

**CITIZENS UNION CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE  
NEW YORK CITY MAYOR  
ELECTION 2013**

Citizens Union would appreciate your response to the following policy questions facing the City of New York and its residents that are of concern to Citizens Union. 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: John Liu

Age: 46

Campaign Address: P.O. Box 520631, Flushing, NY 11352

Campaign Telephone Number: 646-490-9818 Fax: 646-490-9819

Party Affiliation(s): Democratic Campaign Manager Name: Chung Seto

Website & Email: [www.johnliu2013.com](http://www.johnliu2013.com), [info@johnliu2013.com](mailto:info@johnliu2013.com)

Education: SUNY-Binghamton, BS, Mathematical Physics

Occupation/Employer (or years in currently held elected office): NYC Comptroller,  
2010-present

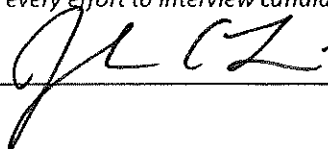
Previous Offices and Campaigns: NYC Council Member, 2002-2009

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" or "Endorsed Candidate" rating only to candidates we have interviewed. We will make every effort to interview candidates in this race.)*

Signature of Candidate: \_\_\_\_\_



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

8/19/2013

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.

### CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

Please circle 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.

### CITIZENS UNION ISSUES

#### VOTING AND ELECTIONS REFORM

|  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| 1. What is your position with respect to eliminating party primaries and establishing a non-partisan election system in which all candidates and all voters participate in the first round and the top two candidates advance to the second round?                   | Support/ <u>Oppose</u> |
| 2. What is your position on instituting Instant Runoff Voting for all citywide offices and for all special elections for city offices? (Int. No. 1066)   | <u>Support</u> /Oppose |
| 3. What is your position on creating a voluntary municipal poll worker program to supplement poll worker recruitment by district leaders? (Int. No. 721)   | <u>Support</u> /Oppose |
| 4. What is your position on requiring city agencies to report the number of applicants that they register to vote as required by current law (Int. No. 760)?   | <u>Support</u> /Oppose |
| 5. What is your position on transmitting electronically voter registration information collected by city agencies to the Board of Elections in the City of New York?   | <u>Support</u> /Oppose |
| 6. What is your position on requiring the Board of Elections to report performance metrics to the City Council that conform to the Mayor's Management Report? (Int. No. 778)   | <u>Support</u> /Oppose |
| 7. What is your position on expanding the Voter Guide published by the Campaign Finance Board to cover all races occurring in New York City, such as state and federal contests, and providing the opportunity for voters to receive the guide electronically rather | <u>Support</u> /Oppose |

|                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| than in print form? (Int. No. 769) |  |
|------------------------------------|--|

### **CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM**

|   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| 8. What is your position on eliminating matching funds for contributions bundled by lobbying organizations or lobbyists?  | <u>Support/Oppose</u> |
| 9. What is your position on prohibiting participants in the city's campaign finance program from using public matching funds to purchase strategic campaign consulting services from firms that also provide lobbying services? | <u>Support/Oppose</u> |

### **CITY COUNCIL REFORM**

|  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| 10. When the Quadrennial Compensation Commission is reconvened, what is your position on requiring that any future increase in councilmember compensation only apply prospectively to the following term?  | <u>Support/Oppose</u> |
| 11. What is your position on increasing transparency of discretionary funding by requiring the list of capital and expense funds and their sponsors be provided to councilmembers and the public three days in advance of any vote, and expanding the online searchable database of expense funds to include all capital fund recipients and applicants? | <u>Support/Oppose</u> |

### **PUBLIC SAFETY AND OVERSIGHT OF POLICE MISCONDUCT**

|   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| 12. What is your position on reducing the frequency of stop, question and frisks by conducting stops more judiciously?<br><br><b>I support the elimination of stop and frisk, not minor fixes.</b>                      | <u>Support/Oppose</u> |
| 13. What is your position on establishing the Commission to Combat Police Corruption (CCPC) as a permanent commission in the City Charter while empowering the CCPC to issue subpoenas?                                 | <u>Support/Oppose</u> |
| 14. What is your position on enhancing the Civilian Complaint Review Board's (CCRB) authority to initiate an investigation into reported or known incidents of police misconduct without receipt of a formal complaint? | <u>Support/Oppose</u> |
| 15. What is your position on granting the Civilian  | <u>Support/Oppose</u> |

|  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| Complaint Review Board (CCRB) with the authority to prosecute officers found guilty of lying during CCRB investigations? |                       |
| 16. What is your position on reinstating the zero tolerance penalty for false official statements by public officers?    | <u>Support/Opnose</u> |

**BUDGET REFORM**

|   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| 17. What is your position on establishing independent budgeting for:  | <u>Support/Opnose</u> |
| a. the borough presidents?  |                       |
| b. Conflicts of Interest Board?   | <u>Support/Opnose</u> |
| c. the public advocate ?  | <u>Support/Opnose</u> |
| d. community boards?  | <u>Support/Opnose</u> |
| 18. What is your position on making the budget process more transparent by clearly defining units of appropriation and limiting their size? | <u>Support/Opnose</u> |
| 19. What is your position on release of revenue projections (other than property taxes) prior to Council hearings on the Executive budget?  | <u>Support/Opnose</u> |

**LAND USE AND COMMUNITY BOARD REFORM**

|   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| 20. What is your position on designating urban planners for use by community boards and requiring borough presidents report to the Council the manner in which they advertise and make community board appointments? (Int. No. 913) | <u>Support/Opnose</u> |
| 21. What is your position on establishing a formal standardized and transparent process for community board appointments including written applications, interviews of candidates, and filling vacancies within 30 days?            | <u>Support/Opnose</u> |

**ISSUES of CITYWIDE IMPORTANCE**

1. What is your view of the amount of taxes paid by New Yorkers compared to the value that is received in City services? Do you believe that taxes should be raised or lowered? If you believe taxes should be changed, please provide specific proposals about what taxes you would change and if you didn't raise taxes, what services you would cut, listed in order of greatest magnitude

New Yorkers can get better value in City services for the amount of taxes that they pay. We have some of the highest taxes in the country and should expect more. There is much waste in City government, especially in the way we outsource, and as Comptroller, I have made identifying and stopping this waste a priority. One of the biggest examples of this is the CityTime fiasco, a project that was \$1 billion dollars over budget and a decade late, mainly because of lack of adequate controls and oversight. My Office also found that the City's plans to modernize 911 was 7 years behind and a billion dollars over budget. We obviously would get better value for our tax dollar without these, and other, money pits.

Our tax system is unfair now because it is not a truly progressive tax system. I have called for a more progressive taxation system and support taxing those with the highest incomes at a higher rate. My office wrote a report on income inequality last year that found that the top 1% of New York City income tax filers receive one third of all City personal income, a share that is twice the national average. It makes no sense that a family with an income of \$50,000 pays nearly the same tax rate as a family that makes \$1,000,000. Our tax system must be reformed so that the highest earners pay their fair share. My progressive tax proposal would lower taxes for 99% of New Yorkers and may be found at [http://www.comptroller.nyc.gov/bureaus/opm/reports/2012/NYC\\_PIT\\_FactSheet\\_v13.pdf](http://www.comptroller.nyc.gov/bureaus/opm/reports/2012/NYC_PIT_FactSheet_v13.pdf).

2. Certain New York has been trying to create a more diversified economy, and one that is less reliant on Wall Street. What is your position on such efforts? If you support it, what would you do to diversify the city's economy? How would you ensure that the city would receive adequate tax revenue as a result of potential shifts in the tax base?

I support efforts to diversify New York's economy. In addition to trying to encourage different types of industry in New York City, we should also diversify by working to create businesses in the boroughs outside of Manhattan. Although space for anything is scarce in Manhattan because of all of the businesses located there, I do believe the business potentials of the outer boroughs have not been reached. Also diversifying our economy in terms of

**industries and locations would help alleviate the strain on our mass transit system, where everyone tries to go into Manhattan in the mornings and back to the other boroughs at night.**

3. In FY 2013-14, New York City is budgeted to spend \$13.568 billion on pensions and fringe benefits for City employees out of a total net budget of \$68.5 billion. What would you do to address the growing pension and health care costs borne by the city and New York City tax payers, particularly in the context of contractual bargaining with the city's unions for retroactive raises?

**I have made a proposal to reform our pension system that could generate one billion in savings a year and increase the performance of the systems. Under my proposal, we would merge the City's five pension systems into one system managed by one board with a full time professional investment staff. This system would allow decisions to be made faster and save millions on consultants because their services would be brought in-house.**

**I understand the tough times projected for the New York City economy and I would work diligently with unions to negotiate new contracts and address the issue of retroactive raises. Most public sector union workers are City residents and I believe in the end we can negotiate contacts that take into account the City's economic health.**

4. What is your overall position on public education and what changes, if any, would you make to mayoral control of city schools? What would you do to increase test scores and graduation rates? How would you propose the Department of Education increase the ability for parents and teachers to become more meaningfully involved? What are your views on shuttering underperforming schools and opening new ones, including charter schools, oftentimes in the same buildings?

**As Comptroller I published, *Beyond High School: Higher Education as a Growth and Fiscal Strategy for New York City*. That report argues that investments in education are the best strategy for achieving long term fiscal balance and economic prosperity. In my mayoral administration, education will be viewed as a powerful economic development tool. Investing in the education of its own residents will improve the lives of New**

Yorkers, enhance City revenues, and lower City costs. In short, providing New Yorkers with the tools they need to succeed increases their income potential and reduces their need for public services.

Improving education in New York City will require a comprehensive plan. I think of this as a “cradle-to-career” approach that will supplant a “school-to-prison” pipeline. A holistic approach will start with getting pre-school age children on the right path to graduating from college - because in today's economy you need a college degree to compete. My administration will emphasize an education that gives students the skills to advance beyond high school. This will mean providing a foundation in traditional subjects matters such as math, science and arts, but also providing access to counselors and peer leaders that will help students navigate the complicated world of college admissions. If students are more immediately career-focused, they will be able study in enhanced Career and Technical Education programs.

In my list of priorities you will see that I have started addressing education and care early - before a child is even born. Investments, improvements and reforms will continue throughout a child's life until we have made sure that have the life-skills and education to be productive members of society.

Of course, creating an educational system with this transformative power is not cheap. Earlier this year, my office released The People's Budget. This was a balanced City budget that found ways to increase City revenues to fund greater investments. By looking hard at the budget and prioritizing New Yorkers, we found ways to invest billions of additional dollars towards education initiatives. These investments range from Universal PreSchool for three-year olds, permanent restoration of out-of-school programs, significant expansion of high school counselors to free CUNY tuition for the top 10% of NYC graduates.

### Priorities

#### *Early Childhood*

##### *Expand The Nurse Family Partnership*

This program provides critical in-home prenatal care for Medicaid- eligible first-time mothers, and continues parental support for up to 2 years after a child is born. I will expand this program so that it is available to every mother that qualifies.

Early care for children results in higher scores on children's reading and math achievement tests. It produces a 67 percent reduction in behavioral and intellectual problems per child at age 6. It improves a child's cognitive ability and language

development and reduces language delays. In short, it makes kids from struggling families better able to handle school.

*Universal Pre-School for Three-Year Olds*

This program will provide full-day, year-round childhood programming for the more than 100,000 three year olds in New York City. We will create a sliding scale so that families that are in the greatest financial need will not be forced to pay for care, while those that can afford to contribute will pay an appropriate amount.

*Universal Pre-Kindergarten*

For four-year olds, Universal Pre-Kindergarten will provide six hours per day of education programming during the academic year.

*Permanently Restore Child-Care Cuts*

I will restore the recent cuts to these essential programs.

*Elementary and K-12*

*Reform Panel for Education Policy*

To create real change for our schools from Kindergarten through 12th grade we must reform the governance structure. Earlier this year my office published a report related to school governance - "No More Rubber Stamp – Reforming New York's Panel For Education Policy". In the report I offer recommendations that would create a more collaborative structure, and one that is more responsive to the community.

The mayor and the chancellor would retain a large degree of authority and decision-making power in this system, but there would be important new components in place by which the public will be able to participate, be heard, and have influence.

While the outward appearance of the Panel for Education Policy would be the same, the manner in which they are selected would allow for more input from the public at large. The Mayoral appointees would be selected from a PEP Nominating Committee that would be made up of elected officials, community, labor and education leaders. This would result in a PEP that represents the community and is not simply a mayoral rubber stamp.

*Provide Free Breakfast in the Classroom*

Research has shown that students benefit when schools offer breakfast in the classroom. Children have fewer discipline and psychological problems, fewer visits to school nurses, reduced tardiness and student attentiveness and attendance improves.



We will offer free breakfast to every child to ensure that children are ready to learn when they get to school.

#### *End Co-Location*

Co-located charter schools should pay rent. Overcrowding has gotten worse under the current administration because of its emphasis on allowing charter schools to take space in public schools. I would immediately stop this practice and begin collecting rent from charter schools that are co-located. I will work to ensure the success of existing public schools by giving them adequate resources, rather than inhibit them by reducing their available space.

#### *Permanently Restore Out-of-School-Time Programs*

These programs offer enrichment activities to students before and after school. I would restore the funding of these programs to their peak level of 2008.

#### *Middle School*

##### *Increase Social Workers*

I will add 200 social workers to middle schools to bring the average student-to-social worker ration to the recommended 400:1. Social workers provide social-emotional support and professional mental health counseling during a crucial developmental stage.

##### *Increase School Counselors*

Similarly, I will add 505 school counselors to middle school grades so that we can meet the recommended student-to-counselor ratio of 250:1.

##### *Expand Computers for Youth*

Computers for Youth provides refurbished computers, pre-loaded with educational software, to 6th graders. The program teaches these students and their families how to use the computers. In today's day and age, no child, regardless of their family's income, should live without a computer and internet access in their home.

#### *High School*

##### *Enhance Career and Technical Education*

For students that are more immediately jobs-focused, I will reinvigorate Career and Technical Education programs. CTE schools are a great way for students to learn the skills that lead directly to quality jobs. We must ensure that these programs keep up with the times and that they focus on future growing jobs sectors such as tech development.

*Create City Work Study Program*

I will create 1,000 work-study positions for college students to mentor high school students and to provide academic and college-planning support. This program would benefit both high school students making the transition to college, as well as college students struggling to afford school.

*Expand Student Success Centers*

I will expand this current pilot program. Student Success Centers are resource rooms for students navigating the college preparation process. They are assisted by peers who have been trained by college counseling staff. This will give students the resources and guidance they need to gain admission to college.

*Expand Bridge to College*

Bridge to College trains college students to coach and support at-risk high school students during the time between high school graduation and college matriculation, starting with workshops in the spring before students graduate high school and continuing during the summer with outreach and case management. I will create enough positions to cover all NYC public high schools.

*Increase Guidance Counselors*

Guidance counselors are particularly important for college success. Best practices advise that guidance counselors have caseloads no larger than 100. Unfortunately in the New York City public schools the average is 259 students to one counselor, and many of our counselors are struggling to care for more than 400 students on their own. I will change the current unmanageable ratio from 259 students to 100 students per counselor.. Offering every child the best chance to succeed is worth the additional investment.

*Turn Public Schools Into Community Centers*

Families need to know that there is support for them in the community. Public schools should not be shuttered after hours. I will make every New York City public school become a community center before and after school. In addition to after-school programs, it could include a health clinic, and offer resources to parents and adults in the evenings, like tax advisory services and financial literacy courses.

*CUNY**Free CUNY Tuition to Top Performers*

The top 10 percent of New York City public high school graduates will be offered free

tuition to CUNY schools. The offer of free tuition would help motivate students and elevate CUNY, one of our City's most valuable gems, to the level of a competitive prize. It would also be a life-saver for many working families who are struggling to send their kids to college. We must do more to make college affordable.

*MetroCards for CUNY NYC Residents on Financial Aid*

Full-time CUNY students who are NYC residents and eligible for Pell Grants would earn free monthly metro cards for each month they are attending classes, including fall, spring, winter, and summer sessions.

*NYC Dream Act*

The City will cover the equivalent of the federal Pell grant for undocumented NYC students attending CUNY. Students will need to meet the same eligibility and admissions requirements as documented students.

5. How would you propose the city address the shortage of affordable housing, particularly given the expected growth in population? Would you continue to attempt to reach the goals of PlaNYC 2030? If not, what is your vision for long-term development particularly in light of climate change and extreme weather?

New York City residents must have access to affordable and permanent housing. Unfortunately, the share of overall City households that face unaffordable rents rose dramatically during the past decade. In fact, today, 49 percent of New Yorkers pay unaffordable rents. While the impact of housing affordability continues to be most severe on low-income households, almost 40 percent of middle income households in the City now face unaffordable rental burdens as well.

A focus of my platform for Mayor is creating a City that protects low income earners and gives them opportunities to achieve and policies that allow the middle class to thrive. These principles resonate throughout my plans for affordable housing. In general, to address affordable housing there must be a greater investment and it simply must be a priority. However, due to pressing demographic challenges or failures of the current administration there are some issues that require particular focus, such as the preservation of senior housing options, a revamp of NYCHA or an overhaul of housing for homeless policies.

**Affordable Low and Middle Income Housing**

While the Bloomberg administration made some efforts towards maintaining and preserving affordable housing, it has not been enough. A 2012 study by the City's

Independent Budget Office (IBO) of the Mayor's New Housing Marketplace Plan (Plan), found that approximately 125,000 affordable housing units have been built or preserved since 2004 and that the goal of creating an estimated 165,000 units through the end of 2013 is unlikely to be achieved. That rate of investment has simply not kept up with demand. I will increase that rate of preservation and affordable housing creation by more than fifty percent. The stability of our residents and our community require that we all have a place where we can afford to live.

#### *Strong Neighborhoods Housing Program*

My affordable housing plan starts here - I will preserve or create 100,000 affordable housing units over the next four years. This is an aggressive goal and a serious investment - approaching a billion dollars by the fourth year of its existence - but it is achievable. Through smarter budget priorities outlined in The People's Budget we can reach this level of affordable housing production.

#### Senior Housing

We must ensure that our seniors are not left out in the cold. While it is essential to create sufficient affordable housing for low income New Yorkers, it is clear that there must be a focus on our senior population. Demographic and economic patterns are exacerbating a troubling trend that has outpaced the Bloomberg administration housing policies.

Recently, as Comptroller, my office issued a report that analyzed the City's future challenge - *Senior Housing in New York City: The Coming Crisis*. The report found that the senior cohort of New York City's population is growing faster than the rest of the population. The number of New Yorkers over age 60 rose 12.4 percent from 2000 to 2010, as compared to a 2.1 percent increase in the City population overall during that period, according to Census figures. It also found that our senior population is having trouble meeting rent demands - nearly 20 percent of the City's 60+ population lives below the poverty line compared to 9 percent nationally. Clearly, the status quo is not adequate. We must increase affordable housing options for our seniors, is not only the right thing to do, it also makes financial sense. Helping seniors live independently saves the City money in the long run by reducing their reliance on costly social services.

As Mayor, some of my priorities for increasing affordable housing options for seniors will include:

- Revise rules on the City's Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) to take into account household size and inflation, plus increase outreach efforts;
- Create a tax credit for families that take in elderly dependents;
- Increase aid to programs that help seniors stay in their homes longer.
- Expand Inclusionary Housing Programs to Provide Additional Benefits to Low- and Middle Income Seniors
- Encourage Increased Private Sector Participation in Housing Programs

## NYCHA

The City's public housing communities must be preserved and they must be managed in a way that provides the respect that their residents deserve. For too long NYCHA has been managed in a way that leads to deteriorating housing conditions, squandered public funding and diminished living conditions. The current administration's response is to create development schemes, engineered by the real estate community, to privatize public assets. That is the wrong approach. We cannot allow public housing to be privatized. Instead, as mayor, I will hold NYCHA management accountable to providing respectable and safe housing.

- **NYCHA Priorities**
- **Ensure Knowledgeable Management**
- **NYCHA must be managed by a qualified and highly skilled management team with real world housing experience, instead of investment cronies of the current administration. This is a complex job that requires management that understands housing and the needs of public housing residents.**
- **A culture of responsiveness to NYCHA residents must permeate the entire NYCHA administration. The voices of residents must be heard.**
- **Revitalize Repairs and Maintenance**
- **Residents have the right to a landlord that will respond to maintenance requests in a timely manner. NYCHA has a horrendous track record of repairs. Expensive computerization of repair processing has not been successful; instead NYCHA should hire superintendents that can respond to the needs of the community. A jobs program should be created that trains NYCHA residents in the skills necessary to work as a supervisor for their own buildings.**
- **Repair requests by residents should be a transparent process. Residents should be able to call or log on to the internet to see that status of their requests.**
- **End Infill Development Plans**
- **Bloomberg's plan to privatize NYCHA land for real estate development is a bad one. This plan sacrifices public and affordable housing to the interests of luxury developers who aren't giving back enough to communities.**
- **Create Holistic Approach**
- **NYCHA should be looking to create holistic communities that provide not just housing, but also social, recreational, educational and health opportunities, all of which will root families in communities and provide stability to families who are most vulnerable; NYCHA has a social mandate to do this.**
- **Mandate Transparency**
- **NYCHA needs to be fully transparent and accountable in its spending. Wasteful and inefficient spending needs to stop. As Comptroller, I have offered NYCHA my office's assistance to establish a new level of transparency. They should be reporting their budget and expenditure information through Checkbook 2.0, like other non-Agency entities are doing, such as EDC. Instead, NYCHA has elected to remain less transparent and less accountable to the people who fund its existence. As mayor, I will require full NYCHA**

transparency.

- **Create Compliance**

- **NYCHA must develop demonstrable metrics for its compliance and success. NYCHA paid a consultant group \$10 million to create recommendations to improve its own management. Due to a lack of transparency nobody knows if NYCHA is following these recommendations. In my administration NYCHA will be mandated to create an annual plan, present it to its residents - and follow it.**

#### **Homeless Families**

**The Bloomberg administration's record on homelessness has been appalling. The number of families in City shelters has increased by 60 percent since 2002 and more families are returning to shelters today than in prior years. The resurgence of homelessness is a disaster for disadvantaged families and communities and a budgetary drain on the City. This is a problem that must be taken seriously. Under my management, we will create opportunities for families to become self-sufficient and do so in a manner that creates savings for the City.**

**I will also revise the current homeless shelter siting process to be more inclusive of community needs. A report released by my office, "Down and Out: How New York City Places its Homeless Shelters," details how the City is not meeting the goal of early and open public consultation required by the so-called Fair Share siting process. This process must be more fair and transparent.**

**As Mayor my priorities will include:**

- ***Create Strong Families Rental Voucher Program* - This will provide housing vouchers for up to 10,000 families living in the City's shelters. The program would be similar to federally-funded and locally-administered Section 8, also known as the Housing Choice Voucher Program. To qualify initially, a family would need to meet low-income requirements and have resided in a homeless shelter for a minimum of 180 days. A family would be able to renew the voucher for up to five years, pending an annual recertification to confirm income eligibility. After five years, the voucher would be phased out.**
- **A Strong Families Rental Voucher program is a win-win for homeless families and taxpayers alike. Struggling families will be empowered and given an opportunity to start over, and over all taxpayers could save \$237.5 million annually through decreased expenses at City funded shelters.**
- ***Involve the community in choosing locations for homeless shelters.* The Department of Homeless Services will strengthen its planning and outreach so that communities that are involved in siting long-term shelters have a voice.**

**PlaNYC2030 is a good starting point to try to address the projected increase in population and violent weather that we will encounter more often, but it should not be a static document and should be updated regularly to address unforeseen issues.**

6. 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? What is your position on non-citizen voting?

**Although it is not a Mayoral agency, the Board of Elections should be required to post its performance data on-line in an annual report. This annual report would show information such as the number of voters it serviced at each site, breakdowns and other problems at sites, attempts to inform voters of upcoming elections and trends.**

**I have always supported non-citizen voting. I believe that people who pay taxes should be allowed to vote and it's a good way to get non-citizens used to voting as a responsibility once they become citizens.**

7. 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 do you think should be done to address the MTA's fiscal solvency issues and ensure that the burden for funding the MTA are equitably distributed amongst all stakeholders? What is your view on expanding alternative forms of transportation like the Citibike program and the installation of bike lanes?

**Unfortunately, New York City and New York State's contributions to the MTA's capital budget has been decreasing for decades. This has resulted in cuts to service and increased fares. Today, New York City mass transit passengers pay on average 60% of the actual cost of the ride, whereas the national average is only 40% of the actual cost of the ride. Mass transit commuters have been squeezed by four fare increases in the past five years alone. In short, we are getting less bang for more buck, and this ultimately impedes economic development.**

**New York City needs to lead the way here and increase capital funding. The fact that the City spends on mass transit a mere fraction of 1% of its overall budget is deplorable. We must reprioritize the budget to reflect the actual priorities of New Yorkers -- and among the top of that list is transportation. I would increase the City's contribution to the MTA capital budget by \$100 million.**

**At the same time it needs to leverage its commitment to getting larger contributions from the State and the Federal government. The last several Transportation Equity Acts passed by Congress have always given urban mass transit a short trip. If even 10% of Transportation Equity Act funds were reallocated from highway construction into urban mass transit, it would free up hundreds of billions of dollars for urban mass transit**

improvement, much of it here in New York City.

To generate additional revenues, I would fight to bring back the commuter tax and support tolling all non-city residents for the use of currently free bridges that enter Manhattan. This tolling proposal would raise \$410 million that can be used for capital investment in transit, roads and bridges.

8. What do you believe is the proper role of government in regulating public health? Would you advocate for continuing policies proposed by Mayor Bloomberg banning large sodas and reducing the proportion of people who smoke cigarettes?

Government has a responsibility to play a major role in regulating public health. In a densely populated City like New York, it is important for government to take an active role in informing the public about health threats and to promote healthy behaviors, such as frequent hand washing to prevent the spread of disease. The City should also make sure that public health clinics are available to all segments of the population, especially in areas that are underserved by doctors.

I would continue to address the obesity and smoking problems through public education campaigns, however, I do not believe we should be banning adults from buying a larger version of a legal substance such as soda. People should be able to make their own choices after being informed of the consequences of their actions.

9. How can the city continue to keep the crime rate at record low levels? What is your position on stop, question and frisk?

I am the only candidate to call for the elimination, rather than reform, of stop and frisk as a crime fighting tool. While most of us agree that reducing crime rates, especially in Black and Latino neighborhoods is a priority, some have argued that the only way to achieve this goal is through stop and frisk. I disagree. There are many other ways we can keep the crime rate low including:

Focused deterrence -- a crime prevention program that targets a specific crime problem by applying a concentrated strategy or tactic within a specified high-crime-intensity area. For example, intense traffic enforcement within a high-crime area will have a general deterrence effect, but intense traffic enforcement that uses a specified approach to stop only suspicious individuals within a highly defined area is focused deterrence.



**Gun buy back – these programs have proven to be extremely successful in getting guns off the streets. Often, these programs run out of money before they are able to buy back all of the guns brought to program.**

**Problem-oriented policing – This requires police to be proactive in identifying underlying problems that could be targeted to reduce crime and disorder at their roots. Police would not only enforce laws, but investigate and address the roots of problems in the community.**

10. How would you ensure that city agencies share data and resources and coordinate in delivering services? Do you believe that management should be decentralized, allowing agency heads greater independence, or centralized in the mayor's office? Would you continue executive order 41 ensuring all New Yorkers, regardless of immigration status can access the city services that they are entitled to receive?

**Most agencies are under Mayoral control and it is the responsibility of the Mayor's office to make sure they are coordinated in sharing data and resources and delivering services. My deputy mayors would each be responsible for different agencies and I would schedule weekly meetings with my deputy mayors to ensure coordination. I would encourage my agency heads to be creative, but I do think its important that the Mayor's office be aware of agency initiatives to prevent duplication of efforts.**

**Ensuring that all New Yorkers have access to City services is important and I would continue executive order 41.**

11. How actively would you use the office of the mayor in working on national issues such as immigration and gun control?

**I have often said that New York City is the unofficial capital of the world. As such, the Mayor can be a very powerful force for bringing attention to an issue, such as the current Mayor has done with gun control. As Mayor, I would be very active in advocating on important national issues such as immigration reform and other issues affecting New Yorkers, just as I have been throughout my entire public career.**

12. How would you utilize city-affiliated nonprofit organizations such as the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City in raising private revenue to supplement city agencies and programs? How would you ensure that there is sufficient transparency and accountability of funding received through such entities?

With our sluggish economy, governments are challenged to provide existing services with smaller budgets. Public/private partnerships can be an effective tool to maintain services on smaller budgets. The most effective public/private partnerships draw upon the expertise of the government and private entities to help provide public goods and services. These partnerships can be a problem when the private entity has undue influence over the public good, as with some partnerships involving parks. One of the most successful public private partnerships in New York are the City's relationships with its BIDs and the businesses that comprise the BID. BIDs have been able to provide additional services to business areas while still being accountable to the public. We can make these public/ private partnerships more accountable and transparent by requiring them to make their financials available on-line and making them subject to audits by the Comptroller's office and to FOIL requests.

**Additional Comments:**

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**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 candidates on how well they kept the promises they made to voters during the previous election.

As an elected official who currently or has held public office other than the one for which you are running:

- a. What were the top five promises you made to your constituents when you ran for your current position? What progress have you made to keep those promises? Why have you fulfilled or not fulfilled those promises?
- b. What are your top five campaign promises you are making to voters during your campaign for this new 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 YOUR LAST ELECTION AND ACTION ON THEM**

1. I promised to serve as a watchdog – a pitbull – to root out waste, fraud and abuse from the City’s coffers. I have vigorously audited City contracts and have brought public attention to the City Time and 911 modernization debacles.
2. I promised to protect wage standards, and to recoup back wages and fines from those contractors and companies who just don’t want to play by the rules. Among some victories were a record \$2.35 million dollar recovery on behalf of 24 workers.
3. I promised to expand access for women- and minority-owned businesses to city contracts. My office has held multiple meetings with MWBE firms to help them negotiate the City’s process for registering and seeking work as an MWBE. My office has also added 13 new firms to the existing Minority Broker Pool, an increase of The Minority Broker Pool is a program that enhances the use of minority and women owned brokerage firms by investment advisors under contract with the pension funds.
4. I promised innovative ways to get a better deal for taxpayers and create jobs while meeting the infrastructure needs of tomorrow. Among some of my initiatives are Green Apple Bonds, which are used to clean PCBs from schools. This not only creates a safer environment for students, teachers and school staff, but also saves taxpayers money through the use of more efficient light fixtures. I also proposed a capital acceleration initiative, which would take advantage of historically low interest rates to save money and also create good paying jobs
5. I promised to examine the billions of dollars in publicly-subsidized economic development agreements that promised jobs, housing, parks. My office has conducted audits on these agreements which have found that many times, taxpayers do not get the promised benefits.

#### **TOP FIVE 2013 CAMPAIGN PROMISES**

1. **Improve our public schools and ensure our children get a balanced education and the opportunity to go to college**
2. **Eliminate “Stop and Frisk.”**

3. **Fight for a more progressive tax system.**
4. **Build more affordable housing/tackle burgeoning homelessness problem**
5. **Eliminate waste/ better oversight of City contracting**