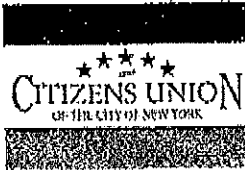


ATT: Andrea Centano



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: Bob Capano (347-408-7923) Age: 35

Office to Which You Seek (Re) Election: Council District #: 43

Campaign Address: 7304 Fifth Avenue #198, Brooklyn, NY 11209

Campaign Telephone Number: (347) 497-5901 Fax: (718) 499-8647

Party Affiliation(s): R Campaign Manager Name: Russell Gallo

Website & Email: www.bobcapano.com bob@bobcapano.com

Education: Masters in Urban Policy & Administration (Brooklyn College)

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

Adjunct Political Science Professor / CUNY, Part-Time Supervisor

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement:

46th AD candidate (2008); President, 68th Precinct Youth Council;
Bay Ridge Community Council; 68th Precinct Community Council

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: [Signature] Date: 7/14/09

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

1. What is your position with respect to allowing voters who are registered as independents to vote in party primaries?

Support

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?

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?

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

Oppose

Although I am disturbed by some of the political party patronage at BOE, I am concerned by putting BOE under the control of a

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

few elected officials, If a mayor and/or City Council member, they could manipulate the BOE to their benefit, We must have a more accountable BOE

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

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

This extension proposal should have been put before the voters of our city.

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

We should explore reforming this system and look at how to appoint the most effective CCRB members to strengthen their role.

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

Support

Oppose

We must find way to foster greater public confidence in police misconduct investigations.

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 we must balance our budget, all of us must reign in spending, including the City Council itself. We must look at potential savings from future city employees when it comes to pension & fringe benefits. I will work in

- 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

collaboration with the Administration and our UNIONS

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

- ① NON-partisan redistricting
- ② initiative & referendum in NYS
- ③ term limits for state legislators

- 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?

Yes, unless there is a rationale of the highest priority, NYC should enjoy the greatest home rule possible.

- 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?

We need to begin by having the MTA board, or other entity, more accountable to voters. I have testified at MTA "public hearings" and share the feeling of many that these are a useless exercise. New York City also needs & deserves a greater voice & role in MTA decisions. There must be greater transparency & accountability in the MTA & a more substantive public role & awareness.

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

I do not believe the Council currently exercises all of its charter mandated powers in the budget process. Individual city council members must demand a greater role in the process, and not simply delegate their voices, votes to the Speaker. Peter Vallone Sr. book about his experiences as Speaker are particularly instructive.

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 supported this past practice and would have worked hard to do so this year as well.

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.

Since the city cannot run a deficit, taxes and other income must equal or surpass the cost of city services. Police, fire, and other uniformed services should always be cut last. The City Council should lead by example, trimming its own budget, and eliminating 20% of its central and committee staff.

In addition, Council members should share office space with local community boards.

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?

Creating a diversified economy is one of the cornerstones of my campaign. Putting all our economic eggs in one basket - wall street - was a serious mistake. We are experiencing the results of this now. It should not be that when wall street squeezes the city gets a major flu. We need to invest in our manufacturing, computer & film industries. We need to make it easier for people to open & expand small businesses.

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?

Unfortunately, there will be parents who choose not to be involved in their children's education - which makes it that much more important that we establish & promote attractive parent engagement centers in NYC. I would be extremely supportive of our PTA's and after-school programs.

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?

Remove the simple two-party control of Board of Elections and add independent, non-partisan individuals to BOE. Must maintain bipartisan participation in ballot disputes.

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?

No Council Member should be permitted to allocate funds to a non-profit organization that a family member has a leadership role, unless there is an specific independent review of the transparency of the organization and the use of the funds.

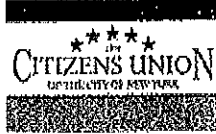
Additional Comments:

Throughout my life I have been an independent, non-partisan public servant. Specifically, over the past decade I have worked in senior positions for Brooklyn's top Democrat, Marty Markowitz (Senior Advisor for Community Boards + Legislative Affairs) and Brooklyn's former top Republican, Congressman Vito Fossella (Brooklyn Director). I am proud of this record which clearly demonstrates that for me, public service is about helping people and promoting good government - not partisanship. I am very confident that while others can speak about being non-partisan, no one else can say they have worked for Brooklyn's highest elected Democrat and Republican.

As Director of Community Boards for Borough Hall, I promoted public involvement and civic engagement in our neighborhoods. I firmly believe the best ideas for communities come from the local level. As an adjunct professor, I teach about the importance of the decentralization of NYC government that happened with the creation and empowerment of community boards - or "little city halls." I also believe we should allow younger people (16-17 yrs old) to serve on community boards.

I am also proud of my own civic background as President of the 68th Precinct Youth Council, which provides 1,100 Brooklyn children with baseball + soccer programs.

As a proven independent leader, I feel especially able + qualified to lead a reform agenda in NYC. I will not be beholden to any "party bosses" or interests - only making NYC a more open + transparent govt., and serving the best interests of my constituents.



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. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

- 1) Work to diversify the city's economy into light manufacturing, entertainment, and silicon valley. Putting all our economic eggs in one basket (Wall Street) is dangerous, as recent events have shown us.
- 2) Forge a regional coalition of elected officials, civic, labor, business, and good government groups to enact much-needed reforms at the MTA and other public authorities.
- 3) Enact non-partisan redistricting for Council seats, with Council district and community board lines being made more coterminous. This would allow Councilmembers and community boards to share space and more closely monitor the application of city services and community needs.
- 4) Reinstate term limits, with additional stipulations that would prevent them from being repealed or amended without a public referendum. →

5) Work to stop excessive ticketing and harassment of residents and small businesses,

Traffic agents main job should not be to generate revenue, but rather keep traffic flowing.