

Candidate Questionnaire-New York 2000

The National Priorities Project is pleased to offer this vehicle for helping you gain a better understanding of where each candidate stands on a range of issues affecting your community.

This questionnaire is a companion piece to NPP's

State of the States 2000: The 3rd Annual Assessment of the State We're In.

It offers specific questions to get you started and allows space for you to add your own.

Education

Possible Issues to Raise:

- *School reconstruction needs*
- *Test scores*
- *High school graduation rates*

Sample Question:

90% of schools in New York are in need of significant repair. How will you address this problem?

Candidate Name: _____

Running for: _____

My Question/Comments:

Candidate Name: _____

Running for: _____

My Question/Comments:

Some possible ways to put this questionnaire to good use include:

- (1) Bring it to a live debate/meeting in your own town and ask for concrete answers.
- (2) Gather friends to watch a televised debate and use it for an evaluation and discussion of the candidates.
- (3) Use it as a guide for emailing/writing candidates to get responses to the questions that concern you.
- (4) Study it on your own, think about the issues you care about and who would best represent them.
- (5) Ask your local media to raise these questions with the candidates.

Housing

Possible Issues to Raise:

- *Shortage of affordable housing units*
- *Homelessness*
- *Potential loss of affordable rental housing*

Sample Question:

52% of New York renters cannot afford to pay the Fair Market Rent. What will you do to build more affordable housing?

Candidate Name: _____

My Question/Comments:

Economic Security

Possible Issues to Raise:

- *Number of children living in poverty*
- *Head Start serving only 11.2% of all eligible children*
- *% of jobs with the most growth in New York that pay below poverty wages*

Sample Question:

Will you support full funding of Head Start?

Candidate Name: _____

My Question/Comments:

Candidate Name: _____

My Question/Comments:

Candidate Name: _____

My Question/Comments:

The outcome of the 2000 Elections will greatly impact the direction that our federal spending priorities will take.* We hope this questionnaire will help you obtain the information you need to make the best decisions possible for you and your community.

(*For more information about the impact of federal spending priorities on many of the issues raised in this questionnaire, including localized state and city data, please see the National Priorities Project, *State of the States Report 2000* or visit NPP's website at www.natprior.org.)

Military

Possible Issues to Raise:

- *Cost of fighter jets*
- *The U.S.'s stockpile of 12,000 nuclear weapons*
- *Proposals to increase the Pentagon share of Discretionary spending from 50% to 54%*

Sample Questions:

The United States has 2,300 fighter jets considered to be the best in the world. The Pentagon wants to build 3,889 more. The F-22 fighter jets are a part of this proposed increase and would cost New York taxpayers \$7.1 billion. Do you support funding the F-22?

Do you advocate cutting community-based spending for housing, Head Start and education to increase the Pentagon budget?

Candidate Name: _____

My Question/Comments:

Candidate Name: _____

My Question/Comments:

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