

Page 1 of 10

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: HELEN SEARS Age: |
| Office to Which You Seck (Re) Election: Council District # 25 |
| Campaign Address: 74-09 37 ave Pm #4/3 Jyck. 1973 |
| Campaign Telephone Number: (917) 692-1975 Fax: (78) 446-167 |
| Party Affiliation(s): Campaign Manager Name: TUALT START |
| Website & Email: SEARS 4 COUNCIL : COM |
| Education: |
| Occupation/Employer (or years in currently held elected office): 70 Mas w |
| Provious Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement: |
| Ate you willing to be interviewed by CU's Local Candidates Committee? YES NO Have you completed requisite campaign finance filings? YES NO YES NO Please note: Citizens Union can grant its "Preferred Candidate" and Badorsed Candidate" rating only to candidates we have interviewed. We will make every offers to interview candidates in each race for City Council.) |
| Signature of Candidate: 1/3/2 400 Date: 2:27-09 |

Citizens Union • 299 Broadway New York, NY 10007
phone 212-227-0342 • fax 212-227-0345 • citizens@citizensunjon.org • www.citizensunjon.org
Peter J.W. Sherwin, Chair • Dick Dadey, Executive Director.

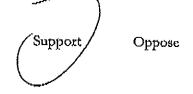
I. CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

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.

VOTING AND ELECTIONS REFORM 1. What is your position with respect to allowing voters Oppose Support who are registered as independents to vote in party primaries? What is your position on passage of state legislation Oppose 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? 3. What is your position on increasing the pay of Oppose Election Day poll workers above the current \$200 they are allotted per election event? 4. What is your position on restructuring New York's Oppose 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? What is your position on having an election Support Oppose administration system where there is a local elections executive director appointed by the mayor upon tecommendation by a new board that is chosen by the mayor and the city council?

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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



Page 3 of 10

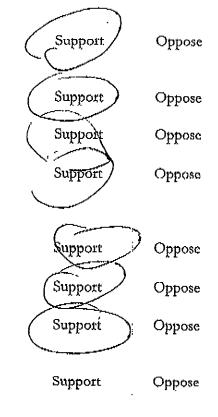
7. What is your position on allowing campaign financing for ballor proposals?

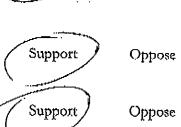


Oppose

CITY COUNCIL REFORM

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





Oppose

Support

| | | Page 4 of 10 |
|--|---|----------------|
| 14. What is your position on the recent extension of ter limits for the city's elected officials to three consecutive four-year terms? Please explain your | um Support | / Oppose |
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| POLICY ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE | | , |
| oppose each, where applicable. Please also use the space on a separate sheet of paper to elaborate on your position detailed answer. You may also provide additional information or plan to take to advance your positions on these | ns on the questions wheation on any actions t | rich require a |
| 15. Knowing that the police department and commissioner retain ultimate authority for determining whether an officer is guiltily 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 |

| л | In FY 2008-09, New York City spent \$12 billion on pensions and fringe |
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| 4. | benefits for City employees out of a total budget of \$62 billion. What would |
| | benefits for City comployees out of a tour sanger sanger by the city and New York |
| | you do to address the growing pension costs borne by the city and New York |
| | City tax payers? |

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

| a. If suppo | rt, what are the | three mo | st import | ant areas | that need impro | vement? |
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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?

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20. Taking into consideration the lessons leatned from the debates surrounding congestion pricing and the Ravitch Commission's recommendations to provide the MITA 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?

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| 21. What would you propose in terms of creating a greater role for the city council in determining and deciding the city budget? |
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| proposed by last, and my take this duty the |
| ven Serio-sty. |
| Change I would make is takens a hard look at |
| number items at count Levels of oversight. |
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| 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 strongh in doing so, and kelieve |
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| debt ad oblishtions whenever possible The 1954 year |
| mus a special case due to the touch proporty |
| ad it was not possible to pay don feeting obliss tions |
| 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 propostls about what taxes you would raise and what services you would cut, if you didn't raise taxes, listed in order of greatest magnitude. |
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| 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? |

Diversification of necessary for survival, we need to incontetivize small businesses, independent various, and mention is the large to survival, and me night ensure that are citizen confliction of the survival and me night ensure that are citizen confliction of the flowersh

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 positives changes can be made to the New York City public school system?

I would propose that there the more room be made in the policy-making part of DOE for parts and teachers.

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?

crections a none war-frontly unebs, to at the CPB would be a good start, and possibly moving toward more involvent between BUB and web technologies, that been been bring government to the people.

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 betieve the Speak's efforts of reform
are long owners and I would the thice
stock of there success or failure in this land
budget before making further recommendations

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Page 8 of 10

| Additional Comments: | _ |
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CANDIDATE ACCOUNTABILITY QUESTIONNAIRE

Citizens Union is adding a new element to its evaluation of incumbents running for reelection. In addition to evaluating their stances on the issues above, Citizens Union will assess incumbents on how well they kept the promises they made to voters during the previous election.

As an elected official who is seeking re-election,

- a. what were the top five promises you made to your constituents when you ran for your current position and what progress have you made to keep those promises, and why and why not have you met them?
- b. what are your top five campaign promises you are making to the voters during this campaign for this position?

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

TOP FIVE CAMPAIGN PROMISES FROM 2005 AND ACTION ON THEM

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2. close the sap between people and form halls

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4.

Page 10 of 10

| | TOP FIVE 2009 CAMPAIGN PROMISES |
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| 1. | French Afferdaby Housing Stock |
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| 2. | Transper amond of Green Space in |
| | my district |
| 3. | Inoregse access to quality, after Able |
| | health com care, including Prinary care |
| 4. | Continue to bring cutting edge dechnology |
| | into the classroom. |
| 5. | Commerce of the July Small husing see in |
| | this tough acording dine and get more |
| | workforce development programs for memploped |