



Candidate Questionnaire
 Local Candidates Committee
 New York City Council Elections 2017

Citizens Union appreciates your response to the following questionnaire related to policy issues facing New York City and our interest in reforming city and state government. **Please return the questionnaire to us as soon as possible, and no later than June 28th.** Responses to these questions will be one of several factors Citizens Union uses to evaluate candidates running for the New York City Council, and to issue our preference for the Primary and endorsement for the General Election. Please feel free to affix any additional information such as a résumé, campaign brochure, or issue statements.

If you seek our support, we will also need to schedule an interview with you as part of the evaluation process. **Please contact us if you wish to be interviewed.**

We plan to make responses to this questionnaire public on our website, printed voters directory, and other appropriate venues.

We thank you very much for your response.

Biographical Information

Candidate Name: Bessie R. Schachter
 Party Affiliation(s): Democrat Age: 35
 Education: M.A. - NYU in Politics / B.A. - University of Texas at Austin
 Office Sought (including district): City Council, District 4
 Occupation/Employer: N/A

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement: New York State Democratic Committee 2014-Present
73rd Assembly District Steering Committee - Gray Panthers NYC
East Side Neighborhood Association, Temple Emanu-El, New York League of Women Voters
 (Please feel free to affix any additional information such as a résumé, campaign brochure, or issue statements.)

Campaign Contact Information

Campaign Manager Name: Dori Pliska Additional Staff Contact:
 Address: 135 East 57th Street, 7th Floor
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 Website: bessie2017.com Email: bessie.schachter@gmail.com
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Affirmations

Have you completed required campaign finance filings? YES / NO
 Are you willing to be interviewed by CU's Local Candidates Committee? YES / NO

(Please note: interviews are prerequisites of being considered for Citizens Union endorsements.)

Signature of Candidate:

Date:

I. POLICY QUESTIONS

Please state whether you support or oppose the following reform measures, and feel free to 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? <i>the two party system is already weak; further diluting it creates leadership problems at the state and federal levels</i>	Support / <input checked="" type="radio"/> Oppose <i>no we have seen modern states</i>
2. What is your position on instituting Instant Runoff Voting for all citywide offices and for all special elections for city offices?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Support / <input type="radio"/> Oppose
3. What is your position on creating a voluntary municipal poll worker program to supplement poll worker recruitment by district leaders?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Support / <input type="radio"/> Oppose
4. 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?	Support / Oppose <i>No position.</i>
5. What is your position on modifying the City Charter to require that laws enacted by referendum only be changed through approval by the voters?	Support / Oppose <i>No position</i>

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

6. 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?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Support / <input type="radio"/> Oppose
7. What is your position on increasing the Campaign Finance Board's public matching grants from a partial match of 55% to a full match of funds raised (Int. 1130-A)?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Support / <input type="radio"/> Oppose

I support but do not think it is the first election reform issue. we should first make voting access easier.

CITY COUNCIL REFORM

8. How do you feel the reformed bill drafting process is going under the enacted 2014 Council Rules Reforms and do you think we need a more independent process similar to New York State Legislature's bill drafting commission?

I support the changes that have allowed a more equitable distribution of city funds across council districts and reduce the politicization of some of the funding disposal. That said, an independent bill drafting commission would help to ensure that city legislators have more access to advocating for their policy ideas. Changes of this sort should always be evolving in our political process so that while we are ever short of the perfect system of government we can work toward its improvement in hopes of making it stronger.

9. What is your position on the following proposals enabling Council committees to function more effectively and independently of the speaker:	
a. Should committee chairs have the ability to hire at least one committee staffer? <i>No position</i>	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
d. Now that committee chair stipends have been eliminated what is your position on reducing the overall number of committees so members can participate more meaningfully in fewer issues?	Support / Oppose
10. What is your position on greater disclosure of councilmembers' outside income? <i>More information needed + new provisions were recently passed and I would like to see how the implementation prog</i>	Support / Oppose
11. When the Quadrennial Compensation Commission is reconvened, what is your position on requiring that any future increase in councilmember compensation only apply prospectively to the following term?	Support / Oppose
12. What is your position on ensuring a more equitable and needs-based distribution of discretionary funding? <i>Depending on the determination of need, I may support</i>	Support / Oppose <i>this bill. However, I fear</i>
13. 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 all capital fund recipients and applicants?	Support / Oppose <i>a fair assessment of "need" is a loaded question.</i>
14. What is your position on extending term limits from two four-year terms to three four-year terms? <i>No position</i>	Support / Oppose
15. What is your position on making all actions designed to influence any City Council outcome, including the choice of Speaker, reportable as a lobbying expense?	Support / Oppose

PUBLIC SAFETY AND OVERSIGHT OF POLICE MISCONDUCT

16. 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? <i>We are making progress on Police issues and I feel this step is not warranted at this time due to that progress.</i>	Support / Oppose
17. 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 without receipt of a formal complaint?	Support / Oppose
18. 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?	Support / Oppose
19. What is your position on reinstating the zero tolerance penalty for false official statements by public officers?	Support / Oppose
20. What is your position on requiring the Police Commissioner to explain divergence from NYPD trial judge and CCRB disciplinary recommendations and to make the explanation public?	Support / Oppose
21. What is your position on requiring the NYPD to publish a regular report of use of force incidents with data disaggregated by race? <i>I support such a report disaggregated by other metrics, like geography or date. If we look for race based issues to divide us we will succeed in finding them. We should instead focus on improving transparency without creating differences between us as citizens.</i>	Support / Oppose

22. What is your position on requiring the NYPD to publish a regular report of use of force incidents with data disaggregated by race? <i>sec # 21.</i>	Support / <input checked="" type="radio"/> Oppose
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BUDGET REFORM

23. What is your position on establishing independent budgeting for: a. the borough presidents?	Support / <input checked="" type="radio"/> Oppose
b. Conflicts of Interest Board? <i>More information required.</i>	Support / <input type="radio"/> Oppose
c. the public advocate?	Support / <input checked="" type="radio"/> Oppose
d. community boards?	Support / <input checked="" type="radio"/> Oppose
24. What is your position on making the budget process more transparent by clearly defining and limiting units of appropriation?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Support / <input type="radio"/> Oppose
25. What is your position on release of revenue projections (other than property taxes) prior to Council hearings on the Executive budget?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Support / <input type="radio"/> Oppose

LAND USE AND COMMUNITY BOARD REFORM

26. What is your position on designating urban planners for use by community boards and requiring borough president's report to the Council the manner in which they advertise and make community board appointments? <i>Community input is helpful regardless of city planners. re report of appointment.</i>	<i>I expect a divorce from</i> Support / <input checked="" type="radio"/> Oppose
27. 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? <i>This process exists in Manhattan and works well.</i>	<i>is a good idea but should be done by public works council.</i> <input checked="" type="radio"/> Support / <input type="radio"/> Oppose

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

28. In November, voters in New York will be asked whether they wish to hold a constitutional convention to amend the New York State Constitution. What is your position on holding such a convention?	Support / <input checked="" type="radio"/> Oppose
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29. If you support the constitutional convention, what actions, if any, will you take to ensure that it takes place? If you oppose the convention, what will you do to defeat it?

I share Citizen Union's goals of an efficient democratic government - but a convention places all our progress at stake. In the Citizens United era of unlimited special interest funding I do not believe we can have a fair election of delegates that reflect the diversity of our community's voices. Instead, we must oppose a convention until money in politics can be traced. I will campaign in my community to share that opinion - writing letters and speaking with neighbors in hopes that they will vote against a convention at this precarious time.

Lined writing area consisting of 25 horizontal lines.

II. CAMPAIGN PROMISES MADE TO VOTERS

As a candidate who presently does not hold elected office, what are 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.

Please feel free to use additional paper if the space provided is not sufficient, and to affix additional information such as a résumé, campaign brochure, or issue statements. We thank you very much for your response.

TOP FIVE 2017 CAMPAIGN PROMISES OR GOALS

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

