



**CITIZENS UNION CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE
NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL ELECTION 2009**

Citizens Union would appreciate your response to the following questions related to Council and election reform policy issues facing the City of New York. We plan to make public your responses to this questionnaire on our website and in other appropriate venues.

Citizens Union will also be using your answers to guide the process of evaluating candidates for this office and to assist us in determining whether to issue a candidate "endorsement."

We thank you very much for your response.

Candidate Name: Jose Eduardo Giraldo Age: 45

Office to Which You Seek (Re) Election: Council District #: 21

Campaign Address: 76-11 37 Avenue, Suite 201, Jackson Heights, NY 11372

Campaign Telephone Number: (718) 544-7894 Fax: (718) 899-5198

Party Affiliation(s): Democrat Campaign Manager Name: Manuel Fonseca

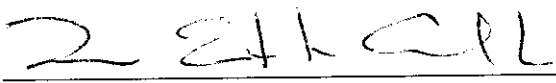
Website & Email: EduardoGiraldo.com

Education: BS Business Administration, St. John's University

Occupation/Employer (or years in currently held elected office): President Abetx International Brokers, Inc. (15 years)

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement: President of Queens Hispanic Chambers of Commerce, Chairman of New York State Wide Coalition of the Hispanic Chambers of Commerce

Are you willing to be interviewed by CU's Local Candidates Committee? YES NO
(Please note: Citizens Union can grant its "Preferred Candidate" and "Endorsed Candidate" rating only to candidates we have interviewed.)

Signature of Candidate:  Date: 1-29-09

I. CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

Please state your position on the following reform measures. Specify 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 on allowing independents to vote in party primaries?

Support

Comments: _____

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

Comments: _____

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

Comments: _____

4. What is your position on requiring that the Board of Elections in the City of New York be included in the preliminary and final mayor's management report?

Support

Comments: _____

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

5. What is your position on establishing stricter requirement for the disbursement of campaign finance matching funds to candidates that face non-competitive challengers?

Support

Comments: _____

6. What is your position on banning the transfer of funds that were raised in a previous election cycle into a current account?

Oppose

Comments: _____

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

Support

Comments: _____

8. What is your position on lowering the campaign contribution limit for City Council candidates from the current \$2,750 for those who participate in the city's campaign finance program?

Oppose

Comments: _____

9. What is your position on lowering the expenditure limit for City Council candidates who participate in the city's campaign finance program?

Oppose

Comments: _____

CITY COUNCIL REFORM

10. What is your position on allowing Council committees to function more independently of the speaker than is presently the case?

Support

• Should committee staff be hired by and report to committee chairs?

Support

• Should committee hearings and votes be scheduled at the direction of the chairs?

Support

• Should committees be able to issue subpoenas by a vote of their members?

Support

Comments: _____

11. What is your position on eliminating or limiting stipends for committee chairs and leadership positions?

Oppose

Comments: _____

12. What is your position on consolidating the current City Council committee structure and reducing the number of overall committees?

Oppose

Comments: _____

13. 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.

Oppose

Comments: _____
In two separate occasions the people of New York have opposed that vote.

14. What is your position on modifying the City Charter to require that changes to term limits may only be approved by the voters?

Support

Comments: _____

POLICY ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE

15. What is your position on transferring prosecutorial power over substantiated claims of police misconduct to the Civilian Complaint Review Board? If oppose, what would you propose to ensure sufficient public oversight and effective adjudication in handling claims of alleged police misconduct?

Support

Comments: _____

16. Do you believe that the State Legislature should renew mayoral control of the city's public schools in its present form? If oppose, what specific changes to the current system would you recommend?

Oppose

Comments: _____
We need more teachers and parent participation

17. What is your position on establishing mandatory inclusionary zoning standards and requirements for all new residential development projects? If so, what should be the minimum percentage set aside for low income households?

Support

Comments:

30%

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

Support

Comments:

More accessible and efficient process

19. What is your position on the Ravitch Commission's recommendations for new revenue sources for funding the MTA and altering its governance? Please explain your answer, as well as your thoughts on how the experiences of the debate surrounding the city's efforts to implement congestion pricing can inform the current discussion.

Oppose

Comments:

I think New Yorkers are being priced out of New York City, while the services are not the citizens.

CAMPAIGN PROMISES BEING MADE TO VOTERS IN 2009

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 a candidate who presently does not hold elected office, CU is interested in knowing what are the top five promises you are making to the voters during this campaign?

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 BEING MADE IN 2009

- 1. Jobs

- 2. Economic Development

- 3. Education/After School Programs

- 4. Take care of our seniors and restoring their budgets

- 5. Promote Green initiatives, children planting a tree

Please return to: Citizens Union, Local Candidates Committee
299 Broadway, Suite 700 New York, NY 10007
or via fax to 212.227.0345