



2013 QUESTIONNAIRE FOR CANDIDATES FOR CITY COUNCIL

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: Vincent J. Gentile Age: 54

Campaign Address: Gentile for the Future 7321 15th Avenue Brooklyn NY 11228

Campaign Telephone Number: (347) 989-3854 Fax: ()

Party Affiliation(s): Dem/WFP Campaign Manager Name: David Marangio

Website & Email: www.gentile2013.com info@gentile2013.com david@gentile2013.com

Education: JD, Fordham University School of Law, 1985
BA, Cornell University, 1981

Occupation/Employer (or years in currently held elected office): 10 years as City Councilman

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement:

Senator, New York State Senate, 1996-2002

Bay Ridge Community Council, president 1989-1990

Assistant District Attorney, Queens County NY, 1985-1996

Bay Ridge Community Council

Bay Ridge Lawyers Association

Fort Hamilton High School Alumni Association

Bay Ridge Mental Health Council

Asian American Advisory Council

New York State Bar Association

Stars and Stripes Democratic Organization

Bay Ridge Center for Older Adults, Advisory Board Member

Cathedral Club of Brooklyn
Bay Ridge Forum
Friends of Dyker Beach Park
Fort Hamilton High School Alumni Association, founder
Bay Ridge Food Co-op

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: _____

Date: _____

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
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)	Support
3. What is your position on creating a voluntary municipal poll worker program to supplement poll worker recruitment by district leaders? (Int. No. 721)	Support I am a co-sponsor of Int. No. 721
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)?	Support
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?	Support I would want to review safeguards on data transmission.
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)	Support
7. 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
8. 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

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

9. What is your position on eliminating matching funds for contributions bundled by lobbying organizations or lobbyists?	Support
10. What is your position on banning placement agents from bundling contributions for any elected official who influences the selection of pension investors?	Support
11. 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 Unless lobbying services do not affect city business, i.e. state lobbyists

CITY COUNCIL REFORM

12. What is your position on creating a bill drafting service independent of the Speaker’s Office, similar to the New York State Legislature’s bill drafting commission?	Support
13. 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. Should the number of overall committees be reduced so members can participate more meaningfully in fewer issues?	Support
14. What is your position on greater disclosure of councilmembers’ outside income?	Support
15. What is your position on limiting stipends or “lulus” to only members holding majority or minority leadership positions?	Support
16. 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

17. What is your position on ensuring a more equitable and needs-based distribution of discretionary funding?	Support
18. 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

PUBLIC SAFETY AND OVERSIGHT OF POLICE MISCONDUCT

19. What is your position on reducing the frequency of stop, question and frisks by conducting stops more judiciously?	Support
20. 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
21. 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
22. 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
23. What is your position on reinstating the zero tolerance penalty for false official statements by public officers?	Support

BUDGET REFORM

24. 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
25. What is your position on making the budget process more transparent by clearly defining units of appropriation and limiting their size?	Support

II. CANDIDATE ACCOUNTABILITY QUESTIONNAIRE

Citizens Union is adding a new element to its evaluation of incumbents running for re-election. In addition to evaluating their stances on the issues above, Citizens Union will assess incumbents on how well they kept the promises they made to voters during the previous election.

As an elected official who is seeking re-election,

- a. What were the top five promises you made to your constituents when you ran for your current position and what progress have you made to keep those promises, and why and why not have you met them?
- 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 CAMPAIGN PROMISES FROM YOUR MOST RECENT CAMPAIGN AND ACTION ON THEM

1. **Improve Public Transportation Services to District Residents.** Alongside a broad coalition, I fought for the return local bus service (B37) – this route provides much needed access to the local hospital, and a much needed alternative to the subway which is not wheelchair accessible.
Brokered a deal that created commuter ferry service at the Brooklyn Army Terminal Pier when the Montague Street Tunnel closure was announced. This route again addressed the concerns of those for whom the proposed MTA alternatives were particularly difficult, due to their limited mobility.
2. **Maintain public safety.** Initiated a first-ever program of NYPD surveillance cameras in district. Worked in concert with the DA's office, and the community board to close illegal massage parlors which supported human trafficking and reduce drug dealing by pursuing the closure of a bar which also supported prostitution. Continually fought to keep firehouses open throughout the district.
3. **Improve quality of life: recreation options for the community, access to healthy food, support for the arts, and increased access to open space.** Funded numerous playgrounds, dog runs, lighting for ball fields and capital upgrades for area parks. Working closely with the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance and local community leaders, secured initial funding for an eco-dock to the Bay Ridge pier. Collaborating with Borough President Markowitz and

Mayor Bloomberg, obtained all funding needed for the project to move ahead. It will be a recreational and educational resource to the district and the neighborhoods surrounding it.

The dock will support a wide variety of program opportunities including:

- historic and educational boat trips for summer camps and community groups
- walk up kayak events for experienced kayakers
- community events such as City of Water Day boat tours
- environmental education projects such as water quality monitoring and oyster gardening boat trips and cruises

Arrangements are also being made to have models of historic vessels stop at the dock to welcome visitors aboard.

Working in partnership with GrowNYC, introduced a second Greenmarket in the district.

4. **Addressed educational needs for district students.** Relieved overcrowding by directing funding to new construction, as well as expansion of several over-crowded schools. This resulted in an additional 3,000 seats in the district. Provided funding for computers as well as pedagogical tools such as smart boards.
5. **Expanded constituent access to services.** Maintain a full time office with 4 staffers focused primarily or exclusively on constituent concerns. Added Saturday hours to provide access to those who are unable to come into district office during regular weekday hours. Proactively monitor social media to discover constituent issues before my office is contacted. I have sought and hired staff and interns who are multilingual to address the diversity of the community, and to provide meaningful access to newly arrived immigrants throughout the district.

TOP FIVE 2013 CAMPAIGN PROMISES

1. Reform budget process. I would especially like to see library funding baselined. I will fight to amend the city charter so that 2% of the budget goes to a dedicated fund supporting library maintenance and operations.
2. Reform operations of DOE, DOT, DCA – The chancellor should be an educator. Regarding the DOT AND DCA, I want to end the gotcha mentality inspectors should be revenue generators; instead they should be a partner in compliance with business owners.
3. Continue to improve parks and schools within the district.
4. Continued advocacy for seniors and veterans. I would like to build on the spirit of the Veterans liaison bill which I sponsored last year and seek low cost and no cost ways to acknowledge the service and sacrifice of our veterans. I would seek to allow vets to use HOV lanes, regardless of the number of people in a car.
5. Provide increased city services to maintain and improve quality of life specifically by seeking increased police fire and sanitation head counts.

**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.**