

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: Ben Kallos Age: 32
Campaign Address: 435 East 86th Street, New York, NY 10028
Campaign Telephone Number: (855) 252-5567 Fax: (212) 600-4965
Party Affiliation(s): Democrat Campaign Manager Name: Jesse Townsen
Website & Email: <http://KallosForCouncil.com> BenKallos@KallosForCouncil.com

Education: Park East Day School, Bronx High School of Science, SUNY Albany, SUNY Buffalo Law School

Occupation/Employer (or years in currently held elected office): former Executive Director to New Roosevelt/EffectiveNY.org currently Technology Leader for CivicActions.org

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement: Policy Director to former Public Advocate Mark Green, Chief of Staff to Assembly Member Bing, and Member of Citizens Union.

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

Signature of Candidate: /s/ Ben Kallos Date: 7/22/2013

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

<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><u>Support/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><u>Support/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/Oppose</u> <i>I have advocated to create a CUNY/SUNY student poll workers program for new machines.</i></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/Oppose</u></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/Oppose</u> <i>I drafted the electronic voter registration bill.</i></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/Oppose</u></p>
<p>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?</p>	<p><u>Support/Oppose</u></p>

<p>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)</p>	<p><u>Support/Oppose</u></p> <p><i>I worked on passing a State Voter Guide as Chief of Staff to Assembly Member Bing.</i></p>
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CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

<p>9. What is your position on eliminating matching funds for contributions bundled by lobbying organizations or lobbyists?</p>	<p><u>Support/Oppose</u> <i>This is the major source of funds for my opponent.</i></p>
<p>10. What is your position on banning placement agents from bundling contributions for any elected official who influences the selection of pension investors?</p>	<p><u>Support/Oppose</u></p>
<p>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?</p>	<p><u>Support/Oppose</u> <i>How can a consultant avoid conflicts inherent in representing clients with different interests?</i></p>

CITY COUNCIL REFORM

<p>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?</p>	<p><u>Support/Oppose</u> <i>LBDC in Albany was an asset to all members regardless of party and would help write better laws for the city.</i></p>
<p>13. What is your position on the following proposals enabling Council committees to function more effectively and independently of the speaker :</p>	<p><i>I support independence from the Speaker and limits to their control over other members.</i></p>
<p>a. Should committee chairs have the ability to hire at least one committee staffer?</p>	<p><u>Support/Oppose</u></p>
<p>b. Should committee hearings and votes be scheduled at the direction of the chairs?</p>	<p><u>Support/Oppose</u></p>
<p>c. Should committees be able to issue subpoenas by a vote of their members?</p>	<p><u>Support/Oppose</u></p>
<p>d. Should the number of overall committees be reduced so members can participate more meaningfully in fewer issues?</p>	<p><u>Support/Oppose</u></p>

<p>14. What is your position on greater disclosure of councilmembers' outside income?</p>	<p><u>Support/Oppose</u></p> <p><i>I put outside income reports of state legislators online myself with NYPIRG and would do so with CU for the city.</i></p>
<p>15. What is your position on limiting stipends or "lulus" to only members holding majority or minority leadership positions?</p>	<p><u>Support/Oppose</u></p> <p><i>I support eliminating lulus all together.</i></p>
<p>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?</p>	<p><u>Support/Oppose</u></p> <p><i>Council pay should be tied to local economic indicators, rising or dropping with local average individual incomes</i></p>
<p>17. What is your position on ensuring a more equitable and needs-based distribution of discretionary funding?</p>	<p><u>Support/Oppose</u></p> <p><i>I authored in Op-Ed in the Gotham Gazette calling for Participatory Budgeting.</i></p>
<p>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?</p>	<p><u>Support/Oppose</u></p> <p><i>I would ask this to available for at least 30 days and I would also tie this to listing applicant board members whose contributions would not be matched by NYCCFB.</i></p>

PUBLIC SAFETY AND OVERSIGHT OF POLICE MISCONDUCT

<p>19. What is your position on reducing the frequency of stop, question and frisks by conducting stops more judiciously?</p>	<p><u>Support/Oppose</u></p> <p><i>I've marched against Stop-and-Frisk.</i></p>
<p>20. What is your position on establishing the Commission to Combat Police Corruption (CCPC) as</p>	<p><u>Support/Oppose</u></p>

a permanent commission in the City Charter while empowering the CCPC to issue subpoenas?	
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?	<u>Support/Oppose</u> <i>Anything we can do to improve existing infrastructure is preferable to create new bureaucracy.</i>
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?	<u>Support/Oppose</u>
23. What is your position on reinstating the zero tolerance penalty for false official statements by public officers?	<u>Support/Oppose</u>

BUDGET REFORM

24. What is your position on establishing independent budgeting for:	<u>Support/Oppose</u>
a. the borough presidents?	
b. Conflicts of Interest Board?	<u>Support/Oppose</u>
c. the public advocate ?	<u>Support/Oppose</u>
d. community boards?	<u>Support/Oppose</u>
25. What is your position on making the budget process more transparent by clearly defining units of appropriation and limiting their size?	<u>Support/Oppose</u> <i>The budget and all City contracts must be available centrally online so that anyone can see how their dollars are spent.</i>
26. What is your position on release of revenue projections (other than property taxes) prior to Council hearings on the Executive budget?	<u>Support/Oppose</u>

LAND USE AND COMMUNITY BOARD REFORM

<p>27. 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)</p>	<p><u>Support/Oppose</u></p> <p><i>As a CB8M member I advocated for announcement of vacancies for full and public members and launched recruitment efforts.</i></p>
<p>28. 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?</p>	<p><u>Support/Oppose</u></p> <p><i>We must also include a demonstration of community support by candidates.</i></p>

Additional Comments:

I have been a member of Citizens Union for years, I was the first to put legislative voting records online so that we could hold legislators accountable. As the Executive Director of New Roosevelt I worked with Citizens Union as part of the ReshapeNY coalition to fight for redistricting reform. ReshapeNY is another good government organization. At one point I interviewed to be the new legislative director, and many of the ideas I shared during the interview process were implemented. This is an opportunity to elect a fellow Citizens Union member to office, someone with a strong history of independence, who gets results for the good government community, and who will not need to be lobbied to do the right thing.

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. Improved transparency and openness in government including: transparency for all contracts, hearings, shepherding the implementation of the Open Data law I helped pass, and bringing our open platform into our City Council office so that anyone can comment and improve upon any of the more than 100 solutions we hope to implement.
2. Rethinking education with new solutions: wrap-around schools, pop-ups schools, meaningful funding for out-of-school time, and implementing dozens more solutions that can be found at KallosForCouncil.com/Solutions/Education
3. Forcing new zoning and development to be both responsible and sustainable by supporting the communities they profit from, including requirements for on-site affordable housing and meeting existing obligations as well as supporting local infrastructure such as schools, parks, and transportation.

4. Continuing my initial Community Board Reform work by tying the appointments I will have to a reforms that I have already implemented and those that I will develop with local community organizations and Citizens Union.
5. Distribute any member items received by my office using participatory budgeting in order to fight the existing quid-pro-quo culture of grants and political contributions that exists today.

**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.**