



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: Steven Matteo

Age: 36

Campaign Address: 256 Wardwell Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10314

Campaign Telephone Number: (347) 746-0441 Fax: () _____

Party Affiliation(s): Republican, Conservative, Independence

Campaign Manager Name: Jason Razefsky

Website & Email: www.matteo2013.com; matteoforcouncil@gmail.com

Education: BA, St. Francis College, JD, Touro Law School

Occupation/Employer (or years in currently held elected office): Chief-of-Staff for City Council Minority Leader James S. Oddo since 2006. Deputy Director of Constituent Services for Council Member Oddo from 2004-2006


Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement:

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: July 23, 2013

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?	Oppose
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
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
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

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?	Oppose (See below for explanation)
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?	Oppose
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?	Oppose
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?	Oppose
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?	Oppose
23. What is your position on reinstating the zero tolerance penalty for false official statements by public officers?	Oppose

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 (see below for explanation)
d. community boards?	Oppose
25. What is your position on making the budget process more transparent by clearly defining units of appropriation and limiting their size?	Support

26. What is your position on release of revenue projections (other than property taxes) prior to Council hearings on the Executive budget?	Support
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LAND USE AND COMMUNITY BOARD REFORM

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)	Oppose
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?	Support

Additional Comments:

With respect to Question 17, as a Staten Islander I oppose efforts to institute a more “equitable” or needs based distribution of discretionary funds because I know, based on history and experience, that Staten Island always loses out in the end under such a system. Just like Staten Island is the only borough without a full service HHC facility, Staten Island would receive fewer discretionary resources if the system were changed to a needs based system. The needs in my community might be different than those in other districts, but they are still real, and I fear that our needs would fall on deaf ears under a different system. As an example, under such a system schools in a community like the 50th District would be punished because the administration and parents of those schools ensure that they do not fall into disrepair.

With respect to question 24(c), I support independent budgeting for the Public Advocate, while the position exists. With that said, I am not sold that the position should exist. We have now had three Public Advocates under the current City Charter and I am not sure if the position has ever been used in the manner intended. I understand it is supposed to function as an effective counterweight to the Mayor, but I am not sure it has actually functioned that way in practice.

II. CANDIDATE ACCOUNTABILITY QUESTIONNAIRE

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. To work to rebuild devastated Staten Island communities in the wake of Superstorm Sandy in a way that will prevent future tragedies, and to promote the effective protection of vulnerable State Island shorelines.
2. To work to lower the property tax and regulatory burden faced by the middle-class and business and especially the senior communities.
3. To fight for better transportation solutions and improved road conditions.
4. To invest in more and better schools, and to improve the technological capabilities of existing schools.
5. To work to end the scourge of prescription drug abuse through childhood education and vigorous law enforcement initiatives.

**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.**