



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 28<sup>th</sup>.** 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.

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**Biographical Information**

Candidate Name: **Ede S. Fox**

Party Affiliation(s): **Democratic Party**

Age: **46**

Education: **UCLA, M.A., 1995; University of Michigan, B.A., 1993; Vassar College, 1989-1991; Brearley School, 1989.**

Office Sought (including district): **City Council, 35<sup>th</sup> District**

Occupation/Employer: **Candidate for City Council, Former Director of Economic and Community Development at NYC Council**

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement: **See attached bio.**

*(Please feel free to affix any additional information such as a résumé, campaign brochure, or issue statements.)*

**Campaign Contact Information**

Campaign Manager Name: **Marie Winfield**

Additional Staff Contact: **Tyler Kinney, Field Director**

Address: **585 Vanderbilt Avenue, #3, Brooklyn NY 11238**

Telephone: **(347) 286-1336**

Fax: **N/A**

Website: **<http://www.edefox.com>**

Email: **[ede@edefox.com](mailto:ede@edefox.com)**

Twitter: **<http://www.twitter.com/edefox>**

Facebook: **<http://www.facebook.com/edefox>**

**Affirmations**

Have you completed required campaign finance filings?

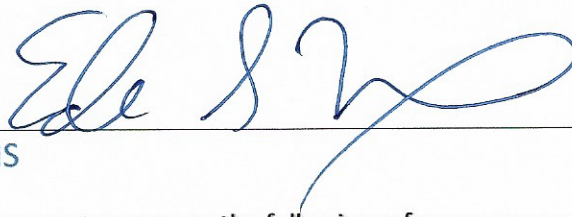
**YES**

Are you willing to be interviewed by CU's Local Candidates Committee?

**YES**

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

Signature of Candidate:



Date:

6/28/17

**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?	Oppose
2. What is your position on instituting Instant Runoff Voting for all citywide offices and for all special elections for city offices?	Support
3. What is your position on creating a voluntary municipal poll worker program to supplement poll worker recruitment by district leaders?	Support
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
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

**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?	Support
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)?	Support

**CITY COUNCIL REFORM**

7. 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?

Yes I think we need a more independent process similar to the NYS Legislature's bill drafting commission. In 2014 I worked with other staff at the City Council to make much needed reforms to institute the Council's own version of an independent bill drafting unit but faced fierce opposition to such changes. I think we moved in the right direction but much more reform is needed and I will support any efforts that move us in that direction as a Council Member.

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?	Support
b. Should committee hearings and votes be scheduled at the direction of the chairs?	Support
c. Should committees be able to issue subpoenas by a vote of their members?	Support
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
10. What is your position on greater disclosure of councilmembers' outside income?	Support
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
12. What is your position on ensuring a more equitable and needs-based distribution of discretionary funding?	Support
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
14. What is your position on extending term limits from two four-year terms to three four-year terms?	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

**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?	Support
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
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
19. What is your position on reinstating the zero tolerance penalty for false official statements by public officers?	Support
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
21. What is your position on requiring the NYPD to publish a regular report of use of force incidents with data disaggregated by race?	Support

22. What is your position on requiring the NYPD to publish a regular report of use of force incidents with data disaggregated by race? Support

**BUDGET REFORM**

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

**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?	Support
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?	Support

**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?	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?

While I wholeheartedly encourage reform in Albany, I do not support a Constitutional Convention in New York State because there are major protections for workers that are guaranteed by our State Constitution. Given the current political climate nationwide, where unions are constantly threatened, a NYS Constitutional Convention could endanger many residents' pensions and our unions' organizing rights. I am particularly concerned about any changes to the civil service laws that could change terms of employment for union members and other workers. In addition to workers' rights, I am concerned that other protections enshrined in our State Constitution, from public education to the environment, could be at risk once this process begins. Traditionally, any Constitutional amendment may be accomplished through the State legislature for a vote on a general election ballot. I believe the State legislature is the most appropriate for debate on the NYS Constitution this year. I will work with labor unions and other advocates to oppose a NYS Constitutional Convention.

30. Last year, Citizens Union helped craft and push for the enactment of a law that placed political contribution limits and disclosure requirements on nonprofits that are formed by, or affiliated with, elected officials, which helped prevent some significant features of an emerging "pay-to-play" culture in New York City. Do you have any other ideas to further limit such a culture and create a better environment where contributions, either personal or political do not unduly influence the actions of elected officials?

We need better disclosure requirements, especially when it comes to real estate development, which is rapidly affecting my district. For each large development project, community residents and investigative journalists are now regularly looking into the political contributions of real estate developers and FOIL-ing documents to piece together the behind-the-scenes agreements between officials, nonprofits, and developers. This information should be publicly disclosed and available at all phases of the ULURP process, from the application submission to the Community Board review through the vote at the City Council.

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

**Please find attached my campaign platform.**

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## 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

Please find attached my 2017 campaign palm card for your review.

1. Truly affordable housing targeted to meeting the needs of the neighborhood median income.
2. Good paying, local job creation to ensure residents can afford to stay in their own communities.
3. Equitable funding for public schools.
4. Dedicated constituent services: accessible and proactive staff to help our residents' resolve problems in the community.
5. Lead-free water for schools and families: I will fight for the environmental health of all our district residents.

### III. ETHICAL REPRESENTATION OF CONSTITUENTS

Citizens Union believes that all New Yorkers deserve to be represented by officials who work for the public interest and honor public trust. With the corruption conviction of recent state legislative leaders, we seek to endorse a candidate who will demonstrate that she/he will honor the full commitment of the oath of office, and will always represent the public interest above all else.

Please tell us how you have and would continue to conduct the political affairs of this office in an upright manner, and restore the public trust in your district.

I believe that transparency, visibility and access is the best way to restore the public's trust in the 35<sup>th</sup> District. For the past 4 years, I've had many constituents approach me because they have tried to call the current Council Member's office for issues in the district and have never gotten a response. I've heard from constituents who have sought funding for worthy projects and do not understand the criteria on which their requests were denied. I have a senior citizen neighbor on a fixed income who had an emergency boiler issue and sought help from the Council Member's district office, to no avail. The best way that I can honor the commitment of the Council's oath of office and to represent the public interest is to always be present in the community and be responsive to calls for help. I will also be communicative with our local organizations and Community Boards. Informing the community of upcoming projects at the beginning of the process and encouraging community input is something I am deeply committed to. It's what the community has been asking for all along, especially on the Bedford Union Armory project. Establishing working relationships with the community from the start is the key to restoring confidence in our district's governance. Many residents are disenchanted with the political process and believe all electeds are corrupt and will ultimately fail them. I say this is a two way street, I'm asking for your vote, but I also want you to watch me and tell me if I'm not doing what you want. If I don't listen then I want you to vote me out of office in four years, that's how this process is supposed to work. I hope that my activism will engage more people in the political process because that's how we can truly eradicate corruption in our political system.

Please return to: Citizens Union, Local Candidates Committee, 299 Broadway, Suite 700 New York, NY 10007

Via email to [candidates@citizensunion.org](mailto:candidates@citizensunion.org) or fax to 212.227.0345 • Call us at 212-227-0342 with questions.