



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: Joe Nardiello Age: 47

Office to Which You Seek (Re) Election: Council District #: 39

Campaign Address: 334 Union St., Brooklyn NY 11231

Campaign Telephone Number: (917) 620-3913 Fax: ( )

Party Affiliation(s): Republican Campaign Manager Name: (same)

Website & Email: www.joe439.com joe@joe439.com

Education: BA, Journalism from NYU, Washington Sq. Arts & Science

Occupation/Employer (or years in currently held elected office): School of Visual Arts, Advertising & Art Direction

Currently, 6yrs with Blumberg (Julius Blumberg founded the Citizens Union, at that)

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement: (private citizen) - always lend a hand with PTA, local children/baseball, etc. Taught children all during H.S.

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.)

Signature of Candidate: [Signature] Date: 8/24/09

## 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.

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### VOTING AND ELECTIONS REFORM

1. What is your position with respect to allowing voters who are registered as independents to vote in party primaries?
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?
3. What is your position on increasing the pay of Election Day poll workers above the current \$200 they are allotted per election event?
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?
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

Support

Oppose

Support

Oppose

Support

Oppose

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

Firstly, there's a "contract" essentially that voters understood — an agreement that two terms were the limit. Because the incumbents are well-known, and in some cases QUITE GOOD and EFFECTIVE (like Mayor Bloomberg and Bk. Mary Mackowitz) we can maintain strong leadership. But, the way we arrived — should have been by another POLICY ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE (11/08) Referendum.

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

Emotions can overtake facts, and over checks/balances have been widely publicized as working — by cases vs. NYPD.

Support

Oppose

16. What is your position on changing the current land use process under ULURP to increase the role of community-based planning?

If so, expand # of community members voting.

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?

Re-visit "Authorities" on municipal/state levels. BPs, CBPs — need a GREATER SAY.

Support

Oppose

18. What is your position on reforming the current pension funding structure to create multiple tiers for future city government employees?

Don't have all answers across all topics — but on its face, this seems to me... unbalanced...

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?

begin funding economies outside of our own (we can address this.)  
But, pensions equate to contracts, after time/years have already been served. You can't take that away from anyone. However, there's MISMANAGEMENT nearly everywhere (re: costs/budget).

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?

- 1) Work for us, legislate adherence to guidelines of attendance, sessions, and voting — with strict penalty.
- 2) Transparency. Maybe it's time elected officials have to log hand-written reasons/rationale (like this exercise) vs. backroom nonsense, and double-checking away from Public Eyes.
- 3) cut costs/funding-expenses. No more no expense executive etc.

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?

Sovereignty is the "wrong word" here. Representation is decided by a majority of votes — only then as surely when a Governor is from New York City, and our Mayor STILL has to complain hat-in-hand for equal funding and stronger support from Albany.

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?

Dissolve the MTA. Create a public agency for oversight and management. Re-examine our needs in 2010 for "authorities" provide hold people accountable for a House morass of waste and bloated — and a TA Board with 0 connection to the subways they "oversee".

How can you oversee something — and be blind to it? Congestion pricing AND EAST RIVER TOLLS ARE nonsense. The MTA is over-funded, as it is. These are TAXES

Where does the MTA state lottery go?  
Power that, do the TA and let them  
else each others backs.

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

The Council already has significant budgeting roles — in the examination, point by point of hearings / plans / effectiveness right on through the ~~the~~ the have approval process. It needs critical analysis at the start.

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?

It's a recession, executives don't do this issue most publicly are better - equipped to answer the candidates, with smaller, restricted revenues/intake — I can see the sense in this, but my answer is off-hand. Honestly.

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.

1) Budgetary Review, especially in a downturned economy has to be severe — not with jobs, but with inspection of overall cost. Entire agencies escape attention, like D.O.T. with millions on projects like "bus islands" in Lower Broadway that waste \$1B. We cut fire houses, yet allow candidates for example to use electric as a cottage industry and Business... staying home for years to raise funds to extract \$100,000 of public monies (\$6 to \$11 rule)? Why?

2) Why is the Verrazano Barge \$11? Tolls

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?

ITS ALREADY AS DIVERSIFIED AS ANY, EVER IN THE HISTORY OF HUMANITY. WHILE WE LOST SHIPPING, MANUFACTURING AND RELY ON SERVICE — WE CAN RETURN TO "MAKING" PRODUCTS & DISTRIBUTION, GOVT EXISTS TO PROTECT CONSUMER, NOT GROW IT. (BUT GOVT HAS MADE BAD DECISIONS LAST CENTURY.)

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?

- 1) Get involved with existing PTAs. Lead them. Focus.
- 2) Stop expecting services. You get out, what you put in.
- 3) Welcome non-parent students more easily over non-resident which is an issue across our District w/ public schools.
- 4) Teach the parents — give children time, space and CONFIDENCE AT HOME TO LEARN. Parent & kids need to have responsibility, etc.

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?

~~Well, the children themselves are walking results.~~  
~~PTA members should be more vital participants & invited into the Board~~

1) or The correct and updated voter registration numbers.

2) EXAMINATION of candidates by the BOE. (criminal background, etc.)

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?

- Right on their web pages, (city websites)
- Censorship, Fines, etc.
- Eliminate salaries, immediately if they discover.

Breakthrough campaign for anyone that  
wants STRONG Representation — but not  
Additional Comments: a "politician!"

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This candidacy embodies our citizens' collective experience — and frustration with politicians and what moves them. As a lifelong private citizen that's witnessed what's effective — and what's lacking — in our local government, Joe Nardella is pledged to "make an honest difference".

This campaign is 100% about the common purpose that our representatives should carry. Backroom dealing, endowments the come with quid pro quo, etc. — what we all know as nouns "politicians" don't affect his 47 year old.

I'm not running for self-aggrandizement.

I have not lived a life designed with a "eye" on someday ~~running~~ for office. Yet, there's enough of experience in my background — of service for 2 mayors on complete opposite sides of the "political spectrum" — that can be put to excellent use in public service.

During a Recession that will entangle's 2nd year in October — we've put forth an INDEPENDENT, UNBIASED and unprejudiced honest candidacy and option. Now, you can never say this "no such thing" — anymore.





## 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. 100% about Public service (a representative, over a politician).
2. Focus on economy; economic development (linked w/ 2 ms/ans).
3. Reducing fees, tolls; contracting the MTA, Cont Ed, and "authority";
4. Slowed car traffic; cleaned, SAFED & BRIGHTEN STREETS.
5. Yan representation equally, w/ that restriction of political influence — a completely independent commission. Working for residents, not for re-election.

www.joe439.com