



## 2014

## CITIZENS UNION VOTERS DIRECTORY

A NONPARTISAN GUIDE TO INFORMED VOTING

VISIT WWW.CITIZENSUNION.ORG FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

**PROP** 

# VOTE YES FOR PROGRESS

A FAIR REDISTRICTING PROCESS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH



## CITIZENS UNION ENDORSED CANDIDATES - 2014 GENERAL ELECTION

### STATEWIDE OFFICIALS

Governor Please visit www.citizensunion.org for updates on

endorsement decision

Comptroller Tom DiNapoli (D, WF, I, WEP)

Attorney General Eric Schneiderman (D, WF, I, WEP)

**BROOKLYN** 

Senate District 22 Martin J. Golden (R, C, I)
Assembly District 44 James F. Brennan (D, WF)

Assembly District 59 No Endorsement

**MANHATTAN** 

Senate District 27 Brad Hoylman (D, WF)

Assembly District 75 Richard Gottfried (D, WF)
Assembly District 76 Rebecca Seawright (D, WF)

**QUEENS** 

Senate District 15 Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr. (D)

Assembly District 40 Ron Kim (D, WF)

## STATEN ISLAND LEGISLATORS

Assembly District 64 Nicole Malliotakis (R, C, I)

### **BALLOT PROPOSALS**

Proposal 1 to Revise the State's Redistricting Procedure

YES
Proposal 2 to Permit Electronic Distribution of State Legislative Bills

YES
Proposal 3 to Authorize the Smart Schools Bond Act of 2014

No position

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Can't find your polling site? Visit **nyc.pollsitelocator.com** to enter your address and find your site and ballot information, or call the Board of Elections at **1-866-VOTE-NYC** 

The Citizens Union Voter Directory Online has all this information and more. Browse the online directory, candidates' questionnaires, and CU position statements at www.citizensunion.org

Stay up to date with the latest happenings of the CU team and our work by liking our Facebook page (facebook.com/citizensunion) and following us on Twitter (@citizensunionny)



## **VOTERS DIRECTORY GENERAL ELECTION 2014**

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### MISSION

Citizens Union (CU) is a nonpartisan good government group dedicated to making democracy work for all New Yorkers. Citizens Union serves 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.

We are New Yorkers from diverse backgrounds and political beliefs, connected to our communities and united in our commitment to put the city's long-term interest ahead of all special interests. Principled and pragmatic, Citizens Union is an independent force for constructive reform, driving policy and educating the public to achieve accountable government in the City and State of New York.

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.

## **2014 MID-YEAR REVIEW**

Over the past year, Citizens Union has made notable progress in making our city and state government more open and accountable, our politics cleaner, and our elections fairer. Highlights of our successful efforts to "Make Democracy Work for All New Yorkers" include:

**REFORMING THE REDISTRICTING PROCESS IN NYS**: Giving New Yorkers the opportunity to vote for a CU-supported ballot proposal this General Election, November 4th, to end partisan gerrymandering by establishing a fair redistricting process with a politically balanced redistricting commission and new criteria to draw legislative maps.

THE CORRUPTION TRACKER: CU's running tally monitoring ethical misconduct in Albany, which has shown that 31 legislators have engaged in serious ethical or criminal misconduct since 1999 – 28 legislators have left or were forced from office with 3 more on their way out due to indictments or a sexual harassment scandal (as of the printing of this directory – we can't promise that there haven't been more since then).

**MORE READABLE ELECTION BALLOTS**: After consistent prodding from CU and the passage of a city law, the City Board of Elections now records its public meetings, putting the video online, and is printing more readable ballots with larger type.

**REFORMING THE PORT AUTHORITY OF NY AND NJ**: The legislature passed two bills which now await the Governor's signature and would ensure that the Port Authority is subject to the state's Freedom of Information Law, and that it has stronger governance, ethics, and conflicts of interest policies.

**BETTER CITY COUNCIL RULES**: The NYC Council enacted new rules this year at CU's recommendation that greatly equalized discretionary funding among members, and passed the first budget in years that ended the annual budget dance of cutting and restoring city services.



### **PURPOSE**

On Tuesday, November 4th, New Yorkers registered to vote will elect the NYS governor, lieutenant governor, comptroller, and attorney general. Voters will also elect their respective districts' US congressional representatives, state senators and assembly members, and in some districts, judges. New Yorkers will also be presented with 3 ballot proposals.

To help our supportive Citizens Union members prepare to vote in the upcoming general election, we bring you our 2014 General Election Voters Directory, which provides:

- An overview of the 2014 general elections, including voting and registration information and listings of every contest for all races that will be on the ballot in New York City on November 4, 2014.
- A roster of Citizens Unions' endorsed candidates in several key districts, and information about the rigorous evaluation process and assessments of candidates based on that criteria.
- Information about the 3 ballot proposals which will appear on the ballot.

We caution voters that there may be last minute elimination or reinstatement of candidates on the ballot, so the final list of candidates on your ballot may change between the directory's printing and election day. To confirm the candidates for the election, visit the NYC Board of Elections website at

http://vote.nyc.ny.us or call (866) VOTE-NYC.

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

This Voters Directory would not be possible without the hard work of members of the Citizens Union Board of Directors, Local Candidates Committee, staff and our interns.

59 volunteer LCC members, 7 interns, and 4 staff members formed nonpartisan teams to interview and evaluate 49 candidates in 23 races for state senate and assembly, as well as 5 candidates for statewide office this summer and fall. We thank them for contributing their time, energy, expertise and commitment over the 2014 election cycle.

We thank you for your support, and hope you enjoy the latest edition of the Voters Directory.



## GENERAL ELECTION SNAPSHOT STATEWIDE ELECTIONS

Please note that this section lists competitive races in which general elections will take place on November 4th, and does not include elections where candidates are unopposed.

The 2014 General Election includes races for New York State governor, comptroller, attorney general, state senators, and assembly members, as well as representatives to the United States Congress and supreme court justices.

^ denotes that the candidate submitted the Citizens Union questionnaire, which can be found on pages 30-33 for legistlative candidates, and www.citizensunion.org for statewide candidates

\* denotes that the district spans more than one county

**Bold** denotes that the candidate is endorsed by Citizens Union in the 2014 General Election

Italics denotes that the candidate was preferred by Citizens Union in the 2014 Primary Election

To obtain further information, visit the NYC Board of Elections website at http://vote. nyc.ny.us or call (866) VOTE-NYC.

P	Δ	R٦	ΓΥ	K	FΥ

С	Conservative	WF	Working Families	PGP	Progressive
D	Democrat	AFC	Allen 4 Congress	SAP	Sapient
G	Green	DTD	Dump the Dump	SCC	StopCommonCore
I	Independence	FEP	Flourish Every Person	WEP	Women's Equality
L	Libertarian		Can Shine Like the Sun		
R	Republican	HJP	The Housing & Jobs		

Please turn to page 25 for Citizens Union's evaluations of statewide candidates.

## **GOVERNOR AND LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR CANDIDATES**

Rob Astorino<sup>^</sup> and Christopher Moss (R, C, SCC) Steven Cohn and Bobby K. Kalotee (SAP) Andrew Cuomo<sup>^</sup> and Kathy Hochul (D, WF, I, WEP) (Incumbent) Howie Hawkins<sup>^</sup> and Brian Jones (G) Michael McDermott and Christopher Edes (L)

## **COMPTROLLER CANDIDATES**

Robert Antonacci (R, C, SCC) Tom DiNapoli<sup>^</sup> (D, WF, I, WEP) (Incumbent) John Clifton (L) Theresa Portelli (G)

### ATTORNEY GENERAL CANDIDATES

John Cahill (R, C, SCC) Carl Person (L)

Ramon Jimenez (G) Eric Schneiderman<sup>^</sup> (D, WF, I, WEP) (Incumbent)



## GENERAL ELECTION SNAPSHOT THE BRONX BALLOT

## **UNITED STATES CONGRESS**

District 13\* Charles B. Rangel (D) (Incumbent) Daniel Rivera (G)

Kenneth Schaeffer (WF)

District 15 William Edstrom (G) Eduardo Ramirez (C)

José E. Serrano (D, WF) (Incumbent)

District 14\* Joseph Crowley (D, WF) (Incumbent)

Elizabeth Perri (C)

## **NEW YORK STATE SENATE**

District 29\* Kevin Barrett (R, C) District 34\* Frank Dellavalle (C)

> Jose M. Serrano<sup>^</sup> (D, WF) (Incumbent) Jeffrey D. Klein<sup>^</sup> (D, I, WEP) (Incumbent)

Carl Lundgren (G) District 32 Jasmine Marte (C) Aleksander Mici (R)

> Ruben Diaz Sr. (D, R) (Incumbent) District 36\* Crystal Collins^ (I)

District 33 Jose Padilla, Jr. (I) Robert Diamond (R. C)

> Gustavo Rivera<sup>^</sup> (D, WF) (Incumbent) Ruth Hassell-Thompson (D) (Incumbent)

Steven Stern (R, C)

## **NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY**

District 77 Esperanza Reyes Acosta (R) District 83 Trevor Archer (G)

> Benjamin Eggleston (C) Carl Heastie (D) (Incumbent) Latoya Joyner<sup>^</sup> (D, WF) Benjamin Holloway (R, C)

District 78 Jose Rivera (D) (Incumbent) District 84 Carmen E. Arroyo (D) (Incumbent)

> Fernando Tirado (R, I) Angel Molina<sup>^</sup> (R) Franklin Chidi Oleh (C)

District 79 Michael Blake<sup>^</sup> (D)

Selsia Evans (R, C)

Marsha Michael<sup>^</sup> (WF)

District 81 Jeffrey Dinowitz (D, WF) (Incumbent)

District 80 Mark Gjonaj (D) (Incumbent)

Alan H. Reed (C)

Robert M. Goodman (R, C)

Janelle King (R)

District 85 Marcos Crespo (D) (Incumbent) Barbara Santander^ (C)

Daniel Zuger (G)

District 86 Jose Marte (C)

Victor Pichardo (D, WF) (Incumbent)

Rene Santos (R)

District 82 Michael Benedetto (D) (Incumbent) District 87 Michael Dennis (R, C)

> William E. Britt, Jr. (C) Michael J. Eginton (R)

Luis R. Sepulveda (D, WF) (Incumbent)

## SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

District 12 John A. Barone (D, R, C)



## GENERAL ELECTION SNAPSHOT THE BROOKLYN BALLOT

Please turn to page 35 for Citizens Union's evaluations of candidates in Brooklyn.

## UNITED STATES CONGRESS

District 7\* Jose Luis Fernandez (R)
Allan Romaguera (C)
Nydia Velázquez (D, WF) (Incumbent)

District 8\* Alan Bellone (C)
Hakeem Jeffries (D, WF) (Incumbent)

District 8\* Alan Bellone (C)
District 11\* Henry Bardel (G)
Michael Grimm (R, C, I) (Incumbent)
Domenic Recchia (D, WF)

District 9 Daniel Cavanagh (C)
Yvette D. Clarke (D, WF) (Incumbent)

Menachem Raitport (C)

## **NEW YORK STATE SENATE**

District 18 Jonathan H. Anderson (C) District 21 Herman G. Hall (C)
Martin Malave Dilan (D) (Incumbent)
Debbie Medina (WF)

District 19 John L. Sampson^ (D) (Incumbent)
Dell Smitherman^ (WF)
Elias J. Weir (C)
District 20 Jesse Hamilton^ (D)

District 20 Jesse Hamilton^ (D)

District 21 Herman G. Hall (C)
Kevin S. Parker (D, WF) (Incumbent)
Jamie Kemmerer^ (D, WF)

District 26 Wave Chan (R)
Daniel L. Squadron (D, WF) (Incumbent)

## **NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY**

District 41	Helene Weinstein (D, WF) (Incumbent) Sura Yusim (C)	District 47	Joseph Baranello (R, C) William Colton^ (D, WF) (Incumbent)
District 42	Rodneyse Bichotte <sup>^</sup> (D, WF) Brian W. Kelly (C) Matthew G. Williams (R)	District 48	Carl Caller (R) Nachman C. Caller (HJP) Dov Hikind (D, C) (Incumbent)
District 43	Karim Camara (D, WF) (Incumbent) Cartell Gore (C)	District 49	Peter Abbate (D, WF, I) (Incumbent) Henry Lavalle (R, C)
District 44	James F. Brennan^ (D, WF) (Incumbent) Mikhail Yusupov (R, C)	District 50	William S. Davidson, Jr. (R) Joseph Lentol (D) (Incumbent)
District 45	Ben Akselrod (R) Steven Cymbrowitz (D, WF, I) (Incumbent) Mikhail Usher (C)	District 51	Felix Ortiz^ (D) (Incumbent) Sandra A. Palacios-Serrano (C)
		District 52	John A. Jasilli^ (R, C)
District 46	Alec Brook-Krasny (D, WF, I) (Incumbent)		Pete Sikora^ (WF)
	Stamatis Lilikakis (R, C)		Jo Anne Simon^ (D)



## GENERAL ELECTION SNAPSHOT THE BROOKLYN BALLOT (CONTINUED)

District 54 Khorshed A. Chowdhury^ (R, C)

Kim Council^ (WF)

Erik Martin Dilan (D)

District 59 Jeffrey J. Ferretti^ (R, C)
Roxanne J. Persaud^ (D)

District 60 Charles Barron (D)

District 55 Lori A. Boozer^ (WF) Leroy R. Bates, Sr. (R, C)

Berneda Jackson (R)

Latrice Monique Walker^ (D)

District 64\* Nicole Malliotakis^ (R, C, I) (Incumbent)

Marybeth Melendez^ (D, WF)

District 56 Garnsey Lee Alston (R)
Annette Robinson (D) (Incumbent)

## SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

District 2 Kevin R. Bryant, Sr. (WF) Dennis W. Houdek (C)

Matthew A. Doheny (C) Kathy J. King (D)

Lara J. Genovesi (D) Kenneth D. Schaeffer (WF)

Anthony R. Caccamo (C) Philip J. Smallman (C)

Evelyn J. Laporte (D) Wavny Toussaint (D)

6 7



## **GENERAL ELECTION SNAPSHOT** THE MANHATTAN BALLOT

Please turn to page 38 for Citizens Union's evaluations of candidates in Manhattan.

## UNITED STATES CONGRESS

District 7\* Jose Luis Fernandez (R) Allan Romaguera (C)

District 12\* Nicholas di Iorio (R, C, I) Carolyn B. Maloney (D, WF) (Incumbent)

Nydia Velázquez (D, WF) (Incumbent)

District 13\* Charles B. Rangel (D) (Incumbent)

District 10\* Ross Brady (C) Michael Dilger (Flourish)

Daniel Rivera (G) Kenneth Schaeffer (WF)

Jerrold Nadler (D, WF) (Incumbent)

## **NEW YORK STATE SENATE**

District 27 Brad Hoylman<sup>^</sup> (D, WF) (Incumbent) District 29\* Kevin Barrett (R, C)

Frank J. Scala (R)

Jose M. Serrano<sup>^</sup> (D. WF) (Incumbent)

District 28 Liz Krueger<sup>^</sup> (D, WF) (Incumbent) Michael Zumbluskas<sup>^</sup> (R, I)

District 30 Jon Girodes (R)

Bill Perkins (D, WF) (Incumbent)

## **NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY**

District 65 Maureen Koetz<sup>^</sup> (R)

District 72 Ronnie Cabrera (R)

Guillermo Linares^ (D)

District 66 Deborah Glick (D) (Incumbent)

District 73 Donal Butterfield (G)

Alexander Meadows (PGP)

Sheldon Silver (D, WF) (Incumbent)

Keith L.T. Wright (D, WF) (Incumbent)

David B. Casavis (R, I)

Nekeshia Woods (R) Dan Quart<sup>^</sup> (D, WF) (Incumbent)

District 68 Ted Jones (R)

District 74 Bryan A. Cooper (R)

Robert J. Rodriguez (D, WF) (Incumbent) Brian Kavanagh (D, WF) (Incumbent)

District 70 Noni Moore (R)

District 75 Harry DeMell (R)

Richard Gottfried^ (D, WF) (Incumbent)

District 71 Herman D. Farrell Jr. (D) (Incumbent) District 76 David Garland^ (R, I, DTD)

Jerome Johnson (R)

Rebecca Seawright^ (D, WF)

### SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

District 1 Milton A. Tingling (D)

Kathryn E. Freed (D)



## **GENERAL ELECTION SNAPSHOT** THE QUEENS BALLOT

Please turn to page 41 for Citizens Union's evaluations of candidates in Queens.

## UNITED STATES CONGRESS

District 3\* Steve Israel (D. WF. I) (Incumbent)

Grant Lally (R, C, L)

District 8\* Alan Bellone (C)

Hakeem Jeffries (D, WF) (Incumbent)

District 5 Gregory W. Meeks (D) (Incumbent)

Allen F. Steinhardt (AFC)

District 12\* Nicholas di Iorio (R. C. I)

Carolyn B. Maloney (D, WF) (Incumbent)

District 7\* Jose Luis Fernandez (R) Allan Romaguera (C)

Nydia Velázquez (D, WF) (Incumbent)

District 14\* Joseph Crowley (D, WF) (Incumbent)

Elizabeth Perri (C)

## **NEW YORK STATE SENATE**

District 11 Tony Avella^ (D, I) (Incumbent)

Paul Gilman (G)

District 15 Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr. ^ (D) (Incumbent)

Michael Conigliaro<sup>^</sup> (R, C)

District 12 Anthony Aldorasi (SCC)

Michael Gianaris (D, WF) (Incumbent)

## **NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY**

District 37 Catherine Nolan (D, WF) (Incumbent) District 40 Phil Gim (R, I) John Kevin Wilson (L)

Ron Kim^ (D, WF) (Incumbent)

## SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

District 11 Thomas Benedetto (C)

John F. Casey (R, C) Anna Culley (D, R, C)

William V. Decandido (R)

Ronald D. Hollie (D) Leslie G. Leach (D) Carmen R. Velasquez (D)



## GENERAL ELECTION SNAPSHOT THE STATEN ISLAND BALLOT

Please turn to page 43 for Citizens Union's evaluations of candidates in Staten Island.

## UNITED STATES CONGRESS

District 11\* Henry Bardel (G)
Michael Grimm (R, C, I) (Incumbent)
Domenic Recchia (D, WF)

## **NEW YORK STATE SENATE**

District 24 Gary Carsel^ (D, WF)
Andrew J. Lanza (R, C, I) (Incumbent)

### NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY

District 63 Michael Cusick (D, I) (Incumbent) Joseph Tirone, Jr. ^ (R, C)

District 64\* Nicole Malliotakis^ (R, C, I) (Incumbent)
Marybeth Melendez^ (D, WF)



## GENERAL ELECTION SNAPSHOT NO CONTEST: THE INCUMBENT INDEX

Below is a list of incumbents who are uncontested in the 2014 General Election.

Of the 91 seats in the NYS legislature (the State Senate and Assembly combined) representing New York City residents:

- 29 incumbents are uncontested in the general election. That means that 32% of all NYC's seats in the state legislature are held by incumbents who do not face any competition theirs is the only name on the ballot.
- In the State Senate, 6 of NYC's 26 seats or 23% are held by incumbents who are running for re-election without any challengers of any party.
- In the Assembly, 23 of NYC's 65 seats or 35% are held by incumbents who are running for re-election without challengers of any party.
- In Queens, in only 2 of 18 Assembly districts do voters have a choice in the 2014 general election the other 16 seats are filled with incumbents who are not being challenged. 4 of the 7 State Senate districts also are uncompetitive in the general election with 3 incumbents running unopposed, and in District 14, Leroy Comrie (D, WF) is running unopposed after emerging victorious in a hotly contested primary.

## NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE

### BROOKLYN - UNCONTESTED

Senate District 17 Simcha Felder (D, C)
Senate District 25 Velmanette Montgomery (D, WF)
Senate District 23\* Diane Savino^ (D, I)

Assembly District 53 Maritza Davila (D)

Assembly District 53 Maritza Davila (D)
Assembly District 57 Walter Mosley III (D)
Assembly District 58 N. Nick Perry (D)

## MANHATTAN - UNCONTESTED

Senate District 31 Adriano Espaillat^ (D)

Assembly District 67 Linda Rosenthal (D, WF)
Assembly District 69 Daniel O'Donnell (D)

<sup>\*</sup>denotes district crosses county border.



## GENERAL ELECTION SNAPSHOT NO CONTEST: THE INCUMBENT INDEX

## ★★★★ PRIMARY ELECTION SNAPSHOT

THE VACANCY REPORT

Below are the state legislative seats in New York City that have been vacant prior to the election, and will be filled for the next session. In addition to these 8 vacancies, another 5 seats are vacant throughout the state.

## **BRONX**

New York State Assembly

District 77 Previously held by Vanessa Gibson
District 79 Previously held by Eric Stevenson

**BROOKLYN** 

New York State Senate

District 20 Previously held by Eric Adams

New York State Assembly

District 54 Previously held by Rafael Espinal, Jr.
District 55 Previously held by William Boyland
District 59 Previously held by Alan Maisel
District 60 Previously held by Inez Barron

## **MANHATTAN**

New York State Assembly

District 72 Previously held by Gabriela Rosa

### **VACANCIES AND SPECIAL ELECTIONS**

Citizens Union both laments that 13 districts have been without representation and advocates for reforming the process of filling vacancies. These vacancies are due to Governor Cuomo not calling special elections, in order to avoid the highly partisan nature of special elections. Democratic and Republican party chairs currently pick the candidates who are on the ballot, rather than submitting candidates to the voters, as occurs in in primary elections during the regular election cycle.

In this way, the parties dramatically shape the future of the state legislature, without giving those represented a meaningful role in selecting their representatives.

Statewide, one-quarter (25%) of all 213 state legislators in both houses were first elected in special elections, nominated by parties rather than voters.

- 7 of 63 (11%) NYS Senators were first elected in special elections.
- 46 of 150 (31%) NYS Assembly Members were first elected in special elections.

Citizens Union calls upon government officials to reform the special election process to allow for either nonpartisan candidate nominations, or through using instant runoff voting to ensure that voters elect candidates who will represent them, and not the parties.

## QUEENS - UNCONTESTED

Senate District 10 James Sanders, Jr. (D, WF) Senate District 13 Jose Peralta<sup>^</sup> (D) Toby Ann Stavisky<sup>^</sup> (D, WF, I) Senate District 16 Assembly District 23 Philip Goldfeder (D, C) Assembly District 24 David Weprin (D, WF) Assembly District 25 Nily Rozic^ (D, WF, I) Assembly District 26 Edward Braunstein (D, WF, I) Assembly District 27 Michael Simanowitz (D, C, I) Assembly District 28 Andrew Hevesi (D, WF) Assembly District 29 William Scarborough (D, WF) Assembly District 30 Margaret Markey (D) Assembly District 31 Michele Titus (D, WF) Assembly District 32 Vivian Cook (D) Assembly District 33 Barbara Clark (D, WF) Assembly District 34 Michael DenDekker (D, WF) Assembly District 35 Jeffrion Aubry (D) Assembly District 36 Aravella Simotas (D, WF) Assembly District 38 Michael Miller (D)

### STATEN ISLAND - UNCONTESTED

Assembly District 39

Senate District 23\* Diane Savino^ (D, I)

Assembly District 61 Matthew Titone (D, WF, I)
Assembly District 62 Joseph Borelli (R, C, I)

### UNITED STATES CONGRESS

Francisco Moya (D, WF)

### **BRONX - UNCONTESTED**

US Congress District 16\* Eliot Engel (D, WF)

## **QUEENS - UNCONTESTED**

US Congress District 6 Grace Meng (D, WF)

<sup>\*</sup>denotes district crosses county border.



## PRIMARY ELECTION SNAPSHOT SALARIES AND TERMS OF STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS

## BALLOT PROPOSALS AND CITIZENS UNION RECOMMENDATIONS

## **GOVERNOR**

Salary: \$179,000.

Term: 4 years, no term limit.

## LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Salary: \$151,500.

Term: 4 years, no term limit.

## **COMPTROLLER**

Salary: \$151,500.

*Term*: 4 years, no term limit.

## **ATTORNEY GENERAL**

*Salary*: \$143,575.

Term: 4 years, no term limit.

## **STATE SENATOR**

Salary: \$79,500 + per diem + stipends ranging from \$0 to \$41,500.

Term: 2 years, no term limit.

## **ASSEMBLYMEMBER**

Salary: \$79,500 + per diem + stipends ranging from \$0 to \$41,500.

Term: 2 years, no term limit.

## **SUPREME COURT JUSTICE**

Salary: \$167,000.

*Term:* 14 years, no term limit, mandatory retirement age of 70.

New York voters will find three ballot proposals on the 2014 general election ballot. Please note that your paper ballot is two-sided: on the front are contests for elected officials, and on the back are the proposals to amend the NYS Constitution and to approve budget allocations.

For more information about the ballot questions, including arguments in favor and against, see the Campaign Finance Board Voter Guide, available at www.nyccfb.info, and the League of Women Voters NYS Voters Guide, available at www.lwvny.org. The full text of the proposals can be found on the New York State Board of Elections website at www.elections.ny.gov.

Please remember to turn your ballot over to vote on the proposals.

## PROPOSAL ONE – REVISING STATE'S REDISTRICTING PROCEDURE

## **Text of Ballot Question**

The proposed amendment to sections 4 and 5 and addition of new section 5-b to Article 3 of the State Constitution revises the redistricting procedure for state legislative and congressional districts. The proposed amendment establishes a redistricting commission every 10 years beginning in 2020, with two members appointed by each of the four legislative leaders and two members selected by the eight legislative appointees; prohibits legislators and other elected officials from serving as commissioners; establishes principles to be used in creating districts; requires the commission to hold public hearings on proposed redistricting plans; subjects the commission's redistricting plan to legislative enactment; provides that the legislature may only amend the redistricting plan according to the established principles if the commission's plan is rejected twice by the legislature; provides for expedited court review of a challenged redistricting plan; and provides for funding and bipartisan staff to work for the commission. Shall the proposed amendment be approved?

## **Citizens Union Statement of Support**

For more than 50 years, New York elected officials have controlled the redistricting process, drawing unfair district lines that protect them from challengers and eliminate fair, competitive elections. Proposal 1 gives New Yorkers the opportunity to fix this rigged system, hold legislators accountable to the voters, and create an open and fair redistricting process.

The state constitutional amendment put forth in Proposal 1 will ban partisan gerrymandering by outlawing legislative maps drawn for political advantage, with an explicit directive that lines shall not be drawn to favor incumbents or political parties. This change will address the problem of incumbent protection in New York State, where incumbents win re-election 97% of the time. Competitive elections will attract better



## BALLOT PROPOSALS AND CITIZENS UNION RECOMMENDATIONS

candidates and start to change the culture of Albany, where 28 legislators have been forced from office in recent years due to corruption or ethical scandals while 3 others are currently under indictment.

Proposal 1 also curbs legislators' unchecked power to draw their own district lines by establishing a politically balanced commission. The commission consists of 10 members with significant bans on who can serve to eliminate conflicts of interest. No legislators, lobbyists or other political figures can serve as commissioners. Unlike the current system, no one leader, no one house, and no one party controls the process or outcome.

If the legislature TWICE fails to approve the commission's plan, it can't just start over. It must then work from the commission's plan to develop a plan that must comply with the new rules and standards established in the state constitution and no one district's population can be changed by more than 2% according to a new law that was passed with the amendment.

Any plan approved by the commission must have a supermajority of 7 out of 10 members vote in favor, ensuring balance and cooperation. Additional controls are in place to require a higher threshold for approval in the legislature should one party control both houses, a further check against lines drawn for political advantage.

Additionally, voting yes on Proposal 1 would codify national Voting Rights Act language in the state constitution. At the federal level, the Voting Rights Act has faced challenges in recent years, and the protection it affords to minority groups is being chipped away. By putting these protections in the state constitution, New York State law will require that maps be drawn to preserve communities of interest and protect minority groups' ability to elect candidates of their choice.

The amendment also requires that the commission release data, maps and information to the public to allow it to develop alternative proposals, and requires 12 public hearings be held throughout the state.

The current redistricting rules are weak and vague. By passing Proposal 1, New Yorkers can strengthen the redistricting process with powerful guidelines and clear standards to protect voters. The comprehensive redistricting reforms in Proposal 1 work together to ban partisan gerrymandering and empower New Yorkers to finally hold their legislators accountable.

We urge all New Yorkers to vote for progress on Election Day by voting yes on Proposal 1.



## BALLOT PROPOSALS AND CITIZENS UNION RECOMMENDATIONS

## PROPOSAL TWO – PERMITTING ELECTRONIC DISTRIBUTION OF STATE LEGISLATIVE BILLS

## **Text of Ballot Question**

The proposed amendment to section 14 of Article 3 of the State Constitution would allow electronic distribution of a state legislative bill to satisfy the constitutional requirement that a bill be printed and on the desks of state legislators at least three days before the Legislature votes on it. It would establish the following requirements for electronic distribution: first, legislators must be able to review the electronicallysent bill at their desks; second, legislators must be able to print the bill if they choose; and third, the bill cannot be changed electronically without leaving a record of the changes. Shall the proposed amendment be approved?

## **Citizens Union Statement of Support**

Citizens Union supports Proposal 2, which would simplify and modernize the legislative process by providing members of both houses with the option to receive bills electronically rather than in print. The electronic option requires a change in the state constitution, which currently requires that bills be in printed format on individual legislators' desks.

Under the current provisions of the state constitution, a bill in the New York State Senate or Assembly cannot be passed or become law unless it has been printed and placed upon the desks of the members, in its final form, at least 3 calendar legislative days prior to its final passage. The requirement for legislation to be available for 3 days prior to passage would not change under the proposed amendment.

The current printing process requires a considerable amount of legislative staff time, paper, and money. The amendment would reduce these costs by modernizing the distribution process, allowing bills to be available on legislators' desks via a computer. While there will be an initial cost of installing computer systems in the assembly and state senate chambers, this will be offset by the subsequent savings in printing costs. Citizens Union is also supportive of the amendment's potential to allow for more meaningful review of legislation. These benefits would be particularly significant when legislators vote on budget bills due to their voluminous size, as electronic versions of legislation will be searchable.



## BALLOT PROPOSALS AND CITIZENS UNION RECOMMENDATIONS

## PROPOSAL THREE – SMART SCHOOLS BOND ACT OF 2014

## **Text of Ballot Question**

The SMART SCHOOLS BOND ACT OF 2014, as set forth in section one of part B of chapter 56 of the laws of 2014, authorizes the sale of state bonds of up to two billion dollars (\$2,000,000,000) to provide access to classroom technology and high-speed internet connectivity to equalize opportunities for children to learn, to add classroom space to expand high-quality pre-kindergarten programs, to replace classroom trailers with permanent instructional space, and to install high-tech smart security features in schools. Shall the SMART SCHOOLS BOND ACT OF 2014 be approved?

Citizens Union has not evaluated this proposal.



## CANDIDATE EVALUATIONS 2014 EVALUATION PRINCIPLES AND PROCESS

In this packed election cycle, Citizens Union has evaluated 5 candidates in 3 races for statewide office, 23 races, and 49 candidates for state legislature, to determine who strongly supports our issues, can advance a reform agenda, and can best represent the constituency.

Interview teams comprised of members of the Board of Directors and volunteers of the Local Candidates Committee assess the candidates based on their responses to the following: CU's questionnaire (a pre-requisite for interviews), research, first-hand knowledge of the candidates, and interviews with the candidates which are approximately 30 minutes each for state legislative candidates, and 45 minutes for statewide office. The interview teams then make advisory recommendations to the full Local Candidates Committee, which deliberates and makes recommendations to the Citizens Union Board, which makes the final decision.

An "Endorsed" rating reflects a candidate that Citizens Union deems not only qualified for the office with a viable candidacy, but also committed to an agenda of positive reform. Please note that candidates not endorsed may nevertheless be highly regarded, which is generally reflected in the commentary.

Citizens Union issues a "Preferred" rating during the Primary Election, and an "Endorsed" rating applies only to General Election contests. A "No Endorsement" rating may result when there is insufficient information available, it is believed that the candidates are of equal merit, or if no candidate interviewed by Citizens Union is believed to be effective or capable of representing the constituency.

## **OUR CRITERIA**

The following guidelines are used by the Local Candidates Committee and Citizens Union Board of Directors in the evaluation of candidates:

- Support for Citizens Union's reform agenda shall be the primary criteria used in deciding its support for a candidate.
- Evidence of ability to wage an effective and competitive campaign shall be considered, but not be determinative.
- Ability to advance CU's goals, if elected, shall be considered, but not
  determinative. 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.
- 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.
- 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.



## CANDIDATE EVALUATIONS 2014 CITIZENS UNION ENDORSED CANDIDATES

## STATEWIDE OFFICIALS

Governor Please visit www.citizensunion.org for updates on

endorsement decision

Comptroller Tom DiNapoli (D, WF, I, WEP)

Attorney General Eric Schneiderman (D, WF, I, WEP)

## **BROOKLYN LEGISLATORS**

Senate District 22 Martin J. Golden (R, C, I)

Assembly District 44 James F. Brennan (D, WF)

Assembly District 59 No Endorsement

## **MANHATTAN LEGISLATORS**

Senate District 27 Brad Hoylman (D, WF)

Assembly District 75 Richard Gottfried (D, WF)
Assembly District 76 Rebecca Seawright (D, WF)

## **QUEENS LEGISLATORS**

Senate District 15 Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr. (D)

Assembly District 40 Ron Kim (D, WF)

## STATEN ISLAND LEGISLATORS

Assembly District 64 Nicole Malliotakis (R, C, I)



## CANDIDATE EVALUATIONS 2014 STATEWIDE EVALUATIONS

## **GOVERNOR**

As of the printing of this directory, Citizens Union has not issued a decision on this race; below are write-ups of candidates who were interviewed by the time of printing. Check www.citizensunion.org for updated information regarding our evaluation.

## ANDREW CUOMO (D, WF, I, WEP)

Questionnaire available at www.citizensunion.org Age: 56 Occupation: Governor, NYS Education: Fordham University (BA); Albany Law School (JD)

## ROB ASTORINO (R, C, SCC)

Questionnaire available at www.citizensunion.org
Age: 47 Occupation: County Executive, Westchester
Education: Fordham University (BA); Enforex School of International Studies
(Spanish Language Immersion)

Astorino is currently the County Executive of Westchester County. He previously worked in the radio industry, most recently as a Station Manager for ESPN New York. He is running for governor to: hold spending at the current level or lower for four consecutive years; lower personal income and business taxes; reform the regulatory process to attract businesses; enact an Executive Order that places a moratorium on unfunded mandates; and replace the Common Core with locally devised educational standards. Astorino cites his record as Westchester County Executive as evidence of his effectiveness, stating that he has not increased the county budget, and achieved this through bipartisanship with the Democratic legislature. He also notes his issuance of 250 vetoes in his first two years in office to hold the line on spending and voice his opposition to what he describes as bad public policy. On education, he supports electing the Board of Regents through local representation. Astorino is troubled by those leaving the state due to high taxes and a lack of jobs, especially in Upstate New York. He supports hydraulic fracturing, if done safely, to bring jobs to the state and create cleaner energy. On reform, Astorino cites his work to establish greater transparency through the county's Board of Contracts, and his institution of term limits at the local level. Astorino's top reform proposal is term limits for state offices. He supports expansion of pension forfeiture for all public officers convicted of corruption, which would build upon the reforms enacted in 2011 that applied only prospectively to public officials. He opposes the constitutional amendment on redistricting, Proposal 1, stating he believes a more independent system is preferable; when asked for an alternative, he cited possible judicial involvement in appointments. He does not support most campaign finance reforms, believing that funding will seep into the system even under public financing, which he does not support. He believes that disclosure is the best way to change behavior rather than contribution limits or public funding. He also says that public funding could be undermined by union in-kind contributions. On election reform, he formulates there is no need to reduce barriers to voting, as low turnout is due to voter frustration because of a lack of qualified candidates running, and cites voter fraud as a reason to not enact measures such as election day registration. He cites his support for term limits as a means to address the Citizens Union issues he opposes.



## CANDIDATE EVALUATIONS 2014 STATEWIDE EVALUATIONS (CONTINUED)

## HOWIE HAWKINS (G)

Questionnaire available at www.citizensunion.org
Age: 61 Occupation: Truck Unloader, UPS
Education: Dartmouth College (BA)

Howie Hawkins is a civic activist and a truck unloader for UPS who is actively involved with the Teamsters Union. Hawkins cites his overall platform as being influenced by civil rights as it relates to housing, healthcare, education and jobs. In order to bring focus to these issues, he would create a cabinet level position for civil rights. Hawkins mentions his local work in the Syracuse area as evidence of his ability to influence issues, namely the creation of a citizens review board for police complaints, and the passage of a living wage ordinance. He also notes that his candidacy in 2010 for governor brought several issues to the forefront of the public's attention, including his opposition to hydraulic fracturing. He supports opting out of the Common Core educational curriculum, and instead supports qualitative assessments of students and teachers, designed by educators using educational objectives instead of for the convenience and profit of testing vendors. He sees stronger funding for education as a key civil rights initiative and would fund education through a reformed foundation formula that provides full funding to school districts. He supports a "Green New Deal" to bring jobs for green energy to the state, such as for building infrastructure for solar and wind energy. He continues to oppose hydraulic fracturing and nuclear energy. Regarding taxation and spending, he would implement a progressive tax policy that eases taxes on the middle class and low-income families, and institute more revenue sharing with localities. On health care, Hawkins supports the creation of a single-payer health care system which he believes will save the state money as well as eliminate labor contract disputes. Hawkins did not fully respond to the questionnaire as of the printing of this directory. Hawkins supports most of Citizens Union's campaign finance and election reform platform, but differs on a couple of issues. He opposes the redistricting constitutional amendment, Proposal 1, but notes that it would be an improvement over the current system. He supports a proportional representation system for the state legislature. He also supports full public funding of campaigns. When asked about potential constitutional issues with fully funded systems, he noted that legal issues could be addressed by not adopting mechanisms that provide additional funds to candidates whose opponents spend over a certain threshold, and cited Maine as an exemplary system. He would reconvene the Moreland Commission, and floated the idea of having an Executive-level position devoted to anti-corruption efforts.



## CANDIDATE EVALUATIONS 2014 STATEWIDE EVALUATIONS (CONTINUED)

## ATTORNEY GENERAL

★ ENDORSED CANDIDATE - ERIC SCHNEIDERMAN (D, WF, I, WEP) ★

Questionnaire available at www.citizensunion.org Age: 59 Occupation: Attorney General, NYS Education: Amherst College (BA); Harvard Law School (JD)

Eric Schneiderman has served as attorney general since 2011, and previously was a state senator. As Attorney General, he has sought equal justice for all, and has utilized the powers of the Office of the Attorney General actively in support of this mission. For example, he has sought to hold Wall Street accountable through his oversight of the financial industry via powers in the Martin Act. He has also utilized funds from the National Mortgage Settlements to provide legal aid to vulnerable New Yorkers, and has sought to protect taxpayers from fraud through the False Claims Act. He has provided a renewed focus on public integrity, forming a Joint Task Force on Public Integrity (Joint Task Force) with State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli. Through the Joint Task Force, the Comptroller conferred jurisdiction on the Attorney General to review the misuse of state funds, which has resulted in dozens of cases being brought against state and local offices. At the beginning of his term, Schneiderman placed in each regional office a Public Integrity Officer focused on reviewing local government corruption. In describing the problem of corruption, he noted that it diminishes the ability of government to provide critical services. Schneiderman had requested from the Governor a blanket referral for original jurisdiction over violations of state ethics and elections laws, but did not receive it, which is one of the reasons he formed the Joint Task Force with Comptroller DiNapoli. Regarding the Moreland Commission, he stated that he did not have any role in hiring staff, was not involved in the management of the Commission, and was not consulted on its disbanding. In response to being questioned about the legal settlement entered into by the Assembly regarding sexual harassment of staff by former Assemblymember Vito Lopez, Schneiderman said that the Joint Commission on Public Ethics Report noted that his office did not approve any settlement, and stated that his office only provided generic legal guidance regarding settlement language. Schneiderman fully supports Citizens Union's campaign finance and election agenda, and noted his introduction of several election reform bills in the legislature as Attorney General, including a measure related to voter intimidation. Regarding the constitutional amendment on redistricting, Proposal 1, he indicates in his questionnaire that he is hopeful that it will lead to fairer districts and better outcomes for the public. While we were extremely troubled by the disbanding of the Moreland Commission, for which Schneiderman deputized its commissioners, and would have appreciated his publicly speaking regarding his opposition to its disbanding after April 1st when the budget deal was finalized, we recognize that the Commission was created via Executive Order and not controlled by the Office of the Attorney General. Citizens Union believes that Eric Schneiderman is an effective and active player in the effort to bring reform and accountability to Albany. Due to his record, commitment to public integrity and proactive use of the powers of his office, Citizens Union endorses his re-election.



## CANDIDATE EVALUATIONS 2014 STATEWIDE EVALUATIONS (CONTINUED)

## JOHN CAHILL (R, C, SCC)

Questionnaire available at www.citizensunion.org

Age: 56 Occupation: Attorney, Chadbourne & Parke

Education: Fordham University (BA); Pace University School of Law (JD, MLL)

John Cahill is running for election to continue his career in public service, having served as the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation during former Governor George Pataki's administration, and also as chief of staff to Pataki. His top priorities include restoring balance to state government and providing a voice for Upstate New York. In this regard, he notes that in previous years, the representation among statewide officials has included elected officials of both parties, which has provided checks and balances. Regarding his experience, he cites his roles in overseeing the rebuilding of Ground Zero, working on brownfields, and instituting the state's cap and trade program in the Pataki administration. Cahill did not fully complete Citizens Union's questionnaire. He indicated that he does not support public matching for campaign contributions, and cited greater and instantaneous disclosure of campaign spending as a more important reform. He also expresses concern that LLCs and LLPs have become vehicles for hiding donations and indicated on his questionnaire support for lowering contribution limits. On election issues, he supports some forms of early voting but opposes other reforms to reduce barriers to voting, such as election day registration, citing fraud as a concern. On redistricting, he stated that though the constitutional amendment, Proposal 1, would be better than the status quo, supporting it would hurt chances for something better down the line, and that the commission should be further removed from the appointing authorities. On corruption, he criticizes the incumbent for his handling of the Moreland Commission, though said that he would continue the Joint Task Force with the Comptroller's office, and seek reinstatement of the Office of the State Prosecutor. He also states that the office has become politicized, and he would seek to restore its integrity. Citizens Union finds Cahill to be an appealing, articulate and thoughtful candidate with an impressive dedication to public service and background in state government, though his platform does not align enough with Citizens Union's reform agenda.



## CANDIDATE EVALUATIONS 2014 STATEWIDE EVALUATIONS (CONTINUED)

## **COMPTROLLER**

★ ENDORSED CANDIDATE - TOM DINAPOLI (D, WF, I, WEP) ★

Questionnaire available at www.citizensunion.org
Age: 60 Occupation: Comptroller, NYS
Education: Hofstra University (BA); The New School (MA)

Tom DiNapoli has served as the state comptroller since 2007, when he was appointed by the legislature to fill the vacant seat of former Comptroller Alan Hevesi. He previously served as a member of the state assembly and a local school board. Since taking office, he instituted several measures to address corruption, given previous scandals with the pension fund, including pay-to-play limitations on placement agents and those who do business with the fund. He also convened a Joint Task Force on Public Integrity with Attorney General Eric Schneiderman that has allowed for the investigation of improper state payments and brought forward notable and welcomed prosecutions against public officials and employees. DiNapoli is aligned with Citizens Union on the majority of its issues, including campaign finance reform and election reform. Regarding campaign finance reform, he declined to participate in the pilot program for public financing that was created this year in the budget for the comptroller's office since he rightfully believed that it was not workable or fair given that it was passed too late in the election cycle to be effective. He notes his opponent has not yet qualified for funds, demonstrating the design problems of this pilot, and expressed concerns that this poorly planned pilot might undermine the credibility of public funding in the future. He opposes the constitutional amendment on redistricting, Proposal 1, stating that he does not oppose the advocacy effort by Citizens Union, but rather would support a system further removed from the legislature. On the pension fund, though he is the sole trustee, he has broadened the decision-making on the fund through advisory committees. He argues that this approach has aided a well-performing pension fund compared to equivalent jurisdictions. He claims there is important accountability with the fund being managed by an elected official, and that he has worked to reform the pay-to-play system to eliminate potential conflicts of interest. Regarding his office's role in the legal settlement related to sexual harassment of employees of former Assemblymember Vito Lopez, he states his office approves legal services for settlements for all state offices, and did not play an advisory role with this settlement but simply an administrative one. Since this occurrence, his office has increased transparency of legal settlements. Regarding broader transparency interests, DiNapoli's office plans to further expand its Open Book New York web portal of state funds to include further financial details of state spending, and supports legislative measures to further specify the intended spending of lump sum appropriations that are designated after passage of the state budget. Citizens Union believes that DiNapoli is a dedicated public servant who has demonstrated his personal integrity, has restored credibility to the Office of State Comptroller and deserves re-election. Citizens Union appreciates his support for a viable public funding system, and hopes he will be an active voice for comprehensive campaign finance reform for all state offices if re-elected.

## BOB ANTONACCI (R, C, SCC)

Has not returned questionnaire and could not be scheduled for an interview



## CANDIDATE EVALUATIONS 2014 QUESTIONNAIRE: LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATES

Below each question, please find a tabulation of answers from all 50 legislative candidates in the general election who responded to the questionnaire – and not only from those candidates whom CU interviewed.

## **ELECTION REFORM**

- 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?
   Support: 34 Conditional Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 4 Oppose: 12
- 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: 39 Conditional Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 5 Oppose: 6
- 3. 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: 41 Conditional Support: 1 Undecided or No Answer: 1 Oppose: 7
- 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: 43 Conditional Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 1 Oppose: 6
- 5. 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: 39 Conditional Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 2 Oppose: 9
- 6. What is your position on amending the constitution to allow for Election Day Voter Registration?
  - Support: 38 Conditional Support: 1 Undecided or No Answer: 1 Oppose: 10
- 7. What is your position on amending the constitution to allow for no-excuse absentee voting?
  - Support: 44 Conditional Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 0 Oppose: 6
- 8. 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: 42 Conditional Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 0 Oppose: 8
- 9. 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: 42 Conditional Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 3 Oppose: 5



## CANDIDATE EVALUATIONS 2014 QUESTIONNAIRE: LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATES

## **ELECTION REFORM (CONTINUED)**

- 10. 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: 44 Conditional Support: 1 Undecided or No Answer: 0 Oppose: 5
- 11. 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: 40 Conditional Support: 1 Undecided or No Answer: 4 Oppose: 5
- 12. 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: 39 Conditional Support: 3 Undecided or No Answer: 4 Oppose: 4

## **CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM**

- 13. 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: 43 Conditional Support: 1 Undecided or No Answer: 0 Oppose: 6
- 14. What is your position on lowering campaign contribution limits for legislative and statewide candidates for public office?
  Support: 43 Conditional Support: 2 Undecided or No Answer: 1 Oppose: 4
- 15. What is your position on restricting campaign contributions from registered lobbyists, placement agents and those who do business with the state?
  Support: 44 Conditional Support: 1 Undecided or No Answer: 1 Oppose: 4
- 16. 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: 38 Conditional Support: 3 Undecided or No Answer: 1 Oppose: 8
- 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: 45 Conditional Support: 1 Undecided or No Answer: 1 Oppose: 3
- 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: 48 Conditional Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 0 Oppose: 2
- 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: 48 Conditional Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 0 Oppose: 2



## CANDIDATE EVALUATIONS 2014 QUESTIONNAIRE: LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATES

## **CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM (CONTINUED)**

- 20. What is your position on stricter requirements on the use of campaign contributions for non-campaign related activity, such as personal use?
  Support: 48 Conditional Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 0 Oppose: 2
- 21. What is your position on improving disclosure of independent expenditures such as requiring disclosure of electioneering activities?

  Support: 49 Conditional Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 1 Oppose: 0
- 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 in which they run?
  - Support: 40 Conditional Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 5 Oppose: 5
- 23. 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: 47 Conditional Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 2 Oppose: 1

### 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: 41 Conditional Support: 1 Undecided or No Answer: 5 Oppose: 3
- 25. What is your position on simplifying and modernizing the state's court system by consolidating the nine trial courts into a two-tiered system?
  Support: 42 Conditional Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 5 Oppose: 3

### **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: 49 Conditional Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 1 Oppose: 0
- 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?
  - Support: 44 Conditional Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 2 Oppose: 4

## **BUDGET REFORM**

28. 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: 49 Conditional Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 1 Oppose: 0



## CANDIDATE EVALUATIONS 2014 QUESTIONNAIRE: LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATES

## **BUDGET REFORM (CONTINUED)**

- 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: 45 Conditional Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 2 Oppose: 3
- 30. What is your position on the use of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) rather than cash accounting for the state budget?

  Support: 46 Conditional Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 3 Oppose: 1
- 31. 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: 50 Conditional Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 0 Oppose: 0
- 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: 44 Conditional Support: 1 Undecided or No Answer: 3 Oppose: 2
- What is your position on instituting a later start date for the state fiscal year?
   Support: 37 Conditional Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 7 Oppose: 6
- 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: 46 Conditional Support: 1 Undecided or No Answer: 1 Oppose: 2

## **ADDITIONAL REFORM**

- 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?
  - Support: 44 Conditional Support: 1 Undecided or No Answer: 3 Oppose: 2
- 36. What is your position on the webcasting of all legislative proceedings for both houses of the legislature, including committee meetings, hearings and session proceedings?
  - Support: 47 Conditional Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 1 Oppose: 2
- 37. 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?
  - Support: 43 Conditional Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 6 Oppose: 1





District/Name	Major Party Affilia- tion	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	Q36	Q37
Bronx																																						
S33/Rivera^	D, WF	0	0	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
S34/Klein^	D, I, WEP	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
S36/Collins	1	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	s	S	s	S	N/A	S	N/A	N/A	S	S	S	s	S	S	S	S	S	N/A	S	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	s	S	S	S	S	N/A	N/A	N/A
A77/Joyner	D, WF	N/A	N/A	S	S	S	S	S	S	N/A	S	N/A	N/A	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	N/A	S	N/A	S	S
A79/Blake	D	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
A79/Michael	WF	N/A	N/A	S	S	S	S	S	S	N/A	S	N/A	N/A	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	N/A	S	N/A	S	S
A84/Molina	R	0	S	0	0	S	0	0	S	S	S	0	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	0	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	0	0	S	0	S	0
A85/Santander	С	S	S	s	S	S	0	S	0	S	S	s	S	0	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	s	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Brooklyn																								-							,							
S19/Sampson^	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	s	S	s	S	s	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	0	S	S	0	S	S	S	S	S	S	s	S	S	S
S19/Smitherman	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	0	S	S	S	S
S20/Hamilton	D	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
S22/Golden^	R, C, I	S	S	S	S	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	S	0	s	S	0	S	s	S	s	S	0	S	s	S	S	S	S	S	s	S	S	s	S	S	S	S
S22/Kemmerer	D, WF	0	s	s	0	s	s	s	s	S	S	s	s	s	s	S	s	S	s	S	s	s	0	S	s	S	S	s	S	s	s	S	S	s	s	S	S	S
A42/Bichotte	D, WF	0	S	S	S	0	S	S	S	S	S	S	0	S	0	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	0	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	0	S	S	S	S
A44/Brennan^	D, WF	S	N/A*	N/A*	S	S	S	S	S	0	S	S	0	S	N/A*	S	S	N/A*	S	S	S	S	N/A*	S	S	S	S	N/A*	S	S	N/A*	S	0	S	S	S	S	N/A*
A47/Colton^	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
A51/Ortiz^	D	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
A52/Jasilli	R, C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	S	S	0	0	0	0	S	S	S	0	N/A	S	S	S	S	0	S	S	S	N/A	S	S	0	N/A
A52/Sikora	WF	0	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	N/A	S	S	S	S	N/A
A52/Simon	D	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
A54/Chowdhury	R, C	0	0	0	0	0	0	S	0	S	0	0	0	S	S	0	S	S	S	S	0	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
A54/Council	WF	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	N/A	S	S	S*	S*	S*	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	N/A	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S*	N/A	S	S	S	S
A55/Boozer	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
A55/Walker	D	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
A59/Ferretti	R, C	s	s	s	S	0	0	0	0	S	0	s	s	0	s	s	0	S	s	S	s	s	0	s	s	S	S	s	S	s	s	S	S	s	s	S	S	S
A59/Persaud	D	0	0	0	0	0	0	S	S	0	S	S	S	S	0	0	0	0	S	0	0	S	S	S	S	0	S	0	S	0	S	S	S	0	0	S	0	S

KEY: Citizens Union endorsed candidates in bold. Candidates preferred in primary in italics.

^ Incumbent legislator S = Support O = Oppose N/A = No answer or undecided \* = Nuanced answer

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## **CANDIDATE EVALUATIONS 2014 QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES**

District/Name	Major Party Affilia- tion	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	Q36	Q37
Manhattan																																						
S27/Hoylman^	D, WF	0*	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
S28/Krueger^	D, WF	0	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
S28/Zumbluskas	R, I	S	S	S	S	0	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	0	S	S	0	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	N/A
S29/Serrano^	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
S31/Espaillat^	D	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
A65/Koetz	R	0*	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	N/A	*	S	S	S
A72/Linares	D	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
A73/Quart^	D, WF	S	S	S	S	0	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	0	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
A75/Gottfried^	D, WF	S	N/A	S	S	S	S	S	S	0	S	S	S*	S	S	N/A	S*	S	S	S	S	S	N/A	S	S	S	S	0	S	S	N/A	S	N/A	S	S	S*	S	N/A
A76/Garland	R, I, DTD	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	0	S	0	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
A76/Seawright	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
Queens																																						
S11/Avella^	D, I	S	S	S	S	N/A	S	S	S	S	S	0	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
S13/Peralta^	D, WF	S	0	0	S	S	S	0	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	0	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
S14/Comrie	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
S15/Addabbo^	D	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	0	S	S	S	S
S15/Conigliaro	R, C	S	0	S	S	S	0	S	0	S	S	S	S	S	0	0	0	0	0	S	S	S	S	S	S	0	S	S	S	0	S	S	S	0	0	0	S	S
S16/Stavisky^	D, WF, I	N/A	S	S	S	0	S	S	S	S	0	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	0	S	S	S	S	S	N/A	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
A25/Rozic^	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
A40/ <b>Kim</b> ^	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
Staten Island																																						
S23/Savino^	D, 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	0	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
A63/Tirone	R, C	S	S	0	S	S	0	S	0	S	S	S	N/A	S	S	S	N/A	S	S	S	S	N/A	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	N/A	S	S	N/A	N/A	N/A	S	S	S
A64/Malliotakis^	R, C, I	S	S	S	0	S	0	0	0	S	S	S	S	0	S	0	0	S	S	S	S	S	0	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	N/A	S	S	S	S
A64/Melendez	D, WF	0	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. Candidates preferred in primary in italics.

^ Incumbent legislator S = Support O = Oppose N/A = No answer or undecided \* = Nuanced answer

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## CANDIDATE EVALUATIONS 2014 LEGISLATIVE QUESTIONNAIRE QUICKSTATS



The average candidate supports or conditionally supports 88% of Citizen's Union reform agenda.



13 out of 50 (26%) candidates support or conditionally support Citizens Union's entire state reform agenda



19 out of 50 (38%) candidates do not oppose any of our reforms

## 2

### ON ELECTION REFORM

- 25 candidates (50%) support or conditionally support all election reform measures
- The average candidate supports 10 of the 12 (82%) election reform measures
- 45 candidates (90%) support automatically updating voters' address information



### ON CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

- The average candidate supports 10 of 11 (84%) of CU's campaign finance reform measures
- 31 candidates (62%) support or conditionally support all campaign finance reform measures
- 49 candidates (98%) support improving disclosure of independent spending in elections



### ON JUDICIAL REFORM

- 42 candidates (84%) support creating a commission to select judges in all of New York's trial courts
- 42 candidates (84%) support consolidating New
- York State's 9 trial courts into a 2-tiered system
- 37 candidates (74%) support or conditionally support both judicial reform measures



### ON ETHICS REFORM

- 49 candidates (98%) supported empowering the Attorney General to investigate and prosecute public corruption
- 44 candidates (88%) support making public officers and legislators who are convicted of felonies forfeit their pensions
- 44 candidates (88%) support both ethics reform measures



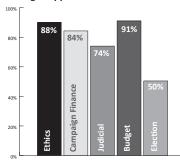
### ON BUDGET REFORM

- 31 candidates (62%) support or conditionally support all budget reform measures
- The average candidate supports 91% of the 7 budget reform measures
- 100% of candidates support ensuring adequate disclosure and itemization of discretionary funds

## OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW SUPPORT FOR CITIZENS UNION'S AGENDA:

- 4 reforms received several responses of undecided or no answer, and therefore present CU with an opportunity to educate and expand support:
- 7 candidates were undecided about a later start date to the fiscal year
- 5 candidates were undecided about the election reform of restructuring the NYS board of elections to abolish the two-party division of governance and operation
- 5 candidates were unsure about consolidating NYS's 9 trial courts into a 2-tiered system, and 5 candidates were unsure about merit-based appointments of judges

## **Average Support from Candidates**





## CANDIDATE EVALUATIONS 2014 BROOKLYN EVALUATIONS

## **NYS SENATE DISTRICT 22**

## ★ ENDORSED CANDIDATE - MARTIN GOLDEN (R, C, I) ★

Has returned questionnaire, responses on p. 30.

Age: N/A Occupation: Member, NYS Senate
Education: St. John's University (Degree not reported)

Martin Golden has been a member of the state senate since 2003, and previously served as a NYC council member and as a police officer. He is running for re-election because of his desire to continue delivering positive change to his district. His top priorities include bringing more jobs to the state by focusing on bolstering the technology sector in New York City, and seeking improvements to the transportation system in New York City, specifically to subways, buses, and ferries. Golden has worked to advance Citizens Union's reform agenda through initiatives to improve the design of the ballot, institute instant runoff voting, and create greater accountability of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. He also supports Proposal 1, the constitutional amendment to reform the redistricting process; expanding pension forfeiture to all public officials who abuse the public trust; term limits for state legislators; and legislators serving full-time in office. Regarding campaign finance reform, Golden does not support public funding, but supports other reforms such as closing soft money loopholes. In opposing public funding, he believes that the NYC public matching system invites misuse of public funds. Citizens Union respects Senator Golden's thoughtful approach to public service and values his collaborative efforts to advance reform in the State Senate, and supports his bid for re-election.

## JAMES KEMMERER (D, WF)

Has returned questionnaire, responses on p. 30.

Age: 41 Occupation: Owner, GeekPAK

Education: Dickinson College (BA); American University (MPA)

James Kemmerer, a small business owner in the technology sector, is running for office to introduce a fresh perspective in Albany, and to address the corruption that has plagued the state for so long. His top priorities include seeking higher wages, more jobs, and better educational standards. He also spoke of the need for a more robust response to the continued impact of Hurricane Sandy and addressing climate change by developing green energy infrastructure. Regarding reform issues, Kemmerer states he is a strong advocate for campaign finance reform, believing the issue is critical for attaining fair elections. He also supports legislators serving full-time in office, and he pledges to introduce new voting technology to streamline and modernize the voting process. He opposes the redistricting constitutional amendment, Proposal 1, though he demonstrates a lack of familiarity with its details. Kemmerer has a clear understanding of the role of state legislators in the policy arena and brings a great amount of enthusiasm to his interest in public service. Given his passion for the public interest, Citizens Union hopes he will continue his involvement and leadership in Brooklyn's civic life.



## CANDIDATE EVALUATIONS 2014 BROOKLYN EVALUATIONS (CONTINUED)

## **NYS ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 44**

## ★ ENDORSED CANDIDATE - JAMES BRENNAN (D, WF) ★

Has returned questionnaire, responses on p. 30.

Age: 62 Occupation: Member, NYS Assembly
Education: Yale University (BA); Brooklyn Law School (JD); Baruch College (MBA)

James Brennan has served as an assemblymember in Brooklyn since 1984. He began his career as a legislator as a reformer, focusing on issues of social justice, income inequality and consumer protection. He is running for re-election because he would like to continue to advance these goals in the state legislature. His priority issues include ensuring that New York City receives sufficient education funding, monitoring transportation funding such as the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) capital budget, and implementing progressive taxes. On reform issues, he focuses on campaign finance reform and reforming the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (Port Authority) as chair of the Corporations, Commissions, and Authorities Committee. Even though Brennan conditionally supports several reform items on his questionnaire, he gave thoughtful responses regarding his positions. With campaign finance reform, he believes that certain campaign contributions limits should be lowered, but not those related to candidates who already have limited resources. His work with Citizens Union to pass legislation related to accountability and improving Port Authority governance is a testament to his commitment to and leadership on reform. For this reason and those listed above, Citizens Union endorses James Brennan for re-election.

## MIKHAIL YUSUPOV (R, C)

Has not returned questionnaire and could not be scheduled for an interview

## NYS ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 59

## NO ENDORSEMENT

### ROXANNE PERSAUD (D)

Has returned questionnaire, responses on p. 30.

Age: 48 Occupation: Registrar at Saint Francis College
Education: Pace University (MSE, BS)

Roxanne Persaud is a community activist in Canarsie who has been involved with the community board and local police precinct council. She is running for election because she believes the issues plaguing her neighborhood, specifically those caused by Hurricane Sandy, need to be addressed in Albany. She states that aid resulting from Sandy is being distributed based on apparent need rather than actual need; for example, damage to single family homes is more apparent than the less-visible damage in apartment buildings. Persaud also advocates for the equitable programming and funding for community centers and parks in neighborhoods across her district, especially Canarsie. Persaud is unclear about the substance and intended goals of Citizens Union's agenda, and opposes many items on Citizens Union's



## CANDIDATE EVALUATIONS 2014 BROOKLYN EVALUATIONS (CONTINUED)

questionnaire. Regarding campaign finance, she has an ambivalent position that highlights her view that campaigns require money, but also a certain measure of oversight. She opposes pension forfeiture because she thinks it should only apply to officials who are convicted of felonies relating to their public office. Persaud is committed and passionate about her district, and has a commendable record as a community activist. While she seems open to learning more about reform issues, she lacks specificity regarding how she would achieve her goals and advance Citizens Union's agenda, focusing on identifying needed services rather than the legislative responsibilities of the position.

## JEFFREY FERRETTI (R, C)

Has returned questionnaire, responses on p. 30.

Age: 56 Occupation: Real Estate Broker
Education: St. John's University (Degree not reported)

Jeffrey Ferretti is a realtor in Brooklyn, and is running for assembly because the seat has been vacant since January of 2014, and believes he can best fill the void since there has been a lack of representation for his community in Albany, and constituent services have not been provided. Ferretti emphasizes the need for job creation as one of his top priorities. Regarding Citizens Union's reform issues, Ferretti has no specific knowledge of these items, though spoke generally about the need for representation in his community. On his questionnaire, he opposes many issues related to voter registration and reducing barriers to voting. Ferretti's goal to ensure adequate representation for his community is admirable, but he does not fully grasp the responsibilities of the position, or the manner in which services are delivered through state government.



## CANDIDATE EVALUATIONS 2014 MANHATTAN EVALUATIONS

## **NYS SENATE DISTRICT 27**

★ ENDORSED CANDIDATE - BRAD HOYLMAN (D, WF) ★

Has returned questionnaire, responses on p. 32.

Age: 47 Occupation: Member, NYS Senate

Education: West Virginia University (BA); Oxford University (MA); Harvard Law School (JD)

Brad Hoylman is a fresh presence in the state senate, and is serving in his first term. Previously he was the general counsel of the Partnership for New York City and a community activist. He is running for re-election because he seeks to pass a pied-atierre tax bill that he is introducing, as well as the Gender Equality Non-Discrimination Act, the Women's Equality Agenda, the DREAM act, and would like to enable municipalities to set higher minimum wages. Hoylman is also passionate about reform issues, as he supports every single one of Citizens Union's issues on the candidate questionnaire, but one – he indicated opposition to Proposal 1 on his questionnaire, but stated in his interview that this was an error, and that he does indeed support the redistricting amendment since he voted for it in the senate. Hoylman supports legislators serving full time, because he believes earning outside income enables a "fundamental conflict" to exist between representing one's constituents and representing private clients. Hoylman co-sponsors a bill to strip pensions from corrupt public officials via a constitutional amendment, and is the lead sponsor of another bill to make receipt of per diems conditional upon agreeing to give up one's pension in the event of a felony conviction for corruption, which he believes may be easier to enact than a constitutional amendment. Hoylman is a co-sponsor or original sponsor of every major ethics bill introduced in the Senate. Citizens Union believes that Brad Hoylman has demonstrated thoughtfulness and integrity, is a partner in working on reform issues, and is well-poised to be a leader on ethics and governmental reforms. We are pleased and proud to endorse Brad Hoylman for re-election.

### FRANK SCALA (R)

Has not returned questionnaire and could not be scheduled for an interview

## **NYS ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 75**

★ ENDORSED CANDIDATE - RICHARD GOTTFRIED (D, WF) ★

Has returned questionnaire, responses on p. 32.

Age: 67 Occupation: Member, NYS Assembly
Education: Cornell University (BA); Columbia University (JD)

Richard Gottfried has served in the state assembly since 1971. He is a lawyer who serves in the legislature full time, and does not maintain a private practice. He is running for re-election because he is passionate about politics and serving the interests of his constituents. He is the long-standing chair of the Health Committee. A top priority of his is to pass a single payer health care system to achieve publicly sponsored and funded health coverage for all. Some of Gottfried's other priorities include LGBT equality, passage of the Gender Equality Non-Discrimination Act, and promoting economic fairness and opportunity. Gottfried is also passionate about



## CANDIDATE EVALUATIONS 2014 MANHATTAN EVALUATIONS (CONTINUED)

campaign finance reform, as he has been working on it since 1979. He believes that the current system is flawed, and he supports comprehensive reform to create a more fair system. Gottfried also advocates for the state legislator position to be a full-time one, since anything less than full-time can open a "channel of corruption." Gottfried supports Proposal 1, the redistricting constitutional amendment, seeing it as a necessary improvement over the current process, and joins the effort to support it. Where he differs from Citizens Union on specific reform proposals, he demonstrates thoughtfulness and enthusiasm to collaborate and work together to develop fair and effective policies. Citizens Union endorses Richard Gottfried because he embodies the values of Citizens Union and is a partner in reform.

## HARRY DEMELL (R)

Has not returned questionnaire and could not be scheduled for an interview

## **NYS ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 76**

★ ENDORSED CANDIDATE - REBECCA SEAWRIGHT (D. WF) ★

Has returned questionnaire, responses on p. 32.

Age: 52 Occupation: Attorney

Education: CUNY School of Law (JD)

Rebecca Seawright is an attorney with political experience, working as a fundraiser for former Texas Governor Ann Richards. Seawright is running to bring female representation to the district, and her perspective as a PTA mom to reforming education. Seawright is a dedicated feminist who touts endorsements from many local elected officials, advocacy groups, unions, and prominent leaders. Her top priorities include passage of the Women's Equality Agenda, education reform, school construction to address overcrowding, and mitigation of the marine waste transfer station in her district. Seawright supports Citizens Union's entire reform agenda, and spoke to the needs for increased disclosure of outside income and passage of campaign finance reform. With the support she has raised within her community, Seawright has demonstrated that she will prioritize representing the needs of her district and leading on matters of concern to her constituents. Citizens Union also believes Seawright will be a partner in reform, ready to collaborate to improve the accountability and operations of the legislature. For these reasons, Citizens Union endorses Rebecca Seawright.



## CANDIDATE EVALUATIONS 2014 MANHATTAN EVALUATIONS (CONTINUED)

## DAVID GARLAND (R, I, DTD)

Has returned questionnaire, responses on p. 32.

Age: 44 Occupation: CEO of IFLM

Education: Georgetown University (BSFS); Wharton (MBA)

David Garland is a CEO with decades of experience in the private sector, who is running for office because he wants to use his background in economics to induce change to the financial infrastructure of the city. His top priority issues include lowering taxes and eliminating obsolete and redundant regulations that he believes are plaguing the economy, boosting charter schools, attaining smaller classroom sizes, and defeating the marine waste transfer station on 91st Street. Garland is running on the "Dump the Dump" ballot line, which he created last year when he was running for city council. It should be noted that the marine waste transfer station is currently being constructed, and Citizens Union felt that this use of fusion voting in 2014 could be misleading to voters. Garland supports much of Citizen's Union reform agenda, and believes that legislators should serve full time. Garland does not support the lowering of campaign contribution limits, or banning or limiting them from corporations, LLCs and LLPs, citing his unique position as a Republican running in a largely Democratic district. He states that these limitations would ensure that he could not get larger donations, and he would be otherwise handicapped by his party alignment. Garland supports term limits for state offices, believing that the accumulation of power is a detriment to the system, particularly in the Assembly's leadership. Overall, while Garland understands the problems of his district well, his views did not closely align with those of Citizens Union.



## CANDIDATE EVALUATIONS 2014 QUEENS EVALUATIONS (CONTINUED)

## **NYS SENATE DISTRICT 15**

## ★ ENDORSED CANDIDATE - JOSEPH ADDABBO (D) ★

Has returned questionnaire, responses on p. 32.

Age: 50 Occupation: Member, NYS Senate

Education: St. John's University (BS); Touro Law School (JD)

Joseph Addabbo has been in public service since 2001 when he began serving in the city council, but he believes his work is not yet finished. He has been a senator in the district since 2008, with a focus on reforms that ensure public integrity. He highlights the need for further infrastructure development, especially in light of the damage that Hurricane Sandy caused his community. Addabbo is committed to serving his constituents in a diverse and sprawling district, which is why he has three district offices. His top reform priorities include campaign finance reform, which he believes would help to make elections more competitive and even out the playing field. Addabbo is also committed to increasing voter participation. Regarding ethics reform, he supports extending pension forfeiture to all public officers who abuse the public trust. Addabbo supports the redistricting constitutional amendment, Proposal 1, believing that it will improve upon the current system. To achieve the reform issues that Addabbo discussed, he supports incremental change via legislation that is specific to a particular goal, rather than omnibus legislation. Addabbo works towards reform in Albany and is pragmatic about implementing change, and it is for these reasons that Citizens Union endorses his re-election.

## MICHAEL CONIGLIARO (R, C)

Has returned questionnaire, responses on p. 32.

Age: 45 Occupation: Law Office Manager

Education: Queensborough Community College (Degree not reported);

St. John's University (Degree not reported)

Michael Conigliaro is a law office manager who is motivated to run for elected office because he believes that not enough has been done in his district to focus on the middle class. Conigliaro is passionate about keeping businesses in Queens, and to achieve that goal, advocates for tax relief for businesses in the area, and addressing the high costs of commercial and industrial rent. He also supports reforming property taxes for the middle class and expanding educational and professional opportunities for veterans. On reform issues, Conilgiaro opposed many of Citizens Union's recommendations. He opposes over half of the Citizens Union's position on campaign finance reform, stating that unlike the incumbents who have numerous sources of funds for their campaigns, new candidates must depend on large individual and corporate contributions. On judicial reform, he supports a merit-based appointment system, but opposes simplifying the trial courts into a two tiered system. He also opposes the establishment of an independent, non-partisan budget office as well as a later start date for the state fiscal year. Citizens Union appreciates Conigliaro's volunteerism in his community, but his lack of support for needed reforms makes it difficult to support his election.



## CANDIDATE EVALUATIONS 2014 QUEENS EVALUATIONS (CONTINUED)

## **NYS ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 40**

★ ENDORSED CANDIDATE - RON KIM (D, WF) ★

Has returned questionnaire, responses on p. 32.

Age: 35 Occupation: Member, NYS Assembly

Education: Hamilton College (BA); Baruch College National Urban Fellow (MPA)

Ron Kim has been a member of the assembly since 2013, and has served more than 18,000 people in his district office, providing him a good understanding of the needs of his community. He believes that government needs to be effective and efficient. His top issues are education, open data, and healthcare. Kim believes that students from all communities should have access to good schools and that assessments should not be dependent solely on standardized tests. On reform issues, he is extremely passionate about open data and transparency, working with civic hack groups and pushing for more accessible data. He has been working on a data aggregation bill to more accurately capture information of constituents and their needs. On transparency and accountability in the state legislative and budgetary processes, Kim states there is a lack of performance measurement and reviews of allocations for local services, and that an introduction of such measures would be an incentive for leaders to do better for their constituents. Kim supports campaign finance reform and believes that once it is tackled, there would be less incentive for bad behavior by legislators. He does not oppose outside income, but suggests that income sources be vetted for conflicts of interest. He believes other underlying issues need to be addressed to better root out corruption. Kim also spoke about ethics reform, stating that the rules are clearly laid out but the problem stems from a lack of oversight. Citizens Union appreciates Ron Kim's leadership on open data and his thoughtful approach in addressing corruption, which is why we endorse his re-election.

PHIL GIM (R, I)

Has not returned questionnaire and could not be scheduled for an interview



## NYS ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 64

## ★ ENDORSED CANDIDATE - NICOLE MALLIOTAKIS (R, C, I) ★

Has returned questionnaire, responses on p. 32.

Age: 33 Occupation: Member, NYS Assembly
Education: Seton Hall University (BA); Wagner College (MBA)

Nicole Malliotakis has served in the state assembly since 2010, and previously worked on state energy policy for Con Edison and as a community liaison for Governor George Pataki. Her top priorities include advocating for her constituents to access recovery assistance from Hurricane Sandy and ensuring that the coast has protected areas to limit property damage. She is also vocal about the need for quality transportation on Staten Island, and oversight of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) – in particular that MTA funds should be used for transportation rather than being diverted for other uses. Malliotakis also spoke of her concerns regarding the state utility tax, and the inequitable distribution of the tax negatively impacting Con Edison customers. Regarding election reforms, Malliotakis supports instant runoff voting and is open to expanding absentee ballots to more categories of voters, but opposes early voting, citing the financial burden of keeping low turnout polling sites open for several consecutive days. She also supports Proposal 1, the redistricting constitutional amendment, and states that though it is not perfect, it is realistically better than the current system. Malliotakis opposes public campaign financing, and states that oversight of legislative housekeeping accounts must be expanded to ensure that power is not overly concentrated in the legislative leadership. On ethics reform, Malliotakis supports pension forfeiture from all legislators and public officers convicted of wrongdoing, and advocates for term limits on legislators to make elections more competitive and incumbents less entrenched. Malliotakis demonstrates a commitment to Citizens Union's values of making government accountable and responsive and Citizens Union appreciates her enthusiasm for collaborating with CU to achieve these goals. Malliotakis is an effective legislator: she works on the ground to bring aid to her constituents, and in Albany she brings about policy reforms in coordination with colleagues in both parties. As a member of the Assembly's minority party, Malliotakis' advocacy is an important check on the leadership which is vital to a balanced, healthy democracy. For these reasons, Citizens Union supports her candidacy.



## CANDIDATE EVALUATIONS 2014 STATEN ISLAND EVALUATIONS (CONTINUED)

## MARYBETH MELENDEZ (D, WF)

Has returned questionnaire, responses on p. 32.

Age: 48 Occupation: Clinical Therapist

Education: College of Staten Island (MS)

Melendez is a clinical therapist who worked on the ground in Staten Island conducting crisis management in the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. She speaks to the need for greater economic recovery in her district, pointing to Hurricane Sandy as bringing to the surface many of the difficulties already faced by those on Staten Island, including predatory lending and substance abuse. Her top legislative priorities include passing the DREAM Act and the Women's Equality Agenda, raising the state's minimum wage, and the expansion of the TAP program for graduate and middle class students. Melendez supports the majority of Citizens Union's reform agenda, and is particularly aligned with our campaign finance and election reforms such as no-excuse absentee voting and streamlining the voting process with newly available technologies. She also spoke to the need for greater transparency in order to facilitate more ethical behavior in Albany. Melendez initially opposed the redistricting amendment, Proposal 1, though she expressed a desire to learn more about the effect of the constitutional amendment, and a willingness to change her opinion upon reviewing more information. Melendez is passionate and articulate in speaking about the concerns of her community, and the crucial role of policy development and implementation in addressing concrete constituent needs. She impresses Citizens Union as a high-caliber candidate and person of integrity who does fine work in aiding Staten Islanders and advocating for legislative reforms.



## **VOTING AND REGISTRATION INFORMATION REGISTERING TO VOTE**

## **REGISTERING TO VOTE**

You are eligible to vote in municipal, federal and state elections if you are:

- 18 years of age on the date of the election. You can register at 17 if you will be 18 before the election; send your voter registration card in the year you turn 18 and it will be filed on your 18th birthday;
- A United States citizen; AND
- Registered to vote at least 25 days before the election.

## APPLYING FOR AN ABSENTEE BALLOT FOR THE PRIMARY ELECTION

You may vote by absentee ballot if you are:

- absent from New York City (or your county, if you live outside of New York City) on Election Day;
- ill or disabled, or serve as primary caregiver for an ill or disabled individual;
- a patient or inmate in a Veterans' Administration Hospital; OR
- detained in jail awaiting Grand Jury action or are confined in prison for an offense other than a felony.

Deadlines for absentee ballot applications and submissions are as follows:

- <u>Mail your Absentee Ballot Application or Letter of Application</u> by Tuesday, October 28th.
- Apply for an Absentee Ballot in Person at your local county board of elections office by Monday, November 3rd.
- Mail in your Absentee Ballot with a postmark by Monday, November 3rd it also
  must be received by the local board of elections no later than Tuesday, November
  12th.
- <u>Drop off your Absentee Ballot</u> by Tuesday, November 4th to your local board of elections office a friend or relative can drop it off.

## **VOTING ON GENERAL ELECTION DAY**

## Getting to the polls

- The General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 4th.
- Polls will be open from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- To find your polling site, visit nyc.pollsitelocator.com or call the Board of Elections at 1-866-VOTE-NYC.

### Signing in at the polls

- Once you enter the poll site, sign in with the poll worker who will give you your paper ballot.
- Under federal law, if you are disabled and choose to vote in person rather than by absentee ballot, you are entitled to assistance. You can rely on the election employees for help.



## VOTING AND REGISTRATION INFORMATION REGISTERING TO VOTE (CONTINUED)

• If you are not on the voter registration list, it may be because your registration form was not received in time or was filled out incorrectly. If you believe that you are eligible to vote, you can still vote by requesting an affidavit ballot. After the election, the Board of Elections will check its records and your vote will be counted if you are indeed eligible.

## **Casting your ballot**

- Mark your ballot through one of two means:
  - Pen: Go to a privacy booth and fill out your ballot with a pen by marking the appropriate ovals; or
  - Ballot Marking Device (BMD): BMDs are mandated to be available at each polling location for those who are in need of assistance. Any voter, including voters with disabilities, may use the BMD to view or listen to the ballot in any of the required languages for that poll site (English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean or Bengali). Voters may use the BMD to complete a paper ballot independently and privately on Election Day by using its ATM-style touch screen, Braille-enhanced keypad, sip and puff device or its rocker paddle.
- Place your ballot in the privacy sleeve, proceed to the scanner area, and insert the
  marked ballot into the scanner to cast your vote. Your ballot can be inserted in any
  direction. You can choose to insert the ballot yourself rather than by a poll worker,
  if preferred.
- Your ballot will be counted after it is inserted into the electronic scanner. The scanner will then be used to count the votes after the polling place has closed at the end of Election Day. You should notice the tally of the number of ballots receive increase after your ballot has been scanned. A bin attached to the scanner will capture and keep the paper ballots as a record of all votes.
- If you make a mistake you can request a new ballot. If you mark your ballot incorrectly by marking more choices for one contest than you are supposed to, the scanner will notify you of an "overvote." To have your vote count, you must obtain a new ballot and mark your choices correctly before submitting your ballot.

### **Voting on Ballot Proposals**

- Remember to turn over your ballot to vote on ballot proposals.
- Your ballot is two-sided: on the front is the ballot for elected officials, and on the back is the ballot to vote for proposals to amend the NYS Constitution and to approve budget allocations.
- Like the ballot for elected officials, you must fill out a bubble for your "yes" or "no" response.
- To learn more about this year's ballot proposals, please turn to page 15.



### RESOURCES FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

## To Obtain a Voter Registration Form or Absentee Ballot

**NYC Board of Elections** 

(866) VOTE-NYC www.vote.nyc.ny.us/html/voters/voters.shtml

\*Or go in person to your local county Board of Elections office

## To Learn More about the New Voting Process and Ballot Marking Devices

**NYC Board of Elections** 

(866) VOTE-NYC www.votethenewwayny.com

## To find your polling site

NYC Board of Elections

(866) VOTE-NYC nyc.pollsitelocator.com

## To Research Campaign Contributions

NYS Board of Elections

(800) 458-3453 www.elections.ny.gov

### To Research Candidates and Issues

Citizens Union

(212) 227-0342 www.citizensunion.org

**Gotham Gazette** 

(212) 227-0342 www.gothamgazette.com

League of Women Voters of NYS

(518) 465-4162 www.lwvny.org

Project Vote Smart

(888) VOTE-SMART www.votesmart.org

### To Research Incumbent Records

New York State Assembly

(518) 455-4218 www.assembly.state.ny.us

New York State Senate

(518) 455-2800 www.nysenate.gov



### **TAKE ACTION ON PROPOSAL 1**

### TOGETHER WE CAN FIX ALBANY'S RIGGED REDISTRICTING SYSTEM!

Please join Citizens Union and the League of Women Voters of New York State to pass Proposal 1, this Election Day, November 4th.

Proposal 1 is a critically needed reform to create a fair redistricting process as it:

- Bans districts drawn to favor or oppose incumbents, challengers or political parties
- Strips legislators of unchecked power to draw their own district lines
- Creates a politically balanced commission to draw maps on which no legislator or lobbyist serves
- Respects communities and protects minority voting rights
- Requires ground breaking transparency with public access to maps, data and public hearings across the state

## You can help pass Proposal 1 by:

## Voting YES on Proposal 1

- Remember to turn over your ballot!
- The general election ballot is 2-sided: candidates are on the front, and ballot proposals are on the back

## Telling your family, friends, and social networks about Proposal 1

- When you talk to others about the elections, tell them you are voting yes on Proposal 1
- Share info about Proposal 1, and your support for it, on social media
- Show your support on our social networking sites:
  - o Follow us on Twitter at @YesProp1
  - o Like us on Facebook at Facebook.com/VoteYesforProgress

## Leafleting at community and political events and neighborhood hotspots, on and before Election Day

- We'll provide the materials, you bring your energy!
- Hand out palm cards and fliers at busy subway stations, farmer's markets, and other hubs of activity in your community
- Contact Chelsea Schuster at Cschuster@citizensunion.org or 212-227-0342 x 28 to sign-up for volunteer opportunities and to obtain palm cards and fliers

To learn more about Proposal 1, see our evaluation on page 15, and visit:

 $www. Vote Yes For Progress. or g \bullet Facebook. com/Vote Yes for Progress \bullet Twitter. com/Yes Prop 1$ 



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Joseph Santagata

CITIZENS UNION 299 BROADWAY, SUITE 700 NEW YORK, NY 10007

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