



**CITIZENS UNION CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE
NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL ELECTION 2012, COUNCIL DISTRICT 12**

Citizens Union would appreciate your responses to the following questions related to policy issues facing the City of New York that are of concern to Citizens Union and the citizens 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 "Endorsed Candidates" for this special election. In order to receive Citizens Union's "endorsed" status, in addition to completing the questionnaire, candidates must participate in an interview with Citizens Union's Local Candidates Committee.

We thank you very much for your response.

Candidate Name: Michael Welch Age: 31

Campaign Address:

666east233st

Campaign Telephone Number: (646-884-1901) Fax: ()

Party Affiliation(s): independent Campaign Manager Name:

Website & Email: gear@clockworkcorner.com

Education: F.L.A.G.S High school

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

Teacher

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement: Building toys with children in the hospital and community centers

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

Have you completed requisite campaign finance filings? YES yes NO ___

Signature of Candidate: Michael Welch

~~Date:~~ Date: September 24 2012

I. CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

Please state your position on the following issues by indicating 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 with respect to eliminating party primaries and establishing a non-partisan election system in which all candidates and all voters participate in the first round and the top two candidates advance to the second round?	Support/Oppose
2. What is your position on creating a voluntary municipal poll worker program to supplement poll worker recruitment by district leaders? (Int. No. 721)	Support/Oppose
3. What is your position on requiring city agencies to report the number of applicants that they register to vote as required by current law (Int. No. 760)?	Support/Oppose
4. What is your position on transmitting electronically voter registration information collected by city agencies to the Board of Elections in the City of New York?	Support/Oppose
5. What is your position on requiring the Board of Elections to report performance metrics to the City Council that conform to the Mayor's Management Report? (Int. No. 778)	Support/Oppose

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

6. What is your position on expanding the Voter Guide published by the Campaign Finance Board to cover all races occurring in New York City, such as state and federal contests, and providing the opportunity for voters to receive the guide electronically rather than in print form? (Int. No. 769)	Support/Oppose
7. What is your position on implementing "war chest" restrictions that would prohibit a candidate from transferring funds raised in a previous election cycle into a current campaign committee for a different office?	Support/Oppose

8. What is your position on not providing matching funds for contributions bundled by lobbying organizations or lobbyists?	Support/Oppose
9. What is your position on banning placement agents from bundling contributions for any elected official who influences the selection of pension investors?	Support/Oppose
10. What is your position on prohibiting participants in the city's campaign finance program from using public matching funds to purchase strategic campaign consulting services from firms that also provide lobbying services?	Support/Oppose

CITY COUNCIL REFORM

11. What is your position on allowing Council committees to function more independently of the speaker than is presently the case?	Support/Oppose
a. Should committee staff be hired by and report to committee chairs?	Support/Oppose
b. Should committee hearings and votes be scheduled at the direction of the chairs?	Support/Oppose
c. Should committees be able to issue subpoenas by a vote of their members?	Support/Oppose
12. What is your position on greater disclosure of councilmembers' outside income?	Support/Oppose
13. What is your position on limiting stipends or "lulus" to only members holding majority or minority leadership positions?	Support/Oppose
14. What is your position on requiring that any future increase in councilmember compensation not affect those serving in the current term of the council, only applying prospectively to the following term?	Support/Oppose
15. What is your position on consolidating the current committee structure and reducing the number of overall committees?	Support/Oppose
16. What is your position on ensuring a more equitable and needs-based distribution of discretionary funding?	Support/Oppose

<p>17. What is your position on increasing transparency of discretionary funding by requiring the list of capital and expense funds and their sponsors be provided to councilmembers and the public three days in advance of any vote, and expanding the online searchable database of expense funds to include capital funds?</p>	<p>Support/Oppose</p>
<p>18. What is your position on modifying the City Charter to require that laws enacted by referendum only be changed through approval by the voters?</p>	<p>Support/Oppose</p>

GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY AND OVERSIGHT

<p>19. What is your position on establishing the Commission to Combat Police Corruption (CCPC) as a permanent commission in the City Charter while empowering the CCPC to issue subpoenas?</p>	<p>Support/Oppose</p>
<p>20. What is your position on enhancing the Civilian Complaint Review Board's (CCRB) authority to initiate an investigation into reported or known incidents of police misconduct in the absence of a complaint?</p>	<p>Support/Oppose</p>
<p>21. What is your position on granting the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) with the authority to prosecute officers found guilty of lying during CCRB investigations?</p>	<p>Support/Oppose</p>
<p>22. What is your position on reinstating the zero tolerance penalty for false official statements by public officers?</p>	<p>Support/Oppose</p>

BUDGET REFORM

<p>23. What is your position on establishing independent budgeting for: a. the borough presidents</p>	<p>Support/Oppose</p>
<p>b. 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>24. What is your position on making the budget process more transparent by clearly defining units of appropriation and limiting their size?</p>	<p>Support/Oppose</p>
<p>25. What is your position on releasing the non-property revenue projections prior to Council hearings on the Executive budget?</p>	<p>Support/Oppose</p>

II. 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 2012 CAMPAIGN PROMISES

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Please return to: Citizens Union, Local Candidates Committee
via fax to 212.227.0345 or via email to policy@citizensunion.org
Call us at 212-227-0342 with any questions.