

Buffalo Niagara Partnership State Legislature Candidate Questionnaire 2008

Candidate Name George D. Maziarz

District 62nd Senate District

E-mail Address Maziarz@senate.state.ny.us

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 Alisa Colatarci
Campaign Address PO Box 220, Niagara Falls, NY 14304
Campaign Phone (716) 861-1424
Campaign Fax (716) 565-9655
Campaign Committee Name Committee to Elect Maziarz State Senate
Communications Director Adam Tabelski
Web Site Address www.georgemaziarz.com
Party Affiliation Republican
Party Endorsements Received Republican, Conservative, Independence

Candidate Information

Current employment NYS Senator, 62nd District

Name of employer (if applicable) N/A

Employer address: N/A

Have you ever been elected or appointed to public office?

Yes

No

If yes, years of service and office(s) 1978 - 1989, North Tonawanda City Clerk;
1989 - 1995, Niagara County Clerk; 1995 - Present, NYS Senator

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

Yes

No

Election year and office(s) N/A

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

1. Working to reduce the tax burden on New Yorkers through the property tax cap and any other effective means

2. Continuing the fight to make sure WNY employers benefit from access to low-cost hydropower

3. Seeing the construction of a new terminal at the Niagara Falls International Airport through to completion

What is the top issue employers in your district are facing? the high cost of doing business in New York State

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

1. Energy (current chairman); Finance

2. _____

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
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: <u>with some qualifications</u>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES <input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	NO NO
Do you support repealing NYS's Wicks Law? If (re) elected, would you sponsor legislation to repeal Wicks Law? Comments: <u>with some qualifications</u>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES <input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	NO NO
FISCAL ACCOUNTIBILITY		
Do you support a cap on school property taxes at 4% or 120% of inflation, whichever is higher? Comments: <u>I voted for this legislation and will continue to push for it</u>	<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: _____	<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>	<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: _____ _____</p>	<input checked="" 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>There are programs out there to help the uninsured through Healthy New York</u> _____</p>	<input type="radio"/> YES	<input checked="" type="radio"/> NO

<p>Do you support using a payroll tax or employer "fair share" fee to finance a health care insurance program/plan? Comments: _____ _____</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>NO</p>
<p>LEGAL REFORM</p>		
<p>Do you support tort reform legislation to protect small businesses from frivolous lawsuits? Comments: _____ _____</p>	<p>YES</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: _____ _____</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>NO</p>
<p>Do you support legislation requiring employers to pay for employee sick leave? Comments: _____ _____</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: <u>I think this is an issue the union membership should decide</u></p>	<p>YES</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: _____ _____</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>NO</p>
<p> </p>	<p> </p>	<p> </p>

OTHER		
<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?</p> <p>Comments: _____</p> <p>_____</p>	YES	NO
<p>Do you support the "Millionaire's Tax"?</p> <p>Comments: _____</p> <p>_____</p>	YES	NO
<p>If (re) elected would you support legislation allowing a referendum for a state constitutional convention?</p> <p>Comments: _____</p> <p>_____</p>	YES	NO
<p>If (re) elected, would you sponsor such legislation?</p> <p>Comments: _____</p> <p>_____</p>	YES	NO
<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?</p> <p>Comments: _____</p> <p>_____</p>	YES	NO
<p>Do you support recapitalization of the NYSDEC Environmental Restoration Program?</p> <p>Comments: _____</p> <p>_____</p>	YES	NO
<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?</p> <p>Comments: _____</p> <p>_____</p>	YES	NO

List two reasons employers should support your campaign:

1. I will push for a property tax cap and a small business STAR exemption.
2. As Chairman of the Senate Energy Committee, I will push for lower energy costs for local businesses, more tax incentives for renewable and alternative energy sources and I will fight to reduce taxes and regulation on energy production.

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)

Our economy is changing fast and we in the State Legislature have to get back to work quickly and do what is necessary to be sure people can stay in Western New York and earn a decent living here. We need to reduce the tax burden, cut regulations, lower energy costs – as well as the overall costs of doing business here. These are all issues I am committed to.

George D. Maziarz
Signature of Candidate

September 30, 2008
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.