



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: AURELIO "TONY" ARCABASCIO Age: 52

Campaign Address: 31-25 46TH STREET ASTORIA, NY 11103

Campaign Telephone Number: 646 543-7344 Fax: () —

Party Affiliation(s): R Campaign Manager Name: _____

Website & Email: ARCABASCIO2013.COM / ARCABASCIO2013@GMAIL.COM

Education: MENYHURST College A.A. CRIMINAL JUSTICE / CUNY BA COMM! Culture

Occupation/Employer (or years in currently held elected office): NSLIT HEALTH SYSTEMS
TEAM LEAD SR. INFO SYSTEMS PROJECT MGR.

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement: 2012 - STATE SENATE 12TH

Are you willing to be interviewed by CU's Local Candidates Committee? YES NO

(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 NO

Signature of Candidate:  Date: 7/26/2013

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.

<p>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?</p>	<p>Support/Oppose <i>Support</i></p>
<p>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?</p>	<p>Support/Oppose <i>Support</i></p>
<p>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)</p>	<p>Support/Oppose <i>Support</i></p>
<p>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?</p>	<p>Support/Oppose <i>RE-APPLYING OF EXISTING MEMBERS ALSO</i></p>
<p>5. What is your position on independent budgeting for the following:</p>	
<p>a. the borough presidents</p>	<p>Support/Oppose</p>
<p>b. the Conflicts of Interest Board</p>	<p>Support/Oppose</p>
<p>c. the public advocate</p>	<p>Support/Oppose</p>
<p>d. community boards</p>	<p>Support/Oppose</p>
<p>6. Do you support standardizing term limits to five consecutive two-year terms for members of all community boards?</p>	<p>Support/Oppose</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p>Support/Oppose <i>absolutely!</i></p>
<p>8. Do you support empowering borough presidents to require the appearance of borough commissioner of city agencies for monthly interagency meetings led by the borough presidents?</p>	<p>Support/Oppose</p>

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/Oppose

Additional Comments: I believe appointments should
be ~~proportional~~ in proportion to the population
of the borough.

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

Queens ~~is~~ ^{is} a much travelled borough and the most diverse of all the borough's in NYC. As such, I believe that our roadways (surrounding the Airports), our parks and recreation areas require more services and attention than other boroughs. Not because we're special, but because we are the most utilized and we are the first thing they experience when they arrive and the last thing they ~~see~~ see when they leave from the airports! We need and require more dollars for beautification and maintenance.

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?

- I support the input from community based organizations and civic groups.

- I believe that the ULURP needs to be reviewed and updated to reflect post 9/11 requirements as well as the individual communities specific req's for developments.

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?

Capital Projects should be evaluated by a group of leaders from the various communities with the B.P. as the lead. In Queens I believe a few to be considered would be:

1. Developing URBAN ENTERPRISE ZONES
2. LOCATING suitable SPACE for a Multi-Use sports complex
3. The revitalization of areas around Queens, starting with the MTA providing transportation alternatives to transit dead zones.

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 is no cohesiveness among the Community Boards in Queens. I would use the planning ^{OFFICE} ~~office~~ to oversee and give guidance and direction to the CB's so that they may make better informed decisions based on knowing what the other CB's are doing. CB's need to be reviewed and I believe all members need to be evaluated as to skillset and ~~level~~ ^{of} Subject Matter expertise they bring to the table.

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?

I believe as is the case in all job positions, a job description describing the scope and tasks to be performed needs to be ~~posted~~ established. It also needs to describe what the minimum req's of the candidates should be.

I believe it should be posted ~~open~~ to give an opportunity to current people in the employment of borough and if not filled by a defined time then opened to the public. I would obviously prefer a Queens precedent so that it has ~~an~~ ^{an} impact to that person the outcomes of their actions.

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?

The first thing I would do is setup a borough only 711 hotline for Queens residents. This would eliminate the ~~need~~ of looking 311 for Queens only info.

I would have scheduled recurring meetings with the various city service providers and also with utilities and all service providers to Queens residents. I would also have scheduled recurring meetings with NYPD + FDNY to discuss community concerns and also to plan interactive functions to establish better ^{relationships}.

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 authority! I would discuss with my staff when and if the need would arise. At this time I believe it would be premature to discuss.

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

~~Affordable Housing~~ - I would like to see this changed to be called "INCOME BASED HOUSING".
As B.P. I would work directly with developers and agencies to ENSURE that ample and adequate housing is developed and provided for all income levels.

Public Safety - We need more feet on the street. We need the NYPD to be more embedded in communities. They need to establish better dialogue + better relations. I would fight for more police assigned to Queens.

Additional Comments:

Public Transportation - Transportation lead zones need to be addressed in Queens.

The MTA is to big and there needs to be a return of the "NYC TRANSIT SYSTEM"

Queens needs a dedicated transportation director provided by the MTA to work on Queens only issues + initiatives.

Health + Environment - Queens reg's more healthcare facilities. Urgent Care / Multi-Specialty / Imaging and they need them now! Our population has risen over the last 12 yrs and health services have declined. I will bring more health services to Queens by having open dialogue with / NSCIS, NYU, and other major health systems that will work with me for the benefit of our residents.

Urban Development - The development of UER's will be a by priority for me. It will entice business to come to Queens and it will allow communities to thrive.

EDUCATION: Our educators need a contract!

Our educators need resources to do their jobs! I will fight to get the resources to our schools whatever they may be so that our children are given the ability to succeed.

This is non-negotiable! Our children are the priority and our teachers need to be made whole.



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. *I will be a very visible B.P. throughout the borough.*
2. *I will communicate directly to the people and ^{not} through mediation.*
3. *I am a "get it done" person! When I say I will do it, it will get done.*
4. *I work for the people, therefore I will go to them, they don't need to come to me!*
5. *I will be a leader that residents of Queens can be proud of. I will be the "Ambassador of Queens to all!"*

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.