

Buffalo Niagara Partnership State Legislature Candidate Questionnaire 2008

Candidate Name Kathy Konst

District 59th Senate District

E-mail Address KathyKonst@AOL.com

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO:

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Attn: Glenn Aronow
Director, Government Relations

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 Konst
Campaign Address 5511 Broadway, Lancaster NY 14086
Campaign Phone 716 901-6626
Campaign Fax 716 601-5298
Campaign Committee Name Konst For Senate
Communications Director _____
Web Site Address www.konstforsenate
Party Affiliation Democrat
Party Endorsements Received _____

Candidate Information

Current employment Lancaster Area Chamber of Commerce/Erie County Legislature

Name of employer (if applicable) _____

Employer address: 41 Central Ave, Lancaster NY 14086/95 Franklin St, Buffalo

Have you ever been elected or appointed to public office?

Yes

No

If yes, years of service and office(s) Erie County Legislator 5th District 2005 - 2007

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. Wick reform – we need fair wick reform for upstate projects, this would help relieve some burden on our local property taxes

2. Taylor Law – the Taylor Law limits the ability of government to limit spending in unionized labor

3. Reduce spending/government waste – NYS needs to get in control of wasteful spending – We need to take a hard look at programs that are state funded and we need to eliminate programs that have a zero rate of return on our investment

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

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

1. Finance

2. Economic Development/Small Business Commerce

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>NY is one of only 2 states that preserve this law. It needs to be repealed</u>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/>	NO 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 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: _____	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES <input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	NO NO
FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY		
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>These deprive us of fair competition on projects – especially when applied to municipal projects, increased costs!</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: <u>I would support the Schiminger/Young TIF Bill</u></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>But I would like to see stronger oversight and accountability measures put into the program</u></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: <u>Tax credits would provide employees an incentive and reduce their financial burden</u></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 do not support the so called "Walmart Bill" and I fought against its passage in the county legislature</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: _____ _____</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: <u>Do new taxes -</u> _____</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 understand and have advocated for business for over 10 years

2. The current political climate is not working. I represent a chance for positive change, new ideas and refocused energy.

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)

Kathy Konst
Signature of Candidate

10-3-08
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.