



2014 QUESTIONNAIRE FOR CANDIDATES FOR THE
OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

Citizens Union would appreciate your responses to the following questions related to policy issues facing the State of New York and our interest in reforming how state government operates. Responses to these questions will be one of several factors Citizens Union will use to evaluate candidates running for office in order to determine our “Endorsed Candidates” for the general election.

We plan to make public your responses to this questionnaire in our Voters Directory and in other appropriate venues.

We thank you very much for your response.

Candidate Name: Eric Schneiderman Age: 59

Campaign Address: 82 Nassau St, Suite 250 NY NY

Campaign Telephone Number: (917) 922-8944 Fax: () _____

Party Affiliation(s): D Campaign Manager Name: Matt Tepper

Website & Email:
http://ericshneiderman.com mtepper@schneiderman.com

Education: Amherst College, Amherst, MA & Harvard Law School, Boston, MA

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

New York State Attorney General (2011)

Previous Offices and Campaigns: NYS Senator (1998-2011)

Are you willing to be interviewed by CU’s Local Candidates Committee? YES 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 NO _____

Signature of Candidate:  Date: Oct 6, 2014

I. REFORM ISSUES

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

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| 1. What is your position on amending the constitution to allow for no-excuse absentee voting? | Support |
| 2. What is your position on instituting early voting in New York State to allow voters to cast their votes at more convenient times over a period of several days? | Support |
| 3. 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 updated automatically? | Support |
| 4. What is your position on consolidating the state and federal primary to the third week in June, while ensuring that the legislative session ends at least two weeks prior? | Support |
| 5. What is your position on restructuring the state Board of Elections and changing the administration of elections by amending the constitution to abolish the strict two-party division of governance and operation? | Support |
| 6. What is your position on amending the constitution to allow for Election Day Voter Registration? | Support |
| 7. What is your position on automatically granting New Yorkers on parole the ability to vote? Currently those on parole may obtain a Certificate of Good Conduct or Relief to have their right to vote restored, but few of these are granted, and they cannot be applied for immediately upon release. | Support |
| 8. What is your position on making it easier for candidates to appear on the ballot by lowering signature requirements and utilizing less burdensome witness signature requirements? | Support |
| 9. 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 |
| 10. What is your position on reforming the special election process, utilizing a nonpartisan special election for state legislative vacancies, as proposed by S.161/A.5290 ? | Support |
| 11. What is your position on instituting Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) for primary elections in citywide election in New York City, effectively eliminating the need for a separate runoff election? | Support |

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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| 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 |

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM (CONTINUED)

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| 15. What is your position on limiting or banning campaign contributions from corporations, LLCs, and LLPs? (Note: such entities would have the constitutionally-protected right to form separate political action committees.) | 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 the full name, home address, and employer/business name for each contribution and bundler? | Support |
| 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? | 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 in which they run? | Support |
| 22. What is your position on clarifying the definition of coordination between candidates and political committees to ensure candidate contribution limits are not exceeded, and expenditures and contributions are properly reported? | Support |

JUDICIAL REFORM

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| 23. What is your position simplifying and modernizing the state’s court system by consolidating the nine trial courts into a two-tiered system? <i>The Office of the Attorney General appears in front of numerous courts in New York and I take no position on this specific proposal except to say that I strongly support simplifying and modernizing the courts.</i> | |
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ETHICS REFORM

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| 24. 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? | Support |
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BUDGET REFORM

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| 25. 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 |
| 26. 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 |
| 27. What is your position on ensuring adequate disclosure and itemization of discretionary funds, including member items and lump sum funds, as well as reporting on their usage? | Support |
| 28. 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? <i>The legality of passing substantive legislation through the budget process has been re-affirmed by the courts. I support all reforms that improve the transparency of the legislative process, provide the legislature and the public opportunity to comment on legislation, and appropriately address the separation of powers.</i> | |

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ADDITIONAL REFORM

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| <p>29. What is your position on having the Executive Director of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey appointed directly by the Board of Commissioners, and having the position of Chair of the Board rotated between representatives of New York and New Jersey?</p> <p><i>While there are a number of ways to achieve greater accountability and transparency at the Port Authority, one thing is clear: the current structure and appointment process at the Port Authority needs to change.</i></p> | <p>Support</p> |
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Regarding your views on the issues listed previously, the questions below are intended for candidates to further describe their positions on these and other issues related to political reform.

1. How would you address public misconduct of elected officials? How would you use the enforcement mechanisms provided to the Office of Attorney General in pursuing violations of the state’s campaign finance and ethics laws? Do you believe that greater responsibility should be given to the office to investigate corruption and how would you achieve that? Would you publicly ask the governor to empower you with greater authority to oversee public corruption and enforce related laws, particularly in the area of elections and campaign finance? In what ways, if any, should the attorney general work with district attorneys to address public corruption?

Public corruption and official abuse of power undermines the trust of the people in our democracy and diminishes the ability of government to provide critical services. Since becoming Attorney General, I have and I will continue to address misconduct by public officials by being extremely aggressive and creative in bringing these prosecutions. Over the last four years I have brought corruption cases against 50 individuals from around the state. This includes a sitting State Senator, city council members, town supervisors, heads of public charities, and other public officials from across the state. As this response was being prepared, we arrested a sitting Assemblyman as part of a joint investigation into per diem fraud and improper campaign expenses.

I believe the Office of the Attorney General should have original criminal jurisdiction to investigate and prosecute public corruption crimes and have stated so publically and to the Governor. Absent that, however, I have taken two steps to greatly expand my office’s power and ability to fight public corruption. First, I appointed Public Integrity Officers in every regional office, so that whistleblowers have a place to report local public corruption without fear of reprisal or of local politics influencing the outcome. Second, I entered into a groundbreaking agreement with the State Comptroller, which dramatically expanded the jurisdiction of the office over cases involving abuse of public funds. Much of our success in fighting public corruption was due to these important steps.

Even though the attorney general’s office presently lacks original jurisdiction to pursue violations of the ethics, campaign finance, and election laws, I will continue to use all investigatory tools at my disposal, including the False Claims Act, Executive 63(12), the Martin Act, and other avenues to investigate, expose, and prosecute public corruption. I will also work with the Board of Elections, as that agency now has to power to refer matters to my office.

The attorney general's office should collaborate with local DAs, particularly in cases of public corruption, where the offending acts may have occurred outside the DAs jurisdiction or where the DA may appear to have conflicts with prosecuting local politicians. While DAs cannot legally refer matters to the attorney general's office, assistant attorneys general can be cross-designated or appointed special prosecutors; this has occurred in my tenure and will continue as needed.

2. Do you support measures to limit the role of money in elections and politics, such as substantially reducing contribution limits and/or instituting a matching public campaign financing system at the state level? Absent a change in the law, what would you do as a candidate, or attorney general, to set an example in diminishing the influence of money in campaigns? If elected, would you set an example on campaign finance reform by voluntarily limiting the size of campaign contributions you receive by an amount significantly less than the current limit, should reforms not be enacted?

I have been a vocal champion of meaningful campaign finance reform and public financing of elections since before I served as counsel to New York City's Clean Money, Clean Elections campaign and helped to enact the matching system that has been so successful in New York City. I support a statewide matching-based public campaign financing system similar to the New York City model. I do not think that a self-imposed limitation—beyond the decision to require all donors to make the disclaimer I refer to in question 5—would meaningfully promote the cause of across-the-board, statutory reform, and might in fact disadvantage candidates, like me, who support such reform.

3. Given the attorney general's role with the Charities Bureau overseeing non-profits, many of which are politically active, how would you review and/or improve the new 2013 rules governing charities' disclosures if elected?

In the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court's 2010 Citizens United decision, 501(c)(4) organizations, which are exempt from federal and state taxes because they purportedly engage in the "promotion of social welfare," have increasingly become vehicles for political activity, including funding sham "issue ads" that attack candidates for public office. 501(c)(4)s have become attractive conduits for this sort of activity because they can raise and spend unlimited funds, conceal their funding sources, and avoid paying corporate taxes on expenditures. In the last two election cycles, election spending through 501(c)(4)s exceeded spending through traditional political action committees.

I took an aggressive step to shine a light on this practice. Through the regulatory authority of our charities bureau, we proffered new charities regulations that are a big step toward greater transparency in so-called "dark money" non-profits. We crafted the regulations with considerable input from government reform leaders like Citizens Union and achieved a system of meaningful transparency that will provide OAG with information sufficient to launch investigations against truly bad actors.

Because charities are required by law to make disclosures on an annual basis based on their fiscal year, the regulations could not require disclosure of independent expenditures by these organizations when disclosure matters most to the public – near Election Day. The law enacted last session by the legislature and signed by the Governor requires registration of entities engaged in independent expenditures, timely disclosure of most independent expenditures, and disclosure of the persons who contributed to the expenditure. In short, the new law accomplishes many of the same goals as my regulations and achieves disclosure of election-related spending in a more prompt manner and as quickly as 24 hours after the

expenditure in the 30 days before an election. Given the overlap of the new law with OAG's regulations, its preferred disclosure method, and my ongoing desire to promote greater efficiencies and remove redundancies in the non-profit sector, it is appropriate that the OAG regulations will be withdrawn.

4. Do you support stricter limits on gifts and other benefits, such as honoraria, public officials may receive from lobbyists, contractors and others attempting to influence the political process?

I support strict limits on gifts and benefits generally, in particular with respect to benefits received from lobbyists and contractors.

5. Do you believe there is a conflict of interest in raising funds from companies you may regulate and have to take action against? Are there parameters you set or you believe should be established in statute to limit potential conflicts of interest?

The Office of the Attorney General has broad jurisdiction, and nearly any entity with dealings in the state of New York could at some point be investigated by or have a matter before the office. However, the integrity of the Attorney General's office must be beyond reproach. That's why, though not required by law, we require that all donors confirm on their contribution forms that they do not have any matters currently before the office and have not had matters before the office in the preceding ninety days.

Of course, the best and most effective way to systematically eliminate both real and perceived conflicts is to enact legislation for public financing of campaigns and require strict disclosure of contributor information including name of employer, business address (if any), and profession.

6. Do you support a system of selecting Supreme Court judges through an appointment process where candidates are recommended by a commission, on the basis of merit and qualifications? If not, what judicial selection mechanisms do you support?

Yes, I would support an appointment process where candidates are recommended by citizens' committees on the basis of merit and qualifications.

7. What do you believe is the proper role of the Office of Attorney General in monitoring the financial industries and ensuring Wall Street's compliance with finance regulations, as well as any related criminal laws? If elected, would you push to reform legislation regarding oversight of financial industries?

I believe the New York Attorney General has an obligation to police Wall Street and I have used every tool at my disposal to do it. Though the Martin Act is strongest as a law enforcement tool, when used properly it can not only hold firms accountable for past conduct, it can change future conduct for the whole market.

I have used the Office to address the mortgage crisis. When the five largest mortgage servicing banks were on the verge of securing a settlement releasing them from liability for virtually all mortgage-related misconduct, including frauds that contributed to the crisis, I stopped that deal and secured a larger settlement which preserved a wide range of claims for further investigation and prosecution.

The results of our effort in this area are historic. After being appointed by President Obama to co-chair a state and federal task force investigating wrongdoing in the residential mortgage-backed securities (RMBS) market, we have brought suits against and resolved claims against three major banks reaching \$35 billion in relief. Our work in this area continues.

Part of the job of the New York Attorney General is to stay on top of emergent Wall Street practices that may harm investors and the markets at large. My investigation into Insider Trading 2.0 – the practice where high speed traders’ use advanced technology and special arrangements to get an early jump on market-moving information – has yielded significant results and market-wide reforms. In the last year, we forced Thomson Reuters to stop selling a two-second advanced peak at a monthly consumer confidence index to a select group of high frequency traders; convinced the major news release distribution firms to stop selling information directly to high frequency traders; pressed BlackRock to stop an industry survey program that could glean an early peak an analyst sentiment; and forced 18 of the largest financial firms to agree to stop participating in similar surveys. Our related investigation into high speed trading – both the problems and the benefits – especially in dark pools, has triggered a national conversation and prompted reform proposals at the national level. Most recently, we filed a first-of-its-kind complaint against Barclays detailing misrepresentations made in connection with high frequency traders in its dark pool.

In a second term, I will introduce legislation allowing for whistleblower protections and incentives for Martin Act violations. Currently, this powerful securities law neither protects nor incentivizes whistleblowers to come forward. Building on our success with the enhanced amendments to the False Claims Act, I will propose similar language be added to the Martin Act.

8. As part of the recent mortgage settlements with JP Morgan, the Office of the Attorney General has the authority to allocate upwards of \$81 million in trust to “ameliorate the effects of the foreclosure crisis, to enhance law enforcement efforts to prevent and prosecute financial fraud or unfair or deceptive acts or practices, and to otherwise promote the interests of the investing public.” How would you allocate the funds to address those goals?

In March of 2012, I signed the National Mortgage Settlement, a \$25 Billion agreement with the nation’s five largest mortgage servicers. As part of the penalty, each state was awarded hard dollar payments. New York received roughly \$130,000,000. As part of the JP Morgan Chase settlement that occurred last year, New York received roughly \$81,000,000 in hard dollar awards.

In 2012, I announced a \$60 million, three year commitment to support the Homeowner Protection Program (HOPP), a housing counseling and legal services network that provides direct assistance to homeowners struggling to avoid foreclosure. The program supports 89 organizations servicing every county in the state of New York. To date, more than 30,000 families in New York have received services from HOPP grantees, and nearly a third of those families have loan modifications either pending or already approved.

In 2013, I announced \$13 million in funding under the Community Revitalization Initiative to support Land Banks across New York State. Land Banks were created through state legislation and are non-profit community development organizations dedicated to removing blight and rebuilding communities impacted by the foreclosure crisis. There are now 10 Land Banks operating in New York State and, thanks to legislation I introduced, there is statutory authority to form another 10 Land Banks. In June, I

announced I will commit another \$20 Million to support Land Banks through a competitive application process. Funding awards will be announced in October 2014.

In July, I announced the launch of the New York State Mortgage Assistance Program (NY-MAP), a consumer loan program that enables homeowners to address outstanding debt as a means of securing a loan modification. Too often, homeowners lose their home over a relatively small debt such as mortgage arrears, back property taxes, or an outstanding second or third lien. My office estimates that over the next 18 months NY-MAP will be able to provide direct consumer loans, with no interest or monthly payments due, to roughly 600 struggling families in NY. Every loan will enable the family to stay in their home and achieve affordable monthly mortgage payments.

On September 29, I announced that I am committing \$40 million of the JP Morgan settlement to expand the HOPP program for an additional 2 years. This means that these crucial services will remain available to struggling homeowners through the third quarter of 2017, bringing our total commitment to \$100 Million.

9. What do you believe is the proper role of the Office of Attorney General in overseeing public authorities? What steps, if any, should be taken to promote greater transparency and accountability of our state's public authorities?

The Public Authorities Reform Act in 2009 went a long way to improving transparency and accountability in Public Authorities. Nevertheless, there is more to be done and we continue to work with the Inspectors General of public authorities to root out and prosecute corruption within and fraud against the agencies. Further, using my charities jurisdiction, I will also continue to investigate and prosecute acts of fraud at local development corporations that, though often technically not designated as public authorities, serve similar purposes and require similar oversight.

10. What is your position on the redistricting proposition amending the constitution on the November ballot that would create an independent commission with appointees split evenly between the majority and minority parties?

I strongly support independent redistricting and see it as a vital part of any government reform package. In the Senate, I sponsored legislation to reform the redistricting process because I believe that voters should choose their elected officials, not the other way around. I have personally been a victim of gerrymandering: the Senate Republicans targeted me specifically for standing up to their attempts to hold onto their long-term monopoly on power.

I support establishing a diverse, non-political, non-partisan redistricting commission on which no elected official, their relatives, lobbyists or party officials may serve; making all districts as equal in population as reasonably possible; ensuring districts support the voting rights of minorities; and making districts compact and contiguous.

While the process proposed in the amendment is imperfect and still requires legislative approval of the districts, I am hopeful that it will lead to fairer districts and better outcomes for the public.

II. POLICY ISSUES

11. If elected to the Office of Attorney General, how would you organize the office into different divisions? Are there any bureaus you would want to create, remove, or alter?

Since I have taken office, I have made meaningful organizational changes. I created the Taxpayer Protection Bureau to go after large-scale tax cheats and fraudulent government contractors. As part of my initiative to combat sex and labor trafficking, I implemented an Upstate Task Force, which draws on resources from the Organized Crime Task Force, Labor Bureau, and Civil Rights Bureau to investigate potential cases, prosecute perpetrators, and connect survivors with service providers who specialize in their unique needs. And to better execute and coordinate criminal prosecutions, I re-organized the Criminal Prosecutions Bureau to become the Criminal Enforcement and Financial Crimes Bureau which now better supports other bureaus on major criminal cases.

12. How would your approach to the position and priorities while in office differ or resemble that of your predecessor?

Since 2011, I have built upon and expanded the rich tradition of the Office of the New York Attorney General as an aggressive force for good in the State and in the Country. I plan to continue to do so if granted a second term.

13. What are your thoughts on striking the appropriate balance between the attorney general's role as the lawyer representing the state's officials, and as an independently elected government official?

The duty of the attorney general is first and foremost to represent the interests of New Yorkers. The attorney general's office represents state agencies and, sometimes, state officers, when they are being sued for actions taken in the course of their legitimate public duties. This is an important obligation of the attorney general's office and is a service to all New Yorkers, for instance, to try to reduce litigation recoveries against the state that are ultimately paid by the taxpayers. But I believe there is no such obligation to represent those that breach their duty of trust to the state. When actions by a public officer crosses the line, we don't defend them, we prosecute them. That's why I have investigated and prosecuted numerous state and local officials, including those that work in so-called "client agencies", because it is in the interests of all New Yorkers to safeguard the public trust from those that would seek to violate it. I have long said that when you have faith in the public sector, you must also be among the harshest critics of corruption, waste, and fraud in government. That is why, as Attorney General, I believe I can be both the State's top attorney and combat the corrosiveness of corruption as an independently elected government official.

14. If elected, how would you leverage the Office of the Attorney General to protect the public from fraud and/or the misuse of taxpayer funds in the public or private sector?

Protecting taxpayers has been one of my priorities since I was in the Senate. There I passed enhancements to the New York False Claims Act which gave the Attorney General additional tools to crack down on government contracting fraud and large-scale tax cheats. Upon taking office, I created the Taxpayer Protection Bureau to focus on non-health care-related contractor fraud to supplement the work of the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit. Since 2011, these bureaus have recovered nearly

\$900,000,000 from those that thought they could bilk the government and secured over 390 corporate and individual convictions. We're not stopping there. The Taxpayer Protection Bureau is engaged in groundbreaking litigation, seeking over \$300,000,000 in back-taxes and penalties from Sprint for deliberately under-collecting and underpaying millions of dollars in New York State and local sales taxes on flat-rate access charges for wireless calling plans. In my second term, I will continue to prioritize the work of these important bureaus and hold fraudulent government contractors and corporate tax-cheats accountable.

15. What, if any, are the key social issues of the state that you would address should you be elected to the Office of Attorney General? How would you address them?

Every day, my Office addresses numerous issues of tremendous social import, with the single unifying theme being that there needs to be one set of rules for everyone. Fundamental fairness is a social issue that informs all social issues. For instance:

- When it comes to the fight for fair wages, I have recovered over \$17 million in restitution for almost 14,000 victims of wage theft and recovered more than \$2 million in penalties and other monies owed to the state from employers who sought to cheat their workers.*
- In defense of New Yorker's civil rights, I sued a bank that redlined against African-Americans and addressed the intolerable practice of racial profiling at Barney's and Macy's.*
- We have held accountable healthcare companies that have tried to cheat New Yorkers by refusing to reimburse out-of-network expenses, wrongfully denying payment for mental health treatment, and denying coverage for breast-reconstruction surgery following mastectomies.*
- To shield New York women from the effect of the U.S. Supreme Court's unjust decision in Burwell v. Hobby Lobby, I proposed the Reproductive Rights Disclosure Act, which would require employers both to give current employees 90 days' notice before changing contraceptive coverage and to notify prospective employees of any contraceptive coverage they offer their employees.*

16. What, if any, would be your top legislative priorities to pursue should you be elected to the Office of Attorney General. What specific solutions would you put forward?

Since taking office I have introduced and passed numerous pieces of legislation to help New Yorkers.

First, we passed the Internet System for Tracking Over-Prescribing, or I-STOP which stemmed the use of forged and stolen prescriptions, doctor shopping, and over-prescribing. I-STOP creates a real-time database of patient prescription histories that physicians are required to consult before writing a prescription for a Schedule II, III or IV narcotic. It also requires pharmacists to update the database when filling prescriptions, and makes New York one of the first states to schedule universal e-prescribing, which will virtually eliminate forged and stolen prescriptions.

Second, we wrote and passed the Nonprofit Revitalization Act, the first major overhaul of New York's charities laws in more than 40 years. The law reduces administrative burdens, including allowing nonprofits to incorporate, dissolve and merge more easily; communicate and hold meetings using modern technology like videoconferencing; and enter transactions without going to court. It also improves nonprofit oversight and governance. Nonprofit boards will have to perform stricter oversight

of insider deals, and we will be better able to hold insiders accountable for abuse. The law also requires the adoption of more robust financial oversight requirements, conflict of interest policies, and policies to protect whistleblowers.

Third, we passed two laws crucial to helping New York homeowners. In 2013, we passed the Certificate of Merit law which brings greater integrity to the foreclosure process and expedites homeowners' participation in court-supervised mediation sessions where they can negotiate workable alternatives to foreclosure with their lender. This past session, the legislature passed our land bank proposal, which added 10 additional land banks, which are a critical tool to help communities that are plagued by vacant and abandoned properties to recover from the housing crisis.

In the last legislative session, I introduced and supported several bills dealing with housing (Zombie Foreclosures) Environment (Microbead-Free Waters Act & the Public Utility Storm Hardening Act), consumer (Consumer Credit Fairness Act) and workers' rights (Payroll Card Act). I plan to continue to push these and other bills in the next legislative session.

I also have two bills in the area of voting rights. The first, introduced in 2014, is the Voter Intimidation Prevention Act, which aims to improve New York's ability to identify, document, and prosecute designated poll watchers who seek to unlawfully disenfranchise qualified voters on Election Day. Under current law, a poll watcher is permitted to challenge the qualifications of a voter who is registered and listed in the poll book of his or her polling place with little to no proof that the challenged voter is unqualified. Upon such a challenge, the voter is required to recite an oath affirming his or her qualifications and to answer any follow up questions a poll inspector may have. Incredibly, nothing is required of the challenger.

The Act seeks to correct this anomaly by requiring an Election Day challenger to fill out a state prescribed form-affidavit, documenting the basis for his or her challenge along with an oath that such challenger is qualified, under law, to be a poll watcher that may challenge voters at the applicable polling place. Each affidavit would be retained by the local board of elections along with the challenge report which, under this Act, would now include the name and address of the challenger.

I also support a broader voter protection bill, the "New York Votes Act". This legislation, which has not yet been introduced, includes (i) Early Voting; (ii) "Automatic" Voter Registration (through certain New York agencies); (iii) "No Excuse" Absentee Voting; (iv) Streamlined Voter Enrollment and Registration Deadlines; (v) "Same-Day" Voter Registration; (vi) Registering Newly Eligible Voters (such as high school graduation ceremonies, orientation meetings at state and public colleges and universities, and naturalization proceedings); (vii) Improved Poll Worker Training and Recruitment; (viii) Emergency Election Requirements; (ix) Ballot Access Protection (including the Voter Protection Act requirements)

**Please return to: Citizens Union, Local Candidates Committee
299 Broadway, Suite 700 New York, NY 10007
Or via fax at 212.227.0345**

III. CAMPAIGN PROMISES MADE TO VOTERS (PAST and CURRENT)

In addition to evaluating their stances on the issues above, Citizens Union will assess incumbents on how well they kept the promises they made to voters during the previous election.

As an elected official who currently holds an office other than the one for which you are running,

- a. what were the top five promises or goals you made to your constituents when you ran for your current seat and what progress has been made in keeping those promises, and
- b. what are the top five promises or goals you are making to the voters during this campaign?

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

A. TOP FIVE CAMPAIGN PROMISES OR GOALS FROM 2010

Four years ago, I answered these questions for Citizen's Union and I'm proud to say I've kept every promise. First, I promised to go after public corruption in Albany and in New York's local governments. My office has done so, going after everything from state senators and city councilmembers who directed member items to sham non-profits, to town supervisors who stole public property, to crooked public employees who received bribes or kickbacks.

This promise was fulfilled, in no small part, because of the second promise-made: putting a public integrity officer in every regional office. Not only has that initiative generated leads for cases, it has also been an important tool in educating local government employees on best practices.

Third, as promised, I created a bureau dedicated to helping district attorneys review cases of wrongful convictions. In addition to so-doing, the Bureau helped draft the Unjust Imprisonment Act (introduced in 2014) which amends Section 8-b of the New York State Court of Claims Act to allow persons who are convicted of a crime, imprisoned and subsequently pardoned, or have their conviction reversed or vacated on certain specified grounds, to present a claim for damages against the State.

Fourth, I promised to use my power to police the use of hydraulic fracturing in New York State; I did so, successfully defending New York's right to know all the facts before jumping into a controversial and potentially environmentally damaging policy.

Finally, I promised to crack down on wage theft, and I've done so in a big way. My Labor Bureau has recovered more than \$17 million in restitution for almost 14,000 workers cheated by their employers and secured \$2 million in penalties against those employers.

B. TOP FIVE 2014 CAMPAIGN PROMISES

I am incredibly proud of what I have accomplished in my first term. If I am fortunate enough to be offered a second term by the people of New York, I will continue to:

1. *Fight for a vision of New York where there are one set of rules for everyone, no matter how powerful, including:*
 - *continuing to prosecute corrupt officials,*
 - *fighting to hold the bad actors on Wall Street accountable, and*
 - *cracking down on employers who cheat their workers out of their wages and fraudsters who scam senior citizens, veterans and our most vulnerable New Yorkers.*
2. *Find creative solutions to problems that Washington has failed to address, but present real challenges to New Yorkers, including:*
 - *requiring background checks for guns sold at gun shows*
 - *using the resources from the institutions that crashed our economy to help struggling New York families get back on their feet, and*
 - *ending the epidemic of prescription drug abuse that plagues our communities.*
3. *Make our streets and our communities safer, including by*
 - *finding creative solutions to crime like the Secure Our Smartphones Initiative,*
 - *fostering innovative approaches to combating synthetic drugs, and*
 - *forging partnerships with states and local governments along known drug corridors maximizing coordination and efficiency.*
4. *Introduce and pass important pieces of legislation including:*
 - *The New York Votes Act & The Voter Protection Act; and*
 - *Whistleblower incentives and protections for the Martin Act*
5. *Protect taxpayers from fraud through continued enforcement of the New York False Claims Act.*

Please return to: Citizens Union, Local Candidates Committee
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via fax to 212.227.0345 or via email to twerber@citizensunion.org