

**BRIEF REPORT ON LEGISLATIVE SURVEY**  
**REVIEWING THE RESPONSES OF**  
**SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES FOR THE NYS ASSEMBLY**

We received 14 responses from successful candidates for the NYS Assembly:

Of the 14 responses:

- 1 is from a Republican incumbent: Brian Kolb (AD131, Ontario/Seneca; Minority Leader)
- 13 are from Democrats incumbents; one Steve Otis, is newly elected to an open seat formerly held by George Latimer: Joan L. Millman (AD52 Kings); Jeffrey Dinowitz (AD81, Bronx); J. Gary Pretlaw (AD 89; Westchester); Steven Otis (AD 91, Westchester); Sandra R. Galef (AD 95, Westchester); Ellen C. Jaffee (AD 97, Rockland); Didi Barrett (AD 106, Dutchess); Steven Englebright (AD 4, Suffolk); Robert K. Sweeney (AD 11; Nassau); Richard N. Gottfried (AD 75, New York); Annette M. Robinson (AD 56, Kings), Dan Quart (73AD, New York); and Earlene Hooper (AD 18, Nassau). (Earlene Hooper, did not answer the questions stating that “it wouldn’t prudent” to answer the questions at this time and offering us an opportunity to meet; Dan Quart did not answer, he just filled in beginning of form.
- **COURT SIMPLIFICATION: Support for Constitutional Amendment to Simplify the Courts:** All said “Yes” to a Constitutional Amendment for Court Simplification. Brian Kolb also commented on consolidating individual Town Courts as a positive means of achieving “significant savings.”
- **FAMILY COURT JUDGES: Support for Legislation to Increase the number of Family Court Judges:** All responded, “Yes” to increasing the number of Family Court judges.
- **ORDERS OF PROTECTION: Support for Legislation that would require Orders of Protection be translated, in writing, into the language of the non-English speaking litigant.** All responded, “Yes.”
- **CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM: Support for a court forum that blends features of criminal court and family court in a youth division of criminal court to handle non-violent 16 and 17 year old offenders.** (Language in Chief Judge’s bill proposal). All responded “Yes.”

**HOW WE CHOOSE OUR JUDGES:**

**(a) Support for qualification-based appointment system to replace judicial elections.**

**YES:** Steven Otis, Sandra Galef, Joan Millman, Didi Barrett, Ellen C. Jaffee, Jeffrey Dinowitz, Steven Englebright, Robert Sweeney, Brian Kolb, and Richard Gottfried. Brian Kolb commented that this would create savings to local and county government and that he would only be supportive if the appointing commission and the process were truly non-partisan, he would support commission similar to the present Part 150 Judicial Qualifying Commissions established in each judicial district.

**NO:** J. Gary Pretlow, Annette Robinson.

**(b) If an appointive-based system was not enacted, support for public financing of judicial campaigns?**

**YES:** Steven Otis, Sandra Galef, Joan Millman, Didi Barrett, Ellen C. Jaffee, Jeffrey Dinowitz, Steven Englebright, Robert Sweeney, Brian Kolb, and Richard Gottfried. Brian Kolb commented, “since judicial candidates are already subject to strict campaign finance rules and ethical standards, public financing of judicial campaigns may be a smart alternative to remove special interests from the process, as long as a funding source for such is found that does not place any additional burdens on the state, local governments or overburdened taxpayers.”

**NO:** J. Gary Pretlaw; Annette Robinson.