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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.

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Candidate Name: S.J. Jung

Age: 45

Office to Which You Seek (Re) Election: Council District #: 20

Campaign Address: 163-10 Northern Blvd. #201, Flushing, NY 11358

Campaign Telephone Number: (718) 353-0304 Fax: (718) 353-1226

Party Affiliation(s): Democrat, and endorsed by Working Families Party

Campaign Manager Name: Lenny Sapozhnikov

Website & Email: <http://www.sjung.com> & [sjung4citycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:sjung4citycouncil@gmail.com)

Education: Korea University (Seoul, South Korea)

Occupation/Employer (or years in currently held elected office):

**Board President of YKASEC and Founder & President of a small business**

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement:

**Board of Directors, New York Immigration Coalition****Steering Committee, One New York coalition****NAACP, member**Are you willing to be interviewed by CU's Local Candidates Committee? YES  NO Have you completed requisite campaign finance filings? YES  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.)*

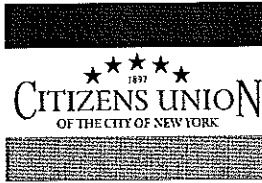
Signature of Candidate: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 7-17-09

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



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## 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 |
|---|---------|--------|

**In spite of their shortcoming, political parties traditionally articulate a set of common values for what society should look like. Choose to belong to a party is an important step in broader civic engagement that is essential to the health of our democracy.**

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|--|---------|--------|
| 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 |
|--|---------|--------|

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|---|---------|--------|
| 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 |
|---|---------|--------|

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|---|---------|--------|
| 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 |
|---|---------|--------|

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|--|---------|--------|
| 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

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|---|---------|--------|
| 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 |
|---|---------|--------|

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

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**CITY COUNCIL REFORM**

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| 8. What is your position on allowing Council committees to function more independently of the speaker than is presently the case?  | <b>Support</b> | Oppose |
| a. Should committee staff be hired by and report to committee chairs?  | <b>Support</b> | Oppose |
| b. Should committee hearings and votes be scheduled at the direction of the chairs?  | <b>Support</b> | Oppose |
| c. Should committees be able to issue subpoenas by a vote of their members?  | <b>Support</b> | Oppose |
| 9. What is your position on:   |                |        |
| a. limiting councilmembers' ability to earn outside income?  | <b>Support</b> | Oppose |
| b. making the job of councilmember a full-time position?   | <b>Support</b> | Oppose |
| c. eliminating or limiting stipends for committee chairs and leadership positions?   | <b>Support</b> | 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? | <b>Support</b> | Oppose |
| 11. What is your position on consolidating the current City Council committee structure and reducing the number of overall committees?   | <b>Support</b> | Oppose |
| 12. What is your position on term limits for elected officials?  | <b>Support</b> | 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?   | <b>Support</b> | Oppose |

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|---|---------|--------|
| 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 opposed the recent extension of term limits which I believed overruled the will of the people, who have spoken on two separate occasions.**

### **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.

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|---|---------|--------|
| 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 |
| 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 a supporter of working and middle class families, I believe it's in the City's best interest to ensure that retirees have access to a stable income, so they don't need to depend on publically funded services.

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?

The partisan chaos that has paralyzed Albany illustrates the need for wholesale reforms that can be implemented by a State Constitutional Convention including:

1. Reform redistricting to make it independent and fair
2. Reform the selection process by which vacancies are filled
3. Election reform, including ballot access, early voting, and same day registration.

- 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?

I support efforts to grant greater home rule to the City of New York. For example, I support the repeal of the Urstadt Law, which ties the City's hands when it comes to critical issues of housing. We need to restore control to New York City and repeal vacancy decontrol, so rent-stabilized housing does not continue to disappear. The recent weeks have also shown how the city's finances are held captive to the political chicanery in Albany, illustrating the need for home rule over revenues.

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?

I strongly feel that the future of the city and my district depends upon a vibrant public transit system. I believe it must serve the needs of all our residents with affordable fares, reliable service, and accessible facilities. I am open to all options that were put on the table by the Ravitch Commission to make this a reality. While it's not a perfect solution since it raised fares, I'm pleased that the recent agreement on an alternative MTA funding plan will provide the MTA with billions in badly needed revenue and put in place some much-needed reforms. I remain open to a number of recommendations of the Ravitch Commission including tolling the bridges. More broadly, I am a strong advocate of a Federal Transportation bill that better balances the needs of public transit over highway

dollars. Ultimately we need to provide the MTA with stable long-term funding that meets the needs of our residents.

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

The current role of the City Council with respect to the budget is limited negotiation and allocation of discretionary funds, which is a minimal component of the city's overall budget. The budget negotiations are not known to be open and transparent. I support measures that would empower the City Council to take more ownership over the budget process, while shining a bright light of public transparency. I'm certainly open to working with the Citizens Union on a range of measures to take this forward, including empowering committees that provide oversight over city agencies to review the budgets of those agencies.

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?

I believe that it's important to account for future liabilities clearly and transparently in the budget. I understand that in this year's extraordinary circumstances made it necessary to use all sources of revenue to maintain our city's social services, but moving forward all surplus tax revenues should go into a trust fund to cover all future healthcare and pension obligations.

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.

As a leader of a local social service agency, I'm a strong champion of the quality social services that are available for New Yorkers. I tend to be a supporter of a diversity of revenue sources that distribute the tax burden in a progressive manner. I fought hard in favor of fair share tax reform in the most recent state budget cycle., and I believe the recent changes should be made permanent.

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 efforts to develop a diversified economy that is less reliant on Wall Street. I support an approach that would be based less upon offering tax breaks to large firms and more upon a sectoral approach that builds upon New York City's diversity and entrepreneurship. Such an approach would begin with a wholesale audit of New York's diverse economic sector. Following on this audit, the City

should put together task forces of business, union, and community leaders to further assess the needs within each sector and develop an action plan that addresses those needs. I believe that this change in strategy has the real potential to be revenue neutral compared to today's ad hoc, Wall Street-centered approach.

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?

I believe that New York City's education system must work to the benefit of all students and ensure that parents can be engaged and supported in their children's education. I support continued mayoral control with a number of revisions to provide greater transparency, accountability, and meaningful parental participation in the decision making of DoE. The city must meaningfully invest in training and capacity building for parents to be able advocates, including the funding of Parents Academies for this purpose. In addition, parent participation in the Community Education Councils and School Leadership Teams needs to be meaningful to ensure participation in decisions regarding school policy and budget issues. Finally, more attention and investments needs to be placed on underperforming schools.

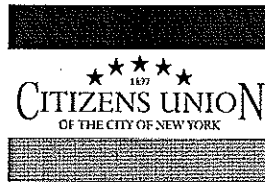
26. What would you propose to increase the transparency of the Board of Elections in the City of New York's operations and accountability to the city and its voters?

I'm open to the recommendations recently put forward by Citizens Union to reform election administration and reduce the influence of the patronage system. Broadly speaking, I strongly support increasing the management capacity of the Board of Elections, which is seriously lacking. This includes the capacity to plan and execute elections, provide language access, and diminish the influence of patronage. I also support a range of measures including modernizing Board of Elections website and improving hotline capacity. Finally, measures to increase the pay of poll workers should be put in place to give citizens more incentives to perform poll work.

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?

I strongly support greater transparency measures advanced by the government watchdog community. The recently passed measures such as attaching council members' names to their individual member items and allowing the public to see which member was pushing for what in the council's expense budget are a great start. However this week's resignation of Councilmember Miguel Martinez shows that this is not enough to guarantee public trust. I believe greater transparency is needed to explain some of the questionable nonprofits formed ostensibly to receive public dollars, including transparency about their boards, founding officers, etc.





## 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. Full funding for public services paid for progressive revenue generating options
2. Expanded skills development and job placement programs
3. Smart, sustainable growth that benefits the whole community
4. Real solutions to traffic congestion and transportation challenges
5. Help immigrant New Yorkers to become fully participating members of society