



**CITIZENS UNION CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE  
NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL  
ELECTION 2007**

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: Harry Schiffman

District/Borough: 40<sup>th</sup> Council District

Campaign Address: 521 Argle Road, Brooklyn, NY 11218

Campaign Telephone Number: (718) 724-3047 Fax: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ (zip)

Party Affiliation(s): Neighborhood First

Campaign Manager: Anne Strahle

Website & Email: Harry Schiffman @ SchiffmanforCouncil.com

Education: M.A. in Community Organizing - Planning

Occupation/Employer (or years in currently held elected office): Dr. Gov't - Comm Relations for Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Ctr.

Previous Offices and Campaigns: None

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

Signature of Candidate: Harry Schiffman Date: 1/25/07

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**VOTING ELECTIONS AND REFORMS**

1. Do you support allowing independents to vote in party primaries?

YES  NO

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Do you support allowing non citizen immigrants the right to vote in municipal elections?

YES NO

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Do you support the passage of state legislation that would allow for other charter measures to appear on the ballot at the same time when there is a charter reform proposal initiated by a charter commission appointed by the Mayor?

YES NO

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Do you support increasing the pay of election day poll workers above the current \$200 they are allotted per election event?

YES  NO

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM**

5. Do you support stricter requirements on the dispersal of campaign finance matching funds to candidates that face non-competitive challengers?

YES  NO

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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6. Do you support limiting the influence of those doing business with the city by restricting campaign contributions from these entities?

YES

NO

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Do you support a ban on the transfer of funds that were raised in a previous election cycle into a current account?

YES

NO

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Do you support allowing public campaign financing for charter proposals?

YES

NO

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9. Do you support lowering the campaign contribution limit for City Council candidates from the current \$2750 for those that voluntarily participate in the city's campaign finance program?

YES

NO

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

10. Do you support lowering the expenditure limit for City Council candidates that voluntarily participate in the city's campaign finance program?

YES

NO

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### CITY COUNCIL REFORM

11. Do you support allowing Council committees to function more independently of the Speaker than is presently the case?

YES  NO

- Should committee staff be hired by and report to committee chairs?
- Should committee hearings and votes be scheduled at the direction of the chairs?
- Should committees be able to issue subpoenas by a vote of their members?

YES  NO

YES  NO

YES  NO

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

12. Do you support eliminating or limiting stipends for committee chairs and leadership positions?

YES  NO

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

13. Do you support consolidating the current City Council committee structure and reducing the number of overall committees?

YES  NO

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

14. Do you support keeping Council term limits in place for two consecutive four year terms? If not, why, and what do you propose?

YES  NO

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Policy Issues of Importance**

15. Do you support keeping in place the current property tax rate? If not, what do you propose?  YES  NO

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

16. Do you support 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?  YES  NO

Comments: 25% \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

17. Do you support the use of eminent domain to seize private property to allow for development of projects like the basketball arena in downtown Brooklyn?  YES  NO

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

18. Do you support increasing the limit on the number of charter schools permissible by law?

Comments: No \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Additional Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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