

QUESTIONNAIRE: STATE LEGISLATURE

Below each question, please find a tabulation of answers from all 45 Senate and Assembly primary candidates who responded to the questionnaire (not only from those candidates who Citizens Union interviewed).

ETHICS REFORM

1. Limit outside compensation earned by state legislators and statewide officials to 25% of their salaries, while enacting a salary increase and eliminating stipends.
Support: 41 Conditionally Support: 1 Undecided or No Answer: 0
Oppose: 3 Conditionally Oppose: 0
2. Reform the Joint Commission on Public Ethics to eliminate the ability of one party to veto an investigation and to increase disclosure of its decision-making.
Support: 45 Conditionally Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 0
Oppose: 0 Conditionally Oppose: 0

ELECTIONS AND VOTING

3. Do you support or oppose the following changes to the state's current registration and voting system?
 - a. Early voting
Support: 42 Conditionally Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 0
Oppose: 3 Conditionally Oppose: 0
 - b. No-excuse absentee voting
Support: 41 Conditionally Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 0
Oppose: 4 Conditionally Oppose: 0
 - c. Election Day voter registration
Support: 41 Conditionally Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 1
Oppose: 3 Conditionally Oppose: 0
 - d. Re-enfranchisement of people on parole automatically through legislation, without requiring a Certificate of Good Conduct or Relief
Support: 38 Conditionally Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 1
Oppose: 5 Conditionally Oppose: 1
 - e. Automatic voter registration, unless the potential voter opts out
Support: 41 Conditionally Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 1
Oppose: 3 Conditionally Oppose: 0
 - f. Consolidated state and federal primaries
Support: 42 Conditionally Support: 1 Undecided or No Answer: 0
Oppose: 2 Conditionally Oppose: 0
 - g. Electronic poll books
Support: 44 Conditionally Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 0
Oppose: 1 Conditionally Oppose: 0
4. Reform the special election process, utilizing a nonpartisan special election for state legislative seats and eliminate delays in filling vacancies.
Support: 43 Conditionally Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 1
Oppose: 1 Conditionally Oppose: 0

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

5. Establish public financing of campaigns for state legislative and statewide offices using a method similar to New York City's Campaign Finance Law.
Support: 39 Conditionally Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 0
Oppose: 6 Conditionally Oppose: 0
6. Close the LLC loophole to ensure that limited liability companies have the same contribution limits as corporations, rather than the higher limit for individuals.
Support: 44 Conditionally Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 0
Oppose: 1 Conditionally Oppose: 0
7. Drastically reduce campaign contribution limits and reduce them even further from registered lobbyists and those who do business with the state.
Support: 42 Conditionally Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 1
Oppose: 2 Conditionally Oppose: 0

BUDGET PROCESS

8. Require full disclosure of grants and contracts issued by the state, including the budget lines from which the spending is made and reporting on the results of each grant or contract over a certain amount.
Support: 45 Conditionally Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 0
Oppose: 0 Conditionally Oppose: 0
9. Provide for adequate online disclosure and itemization of spending from elected officials' lump sum appropriations, including reporting on potential conflicts of interest and how the funds are spent.
Support: 45 Conditionally Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 0
Oppose: 0 Conditionally Oppose: 0

POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY

10. Repeal Civil Rights Law, Sec. 50-a, which shields from public view the disciplinary records of police officers, correction officers, and firefighters.
Support: 36 Conditionally Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 1
Oppose: 8 Conditionally Oppose: 0

ELECTION ADMINISTRATION

11. Restructure the state Board of Elections to abolish the strict two-party division of governance and operation and putting in place professional, nonpartisan administration.
Support: 40 Conditionally Support: 1 Undecided or No Answer: 0
Oppose: 4 Conditionally Oppose: 0
12. Empower the attorney general to investigate and prosecute election law malfeasance and cases of public corruption.
Support: 42 Conditionally Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 1
Oppose: 2 Conditionally Oppose: 0

HOME RULE

13. Make mayoral control of city schools permanent, with a governance system that provides for accountability, transparency, parent engagement, and democratic participation.
Support: 33 Conditionally Support: 2 Undecided or No Answer: 0
Oppose: 10 Conditionally Oppose: 0