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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: Deirdre Feerick

Age: 41

Office to Which You Seek (Re) Election: Council District #: 26

Campaign Address: 45-23 47th Street, Woodside, NY 11377

Campaign Telephone Number: (718) 784-2193

Fax: (718) 729-3137

Party Affiliation(s): Democratic/Independence Campaign Manager Name: Edward Kiernan

Website & Email: www.FeerickForCouncil.com

feerick09@gmail.com

Education: J.D., Brooklyn Law School; B.A., University at Albany

Occupation/Employer (or years in currently held elected office): Deputy Director, New York City Council Administrative Services Division

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement: Sunnyside Lions Club, United 40's Civic Association, Anoroc Democratic Club, Woodheights Democratic Club, Ridgewood Democratic Club, Brehon Law Society, Borden Avenue Shelter Advisory Board, St. Raphael's School Advisory Board; Democratic District Leader 37th Assembly District Part A; President, Anoroc Democratic Club

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 • www.citizensunion.org

Peter J.W. Sherwin, Chair • Dick Dadey, Executive Director

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Signature of Candidate

Debra Lewis

Date: July 20, 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.

YOTING AND ELECTIONS REFORM

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1. What is your position with respect to allowing voters who are registered as independents to vote in party primaries? | Support | <input checked="" type="radio"/> 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? | <input checked="" type="radio"/> 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? | <input checked="" type="radio"/> 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 | <input checked="" type="radio"/> 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 | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Oppose |

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 | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Oppose |
|---|---------|---|

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

Support

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?

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 do not fundamentally agree with the concept of term limits, however, I believe that because they were created through a referendum that given time they should only have been changed through a referendum in which the electorate decides, though I believe the action was legal.

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

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?

While there is a burden borne by city taxpayers due to pension costs it would be unfair to strip workers of benefits they have earned or to pay workers less for services performed by others because of mere day's difference in starting city service. Additionally, city employees and retirees contribute to the city's economy and are vital to the provision of city services.

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? Support Oppose

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

- Fair funding for New York City
- Reform of state authorities
- Legalization of gay marriage

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 believe the City should have further authority over rent regulations and tax policy.

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 support the Ravitch Commission's recommendation to impose a payroll tax, as well as the reinstatement of the commuter tax with a portion designated to fund the MTA.

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

I propose the Council be allocated enough resources to increase the ability of the Finance Division to act as a counter balance to the Mayor's Office of Management and Budget, which has a far larger staff, and that the Council be granted increased information regarding agency budgets.

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 the City's budget should be balanced to avoid putting costs off into the future, but believe the city should use surplus tax revenues to pay down these costs.

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.

I would focus on revenue raising proposals that do not unduly burden low income households and working New Yorkers, such as reasonable concessions in parklands. I support a review of the city's Personal Income Tax to make it more progressive and to shift the burden off working New Yorkers. I also support the reinstatement of a progressive commuter tax to make sure that those benefiting from the hard work of New York's civil servants pay their fair share.

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?

The city's reliance on Wall Street is inevitable, though small businesses are a vital part of the economy and I believe we need to enact policies to support local employers. Wall Street does need increased regulation, as has been seen through the recent economic crisis, though must be allowed to recover and profit again. Additionally the city should continue to work to increase tourism and assist our small businesses so that they may grow and prosper.

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 believe charter school parents should be able to serve on Community Education Councils and in an increase to the Teacher's Choice program to enhance the dedication and enthusiasm of all 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?

I believe the Board should increase transparency by increasing the amount of information available via the internet regarding elections and candidates.

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 believe the recent campaign finance legislation and city rules carried out by the Campaign Finance Board and the Conflicts of Interest Board provide a clear map to enhance transparency and avoid illegalities and appearances of impropriety.



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. Maintain and increase the number of good jobs
2. Create additional opportunities for youth
3. Encourage the development of affordable housing
4. Enhance the quality of life
5. Increase mass transit, encompassing green alternatives