RODRIGUEZ – DEM ★

*Has returned questionnaire, response on page 12*

*Age: 34 Occupation: Vice President of Minority-Owned Finance Firm*

*Education: Yale University (BA); NYU (MBA)*

Robert Rodriguez, a vice president of a minority owned public finance firm and former Chair of Community Board 11, is running for State Assembly in the 68th district. Rodriguez is a young and charismatic candidate with an impressive understanding of the issues within his district. If elected, Rodriguez would make affordable housing, job creation, and education his top priorities. He also supports reforming the voting process in order to make it more accessible. With regards to reform issues, Rodriguez supports it in the areas of campaign finance and redistricting. Citing the city's low voter turnout, Rodriguez suggested that nonpartisan elections and other changes to the voting process should be explored. Rodriguez also supports reforming the budget process, including the creation of an Independent Budget office and the implementation of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). Rodriguez realistically understands the difficulties of bringing reform to Albany and believes that building a reform coalition will be the best way forward. Unlike his competitors Rodriguez displayed a real concern for and grasp of reform issues and pragmatic solutions for bringing reform to Albany. Citizens Union, however, is concerned that Rodriguez stated that he plans on continuing his career with a public finance firm if elected. Though Rodriguez works with the governments of Connecticut and New Jersey on funding state projects which could create conflicts of interest for Rodriguez, he did ultimately acknowledge that he would need to recuse himself on matters involving New York State. Though this issue will need to be addressed, Citizens Union, believes that Rodriguez is the strongest candidate on reform and other issues in the race and is therefore preferred.

##### MARION BELL – DEM

*Has returned questionnaire, response on page 12*

*Age: 40 Occupation: Democratic District Leader*

*Education: Fordham University (BA); Hunter College (MSED)*

Marion Bell, a former NYC public schoolteacher and two-term Democratic District Leader, cites her extensive involvement in her community as reason why she should be elected, specifically her service as an executive board member on Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer's Community Planning Board 11 and the NYS NAACP, as well as Chair of the NYC Department of Youth and Community Development board. With regards to reform issues, Ms. Bell supports redistricting reform conceptually but stated that redistricting was not really an issue in her district, as her district is relatively well drawn, but would explore the issue in more depth if elected. Ms. Bell stressed that she would be an independent voice in Albany as she is not beholden to anyone other than her constituents and is not a "typical politician." If elected, Ms. Bell would focus on housing, education, health, and public safety within her district,



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because she believes that health and public safety issues troubling her district are due to the district's low high school graduation rate that has persisted for many years.

##### EDWARD GIBBS – DEM

*Has not returned questionnaire*

*Candidate could not be scheduled for an interview*

##### ALVIN JOHNSON – DEM

*Has not returned questionnaire*

*Candidate could not be scheduled for an interview*

##### FELIX ROSADO – DEM

*Has returned questionnaire, response on page 12*

*Candidate could not be scheduled for an interview*

##### JOHN RUIZ – DEM, WF

*Has returned questionnaire, response on page 12*

*Age: 56 Occupation: Retired*

*Education: N/A*

John Ruiz, a Democratic District Leader, former Vice-Chair of New York County Democratic Party, and retired NYC Firefighter, has been extremely active in his community as a Cub Scout Leader and a founder of both a fire safety children's program and the Firehouse Circus. Mr. Ruiz has little knowledge of issues related to reform, supporting an independent redistricting commission but gave no further details, and having no clear position on ethics reform. If elected, Mr. Ruiz intends on focusing on affordable housing, education/youth programs, and constituent service, but was not able to clearly articulate policy positions on these issues. Mr. Ruiz is a charismatic candidate who has clearly shown concern for his community through his profession as a firefighter and involvement in community groups. However, his lack of understanding of the legislative process, reform issues, and insufficient grasp of policies, is disappointing to Citizens Union.

##### EVETTE ZAYAS – DEM

*Has returned questionnaire, response on page 12*

*Age: 46 Occupation: Chief-of-Staff, NYS Assemblyman Adam C. Powell*

*Education: Park East H.S. (high school diploma)*

Evette Zayas has spent the past nine years in the office of NYS Assemblyman Adam C. Powell as a constituent liaison and ultimately serving as his chief of staff and she believes this experience has helped Zayas to better understand the needs of her community. Making her first fun for office, she emphasizes that her interest is about ensuring transparency in government and bringing much needed resources to constituents. Regarding reform issues, Zayas supports Citizens Union agenda on campaign finance reform, ethics reform, and budget reform. She also supports the establishment of an independent legislative redistricting commission to draw district lines. With regard to other issues important to her district, Zayas states that housing is an important issue, particularly the rights of tenants. Driven by her belief in the need for people to have a voice, Zayas has been very active in her community throughout the campaign process, believing that government is a vehicle for the people and that citizens need to understand the importance of representation. Her top five 2010 campaign goals, in addition to housing, focus on education, economic development, healthcare, and transportation.



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DISTRICT 71

NO PREFERENCE

HERMAN FARRELL – DEM

Has returned questionnaire, response on page 12
Age: 78 Occupation: Member, NYS Assembly
Education: N/A

With 36 years of experience in the State Assembly, Herman Farrell is seeking re-election. As chair of the Assembly Ways and Means Committee, Mr. Farrell is one of the most powerful legislators in Albany. He strongly defended the legislature’s performance under Democratic leadership. On reform issues, Mr. Farrell is opposed to many of reform measures: he is opposed to lowering the signature requirement for petitioning, applying GAAP to the state budget process, and opposes independent redistricting, stating that the current system has worked for Democrats. Mr. Farrell also believes election-day registration (EDR) may aid fraud, though he is not opposed to the idea in principle. He agrees for the purpose of redistricting, prisoners should be counted in their place of residence prior to incarceration rather than their place of imprisonment. On other issues, he adamantly opposed the recent proposal that would have allowed State University of New York (SUNY) colleges to set tuition rates above the cap set by legislators. Farrell’s characterization of the state Assembly’s performance as “superb” shows his lack of appreciation for New Yorkers’ urgent calls for reform.

ARIEL FERREIRA – DEM

Has returned questionnaire, response on page 12
Age: 26 Occupation: CEO/Consultant of Expansion Group
Education: High School Diploma (name of degree-granting institution not provided)

A former legislative and budget director for the City Council, this is Ariel Ferreira’s first campaign for elected office. Ferreira was born and raised in the district and is running to give the incumbent, Assemblymember Denny Farrell, his first primary challenge in 18 years. As a young candidate, he supports reaching out to young voters, and therefore has paid visits on his campaign to CUNY students. Mr. Ferreira supports the majority of Citizens Union’s reform agenda, and was particularly passionate about the need for a public matching fund system for campaign finance at the state level. He supports measures to make making the budget decision making process more transparent. He favors creating an independent redistricting commission. Mr. Ferreira opposes reducing the number of requisite signatures for ballot petitions to below 500, as he said candidates should have to prove they are serious through petitioning, proposing instead that petitioning cover sheet rules should be revised to prevent candidates from being kicked off the ballot for technicalities. Beyond reform, Mr. Ferreira’s top three priorities are protecting affordable housing, reducing unemployment, and promoting small businesses. On affordable housing, he stated he would protect tenants from landlords’ harassment and work to close a loophole in Mitchell Lama housing whereby building owners can opt out of certain regulations. He also stated he would initiate job training programs to stem unemployment. He opposes education cuts, and will support charter schools to an extent, with the caveat that they not be housed in the same facility as regular public schools. Citizens Union admires his decision to run in this race, and believes that he is a very reform-minded candidate whose campaign faces many challenges to defeat an entrenched incumbent.



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DISTRICT 72

★ PREFERRED CANDIDATE – GUILLERMO LINARES – DEM, WF ★

Has returned questionnaire, response on page 12
Age: 58 Occupation: Self-employed, Professional Consulting
Education: CCNY (BA); CCNY (MA); Fordham University (Professional Diploma);
Columbia University Teachers College (PHD)

Guillermo Linares, who was the first Dominican elected to office in the United States, served in the City Council from 1991 to 2001. When term limits resulted in his departure, he became the Commissioner of the Mayor’s office of Immigrant Affairs from 2003 to 2008. He left office to run for City Council in 2009, but was removed from the ballot due to a technicality after inheriting ballot petitions from council member Miguel Martinez who resigned his post due to criminal charges. Linares is running for the assembly to bridge a disconnect between Albany and his constituents in upper Manhattan. In his questionnaire, he was mostly aligned with Citizens Union’s reform agenda. Mr. Linares expressed concern about the current system of legislative redistricting because of the way it has disenfranchised certain minority groups such as Dominicans. He supports campaign finance reform and greater overall transparency in state government. He cited his work in the City Council, voting against the speaker on the budget and opposing Mayor Giuliani in approving a Pathmark grocery store in Harlem as evidence of his independence. Beyond reform, his top issues are economic development, employment and civic participation. Mr. Linares believes that large infrastructure projects must be balanced with development of small businesses and anchor institutions such as Yeshiva University and Columbia University. Citizens Union admires Mr. Linares’ extensive political experience, and we anticipate he would be a strong leader for his district. For these reasons, we prefer him in the primary.

NELSON ANTONIO DENIS – DEM

Has returned questionnaire, response on page 12
Age: 55 Occupation: Attorney
Education: Harvard University (BA); Yale Law School (JD)

Nelson Denis served in the Assembly representing East Harlem from 1997 to 2001, having lost his seat to Adam Clayton Powell, IV which he believes was the result of participating in a failed coup against Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver. Since leaving office, he has unsuccessfully run for the City Council (2005) and state senate (2004), written and produced a film, and written many editorials on government reform issues. As the only candidate in the race with experience as a legislator, he displayed deep knowledge of policy issues. He noted that he was the only candidate to see the culture of corruption and special interests firsthand, and take action to change it. In the area of government reform, he derided the governor’s abuse of “messages of necessity,” which expedites bills and does not allow legislators the time to carefully evaluate legislation. Denis will support independent redistricting, and considers increased transparency of member items a major priority. To achieve these reforms, Denis stated he would harness the current anti-establishment sentiment and groundswell of support for reform. Denis stresses increasing economic opportunity, proposing to use the Community Reinvestment Act, as he did when representing East Harlem, to increase bank lending and stimulate economic growth. He will use the state pension fund as a source of investment for affordable housing.



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**MIGUEL ESTRELLA – DEM**

*Has not returned questionnaire  
Candidate could not be scheduled for an interview*

**JULISSA A. GOMEZ – DEM**

*Has returned questionnaire, response on page 12  
Age: 35 Occupation: Attorney  
Education: JD (name of degree-granting institution not provided)*

Julissa Gomez is an attorney, former president of the Dominican Bar Association, and member of Community Board 12. A newcomer to electoral politics, Gomez cited her combination of independence and experience in the community as qualities that distinguish her from the other candidates. She supports most reform issues including independent redistricting, which she expounded on using her district as an example of the illogical, corrupt gerrymandering that occurs when the legislature draws district boundaries. Gomez opposes public campaign financing. Her biggest priority among government reform issues is what she dubbed “petitioning fraud,” the abundance of fraudulent signatures and ill-trained petitioning efforts, which she sees rampant in her district. She could not offer a real solution on how to curtail these abuses. Beyond reform issues, Gomez was most passionate about strengthening affordable housing, advocating for repeal of the Urstadt Law, abolishing vacancy decontrol, examining the expirations of Mitchell Lama housing, and monitoring real estate agents to ensure they don’t discriminate against potential residents with Section 8 vouchers. Gomez is opposed to most budget-cutting, and wants the 2009 fair share tax reform to be made permanent. Gomez is a very appealing and hard-working candidate.

**GABRIELA ROSA – DEM**

*Has returned questionnaire, response on page 12  
Age: 43 Occupation: Staffer, Office of Assemblymember Herman Farrell  
Education: BA (name of degree-granting institution not provided)*

Gabriela Rosa, has worked for ten years doing constituent services for neighboring Assemblymember Herman Farrell. She referenced the need for the district to have a woman as representative as one of her motivations for seeking public office. She described her campaign as grassroots and community based. She supports much of the reform agenda. If elected, she would support independent redistricting and therefore, vote against lines drawn directly by the legislature. Rosa is vowing not to accept contributions from landlords or their LLCs, which she identified as corporate special interests at odds with her grassroots campaign consisting of twenty-five non-paid volunteers. She is a vocal proponent of unions, and says they represent working class people, including her husband who is a member of Teamster Union 523. Her top three priorities for the district are affordable housing, education, and economic revitalization. She is concerned that tenants and small business owners are not fully informed of their rights and are often displaced from their locations as a result. She believes in greater partnerships between the private and public sector to foster economic growth but has not outlined a specific plan to achieve this goal. She also opposes spending cuts, particularly those to education. She instead favors increased taxes on Wall Street bonuses. Rosa is an active advocate for her community with knowledge of how government runs given her work experience.



MANHATTAN RACES

**DISTRICT 73**

**★ PREFERRED CANDIDATE – JONATHAN BING – DEM ★**

*Has returned questionnaire, response on page 12  
Age: 40 Occupation: Member, NYS Assembly  
Education: University of Pennsylvania (BA); New York University School of Law (JD)*

Jonathan Bing, the incumbent state assemblyman, is running for reelection. One of his top priorities, if reelected, would be to improve education within his district. Although he has helped to bring three new schools to east side of Manhattan, Assemblyman Bing believes that the schools in his district remain overcrowded. Other top priorities for Assemblyman Bing include increasing access to healthcare, increasing affordable housing, supporting the arts, and supporting the business community within the district. He cites his ability to work across the aisle in addition to building coalitions, which has resulted in the passage of 70 bills that he authored during his service in the Assembly, 30 of which became law including the recently approved no-fault divorce bill, as evidence of his effectiveness. With regard to specific reform issues, Assemblyman Bing is a co-sponsor of the bill establishing independent redistricting which Bing believes will result in elected officials who are more responsive to their constituents. Assemblyman Bing also supports term limits for committee chairs. He backs campaign finance reform including public financing because he feels reforming the finance system will lead to more competitive elections. Assemblyman Bing has been an able legislator for his constituents and has shown an impressive ability to move legislation. For these reasons, Citizens Union has opted to prefer Assemblyman Jonathan Bing in the primary.

**GREGG LUNDAHL – DEM, WF**

*Has returned questionnaire, response on page 12  
Age: 54 Occupation: NYC Public School Teacher  
Education: University of Colorado (BA); Fordham University (MAT)*

Gregg Lundahl, a NYC public school teacher and a United Federation of Teachers (UFT) representative, is seeking the Assembly seat in the 73rd district where he has lived for 14 years. Mr. Lundahl stated that he originally decided to run for Assembly because he, like the UFT, disagreed with Assemblyman Bing’s bill, A10482, which would eliminate the city’s seniority-based rules that govern teacher layoffs and give principals the authority to determine which teachers to lay off. If elected, his top priority would be education, specifically the need for more schools in his districts. Lundahl also stated that he wants to make the school admission process more transparent. Lundahl would also focus on increasing affordable housing, especially for elderly residents of the district. Enhancing the MTAs service is another concern Lundahl would devote attention to. With regard to reform, Mr. Lundahl supports campaign finance reform and public financing because he believes the current system distorts the field of viable candidates. Mr. Lundahl stated that he feels he can achieve reform in Albany by forming coalitions with other independent thinkers in the legislature and by not voting lock-step with the party on all issues.



QUEENS RACES

**QUEENS STATE SENATE RACES**

**DISTRICT 10**

**★ PREFERRED CANDIDATE – LYNN NUNES – DEM ★**

*Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 12.*

*Age: 25 Occupation: Self-employed, real estate*

*Education: Queens College (BA)*

Lynn Nunes, owner and founder of Five Star Realty, will strongly advocate for issues like charter schools and marriage equality if elected state senator. Nunes is a strong challenger, having lost by just four votes in the 2009 City Council elections for district 28 against incumbent Councilmember Thomas White. Nunes supports Citizens Union's position on independent redistricting and to oppose any alternatives to it. He also supports a similar independent structure for ethics oversight bodies. To address the structural gaps in the state's budget, Nunes calls for a review of government programs on a case-by-case basis to eliminate waste. He is open to controversial cuts but clarifies that areas in the public sector such as education should ideally stay untouched. He believes legislators should lead by example when it comes to fiscal discipline, emphasizing cuts to stipends. To maintain and expand affordable senior housing, Nunes hopes to draw on his occupational background to work with banks and enact strong legislation to assist homeowners facing foreclosure. Nunes' firm grasp of state issues and connection to his district establishes him as a strong candidate for state senate and earns the preference of Citizens Union.

**SHIRLEY HUNTLEY – DEM, WF**

*Has not returned questionnaire*

*Candidate declined to be interviewed by Citizens Union*

**DISTRICT 16**

**★ PREFERRED CANDIDATE – TOBY ANN STAVISKY – DEM, IND, WF ★**

*Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 12.*

*Age: N/A Occupation: Senator, NYS State Senate*

*Education: Syracuse University (BA); Graduate School at CUNY*

Toby Ann Stavisky has represented the district since 1999 and serves as Vice Chairwoman of the Majority Conference and Chairwoman of the Senate Committee on Higher Education. Regarding reform issues, Senator Stavisky acknowledged the legislature has much work to do while pointing out incremental accomplishments. She is a cosponsor of S.1614B, which would establish an independent legislative redistricting commission, and pledged to vote against redistricting bills that are insufficient in separating legislators from those who draw district lines. She supports a nonpartisan Board of Elections and believes serving as a legislator should be a full-time job. On budget reform, Stavisky backs an independent budget office and the adoption of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) for the state's budget. Her priorities include higher education issues (keeping tuition affordable and building public-private partnerships), and job creation and retention. Senator Stavisky is also seeking to streamline government and save the state money by consolidating local governments and school districts in addition to increased auditing by the Comptroller's office. Citizens Union feels Stavisky is an able legislator who shows great knowledge on a wide range of issues. We would like to see her more actively push reform issues, but believe she is a supporter of change in Albany, and thus, prefer her candidacy.



QUEENS RACES

**JOHN MESSER – DEM**

*Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 12.*

*Age: 40 Occupation: Lawyer*

*Education: Aquinas College (BA); St. Johns University (MA); Brooklyn Law School (JD)*

John Messer moved to New York in 1991 from his home state of Michigan. He worked in the Dinkins administration as a government fellow and as project manager for the New York City Economic Development Corporation. He left government for private practice and has lived in the district for 20 years. He believes his experience in the private sector building coalitions and working with different kinds of people will enable him to do the same in Albany to bring about change. On reform issues, Messer supports independent redistricting, increased transparency and accountability of member items, and terms limits (while increasing the actual term served from two to four years). He thinks that legislators should be penalized financially for not passing the budget on time. Messer is deeply concerned about the affordability of New York for the middle class. He believes there is an alternative to what he identified as the current approach of increasing taxes and cutting spending. He proposes that small businesses need to be incentivized to hire to create jobs and that reform of the state's Empire Zones should foster the growth of new emerging industries like green technology. Likewise, Messer believes consolidation of overlapping government entities and functions should be a priority. Citizens Union felt that while Messer presents thoughtful ideas for tackling the problems in Albany, but he could not articulate how reform would be better served in Albany through replacing the incumbent with his representation.

**ISAAC SASSON – DEM**

*Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 12.*

*Age: 70 Occupation: Retired*

*Education: CCNY (BS); University of Connecticut (PhD)*

Isaac Sasson, a lottery winner and retired cancer researcher, came 145 votes short of winning a City Council election in 2009 and this year, hopes to unseat the incumbent Senator Toby Ann Stavisky. He wants to restore trust in government and send the message to incumbents not to take their seats for granted. He has a long record in his community as a civic leader, Community Board 7 member, and tenant association president. On reform issues, Sasson is opposed to the "three men in a room" approach to legislating and supports much of Citizen Union's agenda, although he has concerns about fraud related to election-day registration. He specifically supports budget reform that accurately reflects fiscal realities through the use of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). He does not think independent redistricting as proposed in the Citizens Union-supported Gianaris/Valesky bill goes far enough, since it involves legislators in choosing the people for the commission. His alternative approach would be giving non-profit, independent good government groups the power to control redistricting. Aside from reform issues, he is a proponent of giving tax breaks to small business for hiring and ensuring New York is hospitable to business. Sasson wants to restore jobs in his community and forestall cutbacks to senior centers. He also opposes same-sex marriage and laments the lack of public debate on the issue. Citizens Union felt Sasson was reform-minded and thoughtful on the issues. However, he lacked the incumbent's experience, knowledge and know-how to make reform a reality.



QUEENS RACES

**QUEENS STATE ASSEMBLY RACES**

**DISTRICT 26**

**★ PREFERRED CANDIDATE – JOHN DUANE – DEM ★**

*Has returned questionnaire, response on page12*

*Age: 56 Occupation: Attorney*

*Education: Colgate University (BA); Columbia Law School (JD)*

John Duane represented parts of assembly district 26 from 1982-1984. He left public office after losing reelection, and spent the last two decades building his private law practice and raising his children. He sees the current open seat as an opportunity to reengage with political life and return to his old seat. His prior experience as a legislator was successful; he was the primary sponsor of 22 chapter laws in just two years. He is rooted in the community by virtue of his membership in various civic associations and historical societies. He sees himself as an independent candidate who supports independent redistricting and Citizens Union broader reform agenda. His top priorities include the creation of a New York State G.I. bill for returning veterans of the Afghan and Iraq war, regulation of debt management plan companies and limiting corporate contributions to political campaigns. He feels his strongest qualities are his prior experience as a legislator, and the relationships he formed which enabled him to work across the aisle and get more legislation passed. Duane believes he could ease back into many of these relationships he formed since many of the assembly members he served with are still in office. Citizens Union was impressed by his reform agenda, knowledge of the issues and his interest to return to his prior service as a legislator, and thus CU prefers him.

**STEVE BEHAR – DEM**

*Has returned questionnaire, response on page12*

*Age: 46 Occupation: Attorney & Small Business Owner*

*Education: University of Albany (BA); Tulane University (MBA, JD); Georgetown University (ILM)*

This is Steve Behar's second run for public office after an unsuccessful bid for City Council district 19 in 2009. He currently serves as a member of Community Board 11. A self-described policy wonk, Behar gave up his career as a lawyer to enter politics at forty years old, and worked on the presidential campaigns of Howard Dean, Hilary Clinton and Barack Obama. He bills himself as an independent and noted how he turned down significant financial support for his campaign from wealthy charter school advocacy groups because of his opposition to their positions on education-related issues. He largely supports Citizens Union's reform agenda and advocates for comprehensive campaign finance reform, full public financing, and non partisan redistricting. Public education is also a top priority. His district is one of the wealthiest and has some of the best public schools, but overcrowding is an issue. Behar displayed energy, enthusiasm and was fluent in the needs of the district.



QUEENS RACES

**ED BRAUNSTEIN – DEM, IND**

*Has returned questionnaire, response on page12*

*Age: 29 Occupation: Legislative Assistant, NYS Assembly*

*Education: SUNY Albany (BA); New York Law School (JD)*

Ed Braunstein is a first-year member of Community Board 11 and a lifelong resident of Bayside, Queens. Braunstein has the support of the Queens Democratic Party and much of the legislative establishment. He spent the last seven years in Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver's district office covering legislative affairs. Braunstein wants to curb state spending but notes the importance of maintaining certain programs like those for seniors. On reform issues, he supports independent redistricting, increased transparency related to the role of business and special interests in politics, publicly financed elections and the consolidation of New York State's 700 public authorities as a cost-saving measure. Braunstein also believes that the need of a district ought to be considered in allocating member-item appropriations and supports a robust vetting process for community groups seeking funding from members. While Braunstein showed knowledge of some issues and expressed a genuine commitment to be independent, he lacks the depth of experience that others in a talented field possess.

**ELIO FORCINA – DEM**

*Has not returned questionnaire*

*Candidate could not be scheduled for an interview*

**DISTRICT 28**

**★ PREFERRED CANDIDATE – ANDREW HEVESI – DEM, WF ★**

*Has returned questionnaire, response on page 12*

*Age: 36 Occupation: Member, NYS Assembly*

*Education: Queens College (BA)*

Seeking reelection as state assemblyman for the 28th district for the third time since winning a special election in 2005, Andrew Hevesi points to his support for reform while in office as evidence that he will continue to promote Citizens Union's agenda. Hevesi is in favor of every one of CU's stances toward reform. A co-sponsor of independent redistricting commission legislation, Hevesi emphasizes redistricting as one of the three reform issues most important to him, along with ethics reform and campaign finance reform. While working in the Assembly, he has voted in favor of bills regarding each of these issues, and has stated his intent to continue doing so. Among the particular issues he stresses most, he believes that legislators should be required to fully disclose all of their finances. Chair of the Subcommittee on Renewable Energy since 2008, Hevesi co-sponsored a bill promoting green industry that passed last year and has focused on the environment as a primary campaign issue. Hevesi is also focused on restoring funding that was cut for primary education, as well as improving quality of life within his district by, for example, placing seals on top of trains that emanate foul odors while running through his district. Hevesi's legislative accomplishments also include the 2006 passing of a bill he wrote that strengthened the penalties for repeat domestic abusers. Citizens Union views Hevesi as an assemblyman capable of advancing important state legislation while still keeping in mind the needs of his constituents. CU supports Assemblyman Hevesi's reelection because he is an able and reform-minded legislator.





QUEENS RACES

JOE FOX – DEM

Has returned questionnaire, response on page 12
Age: 54 Occupation: Law Office of Joseph L. Fox

Education: Stony Brook University (BA); St. Johns University School of Law (JD)

Joe Fox, a business attorney and resident of Forrest Hills for 30 years, is making his first run for elected office. Fox possesses diverse experience including work as counsel to the Consumer Affairs Committee in the Assembly and as a legislative attorney in the City's Office for Economic Development during the Koch administration. Fox points to his early signing of the New York Uprising pledge as evidence of his firm support for principles supported by good government organizations. He supports removing politicians from the process of drawing district lines to encourage greater competition in legislative contests. Fox calls for greater transparency to member items but believes they should be retained. Fox, if elected, believes reform will not be accomplished by being combative with leadership. Instead, he wants to begin a conversation to open the Democratic conference, and increase debate and discussion on policy. Regarding local issues, Fox believes he can provide a greater level of service to the district, claiming the incumbent has not been accessible enough to constituents. Citizens Union believes Fox is a strong candidate. He demonstrates an understanding of issues and has experience in government and the community. He hasn't, however, made an adequate case as to how reform of the legislature would be better served through his representation rather than the incumbent's.

DISTRICT 33

NO PREFERENCE

BARBARA CLARK – DEM

Has returned questionnaire, response on page 12
Age: 71 Occupation: Member, NYS Assembly

Education: N/A

Barbara Clark, a member of the State Assembly for the past 23 years, wants to continue serving her constituents and improving conditions within the community she represents. If reelected, her top priority is to bring a full-service hospital to Southeast Queens which she believes will not only increase the quality and quantity of health care in the district, but also have the secondary benefit of economically revitalizing the area. Education is another top priority for Clark as she would like to establish a community college in her district to provide people with the necessary job skills necessary to compete in the job market. Affordable housing is also of great importance to her. With regard to reform issues, Clark supports an independent redistricting commission and was a multi-sponsor of the Valesky/Gianaris bill. She also supports extending the term of state elected office from two years to four years, because she believes this will eliminate the disproportionate influence that lobbyists and unions have on the legislature that undermines the development of good policy. Although Clark supports transparency and accountability in member item allocation, she does not support distributing member items equally among all legislators. She believes that current system, where organizations must present receipts to the Secretary of State to show how the monies were used, achieves the necessary accountability and transparency. Citizens Union is concerned by her position on member item reform especially in the wake of the controversy surrounding



QUEENS RACES

CLYDE VANEL – DEM

Has returned questionnaire, response on page 12
Candidate could not be scheduled for an interview

DISTRICT 35

★ PREFERRED CANDIDATE – ANTHONY MIRANDA – DEM ★

Has returned questionnaire, response on page 12
Age: 48; Occupation: Retired

Education: NYC Technical College, John Jay College, Cornell University (degrees not reported)

Anthony Miranda is a retired NYC police sergeant and founder of National Latino Officers Association who has two decades of law enforcement experience dating back to 1982 that encompasses community policing, internal affairs, and administration. Miranda has run for office twice previously, for the assembly in district 53 in 2004 and for the City Council in 2001. In his capacity as Executive Chairman of the National Latino Officers Association, Miranda fought for transparency and accountability related to the police department. He believes this experience will serve him well in attempting to reform Albany. His law enforcement background has also caused him to recognize the importance of strong community outreach and engagement, something Miranda would prioritize in serving the district. He aims to improve accessibility of needed services within the community and improve the quality of life among the residents. With regard to reform, Miranda is supportive of many issues on Citizens Union's agenda. He backs the establishment of an independent legislative redistricting commission and an independent ethics commission to ensure greater accountability of legislators and more transparency related to investigating ethical wrongdoing. He feels legislators should be penalized for not passing a budget on time to encourage more timely action. Citizens Union admires Mr. Miranda's passion to serve the people of his district and his interest in advancing reform issues, if elected. Given his support in the community, position on issues, and the incumbent's refusal to meet with Citizens Union, Miranda has earned our preference.

JEFFRION AUBRY– DEM, WF

Has not returned questionnaire
Candidate declined to be interviewed by Citizens Union



**DISTRICT 38**

**NO PREFERENCE**

**NICK COMAIANNI – DEM**

*Has returned questionnaire; response on page 12  
Age: 42; Occupation: Architectural Coatings  
Education: United States Navy (degree not reported)*

Nick Comaianni is President of the Community Education Council for Community School District 24 and Chairperson of Education Committee of Queens Community Board 9. Comaianni is also active through his service on the Forest Parks Co-ops and the Glendale Civic Association. If elected, Comaianni’s top priorities would be education, senior services, veterans’ assistance, and public safety but he provided few details on what he would address specifically for each of these priorities. With regard to reform issues, Comaianni supports the establishment of an independent legislative redistricting commission believing that legislators should be removed from the process of drawing district lines. He also emphasized the importance of providing greater disclosure and transparency in relation to campaign finance reform. Citizens Union admires Comaianni’s active involvement in his community but was concerned by the abstract nature of his top legislative priorities. While Comaianni supports Citizens Union’s agenda on many issues, his responses showed a lack of in-depth knowledge about reform issues or understanding of the political process needed to achieve reform.

**MICHAEL MILLER – DEM, WF**

*Has returned questionnaire; response on page 12  
Age: 49; Occupation: Member, NYS Assembly  
Education: University of Georgia CUNA Management School (degree not reported)*

Michael Miller, the incumbent in assembly district 38, has been in office for less than a year, elected in a special election in September 2009. Before entering office, Mr. Miller was a manager at Tiger Federal Credit Union and a board member of the Greater Ridgewood Youth Council. On reform issues, Miller supports independent redistricting. He believes being a legislator should be a full-time job for everybody, as it is for him, and if legislators maintain outside employment, they should be forced to disclose all their clients. He differs from Citizens Union on a number of reform issues including lowering campaign contribution limits, creating a public financing system, and limiting transfers from party committees to candidates. He feels that when he first ran it would not have been possible for him to win as a working person and relative unknown candidate without the level of campaign contributions he was allowed to receive. In his time in office, Miller has emphasized community outreach, adding weekend office hours and making himself available 24 hours a day by giving constituents access to his cell phone number. His top three non-reform priorities are increasing the accessibility of his office, quality of life issues, and unemployment. Since his election, he has not had much time to make a mark within the legislature, but he was able to convince Assemblyman Sheldon Silver to initiate a rules change, reducing the time legislators are able to speak about a bill on the Assembly floor. He came to office through a special election which was called at the last minute to prevent other non-establishment candidates from staging viable campaigns. Citizens Union has concerns with the manner Miller came to office and also disapproved of some of his



positions on reform issues, but admires his community work and accessibility within the district and his overall collegial approach. We look forward to seeing what Miller does with a full-term should he be reelected but feel preferring him at this time is not yet earned.

**DISTRICT 39**

**★ PREFERRED CANDIDATE – FRANCISCO MOYA –DEM, WF ★**

*Has returned questionnaire, response on page 12  
Age: 36 Occupation: Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, Cablevision  
Education: St John’s University (BA); National Urban Fellows Program (MPA)*

Francisco Moya, running for office for the third time, is a former Director of Strategic Planning and Development at Elmhurst Hospital, former staffer for former Democratic Senate Minority Leader David Paterson and a current Democratic District Leader. Moya is an activist in his community with deep awareness and knowledge about the different needs of the district. He has demonstrated his dedication to the community by helping start the after-school sports program at St. Leo’s School and organizing residents to go to Washington to protest against anti-immigrant policies. Given his experience in the public sector, Moya seeks office in order to bring dignity and integrity to the office, and resources to the community. Moya supports Citizens Union agenda on reform, particularly with regard to independent redistricting and campaign finance. Moya believes that redistricting reform is a priority because the current method of legislators drawing district lines results in divided communities that make it difficult for certain populations to receive services, as is currently the case in Corona. Moya backs a public financing system for state elections modeled on the system in New York City that provides a public match for money raised privately. Regarding local issues, Moya emphasizes the importance of health care services, public safety, and education in his district. Moya is concerned that the closing of hospitals in the area have caused increased volume at Elmhurst Hospital while causing layoffs of numerous employees. Gang-related violence is also troubling, and so Moya will prioritize adequate funding for police officers in addition to advocating for after-school programs and a community center. Citizens Union prefers Moya given his support for key reform issues and significant engagement in district matters.

**HIRAM MONSERRATE – DEM**

*Has not returned questionnaire  
Candidate could not be scheduled for an interview*



## — VOTING AND BALLOT MARKING DEVICE INFORMATION —

### **VOTING INFORMATION**

All New Yorkers will be using a new voting system beginning during this fall's elections. Voters will now mark their choices on a paper ballot using either a pen or a ballot marking device (BMD) as described below, and will then insert their ballot into a scanner. The scanner will then be used to count the votes after the polling place has closed at the end of Election Day. A bin attached to the scanner will capture and keep the paper ballots as a record of all votes.

The new process works as follows:

- Enter the poll site, sign in, and receive your paper ballot from the poll worker.
- Go to a booth with a privacy sleeve and fill out your ballot by marking the appropriate ovals.
  - BMDS will be available for those who are in need of assistance.
  - If you make a mistake you can request a new ballot. If you mark your ballot incorrectly by marking more choices for one contest than you are supposed to, the scanner will notify you of an "overvote." To have your vote count, you must obtain a new ballot and mark your choices correctly.
- Once done, proceed to the scanner area, and insert the marked ballot into the scanner to cast your vote.

### **Ballot Marking Device**

Voters will be able to use the Election Systems & Software (ES&S) AutoMARK ballot marking device (BMDs) that is mandated to be available at each polling location in the City.

Any voter, including voters with disabilities, may use the BMD to view, and or listen to, the ballot in any of the required languages for that poll site (English, Spanish, Chinese or Korean). Voters may use the BMD to complete a paper ballot independently and privately on Election Day by using its ATM-style touch screen, Braille-enhanced keypad, sip and puff device or its rocker paddle. More information on the new process is available at the New York City Board of Elections website: <http://www.votethenewwayny.com/>

If you have trouble voting on the BMD at your poll site, we encourage you to call the City Board of Elections at 1-866-VOTE-NYC and make them aware of the problem.

Finally, Citizens Union encourages voters to use the new machines this election and provide us with your thoughts and experiences by emailing your name and poll site information to [rfauss@citizensunion.org](mailto:rfauss@citizensunion.org).

### **To Register for an Absentee Ballot**

To be eligible to vote in municipal, federal and state elections you must be 18 years of age, a citizen of the United States and registered 25 days before the election. If you are not yet 18, but will be 18 before the election you are eligible to vote. Send your voter registration card in January of the year you turn 18 and it will be filed on your 18th birthday.

The last day to postmark and application for an absentee ballot is September 7, 2010 and the last day to file in person for an absentee ballot at the City Board of Elections is September 13, 2009.

*NYC Board of Elections* • (212) VOTE-NYC • [www.vote.nyc.ny.us](http://www.vote.nyc.ny.us)  
*NYPIRG* • (212) 349-6460 • [www.nypirg.org](http://www.nypirg.org)  
*League of Women Voters of NYC* • (212) 725-3541 • [www.lwvny.org](http://www.lwvny.org)



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## Further Information

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### **Voting on Election Day**

The Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, September 14th. Polls will be open from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. If you have general questions regarding eligibility or the location of your polling place, please call 1-866-VOTE-NYC. You can also locate your polling place online at: <http://gis.nyc.gov/vote/ps/index.htm>

Under federal law, if you are disabled and choose to vote in person rather than by absentee ballot, you are entitled to assistance. You can rely on the election employees for help. To locate the handicap entrance to your polling site, please visit: <http://gis.nyc.gov/vote/ps/index.htm>

At the polls, if there is no entry for you on the voter registration list, it may be because your registration form was not received or was filled out incorrectly. If you believe that you are eligible to vote, you can still vote by requesting an affidavit ballot. After the election, the Board of Elections will check its records and your vote will be counted if you are indeed eligible to vote.

### **To Research Campaign Contributions**

*NYS Board of Elections* • (800) FOR-VOTE • [www.elections.state.ny.us](http://www.elections.state.ny.us)  
*FEC Federal Database* • (202) 628-0617 • [www.fec.gov](http://www.fec.gov)

### **To Research Candidates and Issues**

*Citizens Union* • (212) 227-0342 • [www.citizensunion.org](http://www.citizensunion.org)  
*Gotham Gazette* • (212) 227-0342 • [www.gothamgazette.com](http://www.gothamgazette.com)  
*Project Vote Smart* • (888) VOTE-SMART • [www.votesmart.org](http://www.votesmart.org)  
*NY1* • [www.ny1.com](http://www.ny1.com)

### **Find Out More About Who is Running**

*(Who's Running for What)* is Gotham Gazette's unique and searchable database on all candidates running for state and city office. To find out available campaign funds and research candidates' websites, or to search by office holder or candidate position, log on to [www.gothamgazette.com/campaigns](http://www.gothamgazette.com/campaigns). Gotham Gazette is published by Citizens Union Foundation, the education and research affiliate of Citizens Union.

### **To Research Incumbent Records**

*New York State Assembly* • (518) 455-4218 • [assembly.state.ny.us](http://assembly.state.ny.us)  
*New York State Senate* • (518) 455-2800 • [www.nysenate.gov/legislation](http://www.nysenate.gov/legislation)  
*Project Vote Smart* • (888) VOTE-SMART • [www.votesmart.org](http://www.votesmart.org)