



**CITIZENS UNION CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE  
NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL ELECTION 2009**

Citizens Union would appreciate your response to the following questions related to Council and election reform policy issues facing the City of New York. We plan to make public your responses to this questionnaire on our website and in other appropriate venues.

Citizens Union will also be using your answers to guide the process of evaluating candidates for this office and to assist us in determining whether to issue a candidate "endorsement."

We thank you very much for your response.

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Candidate Name: **Deborah ("Debi") L. Rose**

Age: **57**

Office to Which You Seek (Re) Election: **Council District #: 49**

Campaign Address: **552 Richmond Road, Staten Island, NY 10304**

Campaign Telephone Number: **( 718 ) 554-1651** Fax: **(718) 448-7502**

Party Affiliation(s): **Democrat** Campaign Manager Name: **David Jones**

Website & Email: **votedebirose2009.com** [voterose2009@gmail.com](mailto:voterose2009@gmail.com)

Education: **Hofstra University BA in History and Secondary Education. Courses towards a Masters in Counseling @ SUNY**

Occupation/Employer (or years in currently held elected office): **Executive Director Liberty Partnership College of Staten Island, a state-funded program drop-out that uses s counseling, tutoring, and mentoring to prevent at risk high school students from dropping out. Under her guidance, over 4,500 at risk high school students have achieved a 92% graduation rate.**

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement: I came within 170 votes of winning the Democratic primary for this seat in 2001. Elected Bradley Delegate. Elected Obama Delegate. Currently elected Community Board 1 Secretary. (I have been a board member for 30 years). Elected community School Board member. Leadership roles with the Staten Island Mental Health Society, NY Urban League, National Council of Negro Women, Staten Island African-American Political Association, and American Cancer Society.

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

Signature of Candidate:

*Deborah Rose*

Date: Jan 27, 2009

## I. CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

Please state your position on the following reform measures. Specify whether you support or oppose each. You may elaborate in the space provided at the end or on additional paper.

### VOTING AND ELECTIONS REFORM

1. What is your position on allowing independents to vote in party primaries? Support/Oppose

Comments: **Many political districts are rendered non-competitive in the general election because they are drawn in favor of one party or the other. In these districts, primaries become the de facto real election.. Those who can't vote in primaries are thus disenfranchised.**

2. What is your position on passage of state legislation that would allow referenda initiated by the City Council and/or the public to appear on the ballot at the same time as a referendum initiated by a charter commission appointed by the Mayor? Support/Oppose

Comments: **The legislative branch acts as a check against the executive branch usurping too much power and should be able to present to voters alternatives to referendums drafted by the Mayor's proxies.**

3. What is your position on increasing the pay of election day poll workers above the current \$200 they are allotted per election event? Support/Oppose

Comments: **I support this as a move to attract poll workers as long as the cost isn't prohibitive and there are finances currently available to be earmarked for this.**

4. What is your position on requiring that the Board of Elections in the City of New York be included in the preliminarily and final mayor's management report? Support/Oppose

Comments: **The NYC Board of Elections is a state agency funded by the city, overseeing City elections. Although it is officially a state agency, it should be included in the management report because NYC is the only entity under its jurisdiction and the City, not the State, primarily funds it.**

## CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

5. What is your position on establishing stricter requirements for the disbursement of campaign finance matching funds to candidates that face non-competitive challengers? Support/Oppose

Comments: It depends on how candidate viability is defined. While it may make fiscal sense to limit matching funds received by candidates running completely unopposed, money raised should not be used as the sole or even primary criteria for determining opponent competitiveness. Other variables that should be considered include: major party affiliation, track record running for office, amount of petition signatures, size of volunteer base, media coverage, polling data and civic involvement levels.

6. What is your position on banning the transfer of funds that were raised in a previous election cycle into a current account.

Support/Oppose

Comments: It's worth looking into to prevent candidates, particularly incumbents, from stockpiling matching funds from one non-competitive election to the next. However, I think it's reasonable to allow candidates to use money left over from a primary battle in a general election or funds from a February special election in a November defense of that seat.

7. What is your position on allowing campaign financing for ballot proposals? Support/Oppose

Comments:

8. What is your position on lowering the campaign contribution limit for City Council candidates from the current \$2,750 for those who participate in the city's campaign finance program? Support/Oppose

Comments: Both the City and State contribution limits should not exceed the federal limits which were \$2300 in 2008.

9. What is your position on lowering the expenditure limit for City Council candidates who participate in the city's campaign finance program? Support/Oppose

Comments: The cost of buying advertising in NY Media is expensive and reducing spending limits may prevent many candidates from purchasing any mass media whatsoever.

## CITY COUNCIL REFORM

10. What is your position on allowing Council committees to function more independently of the speaker than is presently the case?

Support/Oppose

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

Comments: **The office of Council Speaker wields too much power over the rest of the council and potentially can use extortion as a means to influence voting and other behavior. Redistributing some of the office's powers to committee chairs (even if the chairs are appointed by the Speaker) reduces to some degree the potential for abuse.**

11. What is your position on eliminating or limiting stipends for committee chairs and leadership positions? Support/Oppose

Comments: **I support limiting leadership stipends as part of an overall reform of council compensation, which includes limiting outside income and making the job officially full time with commensurate compensation.**

12. What is your position on consolidating the current City Council committee structure and reducing the number of overall committees?

Support/Oppose

Comments: **I support committee streamlining in concept, but would have to see which individual committees are earmarked for elimination. I am also concerned about things slipping through the cracks from committees with portfolios that are too broad.**

13. What is your position on the recent extension of term limits for the city's elected officials to three consecutive four-year terms? Please explain your answer. Support/Oppose

Comments: **The voters approved term limits via referendum. Therefore, term limits should only be modified or repealed by referendum.**

14. What is your position on modifying the City Charter to require that changes to term limits may only be approved by the voters?

Support/Oppose

Comments:

**POLICY ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE**

15. What is your position on transferring prosecutorial power over substantiated claims of police misconduct to the Civilian Complaint Review Board? If oppose, what would you propose to ensure sufficient public oversight and effective adjudication in handling claims of alleged police misconduct? Support/Oppose

Comments **Police misconduct is a serious problem that often results in innocent people being harmed. Fellow police are not always objective in evaluating misconduct, frequently inappropriately siding with guilty peers. Civilian review is the only way to guarantee that serious misconduct does not go unpunished and future acts are deterred.**

16. Do you believe that the State Legislature should renew mayoral control of the city's public schools in its present form? If oppose, what specific changes to the current system would you recommend? Support/Oppose

Comments: Mayoral control is a failure as evidenced by declining graduation rates and its constant retooling. Schools under Mayoral control have been focusing on the wrong metrics, Standardized test results, which force teaching to the test and should not be confused with actual learning. Education should be under the jurisdiction of educators and the local communities

17. What is your position on establishing mandatory inclusionary zoning standards and requirements for all new residential development projects? If so, what should be the minimum percentage set aside for low income households? Support/Oppose

Comments: **I support mandatory inclusionary zoning of 20-30 percent**

18. What is your position on changing the current land use process under ULURP to limit the role of community-based planning? Support/Oppose

Comments: **I oppose limiting Community Based Planning. Circumventing the Uniform land use process resulted in inappropriately developed projects such as Atlantic Yards.**

19. What is your position on the Ravitch Commission's recommendations for new revenue sources for funding the MTA and altering its governance? Please explain your answer, as well as your thoughts on how the experiences of the debate surrounding the city's efforts to implement congestion pricing can inform the current discussion.

**Support/Oppose**

Comments: The mobility tax (employers and the self employed 1/3 of 1 percent of payroll) at its proposed level is worth exploring. The tax rate(employers pay less than \$170 for \$50,00 in wages) is too low to cost jobs or discourage their creation. I am against charging tolls on the East River crossings. My potential constituents live in the only borough without a toll free entry point. Charging east river tolls would result in Staten Islanders becoming the only borough having to pay double tolls. If the East River Crossings have tolls, some of the traffic associated with those bridges will shift to Battery Tunnel. Shifting traffic from currently free East River crossings to the Battery will have the unintended consequence of increasing the time Staten Island express buses, which use the Battery to enter lower Manhattan, take to complete their routes. The US Census Bureau already rates our commute as America's worst.

## **CAMPAIGN PROMISES BEING MADE TO VOTERS IN 2009**

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

As a candidate who presently does not hold elected office, CU is interested in knowing what are the top five promises you are making to the voters during this campaign?

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 BEING MADE IN 2009**

1. To fight for Staten to receive a larger share of city healthcare spending.
2. To fight for Staten Island to receive a greater share of transit dollars from the MTA.
3. To fight to create more affordable housing
4. To fight to limit inappropriate development
5. To fight to develop the Waterfront and Staten Island North shore business districts

Please return to: Citizens Union, Local Candidates Committee  
299 Broadway, Suite 700 New York, NY 10007 or via fax to 212.227.0345