

## 2010 Candidate Survey

**User:** (Registered) Valesky, David / **Email:** dave@davevalesky.com / **Phone:**  
**Survey answered on:** 10/25/2010 7:12:09 PM

- 1. Candidate for (check the one that applies.) (answer type: multiple options with single answer)**  
Answer: selected option = New York State Senate 49th District
- 2. Candidate Name (answer type: short text)**  
Answer: David J. Valesky
- 3. Campaign Name and Address (answer type: short text)**  
Answer: Valesky for Senate, PO Box 624, Manlius, NY 13104
- 4. Campaign office phone number (answer type: short text)**  
Answer: 315-463-0426
- 5. Campaign FAX Number (answer type: short text)**  
Answer: n/a
- 6. Campaign email (answer type: short text)**  
Answer: dave@davevalesky.com
- 7. Educational Background: (answer type: long text)**  
Answer: Bachelor's degree, SUNY Potsdam; Master's degree, University of Connecticut
- 8. Occupation: (answer type: short text)**  
Answer: State Senator, 49th District
- 9. Work History: (answer type: long text)**  
Answer: State Senator, 49th District, elected in 2004;  
Vice-President/Director of Communications, WCNY, 1995-2004;  
Aide, State Assembly Majority Leader Michael Bragman, 1989-1995
- 10. Community Involvement: (answer type: long text)**  
Answer: Through my service as a Senator, I maintain close ties with many community organizations in the communities that I serve.
- 11. What is your top legislative policy priority for 2011? (answer type: short text)**  
Answer: Retaining and creating jobs in Central New York, and reducing the cost of doing business in New York State, is essential. I supported new laws that will ease the pressure felt by Upstate businesses—addressing health insurance costs for small businesses, creating programs to revitalize our downtowns, and ensuring tax breaks go to companies that actually create and retain jobs. I will continue to collaborate with business and industry and to think creatively about how to create and retain good paying jobs.
- 12. What are two specific actions you would take to address next year's anticipated state budget deficit? (answer type: long text)**

## 2010 Candidate Survey

**User:** (Registered) Valesky, David / **Email:** dave@davevalesky.com / **Phone:**  
**Survey answered on:** 10/25/2010 7:12:09 PM

Answer: Because we are anticipating a budget deficit due to continuing effects of the national recession, we need to focus on streamlining our government spending and maximizing efficiencies. One of the most important things we need to do is assess agency spending by evaluating programs—what works, what doesn't and what is actually needed. I support two methods for accomplishing this—adoption of a performance-based budgeting system, like the one successfully implemented by the City of Syracuse, that requires agencies to submit budget requests based not on what they received last year plus more, but what they need to accomplish their core missions. We also need to identify and eliminate wasteful spending. I am a member of the Senate Government Efficiency Task force, and we've already evaluated four agencies and found more than \$200 in wasteful spending and recurring savings.

### **13. What are your top two recommendations to improve the climate for economic development in our region? (answer type: long text)**

Answer: Simply, we must reduce the cost of doing business in New York State. We've begun enacting long-term policies that will ease the pressure felt by businesses, especially Upstate--creating programs to spur revitalization of our downtowns, and ensuring tax breaks go to companies that do what they say they're going to do—create and retain jobs. We cannot stop there—we must continue to push, to collaborate and to think creatively about how to lower costs for businesses, even in these times of scarce resources. We also need to take a serious look at the labyrinth of economic development programs in the state, and make it easier for companies and not-for-profit economic development organizations, like Centerstate CEO, to access the beneficial programs and resources that are available.

### **14. What specific efforts would you support to control the growth of state spending in 2011? (answer type: long text)**

Answer: We have to evaluate our priorities—where are our needs, what programs work and which ones are outdated, in what growth areas should we invest—and then decide where taxpayer dollars should be spent.

I have strongly supported several solutions to reduce state spending, including:

- Enacting a performance-based budgeting model to make state agencies accountable for every single penny spent, and ensuring tax dollars are invested in programs that are needed and that work.
- Working on the Senate Government Efficiency Task Force, which is conducting analysis of operations of state agencies, and looking for waste. We have identified more than \$200 million dollars in waste and potential efficiencies so far.
- Consolidation of whole or functions of state agencies and authorities.
- Public authority reform through creation of an independent budget office and auditing, along with transparency measures to bring spending practices into the light.

In addition to some of the policies I outlined above, I am the co-sponsor of legislation that would change the entire budget approach, including creating an Independent Budget Office, moving the fiscal year to June 1, and adopting Generally Accepted Accounting Principles to ensure revenues and expenditures are based on definitive, quantifiable data.

### **15. What steps would you take to reduce the cost of public employee benefits to better align them with those of private sector employees? Will you support a Tier VI with defined benefit contributions?**

## 2010 Candidate Survey

**User:** (Registered) Valesky, David / **Email:** dave@davevalesky.com / **Phone:**

**Survey answered on:** 10/25/2010 7:12:09 PM

**(answer type: long text)**

Answer: Pension costs are a major—and growing—expense for state and local governments. Costs keep rising, and will soon become unsustainable. This year, much-needed reform of the New York State pension system was enacted, creating a fifth pension tier for public employees. It will lower long-term costs to state and local governments, saving more than \$48 billion in the coming decades. Though this is a good start, it will not solve the problem entirely. We need to look at creative solutions and bring all parties together to discuss further reform of the system.

**16. What steps would you support to increase the competitiveness of New York State's small businesses? (answer type: long text)**

Answer: Small businesses are a critical component of the Upstate economy. I sponsored a new law that creates one-stop centers where business owners can learn about state programs that benefit their businesses and receive help in navigating federal, state and local regulations, including licensing and permitting.

One of my main priorities is lowering the property tax burden in Upstate New York, and we have made more progress this session than ever before, with a permanent and long-term strategy that includes a property tax cap, elimination of unfunded mandates on school districts and local governments that have driven up property taxes, and consolidation of the more than 10,000 taxing jurisdictions in the state. I also fully support Energize New York as a vital tool for economic development across New York state, particularly for Upstate and Central New York businesses, and co-sponsored the legislation that created the program. I strongly believe that this program will have a beneficial impact businesses by providing lower cost electric power to support economic development, as well as job retention and creation.

**17. What specific policies or legislation would you sponsor or support in 2011 to encourage or implement government modernization at the state, regional and local levels? (answer type: long text)**

Answer: We need to take a long, hard look at how local, state and regional governments are structured and how they interact with each other. Currently, New York State has approximately 10,000 taxing jurisdictions, including individual lighting, sewer and water districts. We need to evaluate the necessity and function of these, and find ways to both modernize and maximize efficiencies through cooperative agreements and consolidation.

I was a co-sponsor of the Government Reorganization and Citizen Empowerment Act, giving communities the power to consolidate unnecessary and duplicative layers of government. We've already seen some examples of this happening, and I think citizens are beginning to understand that consolidation of services or of entire governmental entities will provide them with more efficient and effective government while decreasing costs.

In addition, the Senate passed several pieces of legislation that would ease unfunded mandates on local school districts and municipalities, including enabling cooperative purchasing.

**18. If elected, at the end of 2011, what would you like to point to as your most important legislative or budget related accomplishment for the year? (answer type: short text)**

Answer: The priorities I have outlined above will be my focus, and the common theme throughout is spurring economic development Upstate and addressing the property tax burden.