



2014 QUESTIONNAIRE FOR CANDIDATES FOR NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE

Citizens Union appreciates your response to the following questionnaire related to policy issues facing New York State and our interest in reforming state government. **Please return the questionnaire to us as soon as possible, and no later than July 11th.** Responses to these questions will be one of several factors Citizens Union uses to evaluate candidates running for office in order to determine our “Preferred Candidates” for the September 9th Primary Election, and our “Endorsed Candidates” for the November 4th General Election.

If you seek our support, we will 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 and have not heard from us.**

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: Diane Savino

Campaign Address: 39 Broadway, Suite 1740, New York, NY 10006

Campaign Telephone Number: (212) 239-7323 Fax: (917) 591-5281

Party Affiliation(s): Democratic and Independence Campaign Manager Name:

Website & Email:

Education: Graduated, Cornell School of Industrial and Labor Relations, BA, Saint John's University

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

First Elected: Senator, NYS Senate: November 2, 2004

Last Elected: November 6, 2012

Up for re-election: November 4, 2014

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement: First Time Homeowner Workshops

Vice President of Legislations and Political Action, Social Service Employees Union Local 371

Women's Health Fair, Task Force to Fight Child Obesity, Caseworker, New York City Child Welfare

Administration, Member of the following committees: Banks, Member, Children and Families, Chair, Civil
Service and Pensions, Member, Veterans, Homeland Security and Military Affairs, Member

Are you willing to be interviewed by CU's Local Candidates Committee? YES

(Please note: Citizens Union can grant its "Endorsed Candidate" rating only to candidates we have interviewed.)

Have you completed requisite campaign finance filings? YES

Signature of Candidate:



Date: 7/7/14

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

1. 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
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 strict two-party division of governance and operation?	Support
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
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
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
6. What is your position on amending the constitution to allow for Election Day Voter Registration?	Support
7. What is your position on amending the constitution to allow for no-excuse absentee voting?	Support
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
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
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
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
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

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
14. What is your position on lowering campaign contribution limits for legislative and statewide candidates for public office?	Support
15. What is your position on restricting campaign contributions from registered lobbyists, placement agents and those who do business with the state?	Support

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM (CONTINUED)

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
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
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
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
20. What is your position on stricter requirements on the use of campaign contributions for non-campaign related activity, such as personal use?	Support
21. What is your position on improving disclosure of independent expenditures such as requiring disclosure of electioneering activities?	Support
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
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

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

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
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

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
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
30. What is your position on the use of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) rather than cash accounting for the state budget?	Oppose
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
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
33. What is your position on instituting a later start date for the state fiscal year?	Support
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

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
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
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 and New Jersey?	Support

Please use the space provided or a separate sheet of paper to elaborate on your positions on the issues contained in the previous pages. You may also provide additional information on any actions that you have taken or plan to take to advance your positions on these issues.

As a New York State Senator, I feel that the purpose of any elected official should be to serve and protect the will and interest of the people you represent. Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality and I believe I’ve embodied these principles during my time as the Senator of the 23rd District. When the issue of redistricting and the creation of an independent commission to address redistricting in New York was introduced, I voted yes in support of the passage of S3331-Non-Partisan Redistricting Commission. As a previous supporter of the Working Families Party, which I honorably served as an executive committee member in the beginning of its creation, I support choice. I believe third parties joining the electoral process in NY should be encouraged and made easier for potential candidates to appear on the ballot to give voters a greater voice in Albany. Someone once said the key to successful leadership today

is influence, and this is a primary reason I have joined the Independent Democratic Conference to fight on the behalf of all New Yorkers for common sense, bipartisan solutions to New York's toughest challenges. I support the campaign finance measures crafted by the Independent Conference in the Senate, along with other measures it would include the elimination of unlimited contributions to "housekeeping" accounts as well as unlimited expenditures by party committees, this would provide real reform to campaign finance abuses.

In 2011, I voted for and supported the passage of the Public Integrity Reform Act of 2011 which established unprecedented transparency, struck disclosure requirements, and a strong independent monitor with broad oversight of New York State Government. In terms of the state budget, this year I authored a bill in the Senate (S03683-2014) that would permit the State Lottery Commission to sell advertising space on lottery tickets and Quick Draw terminals. The hope is by doing so, the State would be able to raise hundreds of millions of dollars of revenue for education and other expenditures without having to raise taxes by one dime. My overall goal is to have a more transparent, inclusive, and efficient government that is truly representative of all of New Yorkers.

II. CAMPAIGN PROMISES MADE TO VOTERS (PAST AND CURRENT)

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

As an elected official who is seeking re-election,

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

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

TOP FIVE CAMPAIGN PROMISES FROM LAST ELECTION AND ACTION ON THEM

- 1. Improvement in Healthcare access for women.** *Voted to pass the Reproductive Health Act out of the Senate Health Committee*
- 2. Safe and secure schools, free of bullying and conducive to learning.** *Co-sponsored the passage of "Dignity for All Students Act" to provide all students with a safe school environment conducive to learning by putting an end to harassment and discrimination. Legislation Bill passed April 30, 2014 establishing speed violation monitoring systems in certain counties including school speed zones.*
- 3. Development of green energy initiatives and programs to educate about green energy.** *Supported NYC Solar energy installation to be built at Freshkills Park in Staten Island producing enough energy to power more than 2,000 homes - increasing city's renewable energy capacity by half.*

4. **Corruption amelioration and transparency in government.** *Legislation Bill passed March 14, 2012 establishes new state assembly and senate districts based on the results of the 2010 census.*
5. **Protecting and securing retirement plans for my constituencies.** *Voted nay on legislation bill passed March 14, 2012 that increased the retirement age and increased retirement contributions for public employees who koi the retirement system after April 1, 2012*

TOP FIVE 2014 CAMPAIGN PROMISES OR GOALS

1. Furthering Medical Marijuana legalization goals.
2. Support fair wages for workers, including raising the minimum wage in NYS.
3. Increase financial investment in education.
4. Lowering city speed limits to lower injury and death rates.
5. Affordability for NY Seniors.

**Please return to: Citizens Union, Local Candidates Committee
299 Broadway, Suite 700 New York, NY 10007
via fax to 212.227.0345 or via email to candidates@citizensunion.org
Call us at 212-227-0342 with any questions.**