

## 2013 QUESTIONNAIRE FOR CANDIDATES FOR BOROUGH PRESIDENT

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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: Eric L. Adams                      Age: 53

Campaign Address: 418 Montgomery Street, Brooklyn, NY

Campaign Telephone Number:

Party Affiliation(s): Democrat    Campaign Manager Name: Ingrid Martin

Website & Email: ericadams2013.com

Education: MPA, Marist College; BA, New York City Technical College and John Jay College of Criminal Justice

Occupation/Employer (or years in currently held elected office): NY State Senator 2007-present

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement: I was born in Brooklyn, raised in New York and educated in the City's public schools. As a young officer in the NYC Transit Police Department and then NYPD, I was responsible for solving real world problems and making life-and-death decisions under the most difficult conditions. I was promoted to Captain. As a member of the police force I addressed local issues, co-founding 100 Blacks in Law Enforcement Who Care to improve the department's community relations and raise funds for worthy neighborhood causes. I retired from the NYPD in 2006 to represent Brooklyn in the State Senate, marshaling a diverse coalition in support of my candidacy. In the Senate, I became a leader on good government, workers' rights, quality of life and public safety issues. In particular, I have effectively organized support against the NYPD's controversial Stop and Frisk policy and on behalf of gun control.

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: \_\_\_\_\_

*Eric Adams*

Date: September 20, 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.

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?	Support
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

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

It is essential to use the borough president's influence and bully pulpit to achieve meaningful progress on behalf of all Brooklynites. Borough Presidents play an important role in appropriating discretionary funding, as well as on issues pertaining to land use and education policy. I'll use that platform to help develop our borough responsibly, create jobs and grow the economy, and improve public schools so all kids have a real shot at success.

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?

There is no doubt that too often, decisions in city government are made without public input and behind closed doors. We need to reverse Mayor Bloomberg's top-down approach to decision-making, including with the land use process. As Borough President, I will play an important role in our borough's land use and development issues and will fight to ensure economic growth does not sacrifice our quality of life. I will also work to ensure the Land Use Review Process accounts for every Brooklynite's voice, by appointing members of my staff to reach out to communities across the borough and hear their feedback and concerns.

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?

Along with my staff, I will find and invest in capital projects that create economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for working families in Brooklyn, and those which improve our schools. Specifically, I will support capital funding for educational resources, such as schools and libraries, as well as for infrastructure improvements to alleviate congestion and increase open space in communities where it is needed.

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?

It's essential for communities to be able to weigh in on land use matters affecting their neighborhoods. That's why my office will work hand in hand with community boards across our borough to hear and amplify their concerns when a development or project seems to jeopardize a community's safety or residents' quality of life. But when there is widespread agreement among community board members on other issues, my office will enable them to act on their own in a matter consistent with their charter-mandated responsibilities.

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?

As Borough President, I will ensure a candidate's qualifications matter above all else when making appointments. Too often, the most qualified candidate is passed over for political concerns—and that is hurting our City. As Borough President, I'll fight to attract the best possible talent from across our city to serve us, and ensure they reflect the diversity of our various ethnic communities.

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?

As Borough President, an important part of my job will be to resolve complaints from Brooklynites who are falling through the cracks of City bureaucracy. As my staff and I work to resolve complaints ranging from lack of heat in an apartment to unfair rent hikes for seniors, we will search for trends in repeated complaints that signal a larger systemic problem our City needs to fix. I will then bring it to the attention of our next Mayor, and work hand in hand with him to ensure it gets resolved before other New Yorkers fall into the same trap.

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?

As a sitting State Senator I understand that legislation is an important and effective part of a Borough President's toolbox, and will be a part of my strategy as I work to move our borough forward—whether it's stiffening fines on negligent landlords, improving policing and public safety, or creating economic opportunity in Brooklyn. I have introduced and passed legislation in Albany that helps protect our seniors and our tenants and I will do the same as Brooklyn Borough President.

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

As an official who appoints members to the Panel on Educational Policy, the Borough President can play an important role in improving Brooklyn schools. In Borough Hall, I will appoint only progressive leaders to the Panel, who will make school closures a last resort, and not a silver-bullet tool the way Mayor Bloomberg has. By changing the culture of our education decision-making with new leaders who understand the importance of community input, we can give communities across our borough a say in how decisions are made, while also improving outcomes for students.



## 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**

Although I didn't have an opponent during last year's election, I did promise my constituents that I would continue the professional service that they have come to expect. I also made the following promises

1. Promise: Continuation of Parent Empowerment.

Our constituents were worried that due to budget cuts, we wouldn't continue this important program. We found the money and held the annual event.

2. Promise: Push for stronger laws to protect elders against identity theft crimes. I introduced legislation that allows banks to notify authorities when there was questionable banking activity on a seniors account. This bill passed the senate and was unable to come to the floor of the assembly due to a technical problem. We believe it will pass in the 2014 legislative cycle.

3. Promise: Fight to protect the closing of Downstate and LICH.

I joined my colleagues in the Brooklyn delegation to keep both hospitals open. As of today the hospitals are still operational.

4. Promise: Fight to put an end to stop and frisk.

I testified in federal court during the trial to bring the NYPD under federal monitor. In her decision the judge referred to my testimony.

5. Promise: fight against street level violence.

I fought to keep our streets safe by introducing technology through the Brooklyn Quality of Life App and raising money for on the ground groups to deal with the issue surrounding street level violence.

## **TOP FIVE 2013 CAMPAIGN PROMISES**

1. Continuing to grow our economy in Brooklyn by implementing policies that will allow our small business owners to grow and create new jobs. This includes cutting down on onerous fines of small business owners.

2. Keeping our streets safe and our quality of life high for all Brooklyn families. I'll work with the NYPD and community leaders to improve police-community relations.

3. Keeping Brooklyn affordable for all our families. I'll use my power to appoint community board members who will utilize the land use process to ensure more creation of affordable housing.

4. Continuing my parent empowerment project to improve our schools so that our all our children receive a high-quality education and have opportunities to succeed.

5. Ensuring responsible development. We must make sure that development projects include affordable housing and have a plan to create and/or improve the existing infrastructure so that the community's needs are met.

**Please return to: Citizens Union, Local Candidates Committee  
via fax to 212.227.0345 or via email to [candidates@citizensunion.org](mailto:candidates@citizensunion.org)  
Call 212-227-0342 Rachael Fauss ext. 22 or Alex Camarda ext. 24 with any questions.**