



**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.

Candidate Name: Eric A. Ulrich Age: 23

Office to Which You Seek (Re) Election: Council District #: 32 (Queens County).

Campaign Address: P.O. Box 170347, Ozone Park, N.Y. 11417

Campaign Telephone Number: (718) 355-8930 Fax: (718) 576-1253

Party Affiliation(s): Republican Campaign Manager Name: Ciara Donley

Website & Email: www.ericulrich.com ericulrich@nyc.rr.com

Education: MA – St. John's University (matriculated status), BA - St. Francis College

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

Development Associate / Nativity B.V.M. Church.

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement:

President, Our Neighbors Civic Association of Ozone Park, Inc. / New York Republican

State Committee Member, 23rd Assembly District / Former Queens Community Board #9

Member / Knights of Columbus Council #12675 / Kiwanis Club of Howard Beach.

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: Eric A. Ulrich Date: 1/24/2009

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: I support non-partisan elections. In fact, I campaigned for the charter revision in 2003 to allow just that. I believe that under the 'closed primary' system, party bosses have too much control over the electoral process, leaving thousands of non-party affiliated voters disenfranchised from the democratic process. Affording independents the opportunity to vote in party primaries would increase voter participation and provide for better governance.

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: _____

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: _____

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: I support the abolishment of the two-party system of governance and operation at the New York City Board of Elections. The Board of Elections is last vestige of the patronage system in New York City. New Yorkers deserve professional management of the BOE.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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

Comments: _____

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:

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:

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:

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: One of the most important votes cast by the members of the city council is the vote for Speaker. He/she is vested with the power to maintain order and set the agenda. If this authority is not centralized, the legislature would become immobilized by internal squabbling.

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

Support/Opnose

Comments: _____

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

Support/Opnose

Comments: _____

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/Opnose

Comments: New York City residents voted twice - in 1993 and 1996 - to restrict local elected officials to just two terms in office. Term limits are a guard against abuse of power by well-entrenched incumbents. The City Council’s vote to overturn term limits was an abhorrent procedure. I fully support terms limits for every elected official. I believe they make elected officials more responsive to the needs of the people they represent.

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/Opnose

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/Opnose

Comments: The Civilian Complaint Review Board is a fact finding, investigative, and administrative body. It is an invaluable asset to the people of New York City. However, substantiated claims are best handled by the local District Attorney who ensures that due process is adhered to. For that reason alone, transferring prosecutorial power over to the Civilian Complaint Review Board is simply not appropriate.

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/Opnose

Epstein

Comments: Mayoral control is an imperfect system of governance. More parental input is needed before the State Legislature should renew.

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: _____

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: _____

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: _____

Please use the space provided or a separate sheet of paper to elaborate on your positions on the above issues. You may also provide additional information on any actions that you have taken or plan to take to advance your positions on these issues.

EM

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. Bring integrity to the city council, by putting people first, not politics.
2. Serve as a full-time council member.
3. Make myself accessible to organizations in my community.
4. Ensure that basic city services are provided for my constituency.
5. Bring a breath of fresh air to City Hall.

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