



LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

CANDIDATE EVALUATION PRINCIPLES AND AIMS

Citizens Union (CU) is a nonpartisan good government group dedicated to making democracy work for all New Yorkers. We serve as a civic watchdog, combating corruption and fighting for political reform. We work to ensure fair and open elections, honest and efficient government, and a civically-engaged public.

In keeping with our mission, CU aims to promote a competitive and diverse political culture, a fair and open political process, and accountable and responsible governance. To that end, CU evaluates candidates for elected office and backs those who strongly support and can advance our stated agenda for reform.

CU's terminology for expressing its support for a candidate shall be to "prefer" a supported candidate in a party primary election and to "endorse" a supported candidate in a general election. It is recognized that not all races will provide a clear-cut example of one candidate more closely aligned with CU's agenda. In such instances, a finding of "No Preference" or "No Endorsement" may be issued.

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. Evaluation of state legislative candidates in 2012 will weigh significantly their position regarding second passage of a constitutional amendment to reform redistricting and the enactment of comprehensive campaign finance reform modeled on the New York City system.
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 nonpartisan manner.

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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?



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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?
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?
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?
5. What is your position on automatically granting New Yorkers on parole the ability to vote?
6. What is your position on amending the constitution to allow for Election Day Registration?
7. What is your position on amending the constitution to allow for no-excuse absentee voting?
8. What is your position on instituting early voting in New York State to allow voters to cast their votes at more convenient times?
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?
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?
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?

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?
13. What is your position on lowering campaign contribution limits for legislative and statewide candidates for public office?
14. What is your position on restricting campaign contributions from registered lobbyists, placement agents and those who do business with the state?
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.)
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?
17. What is your position on requiring candidates to include full name, home address, and employer/business name for each contribution and bundler?
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?



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20. What is your position on improving disclosure of independent expenditures such as requiring disclosure of electioneering activities and linking expenditures to candidates targeted?
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?
22. What is your position on creating an enforcement entity independent of the State Board of Elections to oversee campaign finance laws?

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?
24. What is your position simplifying and modernizing the state’s court system by consolidating the nine trial courts into a two-tiered system?

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?
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?

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?
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?
29. What is your position on the use of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) rather than cash accounting for the state budget?
30. What is your position on distributing member item allocations equally among all legislators and requiring for greater accountability as expressed in S.1681A/A.855?
31. What is your position on incorporating the use of performance budgeting and outcome measurement to promote the more rational appropriation of state funds?
32. What is your position on instituting a later start date for the state fiscal year?
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?

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?
35. What is your position on enactment of legislative rules reform to strengthen rank-and-file members’ roles in the legislative process and create more equity between members?



CANDIDATE EVALUATIONS AND QUESTIONNAIRE



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	Election Reform										Campaign					Finance Reform					Judicial Reform		Ethics Reform		Budget Reform							Additional Reform																				
	Party	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q11	Q12	Q13	Q14	Q15	Q16	Q17	Q18	Q19	Q20	Q21	Q22	Q23	Q24	Q25	Q26	Q27	Q28	Q29	Q30	Q31	Q32	Q33	Q34	Q35																
A76/Kellner^	D, WF	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S								
A76/Zumbluskas	R, I	S*	S	S*	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	N/A	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S							
QUEENS																																																				
S10/Sanders	D	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S								
S11/Avella^	D, WF, I	S	N/A	S	S	N/A	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S						
S12/Arcabaschio	R, C	S	O	S	O	O	O	S	S	S	S	O	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	O	S	S	O	S	S	S									
S14/Smith^	D, WF	N/A	S	S	N/A	S	S	N/A	N/A	S	N/A	S	S	S	N/A	N/A	S	S	S	S	N/A	N/A	N/A	S	N/A	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	N/A	N/A	S	S	N/A	N/A	S	S	S	S							
S15/Addabbo^	D, WF	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S					
S15/Ulrich	R, C, I	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	O	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S					
S16/Kim	R, C	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	N/A	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S				
S16/Stavisky^	D, WF, I	O*	N/A*	S	S	O	S	S*	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S*	S	O*	S	S	S*	S	S	N/A	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S					
A24/Weprin^	D, WF, I	S	N/A	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	N/A	S	N/A	N/A	S	S	S	S	N/A	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S					
A25/Fuchs	R	O	S	S	S	O	O	O	O	O	O	S	O	O	S	O	O	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	N/A	S	O	S	S	S	S	O	S	N/A	N/A	S	S	N/A	N/A	S	S	S	S	S	S	S					
A25/Iannece	C	S	S	S	S	S	N/A	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S				
A25/Rozic	D, WF	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S			
A28/Hevesi^	D, WF	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S			
A29/Scarborough^	D, WF	S	N/A*	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	N/A*	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	N/A	S	S	S	S	N/A*	N/A*	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S			
A33/Clark^	D, WF	S	O	S	S	O	S	S	S	S*	O	S	S	S*	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S*	O*	N/A	N/A	S	S	N/A	N/A	S	S	N/A	S	S			
A33/Vanel	MJP	S	N/A	O*	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	N/A	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	N/A	N/A	S	N/A	S	N/A	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S				
A36/Simotas^	D, WF	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S		
A40/Gim	R	S	S	O*	S	S*	O*	S	S	S	S	S	S*	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	O*	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O*	S	S*	S	S	S				
A40/Kim	D, WF, I	S	S*	S*	S	N/A	S	S*	S	S	N/A	S	S	S	S*	S	S	N/A*	S	S	S	S*	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S			
A40/Scandalios	CTP	S	S	S	S	O	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	N/A	S	S	S	S	S			
STATEN ISLAND																																																				
S23/Savino^	D, WF, I	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S				
S24/Carsel	D, WF	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S		
A62/Borelli	R, C, I	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	O	S	O	O	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
A62/Mascolo	D	S	S	S	S	S	O	O	S	O	O	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S		
A64/Malliotakis	R, C, I	S	O	S	S	O	N/A	O	S	O	N/A	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	N/A	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S		
A64/Mancuso	D, WF	S	O	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S

KEY: Citizens Union endorsed candidates in bold. *Italicized* candidates preferred in primary. ^ Incumbent legislator S = Support O = Oppose N/A = No answer or undecided * = Nuanced answer