

# PLEDGE FOR CHANGE NEW YORK

It's Time to Make Albany Work for the People



## LET NEW YORKERS KNOW WHAT REFORM ISSUES YOU SUPPORT

New Yorkers are fed up. Scandals have driven from office the former governor, the former comptroller, the former Senate Majority Leader and a growing number of state legislators. Some elected officials are currently under investigation. Many of these abuses of power were rooted in the absence of effective and independent ethics and fiscal watchdogs, tough ethics laws and adequate transparency in government.

Albany must respond by producing concrete reforms to show the public that lawmakers have gotten the message and are working to bolster confidence in state government.

We urge elected officials to pledge to enact meaningful reforms. Our groups will be publicly releasing the responses we receive. Below, please clearly check the proposals in which you are in agreement (feel free to send us any additional comments):

### *Restore the public's trust.*

- Ensure that ethics, lobbying and campaign finance watchdogs are independent and powerful.
- End the practice of legislators drawing their own district lines during the redistricting process.
- Provide fairness in allocating legislative resources and "member items," and amend the legislature's rules to create a more open and accountable body.

### *Reform the state's finances.*

- Close obsolete public authorities through the creation of a "base closing commission," which would review all authorities and close down obsolete ones.
- Establish an independent fiscal watchdog, along the lines of the Congressional Budget Office.
- Open up the government's budget books and put them on-line, greatly expanding the amount of available information beyond the Comptroller's "Open Book New York."

### *Curb the power of special interests*

- End "pay to play" for lobbyists and seekers – and receivers – of government contracts by dramatically lowering contribution limits for such donors.
- Require public disclosure of "independent" campaign contributions and close loopholes, such as ones that allow donations by LLCs to be treated as if they were contributions from individuals.
- Bolster the role of small donors in the campaign finance system. For example, a system of public financing enhances the role of small donors.

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Your name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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