



April 28, 2006

Mr. Dick Dadey
Executive Director
Citizens Union Foundation
299 Broadway, Suite 700 New York, NY 1007-1967

Dear Mr. Dadey,

Thank you for your invitation to participate in your upcoming symposium on redistricting and competition in New York State elections. Unfortunately, due to my campaign schedule I am unable to be in Manhattan that day.

During almost 20 years of public service, I fought to reform the redistricting process in New York. As a member of the Legislative Task Force on Redistricting, I know first-hand the need to reform the way lawmakers draw legislative districts in our state. As it stands, legislators are picking their constituents, not the other way around. New York's redistricting process is in desperate need of meaningful transparency and openness.

I support redistricting reform with statutory and constitutional standards for districting which takes into account existing communities of interest and jurisdictional boundaries.

I strongly favor restricting partisan efforts that lead to gerrymandering and representative inequity throughout New York. Right now the legislature is only constrained by archaic rules which do little to hamper the creativity of partisan map-makers.

As governor, I would veto any redistricting plan that blatantly smacks of partisan politics and arbitrarily draws legislative lines with disregard for geographical and political boundaries.

Our state needs redistricting reform because right now, New York's Constitution provides little guidance and few standards which direct how legislative boundaries should be constructed. Redistricting reform is critical to bringing back equitable representation and competitive elections in New York.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Faso".

John Faso

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Paid for by Friends of John Faso