



Dear Candidate,

As you may know I recently founded New York Uprising PAC with the goal of reforming how Albany works. Last month we announced support for initial reforms from all four candidates for Governor. Today we turn our attention to you, members of and candidates for the State Legislature.

While you may have previously indicated support for “reform” conceptually, I believe voters are looking for candidates this year who will commit to specifics. That is why, on behalf of New York Uprising, I invite you to sign the three pledges enclosed, covering the following areas of reform: non-partisan independent redistricting, ethics reform and budgetary reform.

The Trustees of New York Uprising, with decades of government experience behind us, believe that these reforms, when enacted, will help you do the job you’ve dedicated your career to, irrespective of Party or Chamber. This isn’t just about placating an angry electorate -- although it may help.

In the coming weeks New York Uprising will begin naming those candidates and incumbents who are committed to reform and those who are not. We will further roll out a series of internet tools voters can use to help them distinguish the true reformers themselves. Note that New York Uprising will **ONLY** issue the seal of approval to those candidates and incumbents who have signed **ALL THREE** pledges.

Please email signed pledges back to ed@nyuprising.org or mail to:

New York Uprising
233 Broadway
Suite 850
New York, NY 10279

All the best,
Ed Koch



NEW YORK UPRISING ETHICS PLEDGE

The public demands that their elected officials and candidates for public office maintain the highest degree of ethics while running for office and serving in government. To reform New York State's government, the enactment of comprehensive ethics legislation by the Governor, Assembly and the Senate is mandatory. Therefore,

I, _____, pledge that as a Member of and/or a Candidate for the:

New York State Assembly, _____ District

New York Senate, _____ District

will support and vote to enact the following ethics reforms, regardless of the position of the Legislature's leadership, any caucus or of any chamber:

- **A State Ethics Commission**, having jurisdiction over all State elected and public officials in the Executive Branch, the Legislature, any public authority, public corporation or a State governmental entity and candidates for State office, having subpoena power, to investigate and sanction elected officials, public officials and candidates, for ethics, conflicts of interest, financial disclosure, campaign finance and lobbying violations.

- **A Comprehensive Annual Financial Disclosure Form**, requiring an elected official, public official or a candidate for any State office, their spouse, domestic partner and unemancipated child(ren), to disclose:

All sources and amounts of earned income, assets, gifts, liabilities and other financial information;

The names of clients of an elected official, public official or a candidate for any State office, who is associated with a law firm, consulting, brokerage or any professional services business with a description of the professional services rendered by the individual to the clients,

Any interest in a government contract and/or relationship to any not for profit organization.

Transparency requires that the annual Financial Disclosure Form shall be made public to any requesting individual or entity, but with the filer being permitted to request limited information exemptions, for instance, to protect the confidentiality of a client's legal matter.



- To Prohibit or Limit “Pay to Play” Campaign Contributions:

By impaneling a “Blue Ribbon” Commission to consider and make recommendations to implement:

Prohibiting a campaign contribution to a State elected official’s or a candidate’s campaign committee, from an entity that solicits or obtains any State business, contract, franchise, concession, pension fund investment agreement, grant or funding, engages in a real property transaction with, or promotes the adoption, defeat, modification or revocation of any bill, existing law, rule, resolution or regulation before, the Executive Branch, the Legislature, a public authority, public corporation or any other State governmental entity,

Limiting the amount of a campaign contribution to a State elected official’s or a candidate’s campaign committee by a lobbyist, owner or corporate officer, director, employee, of any entity and the entity’s partner’s, owner’s, officer’s, director’s and lobbyist’s spouse, domestic partner or unemancipated child(ren), if an entity solicits or does any business with the State, and

Ensuring that an individual who makes a contribution to a State elected official or candidate’s campaign committee publicly discloses to a State compliance unit all business dealings with any State governmental entity.

Dated: _____ **Signature of Member/Candidate** _____



NEW YORK UPRISING RE-DISTRICTING PLEDGE

Elections are supposed to allow voters to choose their representatives, but New Yorker's have been denied true choice because elected officials have historically been able to draw district lines to choose their voters. New York legislative races are typically non-competitive because of these gerrymandered districts. Consequently, it is not surprising that New York State's legislature has one of the highest rates of incumbency in the nation. It is our common desire to improve New York State government and the democratic process in the State by ensuring that redistricting pursuant to the 2010 Census be constitutional and fair.

I, _____ pledge that if I am elected to the Legislature of New York State, I will support the creation of an independent, non-partisan Redistricting Commission to draft advisory maps for the Legislature to review and approve. Further, I will vote "no" on any proposal to establish a Commission that is not independent as described below.

In evaluating the independence of this Commission, I will determine that the Commission's authorizing legislation includes provisions endorsed by the Citizens Union and other government reform organizations, including:

INDEPENDENCE

Members and Staff of the Commission will be independent from undue legislative influence, vetted for conflicts of interest, and not including persons holding elective or public office, a political party position, registered as lobbyists, or relatives of elected or public officials. The Commission shall be meaningfully diverse in membership, reflecting geographic, racial, ethnic, gender, religious and political variety.

MEANINGFUL REDISTRICTING CRITERIA

Apportionment plans would be drawn according to the following principles:

All congressional senate and assembly districts shall be as nearly equal in population as practicable;

Value shall be placed on creating districts as competitive as possible;

Districts shall be contiguous;

Districts shall not be established that abridge or deny minority voting rights;

Districts shall not be drawn to favor or oppose any political party, incumbent, or candidates for office; Cracking, Stacking and similar techniques should be prohibited;

The most and least populous senate and assembly districts shall not exceed the mean population of districts for each house by more than one percent;



Counties and county subdivisions shall not be divided in the formation of districts, and where it is unavoidable, more populous counties or subdivisions will be divided in preference to those with smaller populations;

Villages shall not be subdivided;

Districts shall be as compact as possible, and

Districts shall unite communities of interest.

MEANINGFUL TRANSPARENCY

The Commissions authorizing legislation shall mandate the Commissions proposals be subject to public hearings throughout the State, following the release of proposed maps, which shall be published on the internet.

Dated: _____

Signature of Candidate _____



NEW YORK UPRISING

PLEDGE FOR RESPONSIBLE BUDGETING

It is widely acknowledged that New York State's budget process and practices are detrimental to the long-term future of the state. They produce budgets that are routinely late and include spending that outpaces inflation and revenue growth. To accommodate spending more money than they have, the leadership in Albany has often balanced budgets with gimmicks that push obligations into the future, resulting in structural imbalances and the accumulation of a crushing debt burden, an unhealthy share of which has been incurred to fund operating expenses. Simply put, we have been living beyond our means.

Achieving balanced budgets requires a fundamental restructuring of state finances. Elected officials must act to adopt transparent and responsible provisions for managing the state's finances. Long-term spending commitments, especially for public employee pensions and benefits, are growing at unsustainable levels, faster than anticipated revenue growth, and to the detriment of local governments. The high levels of taxation required to support this profligate spending jeopardize the state's competitive position and prospects for job growth.

I, _____, pledge that if I am elected, I will support the responsible budget practices described below:

- The adoption of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) to prepare and manage the state budget. Beginning in state fiscal year 2011-12, budget preparation on a GAAP basis, with GAAP balance required in fiscal year 2014-15;
- Legislation establishing GAAP requirements for bonds issued in 2014-15 and thereafter;
- The state's use of a rolling five year financial plan to better monitor the consequences of current tax and spending decisions on long-term finances, and as a planning tool;
- Enactment of laws establishing the requirement for a GAAP balanced budget and setting comprehensive limits on the amount of state-supported debt that can be issued based on affordability.
- Creation of an Independent Budget Office, to be overseen by a board of politically independent persons, to report on the state's financial health and comment on budgetary matters.
- Use of performance budgeting and outcome measurement to help policymakers determine whether programs are meeting stated goals and promote a more rational appropriation of state funds.



- Adoption of off-budget items in the regular budget process, such as the debt of public authorities, which are financial obligations of the state.

Signature

Date