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CITIZENS UNION CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE  
NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL  
ELECTION 2009

Citizens Union would appreciate your responses to the following questions related to policy issues facing the City of New York that are of concern to Citizens Union and the citizens of the City. We plan to make public your responses to this questionnaire in our Voters Directory, on our website, and in other appropriate venues. Responses to these questions will be one of several factors Citizens Union will use to evaluate candidates who are running for office in order to determine our "Preferred Candidates" for the primary election and "Endorsed Candidates" for the general election. In order to receive Citizens Union's "preferred" or "endorsed" status, in addition to completing the questionnaire, candidates must participate in an interview with Citizens Union's Local Candidates Committee.

We thank you very much for your response.

Candidate Name:    Dan Halloran    Age:    37   

Office to Which You Seek (Re) Election: Council District #:    19   

Campaign Address:    24-55 Francis Lewis Blvd. Whitestone, NY 11357   

Campaign Telephone Number: ( 718 ) 690-3808     Fax: ( 516 )    248-7897   

Party Affiliation(s):    Republican    Campaign Manager Name:    Vito A. Palmieri, Esq.   

Website & Email:    www.electdanhalloran.com & www.danhalloran.org   

Education:    JD- St. John's   

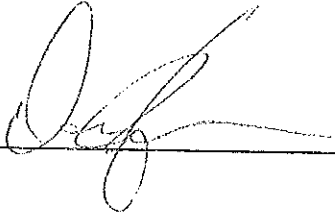
Occupation/Employer (or years in currently held elected office):    Attorney- Palmieri, Castiglione & Halloran, PC   

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement:    Eagle Scout, Member East Flushing Civic, Bowne Park Civic, Attorney Advisor, RKO Keith's Foundation, East Bayside Civic Association.   

Are you willing to be interviewed by CU's Local Candidates Committee? YES    x    NO      
Have you completed requisite campaign finance filings? YES    x    NO      
*(Please note: Citizens Union can grant its "Preferred Candidate" and "Endorsed Candidate" rating only to candidates we have interviewed. We will make every effort to interview candidates in each race for City Council.)*

Citizens Union • 299 Broadway New York, NY 10007  
phone 212-227-0342 • fax 212-227-0345 • [citizens@citizensunion.org](mailto:citizens@citizensunion.org) • [www.citizensunion.org](http://www.citizensunion.org)  
Peter J.W. Sherwin, Chair • Dick Dadey, Executive Director

Signature of Candidate:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Palmeri Castigione', written over a horizontal line.

September 12, 2009

## I. CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

Please state your position on the following issues by indicating whether you support or oppose each. You may elaborate in the space provided at the end or on additional paper.

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### VOTING AND ELECTIONS REFORM

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|---|---------|--------|
| 1. What is your position with respect to allowing voters who are registered as independents to vote in party primaries?   | Support | Oppose |
| 2. What is your position on passage of state legislation that would allow referenda initiated by the City Council and/or the public to appear on the ballot at the same time as a referendum initiated by a charter commission appointed by the Mayor?  | Support | Oppose |
| 3. What is your position on increasing the pay of Election Day poll workers above the current \$200 they are allotted per election event?   | Support | Oppose |
| 4. What is your position on restructuring New York's current board of elections model to eliminate political party responsibility for overall election administration and replace it with a system that narrows political party involvement to certification of candidate petitions and the actual counting of votes? | Support | Oppose |
| 5. What is your position on having an election administration system where there is a local elections executive director appointed by the mayor upon recommendation by a new board that is chosen by the mayor and the city council?  | Support | Oppose |

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### CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

- |   |         |        |
|---|---------|--------|
| 6. What is your position on implementing "war chest" restrictions that would prohibit a candidate from transferring funds raised in a previous election cycle into a current campaign committee for a different office? | Support | Oppose |
|---|---------|--------|

- |   |         |        |
|---|---------|--------|
| 7. What is your position on allowing campaign financing for ballot proposals? | Support | Oppose |
|---|---------|--------|

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CITY COUNCIL REFORM

- |  |         |        |
|--|---------|--------|
| 8. What is your position on allowing Council committees to function more independently of the speaker than is presently the case?  | Support | Oppose |
| a. Should committee staff be hired by and report to committee chairs?  | Support | Oppose |
| b. Should committee hearings and votes be scheduled at the direction of the chairs?  | Support | Oppose |
| c. Should committees be able to issue subpoenas by a vote of their members?  | Support | Oppose |
| 9. What is your position on:   |         |        |
| a. limiting councilmembers' ability to earn outside income?  | Support | Oppose |
| b. making the job of councilmember a full-time position?   | Support | Oppose |
| c. eliminating or limiting stipends for committee chairs and leadership positions?   | Support | Oppose |
| 10. What is your position on requiring that any future increase in councilmember compensation not affect those serving in the current term of the council and only be applied prospectively to the following term? | Support | Oppose |
| 11. What is your position on consolidating the current City Council committee structure and reducing the number of overall committees?   | Support | Oppose |
| 12. What is your position on term limits for elected officials?  | Support | Oppose |
| 13. What is your position on modifying the City Charter to require that changes to term limits may only be approved by the voters?   | Support | Oppose |

14. What is your position on the recent extension of term limits for the city's elected officials to three consecutive four-year terms? Please explain your answer.
- Support      Oppose

I believe that the will of the people, as expressed in two citywide referenda, should have been respected and that any change in term limits as enacted by the voters should only have been changed through a referendum. Elected officials extending their own terms of office is anti-democratic and an inherent conflict of interest.

### POLICY ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE

Please state your position on the following issues by indicating whether you support or oppose each, where applicable. Please also use the space provided below each question or on a separate sheet of paper to elaborate on your positions on the questions which require a detailed answer. You may also provide additional information on any actions that you have taken or plan to take to advance your positions on these issues.

15. Knowing that the police department and commissioner retain ultimate authority for determining whether an officer is guilty and penalty, what is your position on transferring power to the Civilian Complaint Review Board to prosecute cases of police misconduct, such as force, abuse of authority, discourtesy, and offensive language?
- Support      Oppose
- Having served in the legal community, I believe our police officers should be given a fair hearing and opportunity to be heard regarding all complaints, which should, as a matter of course, be dealt with seriously and prudently.
16. What is your position on changing the current land use process under ULURP to increase the role of community-based planning?
- Support      Oppose
17. What is your position regarding the creation of a Charter Revision Commission to review specifically the roles of the various offices of government and how well government has functioned since the 1988 and 1989 charter review commissions?
- Support      Oppose
18. What is your position on reforming the current pension funding structure to create multiple tiers for future city government employees?
- Support      Oppose

- a. In FY 2008-09, New York City spent \$12 billion on pensions and fringe benefits for City employees out of a total budget of \$62 billion. What would you do to address the growing pension costs borne by the city and New York City tax payers?

As City Councilman, I will work to create a multi-tiered system and look to open up the process to creative partnerships to ensure both stability and productivity in the pension system, and eliminate waste and mismanagement by finding fiscal independents to oversee the board.

19. What is your position with respect to the City Council Support Oppose  
passing a resolution calling upon the State Legislature  
to establish a State Constitutional Convention?

- a. If support, what are the three most important areas that need improvement?

1. Establishment of better Home-Rule priorities for more effective local governance and preeminence of referenda over legislative measures (ex. Term limits overturn)
2. Like in Iowa, a non-partisan redistricting panel should be established that draws legislative district boundaries without regard to party enrolment, but rather according to geography and commonalities of interest among neighborhoods. For instance, my home Assembly District stretches from Whitestone to Richmond Hill, it would improve responsiveness and effectiveness of constituent services if such districts were more geographically compact.
3. Campaign finance reform which would close loopholes that allow special interests, corporations and unions to gain undue influence and unfair advantage, as well as level the playing field between incumbents and challengers.

- b. Do you believe that greater home rule should be granted to the City of New York? If so, in what areas should further sovereignty be given?  
Yes, in particular public safety and education. & areas related to any revenue generation within NYC (Sales tax, Income tax) control over MTA and related authorities operating within the 5 boroughs

20. Taking into consideration the lessons learned from the debates surrounding congestion pricing and the Ravitch Commission's recommendations to provide the MTA with long-term funding, what would you propose to address the MTA's fiscal solvency issues and

ensure that the burden for funding the MTA is equitably distributed among all stakeholders?

Mayor Bloomberg has proposed a comprehensive plan to reform mass transit, which deserves serious consideration, such as combining Metro-North with the LIRR, terminating unnecessary leases among the 500 MTA-owned or leased properties in the city, and eliminating duplicative internal divisions, such as a Construction division which exists within internal MTA agencies. Such functions should be merged, which combined with other cost-cutting measures will help put the MTA on solid fiscal ground and save taxpayers millions per year. A top down audit and accounting to examine fraud and waste is critical, as is home-rule initiatives to allow the City to monitor the progress.

21. What would you propose in terms of creating a greater role for the city council in determining and deciding the city budget?

Along with being permitted to develop its own revenue estimates, a greater role should be given to individual city council committees with respect to their corresponding sections of the budget.

22. What is your position regarding the City's past practice of using surplus tax revenues to pay down future health cost and pension obligations, and the decision not to do so this year?

Economic and budgetary realities must be taken into account, the decision not to do so this year is appropriate. Past practice may not be prudent during the current fiscal climate.

23. What is your view of how the taxes paid by New Yorkers compare to the value that is received in City services? Do you believe that taxes should be raised or lowered? To the extent you believe taxes should be changed, please provide specific proposals about what taxes you would raise and what services you would cut, if you didn't raise taxes, listed in order of greatest magnitude.

New Yorkers, especially the middle class, pay far too much in taxes. Duplicative city agencies must be eliminated, and of course waste, fraud and abuse must be cut. The Independent Budget Office must be empowered and all city contracts should be reviewed. The council slush fund scandal this year demonstrates the need for greater accountability and oversight. The sales, property and income taxes should be lowered. These tax cuts will result in a net increase in city revenue since residents will keep

more of the money they earn, increasing consumption and putting more money back into our city's economy.

24. Many policy advocates champion the creation of a more diversified economy, and one that is less reliant on Wall Street. What is your position on such a plan? If you support it, what would you do to diversify the city's economy? How would you adjust spending in New York City to accommodate the anticipated reduction in tax revenue as the tax base shifts to lower paying jobs?

I support the city investing in the creation of a greater number of "green collar" jobs, by providing tax incentives and loans to industries and businesses that retrofit their facilities to reduce energy use and their carbon footprint, as well as through establishing public-private partnerships. Similar incentives should be given to the high-tech sector; there is no reason New York should not be ahead of California or the North Carolina "Triangle" region in this area.

25. What would you propose the Department of Education do to increase the ability for parents and teachers to become more meaningfully involved in the education system? What other positive changes can be made to the New York City public school system?

Local Community District Education Councils should be empowered and given a greater say in the administration of schools within their district. The CDEC's must be consulted before any changes are to occur to their area's schools. The DOE should establish an office or hotline to assist parents with issues and complaints, as parental involvement is the key to a successful education. School Leadership Teams (SLT's) consisting of teachers, parents and school administrators should be fostered and play a meaningful role in school governance and policy.

26. What would you propose to increase the transparency of the Board of Elections in the City of New York's operations and accountability to the city and its voters?

Control of the BOE should be taken out of the hands of the political parties and placed under the auspices of an independent, merit-based commission. An independent audit should be conducted and zero-base line budgeting instituted to eliminate unnecessary jobs that are simply political patronage.

27. What would you propose to further enhance transparency regarding the relationships between council members, their families, and nonprofits that receive funding from New York City?



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Increased disclosure is essential, such as placing member items online in an easily accessible site and a user friendly format. Council members should not be allowed to enrich themselves or their families at taxpayer expense. Grants to worthwhile community organizations run by immediate family members of council members should be designated only for community services and not salaries of officers or employees.

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**Additional Comments:**

Press Release: September 5, 2009  
Committee to Elect Dan Halloran

24-55 Francis Lewis Boulevard  
Whitestone, NY 11357  
718 690-3803  
press@danhalloran.org  
www.electdanhalloran.org

Council Candidate Halloran calls for a probe into ACORN & the Working Families Party amid Discovery of Corruption in Not For Profits tied to them

New York, New York: Council Candidate Halloran once again calls for reform of the allocation and member item process in government amid the recent revelations about ACORN and the WFP in New York City. Time and again a public funds scandal plagues the halls of New York City relating to the abuse of taxpayer funds and party politics. Regrettably, many of our elected officials are strangely silent. Perhaps they have turned a blind eye because of where the money trail leads. The New York Agency for Community Affairs (NYACA), a not-for-profit prohibited from political activities whose mission was to be "a vehicle for community organizations to assist low and moderate income families" is the latest organization to be outed as an apparent front for diverting taxpayer money to the political campaigns of local politicians. Why a not-for-profit was ever allowed to operate under a name that makes it sound like an arm of the government is a question for another day.

This week it was uncovered that NYACA, a public charity, shares more than just address with the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN) the lobbying group that has come under intense scrutiny for election fraud and is currently under fire for breach of federal and state regulation of political activities. During the 2008 election season, ACORN gathered over 1.3 million voter registration forms in 21 states; 400,000 being ultimately rejected as incomplete, duplicated or fraudulent (approximately one-third). The fact that ACORN shared an address with NYACA is something that should have sent up red flags long before the financial irregularity was exposed. Now it seems that millions of public dollars were diverted by NYACA directly to ACORN to engage in political campaign activity for dozens of candidates in New York City. The quid-pro-quo: campaign operations and electioneering for local candidates, more dirty politics as usual.

Estimates place diverted funds in the last three years at no less than \$3.5 million dollars. This year alone NYACA funneled to ACORN \$175,000.00 from eight State Senators, \$240,500.00 from ten State Assembly Members and \$85,000.00 from four City Council Members. ACORN went on to provide canvassing and other political work for those politicians -clearly crossing the line between the apolitical not-for-profit world and the political campaigns of these politicians. Not surprisingly, one of those funding NYACA is Senator Hiram Monserrate, already under investigation, Assemblyman, Speaker

Sheldon Silver, councilmen Palma, DiBlasio, Mark-Viverito, and Sanders also funded the activities of NYACA and gained benefits from them.

This revelation comes on the heels of the discovery that the Working Families Party (WFP) has secretly been channeling money to avoid conflicts with New York State and City Campaign Finance Laws through the use of Data and Field Services (DFS), which shares its in house counsel with the political director a powerful healthcare workers union and a heavily connected WFP supporter.

These conflicts were so severe that the NYC Campaign Finance Board (CFB) issued a harsh warning statement to candidates that anyone who had the assistance of the WFP or DFS would be scrutinized severely to ensure strict compliance with the law. It also went on to declare DFS an "arm of the WFP" for campaign finance purposes, calling into question the corporate status of the two entities and whether they are operating within the scope of federal and state election law.

This sort of political backstage shenanigans is precisely why more open and transparent government is needed- and line by line explication of budget items is critical to maintaining integrity in our government. Once again Councilman De Blasio finds himself in the middle of this controversy as well as the one with NYACA. The tangled web of abuse and misuse of taxpayer funds continues to ensnare public officials at all levels here in New York.

Due to these unfortunate events I am calling on the City Department of Investigation and New York State Attorney General to investigate both ACORN's and the WFP's expenditures of taxpayer funds and the ties they share to DFS and NYACA, and if necessary, prosecute the violators of the firewall between campaigns and civic foundations and public charities. The Attorney General has a Charities Bureau with both the statutory authority and institutional competency to investigate this kind of abuse of the public trusts.

I also call on my Democrat opponents to renounce the Working Families Party and ACORN's use of taxpayer monies for political purposes and make a public pledge to refuse to take the WFP line or their tainted financial or political support if offered. I call on the Mayor to ensure the Department of Investigation pursues the local officials who have violated the public trust, and ask the State Attorney General to review the conflicts and prosecute the organizations and persons responsible for eroding the integrity of our government.

Dan Halloran  
City Council Candidate, 19th CD

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Press Release: August 3, 2009  
Committee to Elect Dan Halloran

24-55 Francis Lewis Boulevard  
Whitestone, NY 11357  
718 690-3803  
press@danhalloran.org  
www.electdanhalloran.org

Today, the Mayor proposed a sweeping overhaul of the MTA; ranging from common sense practical programs onto realistic renovations of older and underused resources that will improve ridership throughout the City. His specific programs to expand the CityTicket program to include LIRR and Metro North stations so that Bronx and Queens riders pay reduced fares will be of great benefit to those boroughs and has an eye for moving the MTA towards a unified pay-system. Other portions of the Bloomberg plan include a reopening of the Staten Island North Shore Rail, countdown clocks on subway routes, and Pilot light rail and street-car services in North Brooklyn and Western Queens waterfront neighborhoods. The proposal also deals with the Bus and Toll portions of the MTA's reach by expanding Rapid Transit to reduce travel times on bus routes in congested areas, providing free cross-town buses, commuter vans, improvements to the ParaTransit services to provide better transportation for handicapped and elderly riders and using tracking technology and reductions during slower periods and increased evening service to ease congestion, overcrowding and underutilization. The Mayor also suggests gateless tolls at the crossings, and expanded Ferry systems and even HOV improvements and expansions.

In addition to these functional improvements, Mike Bloomberg correctly posits the need for a unified Police presence overseeing the safety and security of the MTA system, and improved public-private partnerships to maintain and improve the stations and lines. The most significant aspect of his plan revolves around an overhaul of the MTA's bureaucracy. It is here that I believe the Mayor must reach further and force Albany to open the books on the MTA and make it a more transparent authority.

While I salute the Mayor for his vision and organized plan to cut the bloated bureaucracy and restore services that are cost-effective and responsible his plan to merge overlapping administrative functions and to eliminate bureaucratic redundancy (something that I may add could be done to the general City government as well), is just the beginning. The MTA should have its books comprehensively audited and a thorough cost-cutting analysis done top to bottom. The MTA was originally formed some 30 years ago; Albany chartered it to be a cost savings authority, to make the rapid transit systems more efficient, and to eliminate redundancy and duplicative costs, it has devolved into quite the opposite: inefficient, bloated, and unresponsive. If the Mayor is to succeed in a long term solution to the transit crisis, it will require a complete make-over at the MTA and the public will need to feel they can TRUST that their money is being spent wisely. The

rapid transit system must be clean, efficient, on-time, and cost-effective. Anything less simply punts the problem to the future. We cannot afford another overrun and a Hudson-River-Two-Step from Albany. Open the Books, Audit the Budget, and Set the MTA right side up now, since we are likely starting from near scratch.

If anyone can force Albany to listen, it is Mayor Mike; it's a fight worth taking on if the mayor is serious about fixing the MTA.

Dan Halloran  
City Council Candidate 19 CD

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Committee to Elect Dan Halloran

24-55 Francis Lewis Boulevard  
Whitestone, NY 11357  
718 690-3803  
press@danhalloran.org  
www.electdanhalloran.org

PRESS RELEASE: July 18th, 2009

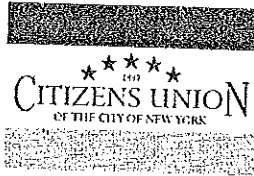
City Council Candidate Dan Halloran a former law enforcement official and prosecutor as well as accomplished trial lawyer in a move that is sure to unnerve incumbent City Council Members throughout the City called for expanding the Federal investigation of corrupt City Council Members caught embezzling taxpayer funds in the so-called "Slush Fund" scandal that reach as high as the Speaker's office.

It was reported yesterday that authorities continue to investigate the spending of about a dozen city members to see if they are guilty of absconding with tax payer funds like former City Councilman Miguel Martinez, who admitted stealing from taxpayers yesterday. With over a dozen public officials under investigation in a Chamber with only 51 members it is extremely alarming that perhaps 20% of the Council is under suspicion. With Council staff and others reportedly steering clear of suspected members for fear of being caught up in the scandal or caught on tape, this truly outrageous chapter in New York City's history is only likely to grow. Such a scandal smacks of Tammany Hall and the voters of the City must insist on real change and real accountability.

City Council Candidate Dan Halloran stated "How can the hard working taxpayers of Queens, seniors on a fixed income and families struggling to make ends meet have any kind of comfort level that public funds are being wisely or even legally spent with this kind of record? This never could have happened if there were tighter controls in place. It also could not have happened but for out of control partisanship that rewards party loyalty and legislative bossism over independence and constituent services. I would wager even incumbent Council Member Tony Avella would agree with me on this."

Mayor Bloomberg said he was as “shocked as anybody else” by the ever widening City Council sweeping investigation. Halloran, echoing the sentiment went on to say, “It is high time we elect new independent fiscally responsible Council members who can restore public confidence in our local government and safeguard taxpayers from this kind of blatant theft. In a time where folks are out of work and elected officials keep raising taxes instead of prioritizing spending and accountability it is exceedingly important we can trust that they do not have their hands in the cookie jar. We need a comprehensive audit and financial controls to ensure there is no opportunity for this kind of scandal to be replicated. We need to ensure that taxpayer monies are always properly accounted for and we need to make sure member items are not being funneled to groups that are shams or are otherwise compromised. We deserve good government we can trust in.”

Dan Halloran was endorsed by the Conservative Party because of his law enforcement background and commitment to fiscal responsibility and by Independence because of his non-partisan commitment to reform. A lifelong Republican and resident of the district, Halloran has garnered the support of a wide range of groups, including even the Libertarians. His commitment to integrity in government is a central focus of his council platform.



## CANDIDATE ACCOUNTABILITY QUESTIONNAIRE

Citizens Union is adding a new element to its evaluation of candidates running for office. As a candidate who presently does not hold elected office, CU is interested in knowing your top five campaign promises you are making to the voters during this campaign for this position.

If elected, Citizens Union will use these promises to evaluate your performance while in office, as well as, to evaluate your candidacy in the future.

We thank you very much for your response. Please feel free to use additional paper if the space provided is not sufficient.

### TOP FIVE 2009 CAMPAIGN PROMISES

1. Fight for Restoration of Term Limits and respect for Referenda.
2. Fight for uniform distribution of line-allocations amongst all 51 city council members & reform of line-item accountability
3. Force an opening the MTA books and examine its expenditures & lobby for home-rule
4. Call for the bonding of Contractors, Developers, and Architects to compel compliance and ensure a recourse for out-of-zone, or other building code violations in construction and renovation to take financial advantage out of code-cheaters
5. Comprehensive plan for the online and public disclosure of all spending by NYC including line-item allotments, including background information needed to evaluate them, and capital allotment disclosure including full vetting of vendors and contract awardees.