



2013 QUESTIONNAIRE FOR CANDIDATES FOR NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE - VACANCIES

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 Primary Election and our "Endorsed Candidates" for the 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: Yudelka Tapia Age: 49

Campaign Address: 64 W Burnside Avenue, Bronx, NY 10453

Campaign Telephone Number: (347) 940 – 8606 Fax: () _____

Party Affiliation(s): Democrat Campaign Manager Name: _____

Website & Email: www.yudelkatapia.com electyudelkatapia@gmail.com

Education: Bachelor's degree in Accounting from O&M University

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

District Leader of 86th Assembly District for the past 6 years

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement:

Founder of Great Alliance Democratic Club

Are you willing to be interviewed by CU's Local Candidates Committee? YES : X NO:
(Please note: Citizens Union can grant its "Endorsed Candidate" rating only to candidates we have interviewed.)

Have you completed requisite campaign finance filings? YES : X NO:

Signature of Candidate: Yudelka Tapia Date: 8/9/2013

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. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions about any of the reform measures below .

ELECTION REFORM

1. What is your position on the recently passed constitutional amendment (S.2107/A.2086 of 2013) creating an independent redistricting commission with appointees split evenly between the majority and minority parties which will be on the ballot in 2014?	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 as proposed by A.689-A of 2013?	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, as proposed by A.204-A of 2013?	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.5290/S.161 of 2013?	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
12. What is your position on eliminating the runoff election in New York City for citywide elections, and instead utilizing Instant Runoff Voting, as proposed by A.7013 of 2013?	Support

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

13. What is your position on establishing a public matching financing system for state legislative and statewide races similar to the New York City model?	Support
14. What is your position on lowering campaign contribution limits for legislative and statewide candidates for public office?	Support
15. What is your position on restricting campaign contributions from registered lobbyists, placement agents and those who do business with the state?	Support
16. 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

17. What is your position on closing “soft money” loopholes such as limiting transfers from party committees to candidates or other committees to twice the limit set on individual contributors and limiting contributions to party committees, including housekeeping accounts, to the same ceiling placed on candidates?	Support
18. What is your position on requiring candidates to include the full name, home address, and employer/business name for each contribution and bundler?	Support
19. What is your position on requiring that two periodic campaign finance reports be filed during the legislative session to reflect contributions given during the session?	Support
20. What is your position on stricter requirements on the use of campaign contributions for non-campaign related activity, such as personal use?	Support
21. What is your position on improving disclosure of independent expenditures such as requiring disclosure of electioneering activities and linking expenditures to candidates targeted?	Support
22. What is your position on limiting the ability of candidates to accumulate “war chests” and then transferring funds raised in one race to another?	Support
23. What is your position on creating an enforcement entity independent of the State Board of Elections to oversee campaign finance laws?	Support

JUDICIAL REFORM

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

ETHICS REFORM

26. What is your position on empowering the Attorney General to investigate and prosecute cases involving public corruption, including serious election law malfeasance?	Support
27. What is your position on amending the State Constitution to extend pension forfeiture, subject to due process safeguards, to all public officers and legislators who have been convicted of felonies, building on the 2011 ethics reforms which only apply to future state employees?	Support
28. What is your position regarding changing the voting structure and procedures of the Joint Commission on Public Ethics to remove the ability of a superminority of three commissioners from blocking investigations from proceeding, and requiring further transparency of commission votes and the names of persons who are the subject of substantial basis reports?	Support

BUDGET REFORM

29. What is your position on establishing an independent, nonpartisan budget office to provide revenue projections, display economic and policy analysis and require that the state engage in long term, multi-year budget planning?	Support
30. What is your position on the use of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) rather than cash accounting for the state budget?	Support
31. What is your position on distributing member item allocations equally among all legislators and requiring for greater accountability, as expressed in A.641/S.920 of 2013?	Support
32. What is your position on incorporating the use of performance budgeting and outcome measurement to promote the more rational appropriation of state funds?	Support
33. What is your position on instituting a later start date for the state fiscal year?	Support
34. What is your position on limiting the ability of the governor to enact policy changes governing the use of resources in appropriation bills by requiring that such bills be consistent with existing law or proposed changes in separate legislation?	Support

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. Fight for access to high quality public education.
2. Stir economic development that create good paying jobs and help build the small business sector.
3. Be a strong voice for equality by protecting both civic, human, and immigrant rights.
4. Create new and preserve affordable housing.
5. Engage and empower our Youth.

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