

**2013 QUESTIONNAIRE FOR
CANDIDATES FOR BOROUGH PRESIDENT**

Citizens Union would appreciate your response to the following questions related to policy issues facing the City of New York that are of concern to Citizens Union and residents 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.

If you seek our support, we would also need to schedule an interview with you as part of the evaluation process. We will not automatically schedule an interview with you if you return this questionnaire, as we prioritize competitive races and resources constrain us from evaluating all races. Please contact us if you wish to be interviewed. We thank you very much for your response.

Candidate Name: Julie Menin Age: 45

Campaign Address: 875 6th Avenue Suite 801, New York, NY 10001

Campaign Telephone Number: 917.494.5513

Party Affiliation(s): Democratic Party Campaign Manager Name: Dan Krupnick

Website & Email: www.juliemenin.com and info@juliemenin.com

Education: Columbia University, BA in Political Science, Magna Cum Laude; Northwestern University School of Law, JD.

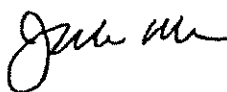
Occupation/Employer (or years in currently held elected office): Former Community Board 1 Chair (2005-2012); owner of Vine Restaurant; Regulatory Attorney

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement: Former Community Board 1 Chair and former board member of Citizens Union, the Trust for Governor's Island and the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation. I currently sit on the boards of the National 9/11 Memorial & Museum and the Municipal Art Society.

Are you willing to be interviewed by CU's Local Candidates Committee? YES
(Please note: Citizens Union can only grant its support to candidates we have interviewed. If you would like to be interviewed, please follow up with Citizens Union staff, as resources constrain us from interviewing every candidate.)

Have you completed requisite campaign finance filings? YES

Signature of Candidate:



Date: July 26, 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.

1. What is your position on changing the current land use process under the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP) to require that community-based 197-a plans are responded to when other development proceeds in conflict with those plans?	Support (see separate document for elaboration).
2. Do you support ending mid-year amendments to the Annual Citywide Statement of Needs and including other than city-owned property in the Atlas of City Owned Property so a more comprehensive picture of services, facilities, and environmental burdens is known to inform future development?	Support (see separate document for elaboration).
3. What is your position on designating urban planners for use by community boards and requiring borough presidents to report to the Council the manner in which they advertise and make community board appointments? (Int. No. 913)	Support (see separate document for elaboration).
4. 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?	Support
5. What is your position on independent budgeting for the following:	
a. the borough presidents	Support
b. the Conflicts of Interest Board	Support
c. the public advocate	Support
d. community boards	Support
6. Do you support standardizing term limits to five consecutive two-year terms for members of all community boards?	Support (see separate document for elaboration).
7. If elected, would you post on your website all applications received by your office for capital and expense discretionary funds, as well as groups which ultimately received funding?	Support (see separate document for elaboration).
8. Do you support empowering borough presidents to require the appearance of borough commissioner of city agencies for monthly	Support (see separate

interagency meetings led by the borough presidents?	document for elaboration).
9. What is your position on granting the borough presidents the ability to make an additional appointment to the Board of Standards and Appeals?	Support (see separate document for elaboration).

Questions:

1. How would you use the office of the borough president to impact city policies affecting the borough?

The borough president has a small number of defined roles, as well as a bully pulpit that can be used to advance any cause affecting the direction of the city. Since the borough president's most important role is participating in the land use process, I will make the establishment of a comprehensive Master Plan (described in detail in response to Question #2 below) the priority of my administration. A Master Plan will address the borough's long-term needs in affordable housing, school seats and park space.

I will also use my appointments to various boards such as the PEP, EDC and CPC to serve as an effective counterweight and independent voice to the next administration when it is not serving the public interest.

As chair of Community Board 1 for 7 years, I was able to bring together disparate stakeholders and resolve controversial issues like the Islamic Cultural Center, Occupy Wall Street, and moving the Khalid Sheikh Mohammed terror trial out of downtown Manhattan. I will bring that voice, energy, and push for creative solutions to any major issue that affects the residents of Manhattan. In addition, I have attached my policy papers on land use, education, member items and participatory budgeting, and emergency preparedness that outline my specific vision and priorities for the borough president's office in these areas.

2. Developers argue ULURP should be streamlined while community groups and advocates believe more opportunities for input should be provided or that voting thresholds should be changed for application approval. Others note that the ULURP process does not integrate the need to plan for post 9/11 security issues in development. What reforms to ULURP do you support?

No one involved in the City's land use policy believes that ULURP is working effectively. There are no real standards in ULURP and, as a result, developments are approved with wildly differing results. Around the borough over the last decade we have approved too much development without paying attention to affordable housing needs, overcrowding in classrooms, and a lack of park/open space in certain neighborhoods such as East Harlem. For New York City to remain vibrant, protect its communities and have economic development, land use policy needs to become more transparent, predictable and collaborative. Each development should ensure that it enhances, not overburdens, the neighborhood in which it is located through the inclusion of essential infrastructure such as an adequate amount of classroom seats, affordable housing, healthcare needs, community and cultural facilities, transportation infrastructure, and green spaces. By creating a borough-wide Master Plan and accompanying local Community Plans, supporting community boards, simplifying the environmental review process and reducing the need for Community Benefit Agreements as Borough President, I would bring stability to the land use process.

3. The borough presidents make recommendations to the mayor on capital projects as part of the budget process. All of the boroughs combined additionally receive 5 percent of the appropriations in the mayor's capital budget divided between the boroughs based on formulas related to land size and population. What would be your priorities for capital projects in the borough?

Member items should be eliminated entirely. They have been proven to be an inequitable political tool used to curry favor and reward campaign supporters. Neither councilmembers nor the borough presidents should receive funds that can be distributed at their personal discretion. To be clear, the worthy nonprofits that currently receive

funding through these means could still be supported, but through a more equitable and transparent process. These funds would still go to the boroughs, but they would be distributed according to a set of pre-planned, need-based criteria determined by all stakeholders, as the City's Department for the Aging does today. Member items will not be abolished overnight – elimination of the Borough Presidents' capital budget alone would require changes to the City Charter. Until then, immediate reforms must be instituted to curb the abuses and failures of the current system. The Manhattan Borough President can be a leader in this reform by adopting participatory budgeting to allocate the office's discretionary budget.

4. Borough presidents are charged with establishing a planning office that, among other functions, provides training and technical assistance to community boards on land use issues. How would you use the office to help community boards fulfill their charter mandated responsibilities in providing feedback on land use proposals while enabling the boards to make decisions independent of the borough president's office?

There are several ways I would empower community boards in the area of land use. First, just as the borough president's office should lay out a borough-wide "Master Plan," community boards should execute "Community Plans" that similarly detail the needs for schools, affordable housing, green space and other resources for their own local neighborhoods in a proactive manner. Community Boards currently produce annual reports called "Statement of District Needs and Priorities." These reports vary in scope and quality throughout the borough, and often address small capital needs or assistance from agencies; this is not the same as a blueprint for long-term development. Based on a model used in Los Angeles, Community Plans would be drafted with assistance from the borough president's office, and would serve to make each community's priorities clear to both the public and developers. Most importantly, Community Plans will allow neighborhoods to be proactive about their needs and their goals for the community.

Second, it is a top priority for me to equip all community boards with a full-time urban

planner. While my office would take the lead on securing that funding and allocating it to the community boards for that purpose, those planners would report to their community boards, not to the borough president's office.

5. Borough presidents are charged with making hundreds of appointments. What criteria would you use for appointments to positions appointed by the borough president (the Panel on Educational Policy, City Planning Commission, community boards, etc.)? What processes would you put in place for advertising open positions and recruiting qualified candidates that represent the diversity of New York City?

These appointments are a critical function of the borough president's office. In many cases, such as the PEP and the CPC, borough presidents receive a single appointment to a larger body controlled by the mayor and successful appointees must have particular skill sets. Those individuals need to not only be experts in their fields, but also strong-minded, principled individuals who will provide a powerful and independent voice speaking for the community. They must be able to build consensus with other appointees, and when in dissent, make sure the community is aware of the important debates happening at these agencies or commissions.

With regard to community board appointments, I would continue Borough President Stringer's independent screening panel for community board appointments, which has brought critical reform to the board appointment process. I want to ensure that the boards reflect the demographics and diversity of each neighborhood. In addition, it is important to have individuals with urban planning backgrounds, parents with children in the local school system, and local small business owners, to name a few examples. Outreach is critical. Many residents are completely unfamiliar with their community boards. I would hold town hall meetings in every community to speak about the role of community boards and work with civic, community, and local groups and community newspapers to recruit qualified candidates. I would also recognize non-board individuals for their achievements in the community and, in doing so, introduce them and those who know them to their local community boards.

6. Borough presidents can hold hearings on any matter of public interest and are charged with establishing a borough-wide complaint program to report public complaints to better service delivery by agencies. How would you use these powers and the position of the office to amplify the concerns of borough residents? What issues might you focus on to improve agency performance or draw public attention to?

In order to promote more effective delivery by city agencies in the borough of Manhattan, I would revamp the Borough Services Cabinet. I will focus monthly meetings on specific issues and make sure advocates and Manhattan residents are invited to the meetings, alongside district managers and the Manhattan directors for city agencies. Of course, the borough president also has the power of the bully pulpit. During this campaign I have focused on land use and development issues facing the borough, as well as school overcrowding, Manhattan's lack of affordable housing, and unemployment issues in uptown Manhattan. These are some of the issues I would focus attention on using the office.

The borough president's office can also designate task forces. For task forces to be effective, they must be proactive and not simply respond to issues in the headlines. The borough president's office is well-resourced in land use issues, so I would certainly consider a task force to evaluate the creation of affordable housing to see if programs such as 421-a produce the number and type of units needed. In education I would consider looking into not only overcrowding, but also a related issue that hasn't received enough attention, which is the number of schools that do not offer state-mandated arts and physical education classes. Finally, given the centrality of Manhattan to the Citibike program, I would likely put together a task force to ensure that the needs of the many interested parties- bikers, local residents, small businesses, and others- are all being met as the program expands. Even though it is a public/private partnership, its primary use as a commuter transportation system means it needs to have oversight by an entity other than DOT.

7. The borough presidents have the authority to introduce legislation yet few borough presidents in recent years have exercised this authority. Would you utilize this power, and, if so, what legislation would you introduce?

I would absolutely use this charter-authorized power. The reality is that a great deal of legislation has been introduced over the past few years that gained little traction because of lack of interest or hostility from either the Speaker or Committee Chair, so the effectiveness of this tool would be in part contingent on who is leading the City Council. While I would be willing to introduce legislation on any topic of importance to city residents, it is likely that the borough president's office will be more familiar with land use issues than other councilmembers, making it a ripe area to introduce legislation particularly on reforming the city's land use review process.

8. How would you leverage the office of Borough President to address any of the following issues, if not discussed in answering previous questions:
- Affordable Housing
 - Public Safety
 - Public Transportation
 - Health and the Environment
 - Economic Development
 - Education

The Master Plan is designed to address issues of education, affordable housing, transportation, health and open space, and my economic development plan will focus on improving job development centers and supporting library-based vocational programs. The only issue listed here that I have not addressed is public safety. As someone who has represented the only neighborhood that has twice been affected by a terrorist attack, I would be a vocal advocate for increasing New York City's homeland security funding and implementing many of the recommendations in the 9/11 Commission's report. On the issue of stop and frisk, I believe the policy needs to be reformed and have been a vocal proponent of reform. I will partner with community boards to serve as facilitators between the community and the NYPD, including through town halls and other forums.



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 2013 CAMPAIGN PROMISES

1. Undertake a comprehensive Master Plan for the borough of Manhattan to address the need for more affordable housing, school seats, open space and other infrastructure.
2. Initiate Community Plans at the community board level for long-term planning.
3. Enact participatory budgeting for the borough president's budget.
4. Equip all community boards with a full-time urban planner.
5. Conduct thorough studies on school overcrowding in Manhattan.

Please return to: Citizens Union, Local Candidates Committee
via fax to 212.227.0345 or via email to candidates@citizensunion.org
Call 212-227-0342 Rachael Fauss ext. 22 or Alex Camarda ext. 24 with any questions.

Julie Menin

Democrat *for* Manhattan Borough President

Citizens Union Candidate Questionnaire

Julie Menin for Manhattan Borough President - Supplemental Answers

Support / Oppose

1. Support- As Borough President, I would implement a comprehensive borough-wide Master Plan for Manhattan and I have attached my policy paper on this subject. We are one of the few major American cities without a Master Plan. I would rely on the Master Plan and accompanying Community Plans (as outlined in my paper), especially for the many communities across Manhattan that have not completed 197-a Plans in recent years. Until the Master Plan is complete, I support using 197-a plans for this purpose.

2. Support- see answer to Question #1 for my vision to implement a comprehensive Master Plan for the borough.

3. Support- it is one of my top priorities to provide every community board office with a full-time urban planner. While tremendous progress has been made under BP Stringer to reform the appointment process, we can do more in the way of outreach and professional diversity, so I would have no issue with reporting on such developments to the City Council.

6. Support- I support term limits for community board members. While large, all-volunteer bodies thrive through institutional knowledge and major community-projects can take more than a decade, community boards can also suffer from a clubby feel that comes with members who have served for too long.

7. Support- I should also note that our office will embrace participatory budgeting for all discretionary funding that comes through the Borough President's office. I will advocate for the eventual elimination of member item spending for both the City Council and the Borough Presidents' offices, and in the interim, push for adopting a needs-based formula to determine funds at both levels.

8. Support- We need to reform the Borough Service Cabinet, and such a proposal would greatly increase its effectiveness. I would strive to achieve this with or without legislation.

9. Support- The BSA as constituted needs independent community voices; otherwise developments supported by the Mayor are virtually unbeatable through the administrative process. I support Citizens Union's proposal to include borough presidents and the Public Advocate in the appointment process.