



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: Jeffrey S. Mailman
Party Affiliation(s): Democratic Age: 35
Education: J.D., Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law; B.A. in Economics, S.U.N.Y. Binghamton
Office Sought (including district): City Council, District 4
Occupation/Employer: Counsel & Legislative Director to Council Member Elizabeth Crowley

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement: Former full board member and current public member of Community Board 6, Health and Education Committee; Member of the Turtle Bay Association, Member of Temple Emanu-El
(Please feel free to affix any additional information such as a résumé, campaign brochure, or issue statements.)

Campaign Contact Information

Campaign Manager Name: Jonathan Bernstein Additional Staff Contact:
Address: 211 E. 43rd St., 7th Fl., NY, NY 10017
Telephone: (347) 766-4657 Fax:
Website: www.jeffmailman.com Email: jonathan@jeffmailman.com
Twitter: @jeffmailman Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/mailman2017/

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:

Jeffrey S. Mielman

Date:

6/29/17

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?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Support / <input type="radio"/> Oppose
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?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Support / <input type="radio"/> Oppose
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?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Support / <input type="radio"/> Oppose

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 / <input checked="" 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

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?

The bill drafting process has improved since the 2014 Council Rules Reforms were enacted and the super-majority rule has helped to secure hearings.

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 / 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?	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?	Support / Oppose
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
14. What is your position on extending term limits from two four-year terms to three four-year terms?	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?	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?	Support / Oppose

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BUDGET REFORM

23. What is your position on establishing independent budgeting for: a. the borough presidents?	Support / Oppose
b. Conflicts of Interest Board?	Support / Oppose
c. the public advocate?	Support / Oppose
d. community boards?	Support / Oppose
24. What is your position on making the budget process more transparent by clearly defining and limiting units of appropriation?	Support / Oppose
25. What is your position on release of revenue projections (other than property taxes) prior to Council hearings on the Executive budget?	Support / 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?	Support / 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?	Support / 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 / 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 would participate in rallies and outreach campaigns to communicate the need to thwart a constitutional convention so as not to put rights such as collective bargaining and undiminished public employee pensions in jeopardy.

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?

The Council passed Local Law 181 of 2016 to address this "pay-to-play" issue. This law prohibits donations greater than \$400 per year from lobbyists and others who do business with the City to official-affiliated entities and also requires donor disclosure. The provisions of this law take effect in 2018 and 2019. I believe that we should evaluate the effectiveness of this law after it takes effect and address any remaining issues at that time.

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 see the enclosed addendum.

Lined writing area with 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. Improve public safety by addressing pedestrian safety issues through better enforcement of traffic laws.
2. Address quality-of-life issues such as excessive noise, traffic congestion, and rodent infestations.
3. Create diverse programming for seniors such as educational, cultural, recreational, and physical fitness programs and to make District 4 "age-friendly" in terms of infrastructure.
4. Protect tenants' rights and preserve affordable housing.
5. Advocate for funding for traditional public schools and mass transit.

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 am an attorney who is devoted to serving the public. I began my legal career working in the N.Y.S. Attorney General's Office (Consumer Fraud and Investor Protection Bureaus) to protect seniors and families from deceptive advertising and unscrupulous business practices. For the past six years, I have served as Counsel and Legislative Director to Council Member Elizabeth Crowley and have worked to bring about positive change in areas ranging from emergency medical care to women's health to public safety. I believe that my career evidences my commitment to representing the public interest above all else.

The current Council Member for District 4, Dan Garodnick, is extremely well-respected for his competence and dedication to the job. As the only attorney and candidate with City Council experience, I believe that I am in the best position to uphold his level of advocacy from the very first day on the job and will best fulfill the high expectations that residents of this district have for their Council Member.

Please return to: Citizens Union, Local Candidates Committee, 299 Broadway, Suite 700 New York, NY 10007
Via email to candidates@citizensunion.org or fax to 212.227.0345 • Call us at 212-227-0342 with questions.

Citizens Union Questionnaire Addendum

Please see my comments below on issues covered in the questionnaire.

- 1) Conflicts of Interest: Pursuant to the N.Y.C. Conflicts of Interest Board, former N.Y.C. employees may not communicate with their former City agency on behalf of a new employer within one year of leaving City service. For example, a staffer to a Council Member who takes a position in a lobbying firm may not contact his or her former Council Member or any other Council Members for one year. This rule is in effect despite the fact that staffers have no decision-making authority with respect to allocating city funds; that authority rests solely with the Council Member. On the contrary, there is no such restriction placed on lobbyists who become elected officials. For example, should a lobbyist become a Council Member, he or she then has the authority to allocate City funds to former clients and such allocations may not be in the best interests of the public. I believe that measures should be put into place to compensate for this conflict of interest.

- 2) City Council Reform:
 - a. Question 9d): Reducing the size of the committees is another option.
 - b. Question 14: I do not feel strongly as to whether term limits are set at two or three terms.

- 3) Campaign Finance Reform (question 6): As candidates pay for consulting services there is no resulting obligation to advance a lobbyist's agenda should the candidate become an

elected official. Secondly, this proposal is impractical as public matching funds are comingled with privately raised funds.

- 4) Public Safety and Oversight of Police Misconduct: There are numerous entities charged with rooting out police misconduct: the Commission to Combat Police Corruption, the Civilian Complaint Review Board, the Inspector General at the N.Y.C. Department of Investigation, District Attorneys, and the N.Y.P.D. Prior to responding to the specific policy proposals presented in this questionnaire, I would need to review the investigative powers of all of these entities and further evaluate their specific roles. I would then support reforms that would bring about greater efficacy and efficiency in combating misconduct.