



**2012 QUESTIONNAIRE FOR
CANDIDATES FOR NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE**

Citizens Union would appreciate your response to the following questionnaire related to policy issues facing New York State and our interest in reforming state government. Responses to these questions will be one of several factors Citizens Union will use to evaluate candidates who are running for office in order to determine our “Preferred Candidates” for the September 13th Primary Election, and our “Endorsed Candidates” for the November 6th General Election.

If you seek our support, we would also need to schedule an interview with you as part of the evaluation process. We will not automatically schedule an interview with you if you return this questionnaire, as we prioritize competitive races and resources constrain us from evaluating all races. Please contact us if you wish to be interviewed.

We plan to make responses to this questionnaire public on our website, Voters Directory and other appropriate venues. We thank you very much for your response.

Candidate Name: Diane Savino

Campaign Address: 39 Broadway, Suite 1540, New York, NY 10006

Campaign Telephone Number: (212) 239-7323 Fax: (917) 591-5281

Party Affiliation(s): Democratic Campaign Manager Name:

Website & Email: savino@senate.state.ny.us <http://www.nysenate.gov/senator/diane-j-savino>

Education: Graduated, Cornell School of Industrial and Labor Relations, BA, Saint John's University

Occupation/Employer (or years in currently held elected office):

First Elected, Senator, New York State Senate, 1/2/2004. Last Elected, 11/2/2010 Up for re-election 2012

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement: First Time Homeowner Workshops

Vice President of Legislations and Political Action, Social Service Employees Union Local 371

Women’s Health Fair, Task Force to Fight Child Obesity, Caseworker, New York City Child Welfare Administration, Member of the following committees: Banks, Member, Children and Families, Chair, Civil Service and Pensions, Member, Veterans, Homeland Security and Military Affairs, Member

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

(Please note: Citizens Union can grant its “Endorsed Candidate” rating only to candidates we have interviewed.)

Have you completed requisite campaign finance filings? YES

Signature of Candidate: _____ Date: _____

I. CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

Please state your position on the following reform measures. Specify whether you support or oppose each. You may elaborate in the space provided at the end or on additional paper.

ELECTION REFORM

1. What is your position on second passage of the constitutional amendment (S.6698/A.9526 of 2012) creating an independent redistricting commission with appointees split evenly between the majority and minority parties?	Support/
2. What is your position on restructuring the state Board of Elections and changing the administration of elections by amending the constitution to abolish the two-party system of governance and operation?	Support/
3. 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?	Support/
4. What is your position on amending the Municipal Home Rule law to limit the ability of a mayor-appointed charter revision commission to “bump” other local charter amendments from appearing on the ballot?	Support/
5. What is your position on automatically granting New Yorkers on parole the ability to vote?	Support/
6. What is your position on amending the constitution to allow for Election Day Registration?	Support/
7. What is your position on amending the constitution to allow for no-excuse absentee voting?	Support/
8. What is your position on instituting early voting in New York State to allow voters to cast their votes at more convenient times?	Support/
9. What is your position on redesigning the ballot to ensure that voters are able to clearly read candidates’ names, titles of offices, designations and ballot questions; that instructions are clear and accurate; that bilingual ballots are required; and that the ballot is able to split races between multiple pages?	Support/
10. What is your position on reforming the special election process, creating a nonpartisan special election for state legislative vacancies, as proposed by A.1369/S.26?	Support/
11. What is your position regarding automatic voter registration in which voter registration information of individuals who consent to be registered is provided electronically to the Board of Elections, and address information is automatically updated?	Support/

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

12. What is your position on establishing a matching public financing system for state legislative and statewide races similar to the New York City model?	Support/
13. What is your position on lowering campaign contribution limits for legislative and statewide candidates for public office?	Support/
14. What is your position on restricting campaign contributions from registered lobbyists, placement agents and those who do business with the state?	Support/
15. What is your position on limiting or banning campaign contributions from corporations, LLCs, and LLPs? (Note: such entities would be able to form separate political action committees due to constitutional issues regarding freedom of speech.)	Support/
16. What is your position on closing “soft money” loopholes such as limiting transfers from party committees to candidates or other committees to twice the limit set on individual contributors and limiting contributions to party committees, including housekeeping accounts, to the same ceiling placed on candidates?	Support/
17. What is your position on requiring candidates to include full name, home address, and	Support/

employer/business name for each contribution and bundler?	
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CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM (CONTINUED)

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?	Support/
19. What is your position on stricter requirements on the use of campaign contributions for non-campaign related activity, such as personal use?	Support/
20. What is your position on improving disclosure of independent expenditures such as requiring disclosure of electioneering activities and linking expenditures to candidates targeted?	Support/
21. What is your position on limiting the ability of candidates to accumulate “war chests” and then transferring funds raised in one race to another?	Support/
22. What is your position on creating an enforcement entity independent of the State Board of Elections to oversee campaign finance laws?	Support/

JUDICIAL REFORM

23. What is your position on a merit-based appointment system through creation of a commission for the selection of judges in all of New York’s trial courts?	Support/
24. What is your position simplifying and modernizing the state’s court system by consolidating the nine trial courts into a two-tiered system?	Support

ETHICS REFORM

25. What is your position on empowering the Attorney General to investigate and prosecute cases involving public corruption, including serious election law malfeasance?	Support
26. What is your position on amending the State Constitution to extend pension forfeiture, subject to due process safeguards, to all public officers and legislators who have been convicted of felonies, building on the 2011 ethics reforms which only apply to future state employees?	Support

BUDGET REFORM

27. What is your position on requiring the governor’s budget submission to present the full scope of the state’s financial obligations, including its public authorities?	Support
28. What is your position on establishing an independent, nonpartisan budget office to provide revenue projections, display economic and policy analysis and require that the state engage in long term, multi-year budget planning?	Support/
29. What is your position on the use of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) rather than cash accounting for the state budget?	Oppose
30. What is your position on distributing member item allocations equally among all legislators and requiring for greater accountability as expressed in S. 7007/A10116?	Support
31. What is your position on incorporating the use of performance budgeting and outcome measurement to promote the more rational appropriation of state funds?	Support
32. What is your position on instituting a later start date for the state fiscal year?	Support
33. What is your position on limiting the ability of the governor to enact policy changes governing the use of resources in appropriation bills by requiring that such bills be consistent with existing law or proposed changes in separate legislation?	Support

ADDITIONAL REFORM

34. What is your position on increasing public access to information by reforming the Freedom of Information and Open Meetings Laws to enhance transparency, as well as the creation of tools such as open data portals to ease public access to information?	Support
35. What is your position on enactment of legislative rules reform to strengthen rank-and-file	Support

members' roles in the legislative process and create more equity between members?	
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Please use the space provided or a separate sheet of paper to elaborate on your positions on the issues contained in the previous pages. You may also provide additional information on any actions that you have taken or plan to take to advance your positions on these issues.

The election process is the cornerstone of a functional and equitable democracy. In March of 2011, I voted to pass a resolution (S 3331 - Constitutional Amendment for Non-Partisan Redistricting Commission) that submits a constitutional amendment to the voters to create a non-partisan redistricting committee which prohibits any district from having more than a 5% difference in population from any other like district. This also would prohibit dilution of any voter base for political agenda. I also voted "yea" on A 9544 - Election and Campaign Finance Ethics Amendments which overrides disenfranchising past laws and establishes a series of ethics committees and strategies for oversight.

With respect to the Judicial system, I have a longstanding record of modernization. I have voted in favor of expansion of modern methods in the justice process and hold the belief that progress is necessary for any improvements of flawed systems. Furthermore, people with legal and political power or clout must be placed or elected into those positions by the work they have done and the work they will do in the future. I voted to expel Hiram Monserate from the senate which is in synch with my belief that there is a responsibility of clouted and powerful people to be married to their mandates and uphold the law in addition to bolstering process.

Every vote I have ever made regarding the budget has been in favor of transparency and the preservation of the funds for citizens' retirements as well as to alleviate tax burden on the struggling middle class of NYS. I voted to protect pensions, increase aid to those who are struggling, and to require a 2/3 majority vote to change tax rates.

As a legislator, I believe in equity. I preserved district size equality so that no group overpowers another. Progress is my goal as a legislator and my goal for New York.

II. CAMPAIGN PROMISES MADE TO VOTERS

As a candidate who presently does not hold elected office, CU is interested in knowing your top five campaign promises or goals you are making to the voters during this campaign for this position.

If elected, Citizens Union will use these promises or goals to evaluate your performance while in office, as well as to evaluate your candidacy in the future.

We thank you very much for your response. Please feel free to use additional paper if the space provided is not sufficient.

TOP FIVE 2012 CAMPAIGN PROMISES OR GOALS

1. Improvement in health care access for women.
2. Safe and secure schools, free of bullying and conducive to learning.
3. Development of green energy initiatives and programs to educate about green energy.
4. Corruption amelioration and transparency in government.
5. Protecting and securing retirement plans for my constituencies.

**Please return to: Citizens Union, Local Candidates Committee
299 Broadway, Suite 700 New York, NY 10007
via fax to 212.227.0345 or via email to policy@citizensunion.org
Call us at 212-227-0342 with any questions.**