

**2013 QUESTIONNAIRE FOR
CANDIDATES FOR BOROUGH PRESIDENT**

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: Jessica Lappin

Age: 38

Campaign Address: 1115 Broadway- 12th Floor, New York, NY

Campaign Telephone Number: (516) 5576650 Fax: ()

Party Affiliation(s): Democrat Campaign Manager Name: Martha Norrick

Website & Email: www.jessicalappin.com

Education: Stuyvesant High School, Class of 1993, Georgetown University Class of 1997

Occupation/Employer (or years in currently held elected office): New York City Council 2006-Current

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement: Chief of Staff for former City Council Speaker Gifford Miller

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: Jessica Lappin Date: 7/31/13

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.

1. What is your position on changing the current land use process under the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP) to require that community-based 197-a plans are responded to when other development proceeds in conflict with those plans?	Support/Oppose
2. Do you support ending mid-year amendments to the Annual Citywide Statement of Needs and including other than city-owned property in the Atlas of City Owned Property so a more comprehensive picture of services, facilities, and environmental burdens is known to inform future development?	Support/Oppose
3. What is your position on designating urban planners for use by community boards and requiring borough presidents to report to the Council the manner in which they advertise and make community board appointments? (Int. No. 913)	Support/Oppose
4. 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
5. What is your position on independent budgeting for the following:	
a. the borough presidents	Support/Oppose
b. the Conflicts of Interest Board	Support/Oppose
c. the public advocate	Support/Oppose
d. community boards	Support/Oppose
6. Do you support standardizing term limits to five consecutive two-year terms for members of all community boards?	Support/Oppose
7. If elected, would you post on your website all applications received by your office for capital and expense discretionary funds, as well as groups which ultimately received funding?	Support/Oppose
8. Do you support empowering borough presidents to require the appearance of borough commissioner of city agencies for monthly interagency meetings led by the borough presidents?	Support/Oppose

9. What is your position on granting the borough presidents the ability to make an additional appointment to the Board of Standards and Appeals?	Support/Oppose
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Additional Comments:

How would you use the office of the borough president to impact city policies affecting the borough?

I would use the borough president’s office to make sure middle-class and working families have a voice in Manhattan. As a New York City public school mom and graduate, I would continue working to add classroom space, expand Pre-K and gifted and talented programs, and protect childcare and afterschool programs. Strongly pro-tenant, I would continue fighting to create and protect affordable housing in Manhattan.

1. Developers argue ULURP should be streamlined while community groups and advocates believe more opportunities for input should be provided or that voting thresholds should be changed for application approval. Others note that the ULURP process does not integrate the need to plan for post 9/11 security issues in development. What reforms to ULURP do you support?

ULURP reforms would require changes to the City Charter. If a Charter Revision commission were called, I would work with community board members to draft appropriate testimony and reform proposals that would empower communities in the development process.

2. The borough presidents make recommendations to the mayor on capital projects as part of the budget process. All of the boroughs combined additionally receive 5 percent of the appropriations in the mayor’s capital budget divided between the boroughs based on formulas related to land size and population. What would be your priorities for capital projects in the borough?

In the City Council, I’ve proudly secured capital funding to build three new waterfront parks, renovate schools, open a new library branch, and transform senior centers. I would continue to fund important capital projects like these, putting a special focus on the districts that need it the most. I would also use the participatory budgeting model to inform a portion of the borough president’s capital spending, so Manhattan residents can have a direct say in what they want to see funded in the borough.

3. Borough presidents are charged with establishing a planning office that, among other functions, provides training and technical assistance to community boards on land use issues. How would you use the office to help community boards fulfill their charter

mandated responsibilities in providing feedback on land use proposals while enabling the boards to make decisions independent of the borough president's office?

Current Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer's Urban Fellowship Program is an innovative way to provide free technical support to community boards by partnering them with urban planning graduate students, and I would continue this program. I would also launch "Community Board Colleges" to provide training for community board members on technology and land use issues so they can play a proactive role in the planning process. And I would continue to make staff in my office available to assist boards in any way they deem useful.

4. Borough presidents are charged with making hundreds of appointments. What criteria would you use for appointments to positions appointed by the borough president (the Panel on Educational Policy, City Planning Commission, community boards, etc.)? What processes would you put in place for advertising open positions and recruiting qualified candidates that represent the diversity of New York City?

As borough president I would work to ensure that my office's appointments are reflective of, and responsive to Manhattan residents. Stringer has made tremendous strides in reforming the recruitment and application process for community board members. I would continue using the independent screening panels he created to recommend community board appointments, and expand membership on the panels. I would also use independent screening panels to recommend my appointments to the Panel for Education Policy (PEP), Community Education Councils (CECs), and other boards.

It's important to recruit community board members who represent a wide-range of local stakeholders. I would expand outreach efforts to recruit more members from different types of housing, as well as business owners, teachers, and union members.

You can learn more about my ideas for community board reform by reading my policy paper at <http://jessicalappin.com/wp-content/uploads/CB-Paper.pdf>

5. Borough presidents can hold hearings on any matter of public interest and are charged with establishing a borough-wide complaint program to report public complaints to better service delivery by agencies. How would you use these powers and the position of the office to amplify the concerns of borough residents? What issues might you focus on to improve agency performance or draw public attention to?

To better address and respond to service delivery complaints, I would help community boards develop CommunityStats. This database system modeled after the City Council's Council Stat software, would enable district managers to log, track, and map complaints across the district.

Using this information, the Manhattan borough president's office could work with boards to spot borough-wide problems with service delivery, such as garbage pickup or street cleaning. I would hold public hearings to draw attention to problematic services, and ask relevant agencies to submit plans for corrective action.

6. The borough presidents have the authority to introduce legislation yet few borough presidents in recent years have exercised this authority. Would you utilize this power, and, if so, what legislation would you introduce?

Yes. I'm proud of my strong legislative record in the City Council, and would continue introducing legislation as borough president. In the City Council I sponsored a successful tax credit to help small biotech companies grow, and if it continues to be successful, I would introduce legislation extending it. I also wrote the city's TrafficStat law, which requires online posting of key traffic accident data, and I would continue introducing measures to improve public safety and government transparency in New York.

7. How would you leverage the office of Borough President to address any of the following issues, if not discussed in answering previous questions:

- a. **Affordable Housing** (Please Read My Policy Paper <http://jessicalappin.com/wp-content/uploads/FINAL-Building-an-Affordable-Future-Policy-Paper-6.5.13.pdf>)

- Advocate for reforming the Rent Guidelines Board to more fairly represent tenants.
- Advocate for closing loopholes in state rent regulations that allow thousands of affordable units to leave the system each year.
- Protecting Mitchell-Lama residents when their buildings leave the program, and incentivizing buildings to stay in the system.
- Connecting more seniors with rent benefits, expanding the NORC model, and forming a task force on senior housing issues.
- Strengthening legal protections for tenants and supporting groups that help them organize.
- Increasing legal resources for tenants by utilizing new pro-bono requirements for the New York State bar, and providing city-funded lawyers for seniors and the disabled in housing court.
- Creating new permanently affordable housing that is truly accessible to local residents.
- Assessing whether underutilized city-owned property can be used for affordable housing, and involving communities early in the redevelopment process.

- b. **Public Safety (Please Read My Public Safety Policy Paper)**

- Advocating for anti-gun violence initiatives such as the Shooting Incident Crisis Management system and CureViolence in targeted communities where violence is statistically higher.
- Supporting community courts, Alternatives to Incarceration programs, and ex-offender reentry initiatives that connect at-risk New Yorkers with services that can put them on the right track.

- Expanding afterschool, weekend and summer employment programs for youth and developing a one-stop-shop for parents to learn about the availability of these programs in their neighborhood.
- Working with Manhattan DA Cy Vance to expand the Saturday Night Lights program for teens, which provides athletic training on weekend nights when juvenile crime and victimization are at their highest.
- Advocating to reform constitutionally-questionable stop and frisk tactics, and to end the use of condoms as evidence in prostitution cases.
- Helping immigrant victims of domestic violence by demanding compliance with NYPD policy requiring interpreters to be provided for non-English speakers.
- Supporting the development of a central registry of all elder abuse victims throughout city agencies to coordinate care and identify gaps in services.
- Working with community boards and neighborhood groups to identify appropriate spots for traffic-calming street redesigns, countdown clocks, and slow zones near schools in Manhattan.

c. Public Transportation

d. Health and the Environment (Please read my Parks policy paper

<http://jessicalappin.com/wp-content/uploads/Parkspolicypaperfinaldraft.pdf>)

- Developing a separate 5-year capital plan for the Parks Department to facilitate long-term planning.
- Greater transparency, including an annual report, of private funding for parks.
- Creating a community-based Open Space Advisory Board to advise elected officials and the Parks Department on capital projects.
- Using the land use review process to fulfill open space goals set out by community boards.
- Repurposing industrial, street and vacant spaces for parkland, pedestrian plazas and community gardens.
- Supporting innovative parks programming including senior swim hours, activities for children, and expanded greenmarkets.
- Completing a continuous “green necklace” of esplanades around Manhattan, and using the waterfront to increase storm resiliency.

e. Economic Development (Please read my Economic Development policy paper

http://jessicalappin.com/wp-content/uploads/7-9-13-FINAL-Economic_Development_PAPER.pdf)

- Working with the New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYC EDC) to secure new, affordable office spaces for biotech firms, and continuing the city’s biotech tax credit.
- Reinstating the New York City film production tax credit, and offering a postproduction credit to keep more industry work in New York City.
- Expanding healthcare workforce training opportunities, and implementing recommendations from the New York Health Employment Coalition on how the city can meet the demands of this evolving industry.
- Convening a regulatory review task force within the borough president’s office to evaluate and reform city regulations affecting small businesses.
- Expanding the New Business Acceleration Program beyond the restaurant industry to streamline the process for opening new companies in various sectors.

- Making in-house “business expeditors” available in the borough president’s office to help companies navigate city agencies.
- Recruiting more merchants to community boards and creating a uniform, online community board application for businesses.
- Reforming the New York City Industrial Development Agency (IDA) to increase transparency and accountability.
- Promoting New York City Employees Retirement System (NYCERs) investments in well-vetted projects that further job creation goals.
- Advocating for a chief diversity officer to enhance the city’s Minority- and Women-Owned Businesses (MWBE) program.
- Advancing workforce development reform.
- Creating a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Education Coalition with the Department of Education, tech industry leaders, and higher education institutions to expand STEM opportunities at New York City public schools.

f. Education

- Continuing the school planning “war rooms” started by Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer and Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney, to ensure that school capacity needs are being met in neighborhoods throughout Manhattan.
- Creating a Middle School Task Force Creating an Interagency School Gardens Team and expanding my *Healthy Kids, Healthy Schools* pilot program to provide students with hands-on activities that enhance health and science curriculum.
- Advocating for more Gifted and Talented (G&T) seats, and working with neighborhood groups to increase outreach in communities that are underrepresented in these programs.



CANDIDATE ACCOUNTABILITY QUESTIONNAIRE

As an elected official who is seeking another office,

- a. What were the top five promises you made to your constituents when you ran for your current position? What progress have you made to keep those promises? Why have you kept or not kept your promises?
- 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 PROMISES FROM YOUR LAST CAMPAIGN AND ACTION ON THEM

1. **_Improve the quality of our public schools-** I helped build 5 new public schools in Manhattan to relieve overcrowding and I've secured funding for smart boards, computers, art and health programs, and other amenities that enhance learning.
2. **_Work with tenants to strengthen rent laws-** I co-sponsored City Council resolutions calling to restore home rule on rent regulation, repeal vacancy decontrol and reform the Rent Guidelines Board. I also sponsor a free clinic for low-income residents facing eviction in my district.
3. **Fight the 91st Street Marine Transfer Station-** I'm the lead plaintiff in a federal lawsuit to stop the dump from being built, and has led numerous rallies and protests against it.
4. **_Make sure the City Council enacts a responsible budget-** As a member of the City Council's Budget Negotiating Team (BNT) I've worked to ensure that our city budget protects the most vulnerable New Yorkers. I've helped protect funding for afterschool and daycare programs. As Chair of the Aging Committee I led the fight to save senior centers, Meals on Wheels and other critical programs.
5. **_Tackle quality of life issues-** Open and green spaces are crucial to our quality of life, and I'm proud to have secured funding to build three new waterfront parks in Manhattan. I also wrote laws to expand curbside recycling and start our city's first textile recycling. And I'm proud to have sponsored legislation to improve air quality in our city.

TOP FIVE 2013 CAMPAIGN PROMISES

1. Work to protect and create new affordable housing through the land use process, by advocating for stronger protections for Mitchell Lama and rent-regulated tenants, and by enhancing legal resources and services for tenants.
2. Empower community boards by giving them greater access to planning and technical support.
3. Create a Middle School Task Force to ensure we are planning for the influx of middle school students expected over the next five years in Manhattan.
4. Continue the school planning war rooms started by current Manhattan borough president Scott Stringer and Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney, and expanding them throughout the borough.
5. Creating a community-based Open Space Advisory Board to advise elected officials and the Parks Department on capital projects.

Please return to: Citizens Union, Local Candidates Committee
via fax to 212.227.0345 or via email to candidates@citizensunion.org
Call 212-227-0342 Rachael Fauss ext. 22 or Alex Camarda ext. 24 with any questions.

