



**2012 QUESTIONNAIRE FOR  
CANDIDATES FOR NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE**

Citizens Union would appreciate your response to the following questionnaire related to policy issues facing New York State and our interest in reforming state government. Responses to these questions will be one of several factors Citizens Union will use to evaluate candidates who are running for office in order to determine our "Preferred Candidates" for the September 13<sup>th</sup> Primary Election, and our "Endorsed Candidates" for the November 6<sup>th</sup> General Election.

If you seek our support, we would also need to schedule an interview with you as part of the evaluation process. We will not automatically schedule an interview with you if you return this questionnaire, as we prioritize competitive races and resources constrain us from evaluating all races. Please contact us if you wish to be interviewed.

We plan to make responses to this questionnaire public on our website, Voters Directory and other appropriate venues. We thank you very much for your response.

Candidate Name: Micah Z. Kellner Age: 33

Campaign Address: 217 East 85<sup>th</sup> Street, #117, New York, NY 10028

Campaign Telephone Number: (917) 558-3198 Fax: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Party Affiliation(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Campaign Manager Name: Helen DhW

Website & Email: WWW.micahkellner.com kellner4Assembly@gmail.com

Education: Bachelor of Fine Arts - NYU

Occupation/Employer (or years in currently held elected office): 5 years held in current office

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you willing to be interviewed by CU's Local Candidates Committee? YES  NO \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please note: Citizens Union can grant its "Endorsed Candidate" rating only to candidates we have interviewed.)

Have you completed requisite campaign finance filings? YES  NO \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Candidate: Micah Z. Kellner Date: 7/10/12

## I. CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

Please state your position on the following reform measures. Specify whether you support or oppose each. You may elaborate in the space provided at the end or on additional paper.

### ELECTION REFORM

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| 1. What is your position on second passage of the constitutional amendment (S.6698/A.9526 of 2012) creating an independent redistricting commission with appointees split evenly between the majority and minority parties?  | Support/ <input checked="" type="radio"/> Oppose |
| 2. What is your position on restructuring the state Board of Elections and changing the administration of elections by amending the constitution to abolish the two-party system of governance and operation?  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Support/ Oppose |
| 3. What is your position on making it easier for candidates to appear on the ballot by, for example, lowering signature requirements and utilizing less burdensome witness signature requirements?   | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Support/ Oppose |
| 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?  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Support/ Oppose |
| 5. What is your position on automatically granting New Yorkers on parole the ability to vote?  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Support/ Oppose |
| 6. What is your position on amending the constitution to allow for Election Day Registration?  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Support/ Oppose |
| 7. What is your position on amending the constitution to allow for no-excuse absentee voting?  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Support/ Oppose |
| 8. What is your position on instituting early voting in New York State to allow voters to cast their votes at more convenient times?   | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Support/ Oppose |
| 9. What is your position on redesigning the ballot to ensure that voters are able to clearly read candidates' names, titles of offices, designations and ballot questions; that instructions are clear and accurate; that bilingual ballots are required; and that the ballot is able to split races between multiple pages? | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Support/ Oppose |
| 10. What is your position on reforming the special election process, creating a nonpartisan special election for state legislative vacancies, as proposed by A.1369/S.26?  | Support/ <input checked="" type="radio"/> Oppose |
| 11. What is your position regarding automatic voter registration in which voter registration information of individuals who consent to be registered is provided electronically to the Board of Elections, and address information is automatically updated?   | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Support/ Oppose |

### CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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| 12. What is your position on establishing a matching public financing system for state legislative and statewide races similar to the New York City model?  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Support/ Oppose |
| 13. What is your position on lowering campaign contribution limits for legislative and statewide candidates for public office?  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Support/ Oppose |
| 14. What is your position on restricting campaign contributions from registered lobbyists, placement agents and those who do business with the state?   | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Support/ Oppose |
| 15. What is your position on limiting or banning campaign contributions from corporations, LLCs, and LLPs? (Note: such entities would be able to form separate political action committees due to constitutional issues regarding freedom of speech.)   | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Support/ Oppose |
| 16. What is your position on closing "soft money" loopholes such as limiting transfers from party committees to candidates or other committees to twice the limit set on individual contributors and limiting contributions to party committees, including housekeeping accounts, to the same ceiling placed on candidates? | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Support/ Oppose |
| 17. What is your position on requiring candidates to include full name, home address, and employer/business name for each contribution and bundler?   | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Support/ Oppose |

**CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM (CONTINUED)**

|  |                |
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| 18. What is your position on requiring that two periodic campaign finance reports be filed during the legislative session to reflect contributions given during the session?             | Support/Oppose |
| 19. What is your position on stricter requirements on the use of campaign contributions for non-campaign related activity, such as personal use?   | Support/Oppose |
| 20. What is your position on improving disclosure of independent expenditures such as requiring disclosure of electioneering activities and linking expenditures to candidates targeted? | Support/Oppose |
| 21. What is your position on limiting the ability of candidates to accumulate "war chests" and then transferring funds raised in one race to another?                                    | Support/Oppose |
| 22. What is your position on creating an enforcement entity independent of the State Board of Elections to oversee campaign finance laws?  | Support/Oppose |

**JUDICIAL REFORM**

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| 23. What is your position on a merit-based appointment system through creation of a commission for the selection of judges in all of New York's trial courts? | Support/Oppose |
| 24. What is your position simplifying and modernizing the state's court system by consolidating the nine trial courts into a two-tiered system?               | Support/Oppose |

**ETHICS REFORM**

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| 25. What is your position on empowering the Attorney General to investigate and prosecute cases involving public corruption, including serious election law malfeasance?  | Support/Oppose |
| 26. What is your position on amending the State Constitution to extend pension forfeiture, subject to due process safeguards, to all public officers and legislators who have been convicted of felonies, building on the 2011 ethics reforms which only apply to future state employees? | Support/Oppose |

**BUDGET REFORM**

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| 27. What is your position on requiring the governor's budget submission to present the full scope of the state's financial obligations, including its public authorities?   | Support/Oppose |
| 28. What is your position on establishing an independent, nonpartisan budget office to provide revenue projections, display economic and policy analysis and require that the state engage in long term, multi-year budget planning?                      | Support/Oppose |
| 29. What is your position on the use of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) rather than cash accounting for the state budget?   | Support/Oppose |
| 30. What is your position on distributing member item allocations equally among all legislators and requiring for greater accountability as expressed in S. 7007/A10116?  | Support/Oppose |
| 31. What is your position on incorporating the use of performance budgeting and outcome measurement to promote the more rational appropriation of state funds?  | Support/Oppose |
| 32. What is your position on instituting a later start date for the state fiscal year?  | Support/Oppose |
| 33. What is your position on limiting the ability of the governor to enact policy changes governing the use of resources in appropriation bills by requiring that such bills be consistent with existing law or proposed changes in separate legislation? | Support/Oppose |

**ADDITIONAL REFORM**

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| 34. What is your position on increasing public access to information by reforming the Freedom of Information and Open Meetings Laws to enhance transparency, as well as the creation of tools such as open data portals to ease public access to information? | Support/Oppose |
| 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/Oppose |