District 31

ENDORSED CANDIDATE – ERIC SCHNEIDERMAN – DEM, WFP

Has returned questionnaire; see responses on page 14
Occupation: Senator, NYS Senate
Education: Amherst (BA); Harvard Law School (JD)

Appointed Deputy Minority Leader after only two terms in office, Eric Schneiderman currently sits on the Committees on Codes, Education, and Rules. While working as a principal legal advisor to Clean Elections New York, Schneiderman has been an active player in making New York City’s public campaign matching fund program one of the most progressive in the country. Schneiderman believes campaign finance reform also needs to be brought to the state level. To reform the operations of the State Legislature, Schneiderman believes that committee structure and deliberations on the floor need to be invigorated. To that end, he supports enabling bills to reach the floor of the Senate without the consent of the majority leader, and ending limitations on “motions to discharge” so a bill can get to the floor of the Senate if a majority of members support it. Although Schneiderman favors a mix of elected and appointed judges as opposed to an all appointed judiciary, he believes that independent screening panels for judicial conventions must be strengthened to ensure that candidates are well-qualified. Schneiderman has been active on behalf of tenants’ rights and favors a repeal of the Urstadt law, which provides the State Legislature, and not the city, with jurisdiction over the city’s rent laws. Additionally, Schneiderman is a prime sponsor of legislation to create a nonpartisan redistricting commission to draw legislative district lines. On a more local level, he has also helped set up a center that provides immigrants in upper Manhattan with free legal services from Columbia Law School students. His support for a reform agenda for Albany, as well as his diligence and commitment to serving his constituents and all New Yorkers, has earned Eric Schneiderman Citizens Union’s endorsement.

STYLO A. SAPAKIS – REP

Has NOT returned questionnaire.
Candidate could not be reached for an interview.
District 34

NO ENDORSEMENT

JEFFREY D. KLEIN – DEM, WFP

Has returned questionnaire; see response on page 14
Occupation: Member, NYS Senate
Education: Queens College (BA); Columbia University (MPA); CUNY School of Law (JD)

After serving ten years in the New York State Assembly, Jeffrey Klein was elected to
the New York State Senate in 2004, replacing former Senator Guy Velella after he
was convicted of felony bribery. As Chair of the Assembly Committee on Oversight,
Analysis and Investigation, Klein has focused his attention on security conditions at
New York City water facilities and passed legislation to update emergency planning
for those sites. In order to break up a concentration of power that impedes progress
and reform in state government, Klein supports term limits for committee chairs and
leadership positions. Klein recognizes a need to reform the judicial selection process
for Supreme Court candidates and favors direct election for justices with a public
matching funds program to minimize the role money would play in these races.
Klein supports an independent, non-partisan redistricting commission to draw state
legislative district lines, and a clear set of guidelines that would prevent lines from
being drawn to protect an incumbent or political party. To increase the transparen-
cy and efficiency of the budget drafting process, Klein believes the process should
include public town hall meetings to better understand the needs of community
groups, nonprofit organizations, schools and constituents. In the Assembly, Klein
is proud of his efforts to help repeal the five year statute of limitations that existed
for cases of rape and his involvement in creating New York’s “Do Not Call” telemar-
teking registry, which has enrolled almost two million residential telephone numbers
since its inception in April of 2001. Klein also helped instate a three strike rule for
supermarkets which mandates that supermarkets with repeat inspection failures have
their licenses revoked and instituted a requirement that inspection results be posted
for public scrutiny.

JOSEPH J. SAVINO – REP, IND, CON

Has returned questionnaire; see response on page 14
Occupation: Attorney
Education: Iona College (BA); CUNY (JD)
Former deputy chief of staff to Senator Guy Vellela, who was indicted and ultimately incarcerated for illegally directing public funds and projects to favored individuals and companies, Joseph “Jay” Savino is a practicing attorney, a Bronx Republican Commissioner for the New York City Board of Elections and Chairman of the Bronx County Republican Committee. Citing his experiences in Bronx politics, and as a commissioner with the Board of Elections, Savino is very skeptical of same-day voter registration, as he believes it would invite fraud and jeopardize the integrity of the voting process. While he is not opposed to the idea of reforming how legislative district lines are drawn, Savino is concerned that an “independent, non-partisan commission” would only add another layer of bureaucracy to the process and not necessarily create the intended reform. Savino supports relaxing the rules and requirements for candidates to get on the ballot to ensure more challengers and more competitive elections. Savino asserts that Albany’s overspending and unfunded mandates have led to overly high property taxes and an increased burden on municipalities, and as a solution he proposes a ban on unfunded mandates from Albany. Savino is a thoughtful and credible challenger for this senate seat, but is not seen as much as a reformer.

• BRONX STATE ASSEMBLY RACES •

District 81

ENDORSED CANDIDATE – JEFFREY DINOWITZ – DEM, WFP

Has returned questionnaire; responses on page 14
Occupation: Member, NYS Assembly
Education: Lehman College (BA); Brooklyn Law School (JD)

First elected in 1994, Jeffrey Dinowitz currently serves as chair of the Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse and is a member of the Election Law, Environmental Conservation, Health, and Judiciary committees. Dinowitz supports merit selection of judges by an independent, non-partisan panel as a solution to the current, broken system whereby judicial candidates are selected by county majority leaders and often run unopposed. Dinowitz supports reform of the legislative process, including more hearings on bills coupled with a limit on the number of bills that can be introduced by a legislator to reduce the number of gratuitous bills. He also proposes removing the requirement that bills have to be introduced every year, favoring just one introduction per two year session. Dinowitz is a proponent of an independent, non-partisan redistricting commission to draw legislative district lines and believes that taking redistricting out of elected officials’ authority would restore integrity and fairness.
to the election process. Dinowitz has consistently voted against proposed cuts to City College tuition programs and feels that the city should have control over rent laws as the New York State Legislature has been overly pro-landlord. Dinowitz is a thoughtful, hardworking candidate whose advocacy for his constituents and commitment to reform merits the endorsement of Citizens Union.

STEVE BRADIAN - CON
Has NOT returned questionnaire.
Candidate could not be reached for an interview.

The following races in the Bronx have not been evaluated by Citizens Union:

SENATE

District 32
Arlene Anderson (R,C) Ruben Diaz, Sr. (D)

District 33
Efrain Gonzalez (D)
Ernest Kebreau (C)

District 36
Curtis Brooks (R,C)

District 36
R Hassell-Thompson (D,WF)

ASSEMBLY

District 77
Anthony Curry (C) Aurelia Greene
Kathleen B. Larkins (R)

District 78
Jose Rivera
William J. Sullivan

District 79
Michael Benjamin (D)
Sharon L. Grady (R,C)

District 80
Frank Olivo (R)
Naomi Rivera (D)
Joseph A. Thompson (C)

District 82
Michael Benedetto (D,WF)
Raymond Capone (R,C)*

District 83
Trevor Archer
Willie Bowman
Carl E. Heastie

* Candidate has responded to questionnaire; responses on page 14
Incumbent candidates in bold.

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