

**CITIZENS UNION CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE
NEW YORK CITY MAYOR
ELECTION 2013**

Citizens Union would appreciate your response to the following policy questions facing the City of New York and its residents that are of concern to Citizens Union. 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. In order to receive Citizens Union's "preferred" or "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: John Catsimatidis Age: 65

Campaign Address: 823 113 Avenue
New York, NY 10019

Campaign Telephone Number: (add) 974-3145 Fax: () _____ (zip)

Party Affiliation(s): R Campaign Manager Name: Eben Bronfman

Website & Email: www.cats2013.com info@cats2013.com

Education: NYC Public + Parochial schools, attended NYU

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

Red Apple Group 44 years

Previous Offices and Campaigns: Greek Orthodox Church,

Are you willing to be interviewed by CU's Local Candidates Committee? YES NO

Have you completed requisite campaign finance filings? YES NO

(Please note: Citizens Union can grant its "Preferred Candidate" or "Endorsed Candidate" rating only to candidates we have interviewed. We will make every effort to interview candidates in this race.)

Signature of Candidate:  Date: _____

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.

CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

Please circle 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.

CITIZENS UNION ISSUES

VOTING AND ELECTIONS REFORM

<p>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?</p>	<p>Support <u>Oppose</u></p>
<p>2. What is your position on instituting Instant Runoff Voting for all citywide offices and for all special elections for city offices? (Int. No. 1066)</p>	<p>Support <u>Oppose</u></p>
<p>3. What is your position on creating a voluntary municipal poll worker program to supplement poll worker recruitment by district leaders? (Int. No. 721)</p>	<p><u>Support</u>/Oppose</p>
<p>4. 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)?</p>	<p><u>Support</u>/Oppose</p>
<p>5. 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?</p>	<p><u>Support</u>/Oppose</p>
<p>6. 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)</p>	<p><u>Support</u>/Oppose</p>

7. 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/ <u>Oppose</u>
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CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

8. What is your position on eliminating matching funds for contributions bundled by lobbying organizations or lobbyists?	<u>Support</u> /Oppose
9. 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?	<u>Support</u> /Oppose

CITY COUNCIL REFORM

10. 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?	<u>Support</u> /Oppose
11. 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?	<u>Support</u> /Oppose

PUBLIC SAFETY AND OVERSIGHT OF POLICE MISCONDUCT

12. What is your position on reducing the frequency of stop, question and frisks by conducting stops more judiciously?	<u>Support</u> /Oppose
13. 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?	Support/ <u>Oppose</u>

14. 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/ <u>Oppose</u>
15. 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/ <u>Oppose</u> <i>Recommended to District Attorney</i>
16. What is your position on reinstating the zero tolerance penalty for false official statements by public officers?	<u>Support</u> /Oppose

BUDGET REFORM

17. What is your position on establishing independent budgeting for: a. the borough presidents?	Support/ <u>Oppose</u>
b. Conflicts of Interest Board?	Support/ <u>Oppose</u>
c. the public advocate ?	Support/ <u>Oppose</u>
d. community boards?	Support/ <u>Oppose</u>
18. What is your position on making the budget process more transparent by clearly defining units of appropriation and limiting their size?	<u>Support</u> /Oppose
19. What is your position on release of revenue projections (other than property taxes) prior to Council hearings on the Executive budget?	<u>Support</u> /Oppose

LAND USE AND COMMUNITY BOARD REFORM

20. What is your position on designating urban planners for use by community boards and requiring borough presidents report to the Council the manner in which they advertise and make community board appointments? (Int. No. 913)	<u>Support</u> /Oppose <i>To Mayor</i>
21. 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?	<u>Support</u> /Oppose

ISSUES of CITYWIDE IMPORTANCE

1. What is your view of the amount of taxes paid by New Yorkers compared to the value that is received in City services? Do you believe that taxes should be raised or lowered? If you believe taxes should be changed, please provide specific proposals about what taxes you would change and if you didn't raise taxes, what services you would cut, listed in order of greatest magnitude

New Yorkers pay too much in taxes compared to value received in city services. Taxes should be lowered - on January 1st as Mayor, I will freeze all taxes the Mayor controls while we open the books and determine the facts about where we really are. Until we know all the facts about the budget we can't make informed decisions. We can't raise or lower taxes or cut services until we know the facts.

2. Certain New York has been trying to create a more diversified economy, and one that is less reliant on Wall Street. What is your position on such efforts? If you support it, what would you do to diversify the city's economy? How would you ensure that the city would receive adequate tax revenue as a result of potential shifts in the tax base?

It is important for NYC to have a diverse economy. The business community has to do well in order for everyone to do well. I have said that I will create a Small Business ombudsman accountable to the mayor to advocate on behalf of our small business community. I was a small business man and I am the only one in this race that feels their pain - I got those water bills and rent increases too. I think we need to support both Wall Street and our small business community.

3. In FY 2013-14, New York City is budgeted to spend \$13.568 billion on pensions and fringe benefits for City employees out of a total net budget of \$68.5 billion. What would you do to address the growing pension and health care costs borne by the city and New York City tax payers, particularly in the context of contractual bargaining with the city's unions for retroactive raises?

It is not appropriate for the Mayor or candidates for Mayor, to negotiate in public. I have been negotiating with unions all my life - I was a union member. As Mayor, I will sit with the union leadership and work out a deal that is good for taxpayers and unions. A union leader recently described me as "Tough but fair."

4. What is your overall position on public education and what changes, if any, would you make to mayoral control of city schools? What would you do to increase test scores and graduation rates? How would you propose the Department of Education increase the ability for parents and teachers to become more meaningfully involved? What are your views on shuttering underperforming schools and opening new ones, including charter schools, oftentimes in the same buildings?

My education plan puts an emphasis on Vocational and Career Training education. We have an almost 40% dropout rate and training some of those students in plumbing, nursing, health tech or aviation mechanics, for example, will help lower the dropout rate. These students are the entrepreneurs and small business owners of tomorrow.

5. How would you propose the city address the shortage of affordable housing, particularly given the expected growth in population? Would you continue to attempt to reach the goals of PlaNYC 2030? If not, what is your vision for long-term development particularly in light of climate change and extreme weather?

I believe in transit-based economic development. We need to upzone around mass transit hubs

and incentivize developers to build and include affordable housing. Transit-oriented development will create housing and allow the people living there to get anywhere in the city. I also believe in supporting the housing allowance program for our teachers and including cops, firefighters etc.

6. What would you propose to increase the transparency of the Board of Elections in the City of New York's operations and accountability to the city? What is your position on non-citizen voting?

I would work toward requiring two non-partisan Commissioners appointed by the Mayor. That would create more transparency and accountability. I do not believe non-citizens should vote.

7. Taking into consideration the lessons learned from the debates surrounding congestion pricing and the Ravitch Commission's recommendations to provide the MTA with long-term funding, what do you think should be done to address the MTA's fiscal solvency issues and ensure that the burden for funding the MTA are equitably distributed amongst all stakeholders? What is your view on expanding alternative forms of transportation like the Citibike program and the installation of bike lanes?

I believe there is a place for bikes in NYC, but the way it was done with the bike lanes was not right. The MTA's fiscal solvency issues are a result of lack of leadership. As Mayor I will use every tool in my power, including the bully pulpit to prevent fare and toll increases. The tolls, ~~on~~ like on the

Verrazano Bridge are really hurting New Yorkers and we cannot keep balancing the books on the backs of taxpayers.

8. What do you believe is the proper role of government in regulating public health? Would you advocate for continuing policies proposed by Mayor Bloomberg banning large sodas and reducing the proportion of people who smoke cigarettes?

I do not support all of Bloomberg's regulatory policies. I believe that we should teach a required course on health and nutrition in our public schools to teach kids to make the right choices early on.

9. How can the city continue to keep the crime rate at record low levels? What is your position on stop, question and frisk?

I am the candidate in this race that 100% supports Commissioner Ray Kelly and the men and women of our law enforcement community. This year murders are down 29% from the 50-year low in 2012. During the last 11 years there were 7,383 fewer murders than the 11 before that. I support stop, question & frisk.

10. How would you ensure that city agencies share data and resources and coordinate in delivering services? Do you believe that management should be decentralized, allowing agency heads greater independence, or centralized in the mayor's office? Would you continue executive order 41 ensuring all New Yorkers, regardless of immigration status can access the city services that they are entitled to receive?

I have proposed assigning a deputy mayor accountability for each borough. Similarly, agency heads would be accountable to the mayor, but day to day operations would be their responsibility while major decisions would be made by the mayor. All agencies would have access to the mayor during regularly

scheduled cabinet meetings

11. How actively would you use the office of the mayor in working on national issues such as immigration and gun control?

The New York City Mayor has an incredible bully pulpit and I would use it to advocate policies important to me. And since the U.N. is here, it is an international bully pulpit.

12. How would you utilize city-affiliated nonprofit organizations such as the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City in raising private revenue to supplement city agencies and programs? How would you ensure that there is sufficient transparency and accountability of funding received through such entities?

When I am Mayor, I will not live in Gracie Mansion. It belongs to the people and I will make sure that during every breakfast lunch and dinner will be used by non-profits for fund raisers at Gracie Mansion. There will be an emphasis on transparency and accountability in my administration starting with the freeze and opening of the books on Jan. 1

Additional Comments:

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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 2013 CAMPAIGN PROMISES

1. Assign already existing Dep. Mayors to every borough
2. Freeze taxes and review the books
3. Moratorium on new marine transfer stations
4. Create jobs through more vocational education
5. Bring the 21st Century World's Fair to NYC

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