



**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: Diana Reyna Age: 34

Office to Which You Seek (Re) Election: Council District #: 34

Campaign Address: 300 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11211

Campaign Telephone Number: (347) 335-0709 Fax: (347) 335-0714

Party Affiliation(s): Democrat Campaign Manager Name: Antonio Reynoso

Website & Email: dianareyna.com, dianareyna09@gmail.com

Education: Bachelor of Science

Occupation/Employer (or years in currently held elected office): 8 years

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement: District Leader

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: Diana Reyna Date: 8/10/09

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

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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

X |
| 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

X | 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

X | 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

X | 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

X |

Oppose

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

- | | Support | Oppose |
|---|---------|--------|
| 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? | X | |

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

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
	X	

a. Should committee staff be hired by and report to committee chairs?	Support	Oppose
	X	

b. Should committee hearings and votes be scheduled at the direction of the chairs?	Support	Oppose
	X	

c. Should committees be able to issue subpoenas by a vote of their members?	Support	Oppose
	X	

9. What is your position on:		
a. limiting councilmembers' ability to earn outside income?		Support X
b. making the job of councilmember a full-time position?		Support X
c. eliminating or limiting stipends for committee chairs and leadership positions?		Support X

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
		X

	Oppose	Oppose
	Oppose	Oppose
11. What is your position on consolidating the current City Council committee structure and reducing the number of overall committees?	Support	Oppose X
12. What is your position on term limits for elected officials?	Support X	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 X	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 X	Oppose

I always believed that a change in term limits from two to three needed the approval of the voters. That is why I voted “yes”, putting the decision to a referendum for voters. When that was defeated, I made the determination that voting “yes” on extending term limits was the wisest choice. In this way, voters will choose this September on whether a third term is warranted or not.

I understand both sides of the argument. Yes, the voters have spoken on this issue in the past, but it is clear to me while serving as City Councilmember that two terms were not enough and that three terms allows for a more complete and successful tenure in City Hall. It allows for plans and projects to be followed through until its completion. I have always and will continue to be committed to the community as opposed to the politics that divide our community's interest.

This coming Election Day, the voters will speak and decide the issue.

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.

- | | Support | Oppose |
|---|---------|--------|
| 14. 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? | X | |
| 15. What is your position on changing the current land use process under ULURP to increase the role of community-based planning? | X | |
| 16. 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? | X | |
| 17. What is your position on reforming the current pension funding structure to create multiple tiers for future city government employees? | X | |

- 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?

I acknowledge the large percentage of the City's budget is spent on the costs dedicated to pensions and fringe benefits for city employees. We must protect all taxpayers by ensuring a stable workforce and continue to press actions that will find waste and spending growth to control government spending. Competitive bidding, mutually beneficial labor negotiations, and extensive oversight on contracts are a few good government practices we must continue to work on as a government; while achieving to protect our city's most vulnerable.

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| 18. 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
X | Oppose |
|--|--------------|--------|

a. If support, what are the three most important areas that need improvement?
I would seek the advice of Citizen Union.

- 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 that greater home rule should be granted to the City of New York. The City should be granted authority over rent regulations, taxes (property, sales, income, and corporate) , transportation initiatives, and school governance.

19. 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 reinstatement of the commuter tax as a dedicated revenue source for the MTA with a contingency of providing transparent records of spending. The MTA must not hold onto any property that is vacant nor underutilized and should ensure the selling of those properties as further opportunity to raise revenue. Our Federal government should be petitioned to dedicate a percentage of funding for capitol projects to assist in the maintenance and repair costs associated with a public system based on a population growth. As a City we continue to contribute our fair share of taxes but we receive less in aid, dedicating this funding to New York for MTA would be a result of our federal government recognizing what New Yorkers contribute as taxpayers.

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

I believe that City Council should have a stronger role in shaping and influencing the City's budget. It would be beneficial and more powerful if the Speaker had greater independence from the Mayor. I strongly agree with the Citizens Union recommendations that "chairs and their committees should have greater responsibility in the council's review and approval of the City budget to ensure that the needs of New Yorkers are being addressed equitably and efficiently."

21. 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?

As with other issues my position depends heavily on using surplus tax revenues to pay down future health and pension obligations and relies on the economic climate during the given year. Currently, during the economic downturn it is imperative that we use the surplus monies for immediate needs such as funding social services and creating jobs. However, in periods of economic expansion, I would support using surplus funds to pay down health and pension obligations.

22. 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 do believe that the tax burden on middle class and working class families and individuals is too high. I am a supporter of a more progressive income tax code that would increase revenues by increasing the marginal tax rates on individuals earning more than \$250,000 per year. I would support increasing revenues on the wealthiest New Yorkers before I could support any attempts to reduce essential City services.

23. 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?

As the current economic downturn proved, New York City is too reliant on Wall Street for tax revenues, and I support and stand for a more diversified economy. I am an advocate for investing in higher education to train and prepare our citizens for higher paying jobs in industries like alternative energy biotechnology, and computer technology. In doing so we must provide protections for industrial/manufacturing zones and enforce the laws allowing the space to remain affordable and accessible for small business growth.

24. What would you propose the Department of Education (DOE) 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?

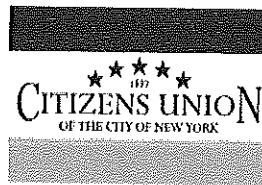
Changing the way the Department of Education reports and works should be a top priority for New York City. The Department of Education must unify their system of budgeting as do the rest of the agencies for the City of New York. Doing so will provide transparency for effective spending and meaningful theoretical applications. Home visits with families and monthly school leadership meetings with parents should be encouraged and rewarded with a point system. Required project commitments and partnerships with achievable milestones for both the student body and parents alike in collaboration with the school administration as tangible results will prove to be an investment contributing as stakeholders.

25. 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?

The Board of Elections needs to become a more modern and reliable department and needs to be staffed by professionals rather than the patronage system.

26. 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?

It is imperative for officials in all offices to act and advocate for greater transparency as we represent the citizenry. Reporting standards are only as effective as its awareness and enforcement.



CANDIDATE ACCOUNTABILITY QUESTIONNAIRE

Citizens Union is adding a new element to its evaluation of incumbents running for re-election. 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 TOP FIVE 2009 CAMPAIGN PROMISES

1. As your council Member to the 34th District, I have and will continue to fight for Affordable housing, transparency, job creation, improvement of our schools, environmental justice and crime reduction in the 34th District.