

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: Peter F. Vallone Jr. Age: 52

Campaign Address: 22-45 31st Street Astoria, NY 11105

Campaign Telephone Number: (718) 274-0007 Fax: (718) 274-6060

Party Affiliation(s): Democrat

Campaign Manager Name: Martha Ayon

Website & Email: www.petervallone.com & vallone4ny@gmail.com

Education: BA, Fordham and Law Degree, Fordham

Occupation/Employer (or years in currently held elected office): 12

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement: Council Member, District 22

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: 7/18/13

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
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
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
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?	Will Consider
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
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?	Support , I wrote this bill.

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
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Additional Comments:

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

I will use the “bully pulpit” of the Queens Borough President’s office to advance the interests of the borough. I will be an advocate for the borough similar to Marty Markowitz, be heavily involved in legislation like Ruben Diaz and produce policy papers and studies similar to Scott Stringer. In combining the three styles of these BP’s, I will make effective policy changes ensuring my borough will be the best place it can be.

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 changing the current land use process under ULURP to increase the role of community-based planning. I also believe in a universal guideline for providing recommendations for different types of applications such as the impact on local schools, housing, public space, streetscapes, environmental sustainability, and coherence with the community’s architectural character.

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 project improvements for Queens will include, but not be limited to the following:

I will continue my fight against crime as Queens Borough President; I aim to improve on the 35% decrease in crime NYC has seen since I became Chair of the Public Safety Committee. I would fund the installation of more security cameras in high crime areas and schools, and continue to work to keep Queens safe.

I will build more schools to ease overcrowding, lower class sizes and increase resources for our students so that we can expand Gifted and Talented and STEM Programs for our children. While also spending money for more security cameras at our schools.

I support the expansion of the Queens Library system in order to grant more access to Queens residents.

We need better transportation infrastructure: I will fight to eliminate the unfair bridge toll imposed on the Rockaway residents and those traveling to the Rockaways, advocate for more train and bus service in Queens and significantly increase ferry service throughout the Borough.

I plan to improve the boroughs infrastructure to reduce flooding, especially in southeast Queens, by upgrading the sewers, planting more trees and keeping the water table low by renewing well pumping.

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?

Many Community Boards do not have individuals with expertise in land use matters. I will ensure that this office has a land use expert liaison for the community boards to work with. With the help of our liaison, community boards will be empowered in the decision-making process. I also plan on assigning an urban planner to assist each board.

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?

The goal is to make sure every individual appointed is the most qualified for his/her position. In order to assure this, we would strongly consider publicizing open positions using our website. In this day and age, the Internet is the most powerful tool we have, as it has the ability to reach a wide variety of applicants. My appointments will be as diverse as our great borough and city.

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?

I plan on taking full advantage of this power. I will be involved in every issue of importance to the people of Queens. As Borough President, I represent each and every individual of this borough and will make sure that my voice echoes their concerns. We have many neighborhoods, but we are one Queens and I plan on using the borough presidency to be a voice for the people.

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?

Yes, as a legislator for the last 12 years, I intend to be active in the legislative process as Borough President. Any bills that I plan to introduce will be for the improvement of Queens and our city as a whole, many of which I have previously introduced but the speaker has not supported.

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

a. As Borough President, I will work towards creating the infrastructure needed to accommodate the current need of services. There is also a need for affordable housing, which includes stock for working professionals who don't qualify for low income housing and is otherwise priced out of our borough. I would encourage development of such units, geared towards our working and middle class, if the infrastructure can support it by working with my colleagues in government and developers.

b. As the only candidate with experience keeping our city safe, I will continue to make public safety my top priority. I have increased punishment for gun traffickers, graffiti vandals, sexual predators and unscrupulous nightclub owners, all while working with the NYPD to ensure that our officers are properly trained and equipped to enforce the law. I have fought against cuts to the police department, and with the threat of terrorism constantly hanging over New Yorker's heads, I have led the fight to secure more money for anti-terror patrols, first responders and the technology needed to stop a terrorist plot before it starts. I have demanded that Albany pass tougher laws against sexual offenders, especially those that threaten our children.

c. I am a strong supporter of expanding ferry service, especially to the Rockaways and other neighboring sections of Queens. I have been fighting to bring ferry service to Astoria

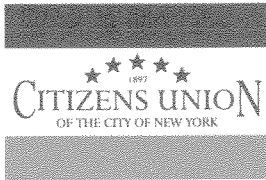
for years. I believe Queens could use more stops along the East River, not just Halletts Cove. It is unacceptable that Queens has only one ferry stop — our borough deserves and needs better. I will also work to increase mass transit by advocating for the expansion of bus and train service, particularly express bus service and select bus service, and getting our roads fixed quicker and more efficiently. I will also fight to eliminate the unfair bridge toll for those living or traveling to the Rockaways.

d. Another top priority of mine is the environment. As our Borough President, I will preserve our parks, wetlands and wildlife, and will continue to build upon my accomplishments in the City Council, utilizing the knowledge I have acquired as a Member of the Council's Environmental Protection Committee for over 12 years.

e. I am the only candidate for Borough President with experience running a small business; I understand firsthand how those in government can sometimes overburden business owners with excessive laws and bureaucratic red tape. For ten years prior to being elected, I ran my family's law firm, Vallone and Vallone, which was founded in 1932. As a Council Member, I sponsored legislation to create a new program called NYC Business Link, which will direct business owners' questions about permitting and licensing through a central coordinator in an effort to streamline small business development. I have repeatedly voted against legislation that places unneeded restrictions on small business owners. In an effort to reduce negative interactions between business owners and city inspectors, my colleagues and I passed legislation to require city agencies to recommend changes to current laws so that business owners can obtain warnings instead of excessive fines for non-dangerous violations; to require inspectors to attend customer service training and to hand out a business owners Bill of Rights during inspections. The business environment that only I have the experience to create will encourage and attract new businesses, and not scare them away with overregulation.

f. Another top priority of mine is Education. I believe that in order to create a strong learning environment, not only must we have the best teachers in our classrooms, we need to ensure that each school in New York City is a bastion of security. I wrote the law that mandated security cameras outside every public school. I am the prime sponsor of legislation that would require the New York City Police and Education departments to provide security measures for non-public schools because every child deserves to be safe regardless of where they attend school, I also wrote the law to allow school children to carry cellular phones to and from school for safety purposes. In addition to safety, I have given millions of dollars to local schools to improve infrastructure, classroom technology, and to ensure that after-school programming remains intact. As Borough President, I will continue to invest in our children, build new schools to ease overcrowding and help ensure that every child receives an A+ education.

Additional Comments:



CANDIDATE ACCOUNTABILITY QUESTIONNAIRE

As an elected official who is seeking another office,

- 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 kept or not kept your promises?
- b. What are your top five campaign promises you are making to the voters during this campaign for this 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 PROMISES FROM YOUR LAST CAMPAIGN AND ACTION ON THEM

1. Make our streets safer – Answer in Questionnaire
2. Make our streets cleaner – Answer in Questionnaire
3. Improve our schools – Answer in Questionnaire
4. Protect small businesses – Answer in Questionnaire
5. Create affordable senior housing – I funded one of the biggest senior housing developments in western queens, The George T. Douris Tower, and others such as the Vallone Family Senior Residence and the Gloria D’Amico Senior Housing.

TOP FIVE 2013 CAMPAIGN PROMISES

1. Keep our borough safe and clean.
2. Provide funding to build new schools to ease overcrowding, lower class sizes and increase resources for our students.
3. Support our small business owners and create sustainable economic development in Queens.
4. Advocate for the restoration of the Vallone Scholarship so that more children, regardless of immigration status, can afford college.

5. Improve our public areas and promote the creation and upkeep of livable green space in Queens.

**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.**