

Buffalo Niagara Partnership State Legislature Candidate Questionnaire 2008

Candidate Name Christopher H. Schaeffer

District 57th State Senate

E-mail Address elect@christopherschaeffer.com

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO:

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Attn: Glenn Aronow
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**This document is necessary for consideration of support by the
Partnership and may be used for future voter education purposes.**

Campaign Information

Campaign Manager Julie Schaeffer
Campaign Address P.O. Box 382, Fredonia, NY 14063
Campaign Phone (716) 964-3137
Campaign Fax N/A
Campaign Committee Name The Committee To Elect Christopher H. Schaeffer
Communications Director N/A
Web Site Address www.ChristopherSchaeffer.org
Party Affiliation Democrat
Party Endorsements Received Democrat

Candidate Information

Current employment Retail Management
Name of employer (if applicable) Wireless Express
Employer address: 6929 Erie Rd. Derby, NY

Have you ever been elected or appointed to public office?

Yes

No

If yes, years of service and office(s) _____

If no, have you ever run for an elected office?

Yes

No

Election year and office(s) _____

If you are (re) elected to office, list your top three priorities for your first/next term and why:

1. Lower Taxes/Balance Budget - New York's taxes are the 2nd highest in the nation and we're still running a deficit. The budget process needs to be overhauled.

2. Universal Health Care - We have the most expensive health care system in the world and the worst coverage of any industrialized country.

3. Clean Energy – New York has vast supplies of natural gas and & wind. We need to move away from importing coal and oil into our state and concentrate on the resources we have.

What is the top issue employers in your district are facing? High Taxes

If elected, on which committees would you most like to serve?

1. Energy and Telecommunications

2. Finance

NYS REGULATIONS		
Do you support legislation repealing or reforming NYS's Scaffold Law to allow juries to consider an employee's comparative negligence? If (re) elected, would you sponsor legislation repealing or reforming Scaffold Law? Comments: _____ _____	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	NO
	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	NO
Do you support legislation reforming NYS's Taylor Law to make a municipality's ability to pay the primary determining factor? If (re) elected, would you sponsor legislation to reform the Taylor Law? Comments: _____ _____	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	NO
	YES	<input checked="" type="radio"/> NO
Do you support repealing NYS's Wicks Law? If (re) elected, would you sponsor legislation to repeal Wicks Law? Comments: <u>If not repealed it must be amended to take inflation into account.</u> _____	YES YES	NO <input checked="" type="radio"/> NO
FISCAL ACCOUNTIBILITY		
Do you support a cap on school property taxes at 4% or 120% of inflation, whichever is higher? Comments: _____ _____	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	NO
Do you support a cap on state spending? Comments: <u>At .9 level below inflation until the deficit is eliminated.</u> _____	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	NO
Do you support Governor Paterson's efforts to cut state spending by \$2.6B in FY 2008 and 2009? Comments: _____ _____	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	NO
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT		
Do you support linking wage and apprenticeship requirements to economic development incentives? Comments: _____ _____	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	NO

<p>Do you support maximizing replacement and expansion power generated at the Niagara Power Project for use within a 30-mile radius of the NPP for economic development purposes? Comments: _____ _____</p>	<p><input checked="" type="radio"/> YES</p>	<p>NO</p>
<p>Do you support the use of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) as a means to spur brownfield remediation and redevelopment? Comments: _____ _____</p>	<p><input checked="" type="radio"/> YES</p>	<p>NO</p>
<p>Do you support the state's renewal of the Empire Zone program when it is due to expire in 2011? Comments: _____ _____</p>	<p><input checked="" type="radio"/> YES</p>	<p>NO</p>
<p>TAX REFORM</p>		
<p>Do you support changing the standard deduction for people 18-25 to encourage young NYers to stay in NY? Comments: <u>The best way to encourage New Yorkers to stay is to provide more higher paying jobs and lower everyone's taxes</u></p>	<p>YES</p>	<p><input checked="" type="radio"/> NO</p>
<p>Do you support legislation allowing student loan interest to be deducted from taxable income statewide? Comments: _____ _____</p>	<p><input checked="" type="radio"/> YES</p>	<p>NO</p>
<p>HEALTH CARE</p>		
<p>Do you support allowing self-employed individuals to deduct health care premiums from payroll taxes? Comments: _____ _____</p>	<p><input checked="" type="radio"/> YES</p>	<p>NO</p>
<p>Do you support allowing tax incentives for the purpose of health insurance? Comments: <u>This would not be my first choice but would be better than nothing.</u></p>	<p><input checked="" type="radio"/> YES</p>	<p>NO</p>
<p>Do you support requiring employers to provide health coverage to their employees? Comments: <u>I do support universal health coverage but a single payer system that removes the health care burden from the employers is preferable.</u></p>	<p>YES</p>	<p><input checked="" type="radio"/> NO</p>

<p>Do you support using a payroll tax or employer “fair share” fee to finance a health care insurance program/plan? Comments: <u>Employers already pay a disproportionate share of the taxes</u></p>	<p>YES</p>	<p><u>NO</u></p>
<p>LEGAL REFORM</p>		
<p>Do you support tort reform legislation to protect small businesses from frivolous lawsuits? Comments: _____</p>	<p><u>YES</u></p>	<p>NO</p>
<p>LABOR ISSUES</p>		
<p>Do you support lowering or eliminating the small business exemption (50 employees) to the Family and Medical Leave Act? Comments: <u>Lowering Yess- Eliminating No</u></p>	<p><u>YES</u></p>	<p>NO</p>
<p>Do you support legislation requiring employers to pay for employee sick leave? Comments: <u>Undecided</u></p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>NO</p>
<p>Do you support legislation requiring unions to notify its membership of their right to refuse to pay for union political activities? Comments: _____</p>	<p><u>YES</u></p>	<p>NO</p>
<p>Do you support allowing family-time (comp-time) that gives private sector employees the ability to choose time off instead of overtime pay? Comments: <u>Undecided</u></p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>NO</p>
<p> </p>	<p> </p>	<p> </p>
<p> </p>	<p> </p>	<p> </p>

<p>OTHER</p>		
<p>UB2020 is the Partnership's #1 economic development advocacy priority for the job creation and business investment potential it brings to the Buffalo Niagara region. Will you support the state policy changes and allocation of resources necessary to help UB2020 accomplish its goals? Comments: _____ _____</p>	<p><input checked="" type="radio"/> YES</p>	<p><input type="radio"/> NO</p>
<p>Do you support the "Millionaire's Tax"? Comments: _____ _____</p>	<p><input type="radio"/> YES</p>	<p><input checked="" type="radio"/> NO</p>
<p>If (re) elected would you support legislation allowing a referendum for a state constitutional convention? Comments: <u>Citizens should be allowed to</u> _____ _____</p>	<p><input checked="" type="radio"/> YES</p>	<p><input type="radio"/> NO</p>
<p>If (re) elected, would you sponsor such legislation? Comments: <u>Introduce referendums without the consent of the legislature</u> _____ _____</p>	<p><input type="radio"/> YES</p>	<p><input checked="" type="radio"/> NO</p>
<p>Do you support expanding the "Restore New York" program to recognize smaller communities and communities that have experienced high levels of population loss and higher proportions of vacant and blighted property? Comments: _____ _____</p>	<p><input checked="" type="radio"/> YES</p>	<p><input type="radio"/> NO</p>
<p>Do you support recapitalization of the NYSDEC Environmental Restoration Program? Comments: _____ _____</p>	<p><input checked="" type="radio"/> YES</p>	<p><input type="radio"/> NO</p>
<p>Do you support reducing cities' reliance on state aid by allowing utilization of revenue opportunities that do not burden taxpayers, such as authorization for a red light camera system and elimination of the state practice of sharing certain locally generated revenue streams, for example, motor vehicle moving violations, marriage licenses and handicapped parking fees? Comments: _____ _____</p>	<p><input checked="" type="radio"/> YES</p>	<p><input type="radio"/> NO</p>

List two reasons employers should support your campaign:

1. I will work to lower all taxes making New York a more attractive place to live, work, and start a business.

2. I will work to ensure all New Yorkers are covered by a single payer health insurance covering all employees making them more productive and removing the burden of paying for health insurance from the employers.

If (re) elected, what specifically will you do to help increase private sector investment and jobs in Buffalo Niagara?

(Please feel free to attach additional pages)

Improve Infrastructure such as light and heavy rail system with an emphasis on a fast commuter rail system throughout the region and state. This will enable faster long distance commutes at a lower cost, encourage the completion of the new peace bridge, fund business incorporation throughout the region and state, and back more low interest SBA loans.

Christopher H. Schaeffer

9/16/08

Candidate

Date

I understand that the Buffalo Niagara Partnership considers the responses to this questionnaire to be formal policy positions and maintains the right to disclose responses for education purposes.