



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: **Brad Hoylman** Age: **47**

Campaign Address: **80 Eighth Ave #1802 New York, NY 10011**

Campaign Telephone Number: **(917) 572-0033**

Party Affiliation(s): **D, WFP** Campaign Manager Name: **Max Markham**

Website & Email: **www.bradhoylman.com; hoylmanforsenate@gmail.com**

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

Occupation/Employer (or years in currently held elected office): **2 years (1 term) NY State Senate**

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement: **Campaign for NY City Council District 1 (2001), Male Democratic District Leader 66AD Part A (2005-2012), member of Manhattan Community Board 2 (2000-2012, including three terms as Chair), & President of Gay & Lesbian Independent Democrats (2002-2004)**

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

Have you completed requisite campaign finance filings? YES NO

Signature of Candidate:  Date: **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/ <u>Oppose</u>
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?	<u>Support</u> /Oppose
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?	<u>Support</u> /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?	<u>Support</u> /Oppose
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.	<u>Support</u> /Oppose
6. What is your position on amending the constitution to allow for Election Day Voter Registration?	<u>Support</u> /Oppose
7. What is your position on amending the constitution to allow for no-excuse absentee voting?	<u>Support</u> /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 over a period of several days?	<u>Support</u> /Oppose
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 ?	<u>Support</u> /Oppose
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?	<u>Support</u> /Oppose
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?	<u>Support</u> /Oppose
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?	<u>Support</u> /Oppose

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

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.)	<u>Support</u> /Oppose
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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?	<u>Support/</u> Oppose
18. What is your position on requiring candidates to include the full name, home address, and employer/business name for each contribution and bundler?	<u>Support/</u> Oppose
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?	<u>Support/</u> Oppose
20. What is your position on stricter requirements on the use of campaign contributions for non-campaign related activity, such as personal use?	<u>Support/</u> Oppose
21. What is your position on improving disclosure of independent expenditures such as requiring disclosure of electioneering activities?	<u>Support/</u> Oppose
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?	<u>Support/</u> Oppose
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?	<u>Support/</u> Oppose

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

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?	<u>Support/</u> Oppose
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?	<u>Support/</u> Oppose

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?	<u>Support/</u> Oppose
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?	<u>Support/</u> Oppose
30. What is your position on the use of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) rather than cash accounting for the state budget?	<u>Support/</u> 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?	<u>Support/</u> Oppose
32. What is your position on incorporating the use of performance budgeting and outcome measurement to promote the more rational appropriation of state funds?	<u>Support/</u> Oppose
33. What is your position on instituting a later start date for the state fiscal year?	<u>Support/</u> Oppose
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?	<u>Support/</u> Oppose

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?	<u>Support/</u> Oppose
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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?	<u>Support/</u> Oppose
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?	<u>Support/</u> Oppose

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.

1. **Oppose: I believe that the 2012 redistricting deal is fundamentally flawed, in that it does nothing to reform the problem of significantly unequal population variances between legislative districts, denying fair representation for all New Yorkers and undermining the principle of “one person, one vote.”** Furthermore, I have strong reservations as to whether the “independent” commission established by the proposed amendment will truly be independent. We have ample time to enact true redistricting reform, requiring a nonpartisan commission and equitable and geographically compact districts, before the next round of redistricting in 2022.

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. **Strengthening laws to protect rent regulated tenants:** I co-sponsor many bills with my Senate Democratic colleagues that increase protections for tenants. I also recently submitted testimony to the Rent Guidelines Board (RGB) in support of a rent freeze for rent-stabilized tenants. While the RGB heeded many of my recommendations, it set rent increases for rent-stabilized and loft leases (though one of the smallest increases in history). Among the legislation I co-sponsor are bills to reform the RGB system and level the playing field for tenants. I am heartened by Mayor de Blasio’s commitment to preserving and expanding the City’s affordable housing stock, and worked closely with his administration to pass legislation I sponsored this year which paves the way for up to 50 years of continued affordability for Penn South, a 2,820-unit, middle-income, limited-equity coop in

my district. I look forward to working with the Mayor and my Senate Democratic colleagues to strengthen our state's rent laws in 2015.

2. **Increasing parental involvement in school governance decisions:** I strongly opposed, and was one of the few Senators to vote against, the education portion of the 2014-2015 budget, due to its gutting of mayoral control and its elimination of parental and community input regarding charter schools. I continue to support the inclusion and involvement of parents and community members in the direction of our education system.
3. **Reforming campaign finance laws:** I strongly support campaign finance reform, and think the public financing system used in citywide elections is a great model for our state. I was disappointed that the legislature only enacted a limited pilot program for public financing of this year's State Comptroller campaign. It was especially disheartening that this pilot program appeared to be part of a deal to defund and disband the Moreland Commission on Public Corruption, which was investigating campaign finance abuses and compiling recommendations for strengthening our state's campaign finance laws before it was abruptly terminated. I will continue to work with my Senate Democratic colleagues to enact a set of meaningful reforms to our campaign finance laws.
4. **Making the state tax system more progressive:** I am strongly in favor of creating a more equitable and progressive tax structure for New York State. I voted against the Article VII Revenue bill in the 2014-2015 budget this year, which contained a number of regressive tax policies, and am committed to opposing legislation from my Republican colleagues that would make the system more regressive. While the power sharing agreement between the Independent Democratic Conference and the Senate Republicans in my first term made it nearly impossible for progressive taxation legislation to get past committee votes, I am optimistic that a new Democratic majority next year will yield an opportunity bring these important reforms to the floor.
5. **Passing the Gender Equality Non-Discrimination Act (GENDA):** As a co-sponsor of the GENDA legislation (S.195-B), an outspoken advocate, and the only openly-LGBT State Senator, I was very disappointed that the State Senate once again failed to pass GENDA. This piece of legislation, along with my bill to ban the dangerous practice of gay conversion therapy ([S. 4917-B](#)) are crucial steps towards civil rights law that protect New Yorkers against harmful and discriminatory practices. I am hopeful that a new Democratic majority next year will allow us to finally take these steps forward.

TOP FIVE 2014 CAMPAIGN PROMISES OR GOALS

1. Passing GENDA
2. Passing the Women's Equality Act

3. Reforming Campaign Finance Laws & passing my bill to ban moonlighting by legislators (S.6196)
4. Passing the DREAM Act
5. Giving municipalities the ability to set a higher minimum wage

**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.**