

Buffalo Niagara Partnership State Legislature Candidate Questionnaire 2008

Candidate Name Dale M. Volker

District 59th Senate District

E-mail Address _____

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 Harry Wahl
Campaign Address 5319 Transit Rd., Depew, NY 14043
Campaign Phone (716) 601-7824
Campaign Fax (716) 601-7830
Campaign Committee Name Senator Volker Campaign Committee
Communications Director Craig J. Miller
Web Site Address www.volkerforsenate.com
Party Affiliation Republican- Independence – Conservative
Party Endorsements Received Republican- Independence – Conservative

Candidate Information

Current employment NYS Senator – 59th SD and Private Practice Attorney

Name of employer (if applicable) New York State Senate

Employer address: Room 427, Capitol, Albany, New York 12247

Have you ever been elected or appointed to public office? Yes No

If yes, years of service and office(s) 34 years in the Senate, 2 years in Assembly

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. Job Creation

2. Lower Property Taxes

3. Lower Business Taxes and making sure that western NY gets its fair share of school aid for our children.

What is the top issue employers in your district are facing? Property Tax increases, Energy Costs, Workers Comp concerns, and tort issues.

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

I am currently Chairman of the Senate Committee on Criminal and Civil Codes.

This incorporates criminal justice statutes as well as Tort and Civil Justice legislation.

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: <u>I am a sponsor</u>	<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
Do you support repealing NYS's Wicks Law? If (re) elected, would you sponsor legislation to repeal Wicks Law? Comments: _____	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	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: _____	<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: <u>More information needed to make more informed answer.</u>	YES	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 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>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO
<p>Do you support the use of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) as a means to spur brownfield remediation and redevelopment? Comments: _____ _____</p>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO
<p>Do you support the state's renewal of the Empire Zone program when it is due to expire in 2011? Comments: <u>We have a plan to address the Empire Zone when it sunsets.</u></p>	<input type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO
TAX REFORM		
<p>Do you support changing the standard deduction for people 18-25 to encourage young NYers to stay in NY? Comments: _____ _____</p>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO
<p>Do you support legislation allowing student loan interest to be deducted from taxable income statewide? Comments: _____ _____</p>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO
HEALTH CARE		
<p>Do you support allowing self-employed individuals to deduct health care premiums from payroll taxes? Comments: _____ _____</p>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO
<p>Do you support allowing tax incentives for the purpose of health insurance? Comments: _____ _____</p>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO
<p>Do you support requiring employers to provide health coverage to their employees? Comments: <u>I Think that by creating a more business friendly environment, business will create jobs with healthier benefits.</u></p>	<input type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO

Do you support using a payroll tax or employer "fair share" fee to finance a health care insurance program/plan? Comments: _____	YES	NO

LEGAL REFORM		
Do you support tort reform legislation to protect small businesses from frivolous lawsuits? Comments: <u>I sponsor many of these measures.</u>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO

LABOR ISSUES		
Do you support lowering or eliminating the small business exemption (50 employees) to the Family and Medical Leave Act? Comments: _____	YES	<input checked="" type="radio"/> NO

Do you support legislation requiring employers to pay for employee sick leave? Comments: _____	YES	<input checked="" type="radio"/> NO

Do you support legislation requiring unions to notify its membership of their right to refuse to pay for union political activities? Comments: _____	YES	<input checked="" type="radio"/> NO

Do you support allowing family-time (comp-time) that gives private sector employees the ability to choose time off instead of overtime pay? Comments: _____	YES	<input checked="" type="radio"/> NO

<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: _____ _____</p>	<p><input checked="" type="radio"/> YES</p>	<p><input type="radio"/> NO</p>
<p>If (re) elected, would you sponsor such legislation? Comments: _____ _____</p>	<p><input checked="" type="radio"/> YES</p>	<p><input 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: <u>Not sure - undecided</u> _____</p>	<p><input 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: <u>Within Reason</u> _____</p>	<p><input checked="" type="radio"/> YES</p>	<p><input type="radio"/> NO</p>

List two reasons employers should support your campaign:

1. I continue to do everything positive to reform on tort law.

2. I will do all that I can to reduce our tax burden and lower business cost
everywhere possible.

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)

We must address energy costs, Tort Reform, property tax issues and workers
comp costs. We need to create more taxpayers, not more taxes!

Dale M. Volker
Candidate

9/29/08
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.