NO ENDORSEMENT

ANDREW LANZA - REP, IND
Has NOT returned questionnaire.
Occupation: Member, New York City Council
Education: St. John's University (BS); Fordham University (JD)

Making his first run for the New York State Senate, Andrew Lanza has served in the New York City Council since 2002. Lanza supports reform of the current selection process for Supreme Court justices, advocating for smaller judicial districts more consistent with the communities judges would serve; he also is in favor of open elections for judgeships. Lanza supports stricter limits on lobbyist contributions to candidates for public office and supports a zero gift rule that would prohibit lobbyists from giving any type of gift to a candidate or elected official. As a member of the City Council, Lanza is proud of his role in securing land and funding to build a 12 acre soccer field at Arden Heights, and his work to preserve 42 acres of Staten Island parkland from a development project. If elected to the Senate, Lanza would like to continue his work on improving Staten Island parks as well as focus on alleviating overdevelopment and traffic congestion. Lanza also would like to address upstate economic woes by lowering taxes and reducing the size of government. CU is concerned with Lanza's poor attendance record while on the city council, and if elected, would like to see him develop more of a focus and grasp on issues of reform and statewide policy.

MATTHEW TITONE - DEM
Has returned questionnaire; responses on page 16
Occupation: Attorney
Education: St. John's University (JD)

Attorney, Matthew Titone, son of the late Judge Vito Titone, is running in his first election for public office. Titone philosophically supports the creation of an independent ethics agency, but raises concerns over the scope of the agency and its responsibilities. Familiar with the judicial selection process as the son of a judge, Titone is a supporter of reform, favoring a process where parties recommend candidates to a screening panel that would be charged with evaluating judicial candidates, who if found qualified could run for election. Titone states that he would be opposed to a reinstatement of the com-
muter tax arguing that it would discourage talented professionals and businesses from operating in New York City. If elected, his main priority would be increasing healthcare accessibility and expanding coverage, especially for children, and while he ultimately believes funding to accomplish this aim should come from the federal government, he believes that in the meantime, New York State could fund these efforts by cracking down on Medicaid fraud with support from the District Attorneys and Attorney General. Like his opponent, Titone is attuned to local concerns but has not demonstrated a grasp of broader statewide legislative policy.

CHARLES PISTOR JR. - CON
Has NOT returned questionnaire.

JANELE HYER-SPENCER - DEM
Has returned questionnaire; responses on page 16
Occupation: Private Law Practice
Education: B.A., M.A., J.D

Having suspended her private law practice for the past two years to campaign, Janele Hyer-Spencer is running a second time to represent Assembly District 60. Citing the debt of New York State, Hyer-Spencer believes the state’s public authorities have far too much borrowing power, and supports an independent public authorities budget office to provide oversight and reign in wasteful spending. She also supports reform of the judicial selection process and favors allowing community based group appointees to review candidate qualifications, as is currently the practice in Manhattan. Hyer-Spencer is a proponent of reforming the Taylor Law, the labor relations law for public employees in the state. She would like to see measures to create equal bargaining power such as sanctions for bad faith bargaining and reasonable time tables for negotiations, arguing that the law currently favors management over unions and workers. If elected, she would focus her energies on strengthening laws against domestic violence and sexual abuse by pushing for longer prison sentences for offenders. With admirable drive and potential for independence, Hyer-Spencer has the potential to become an effective Senator.
Looking to succeed departing Assemblymember Matthew Mirones is his pro bono counsel of five years, Anthony Xanthakis. Concerned with abuse of government resources, Xanthakis supports reforming “franking privileges” to limit the number of free mailings an incumbent can send and to restrict officials’ ability to send such mailings after the legislative session ends in election years so as to limit an unfair advantage for incumbents. Xanthakis opposes a system of public financing for election campaigns, citing his belief that constituents would prefer to see their tax dollars go to services, as well as his worry that tax dollars would be used for increasingly negative campaigns. However, he does support lowering individual contribution limits, which are currently higher than those for federal candidates. Xanthakis sees overcrowding as one of Staten Island’s most pressing issues and proposes using tax incentives to encourage builders to construct less dense housing. He is opposed to the current plan to build a NASCAR speedway on Staten Island, arguing that proponents have not clearly defined how Staten Islanders would benefit. Xanthakis is concerned that the current plan that calls for busing large numbers of spectators in will not bring revenue to local merchants as spectators arriving and departing via bus will not venture beyond the confines of the parking lot. He is also concerned that the neighborhood cannot handle the influx of bus and other traffic.

The following races in Staten Island have not been evaluated by Citizens Union:

SENATE

District 23  Diane J. Savino (D,WF,I)*

ASSEMBLY

District 61  John W. Lavelle (D,WF)  District 62  Vincent M. Ignizio (R,C,I)
Rose Margarella (R)  District 63  Michael Cusick (D,C,WF,I)
Victor A. Grossman (R)

* Candidate has responded to questionnaire; responses on page 16
Incumbent candidates in bold.