



**2013 QUESTIONNAIRE FOR  
CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC ADVOCATE**

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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.

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Candidate Name: Daniel L. Squadron

Age: 33

Campaign Address: Squadron for New York, Church Street Station P.O. Box 46, New York, NY 10008 (mailing address); 310 Atlantic Avenue, Brooklyn, NY, 11201 (campaign office address)

Campaign Telephone Number: 347-799-1153

Party Affiliation(s): Democrat

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Campaign contact information: See above.

Education: B.A., Yale University

Occupation/Employer (or years in currently held elected office): Member of New York State Senate representing the 26<sup>th</sup> Senate District, which includes parts of lower Manhattan and Brooklyn (first elected in 2008).

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement:

First elected to the Senate in November 2008 at the age of 28, I unseated a 30-year incumbent in a grassroots campaign for change, and have gotten results as a progressive reformer. Prior to joining the State Senate, I served as a top aide to U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer and, together with Senator Schumer, co-authored "Positively American: Winning Back the Middle Class Majority One Family at a Time." As part of the effort to pass the Rebuild and Renew Transportation Bond Act, I worked to secure nearly \$3 billion in infrastructure improvements and expansion to our subways and buses. I also worked for our public school system to move money from the bureaucracy to the classroom.

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: \_\_\_\_8/14/13\_\_\_\_

**CITIZENS UNION ISSUES**

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 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 requiring city agencies to report the number of applicants that they register to vote as required by current law (Int. No. 760)?	Support
4. 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
5. 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
6. What is your position on granting the office of the Public Advocate the ability to appoint one member to the following boards:	
a. the Board of Standards and Appeals?	Support
b. the Franchise and Concessions Review Commission?	Support
c. the Conflicts of Interest Board?	Support
7. What is your position on dissolving the Commission on Public Information and Communication and transferring its major duties to the office of the Public Advocate, giving greater responsibility for expanding public access to government data, information and reports?	Support

### ISSUES OF CITYWIDE IMPORTANCE

8. How would you use the office of the Public Advocate to impact public policy to serve the broad public interest?

I believe it is the job of the Public Advocate to adopt those causes and concerns that are not served by existing political structures. The Public Advocate can become a vehicle that delivers meaningful results for the families, communities and even businesses that get left out by powerful interests and bureaucracy. To accomplish these results, I will be a voice, an organizer and an entrepreneur for everyday New Yorkers with limited ability to move City policymakers on their own.

I have thought hard about how to organize the office and focus its limited resources to deliver results for those who most need them. As Public Advocate, I would divide the office into four areas and establish the following “offices” within the Public Advocate’s office:

- The Advocate for the Most Vulnerable
- The Children’s Advocate
- The Accountability Advocate
- The Housing Advocate

Each of these offices would have a dedicated internal team, as well as an external board of advisers. This focus would enable it to build partnerships with experts and advocates, develop issue credibility over time, and advocate for policies designed to meet the needs of everyday New Yorkers whose voices too often go unheard.

9. What would be your most important legislative and non-legislative priorities as public advocate?

My top priorities – as reflected in the way I would structure the office of the Public Advocate – would be to focus on the most vulnerable New Yorkers and on a more transparent, effective role for government. Specific policy proposals – both legislative and non-legislative – will emerge from the work of these offices, though at minimum (and as set forth in my policy book available at [squadronfornewyork.com](http://squadronfornewyork.com)) the offices will focus on at least the following issues/initiatives:

Advocate for the Most Vulnerable:

- The consequences of the transformation of the adult home system;
- Ongoing problems in the treatment of detainees in City jails;
- Risks to moderate-income New Yorkers in the implementation of the Affordable Care Act in New York.

Children's Advocate:

- Tracking Changes in the Juvenile Justice System;
- Oversight of Children at Risk and Family Court;
- Children with Special Needs.

Housing Advocate:

- Senior Housing and Senior Service Mapping;
- New Neighborhoods;
- Prevention-Based Budgeting;

Accountability Advocate:

- Measuring how the City shares information with the public and advocating for more transparency;
- Monitoring how well City government is living up to its promises to New Yorkers;
- Turning citizen complaints into solutions; and
- Working with other partners on the City's emergency preparedness plans.

10. What do you consider to be the three most important oversight functions of the Public Advocate?

I believe that there are actually four critical oversight functions of the office, which is why I've proposed to create four "offices" within the office of the Public Advocate, to focus on 1) the most vulnerable New Yorkers/human services issues, 2) advocating for children, 3) addressing critical housing issues facing our city, and 4) an overall focus on ensuring that City government is accountable to all New Yorkers.

11. How best do you believe the office of the Public Advocate should be utilized? Do you believe the Public Advocate should address broad citywide issues or should be limited to oversight of specific issues?

As Public Advocate, I will use every lever of power – both formal and informal – the office has at its disposal to deliver results:

- The complaint intake function to identify patterns of problems in City government;
- The office's power to secure information from the administration to dig deep into the functioning – or dysfunction – of government;
- The bully pulpit to turn concerns into causes;
- Relationships with external advocates to share their resources, insights and research, and to build coalitions that are broader than the ones that most New Yorkers have learned to ignore – because the Public Advocate cannot accomplish its mission alone;
- Convene public hearings to ask hard questions and shine a light where it's needed;

- The power to apply for a summary inquiry by the State Supreme Court into allegations of neglect of official duty, in extreme cases; and
- My passion for reform to get results.

I believe that when these tools are used effectively, the Public Advocate can – and should – advocate for New Yorkers on broad citywide issues, such as housing, transportation, and education, while also focusing its resources on specific oversight issues I address elsewhere in this questionnaire.

12. How would you publicize the Public Advocate's office and its role?

As Public Advocate, I would build on my efforts in the State Senate to make sure that government works well for the people and is operating transparently. This includes convening public forums and meetings (building on the annual "Community Convention" I've held for constituents every year in public office); public hearings; utilizing technology to ease access to the office, including on the internet; using the bully pulpit to attract media attention to various issues; regular communications via the Internet and written mail; and working closely with other government offices (at every level) as well as advocates and others. As outlined in my answer to question 11, there are a variety of tools at the Public Advocate's disposal to push for and deliver results. Using these tools to advocate on behalf of New Yorkers will naturally lead to increased visibility of the office.

13. What would you propose the Department of Education do to increase the ability for parents and teachers to become more meaningfully involved in the education system? What other positives changes can be made to the New York City public school system?

As Public Advocate, one of my top priorities will be to make Community Education Councils (CECs) the real voice for parents they were intended to be when they were created a decade ago.

A 2011 report published by Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer, Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr., Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz, Queens Borough President Helen Marshall, and current Public Advocate de Blasio noted that CECs were intended as a way to give parents and guardians a voice and role in shaping the policies of the City's schools, but they have not met their goals for a variety of reasons, including mismanagement by the City's Department of Education, which has led to low parent interest and participation. The 2011 report (as well as earlier reports in 2006 and 2009 by Borough President Stringer, which led to legislation that I proposed in Albany) recommends a number of changes that the Children's Advocate will work to realize, including more effective outreach to parents and others in school communities, to increase participation in CECs.

The Children's Advocate will become the elected partner for CECs, taking on some of the roles that borough presidents play in supporting Community Boards. By providing increased outreach, improved training, citywide forums for CEC members, and shared initiatives, the Public Advocate can make CECs more independent and more effective. In addition, the Children's Advocate will work to shift responsibility for training CECs from the DOE to the Public Advocate and the five Borough Presidents.

Another focus of my office will be on children with special needs. Our city is in the midst of substantial reforms in special education. This past fall, the Department of Education began encouraging most special education students to enroll in their neighborhood zoned schools (mainstreaming). Students with the most significant special needs are still routed to special classrooms and schools.

The Children's Advocate will continue the work of the current Public Advocate in monitoring the implementation of special education reform. The DOE must increase transparency as it continues forward with reporting measures of success, respecting parental rights and preventing misplacement of students with disabilities.

Following up on recommendations from the August 2012 report published by the current Public Advocate, the Children's Advocate will:

- hold a citywide Special Education Reform Summit to explore the implications of the reform on equity and access for all students, in which key stakeholders are provided opportunities to examine and explore actions planned to improve and sustain special education reform, with the goal of increasing the number of students who graduate high school and are prepared for success in college and careers;
- survey parents, teachers and students to evaluate implementation of the reform; and
- ensure that out-of-school-time programs are also monitored to ensure that they are serving children with special needs – giving them the same chances for enrichment as other youth.

The Children's Advocate will also encourage the City to build on proven, cost-effective programs to assist children with disabilities, for example, the well-regarded Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Nest Program that currently operates in 31 schools throughout the city, but which is still not able to serve all the children who it would benefit.

14. What discrepancies, if any, do you see between services promised to New Yorkers and services rendered? For those listed, please indicate your proposals for bringing policy closer to practice.

One of my top priorities as Public Advocate will be to focus on this very question, and address it however I can. That is why I am proposing the creation of the Office of the Accountability Advocate, who will focus on how well government is performing. The City Charter requires the administration to issue an annual Mayor's Management Report (MMR) assessing the performance of City agencies and articulating mayoral plans and priorities. The Bloomberg Administration has created an interactive website displaying the MMR results and restructured the report to focus on agency success in meeting articulated goals. But too often, the results of this report are disconnected from the reality on the street and in neighborhoods, touting success where average citizens feel the daily impact of inertia or failure.

The Accountability Advocate will create a "people's response to the MMR" to assess the performance of City government from the perspective of its real boss: the consumers of its services. This will include feedback from the public, on the neighborhood and aggregate level, to determine if agency performance is aligned with real experiences on the ground. Through feedback and local partnerships, the Accountability Advocate will report specifically on whether agencies are defining goals too broadly, measuring performance too narrowly or focusing on the areas that most affect everyday New Yorkers.

For example, should the Department of Correction be measuring efficiency only by looking at the capacity utilization of its cells, or also by other criteria that reflect the cost of mental health treatment, disciplinary proceedings, legal liability for excessive use of force and other consequences of inadequate conditions?

What about the Department of Housing Preservation and Development's boast that it started 117% of its planned new affordable housing units in 2012, after initiating 102% and 109% in 2010 and 2011 respectively? Can this "performance" metric be linked to the overall supply of affordable housing that hit the market? And shouldn't we be looking to how other cities and states are meeting the challenge of affordable housing and judging New York's efforts on a relative scale? The People's Performance Report will assess questions like these while also including information on the performance of important agencies that directly impact New Yorkers, but are excluded from the MMR, like the dysfunctional Board of Elections.

The Accountability Advocate will introduce citizens' surveys – as conducted in cities as large and small as San Francisco and Shawnee, KS – on the perceived quality of services such as parks, sanitation, and libraries. The Accountability Advocate will also convene citizen focus groups; these will help inform new qualitative metrics that can be used to judge performance. What will matter to the Accountability Advocate is results, as defined by the people who are served by the government, rather than by the government itself.

15. What would you propose to further enhance transparency of city government? How would you utilize the responsibilities of the Public Advocate with regard to access to public information in monitoring implementation of the city's Open Data Law?

The Accountability Advocate in my office will perform at least these critical functions to ensure city government is more transparent:

First, the Accountability Advocate will proactively measure how City agencies share information and data with the public, giving each City agency an annual grade that is backed up by qualitative assessments that include best practices from other cities, ease of web access, proactive transparency and accuracy of information. There will be a particular focus on the continued rollout of the Open Data Portal (ODP), with the Accountability Advocate working to ensure that all City data posted in compliance with City Law 11 is in "machine-readable form" so that software developers, journalists, advocates and businesses can easily repurpose it into their own work (no more data dumps in PDF form in the name of compliance!). The Accountability Advocate will ensure that government data is used as an asset that is "easy to find, accessible, and usable" throughout its life cycle and that data from all agencies, including the NYPD, are included in the ODP with no exceptions. As technology changes, the Public Advocate's work in this area will provide the credibility to propose and move amendments to existing City law to keep pace with cutting edge standards.

Second, I will set an ambitious goal of putting 99% of the information the City collects and creates online within five years in user-friendly formats. The Accountability Advocate will monitor the City's progress toward that goal.

Third, it is crucial that the City consistently complies with Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) requests from journalists, researchers, and everyday citizens who deserve better than the roadblocks of delay and obfuscation that currently mar the system. The City is now failing to live up to its disclosure obligations in a full 10% of all FOIL requests, with agencies like the NYPD and the Housing Authority failing nearly one-third of the time. The Accountability Advocate will build on Public Advocate de Blasio's efforts and regularly measure and publicize the City's performance in complying with its legal requirements to open its books to the public.

16. How would you leverage the office of Public Advocate to address any of the following issues, if not discussed in answering previous questions:

a. Affordable Housing

The office of the Housing Advocate will be a voice for affordability – in both public and private housing, and will focus on the following:

**(1) Organizing to Reform NYCHA’s NYPD Financial Obligation.**

A 1994 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) requires that NYCHA provide a significant proportion of its federal U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funding – over \$70 million a year – to the NYPD for ongoing law enforcement to NYCHA residents through Police Service Areas. NYCHA is the only residential landlord in the city required to pay for police protection – and tenants pay the price. I will partner with local leaders, from Highbridge to Red Hook, to build a lasting citywide coalition of NYCHA tenants to mobilize for a solution that relieves NYCHA of its unique financial burden – without sacrificing the safety of residents – by rolling back the MOU.

**(2) Senior Housing and Senior Service Mapping.**

As Public Advocate, I will map the soon-to-be elderly populations in the city so that we can see where future needs for services are soon to occur. This mapping will be overlaid by the findings of an audit of existing services available across the city, to evaluate where service increases will be needed over time.

**(3) New Neighborhoods.**

There is enough vacant space in the city to house the current homeless population sleeping in the municipal shelter system. Out of the 38,670 units developed by the City’s affordable housing plan between 2009 and 2011, only one-third were economically within reach of households making the median income or less for the typical household in their neighborhood. The affordable housing crisis in the city is not a crisis of capacity or space but a crisis of community engagement and collaborative development processes.

Through the Office of the Housing Advocate, I will establish the role of a “New Neighborhood Organizer”: a housing specialist dedicated to locating areas throughout the city – both City and private land – that are ripe for development, but require community engagement.

**(4) Prevention-Based Budgeting.**

The way the City budgets for homeless services helps to perpetuate homelessness rather than reduce and prevent it. The next administration will have to deal with a crisis of homelessness in the city with a shelter population that has grown to a record 50,000 people, including 21,000 children.

Through the office of the Housing Advocate, I will campaign to create “Prevention-Based Budgeting” for homeless policy, which would, for the first time, link proven homeless prevention strategies – including housing subsidies and eviction prevention legal services – with the savings they create by reducing the demand for shelter. As Public Advocate, I will build a coalition to change budgeting policy, which makes most eyes glaze over, by linking it to the homelessness crisis on the ground. While there is no silver bullet to combat homelessness, creating an environment in which increased shelter demand leads to increased investment in proven prevention programs, instead of the opposite, would be a big step.

**(5) Housing Quality.**



The current Public Advocate, Bill de Blasio, has published and maintained the Landlord Watchlist, an online database of the city's worst landlords. What could have been just a smart gimmick – making City records available in a user-friendly format – has become a useful tool for apartment seekers, incorporated into Craigslist listings, and an organizing tool in the fight for housing quality.

But the Landlord Watchlist could be made even more useful. The Housing Advocate unit within the Public Advocate's office will strengthen the online reporting tool, including the incorporation of some important suggestions made by tenant advocates, by:

- connecting commonly-owned landlord entities, so that landlords cannot shield their records by use of different LLCs or holding companies;
- clearly explaining where landlords with bad records are in the process of taking documentable efforts to repair and rehabilitate neglected properties; and
- creating action tools so that the Watchlist can be used directly by tenants and their allies to campaign for repairs.

#### b. Public Safety

Gun violence is one of the most pervasive dangers to public safety in our country, and it is essential that government do all it can to protect New Yorkers. Throughout my time in the State Senate, I have been fighting to get illegal guns off the street. I wrote a law that banned military-style assault weapons in our state, and voted to ban high capacity magazines, and require background checks. As Public Advocate, I will promote community policing that gets guns off the streets and reduces the reliance on stop-and-frisk tactics.

I am the lead sponsor of one of the cornerstone pieces of legislation to reform stop-and-frisk (S3105) that would decriminalize the possession of small amounts of marijuana in public view and therefore reform the marijuana laws that have given the NYPD license to abuse their power to stop-and-frisk young men of color.

As Public Advocate, it's critical to be clear on moral issues and also to focus on those that are largely overlooked. I will use the office's special information request powers to obtain data on the use of solitary confinement in our jails and review accounts of deaths and injuries in City jails in order to improve the system. In addition, I will make sure that school discipline does not become a pathway to prison, and that all children are provided an environment that promotes learning.

#### c. Public Transportation

The loss of service and increase in public transit fares we have witnessed year after year affects every New Yorker on a daily basis, with long-term impacts on the environment and our economy. As a State Senator, I partnered with the usually impenetrable MTA to conduct the first-ever "full-line reviews" of three subway routes that run through my legislative district, a model that resulted in improved service and maintenance, and a model that the new MTA Chairman recently said should be applied across the system. As Public Advocate, I will continue to work with stakeholders and develop creative solutions to:

- Secure diverse and stable sources of capital and operational funding, and preventing legislators in Albany from raiding MTA funds.
- Evaluate MTA subway and bus lines to bring improvements to stations and lines that need it most.

- Increase bus rapid transit in the boroughs outside of Manhattan and expand ferry service where possible.
- Ensure that transit riders' voices are heard by the MTA and elected officials who make transit funding and policy decisions.

#### d. Health and the Environment

The implementation of the Affordable Care Act will transform the way hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers interact with our health care system. Protecting and expanding access to public benefits – whether longstanding benefits like food stamps or new ones like the right (and, now, responsibility) to purchase affordable health insurance – falls squarely within the mission of the Public Advocate's role as a watchdog of City services and as an advocate for those who need one. The office will:

- actively monitor consumer complaints about new forms of fraud related to the exchange;
- review existing regulatory mechanisms for protecting consumers – and propose new tools if they are not up to the task of the new marketplace; and
- conduct an ongoing study of the need for new consumer protections in the unique public-private mix of consumer experience created by Affordable Care Act implementation to find areas to drive improvement.

I will also work with partners inside government and out to ensure that New Yorkers in all parts of the City have access to hospital and emergency care. As the State Senator representing Cobble Hill, I have been actively involved in the fight to keep Long Island College Hospital open, and I will continue to fight on behalf of all New Yorkers to make sure that if community hospitals must close, we work on a comprehensive health care plan to ensure that no one goes without quality health care.

Finally, I will focus on many of the environmental issues facing New Yorkers. I will support "complete streets" initiatives to reduce reliance on cars as well as other public transportation initiatives described above. I will continue being a vocal opponent of hydraulic fracturing, which has the potential to be a public health problem for New York's city and statewide.

It is also critical that we focus on the disparities between parks around the city, which unfortunately continue to grow. As Public Advocate, I will focus on how we can level the playing field and help ensure that every neighborhood gets the parks it so desperately needs. I have proposed a Neighborhood Parks Alliance, which would create partnerships between a well-financed conservancy, a "contributing park," and "member parks" in need of more money and support. A contributing park would commit 20% of its conservancy's budget to member parks with which it is partnered. A park in need would become a member park by gathering signatures from local residents, establishing its own conservancy group and receiving a City commitment, from the Parks Department and local council members, to maintain current government financing levels.

#### e. Economic Development

As Public Advocate, I will build on my work in the State Senate to support initiatives that create and maintain jobs in New York City. For example, I sponsored a law signed by Governor Cuomo that reinstated a beer production tax credit for New York's small brewers. This tax credit serves New York's brewers, consumers, and economy alike: allowing our small businesses to keep growing, while keeping their brews affordable. Similarly, I have been a strong supporter of the Empire State Production Tax Credit, which has dramatically increased film and TV production and created jobs for

many New Yorkers in the heart of New York City and throughout the state since it was instituted in 2004.

I was also proud to write the law that has brought a whole new kind of corporation to New York State. Passed in New York in 2011, "benefit corporations" are a new industry of corporations with a "double bottom line" of profit and socially-responsible practices – unlocking billions in potential investments in companies that pursue a positive material impact on society and the environment. A May 2010 Hope Consulting study of high net worth individuals in the U.S. found over \$120 billion in potential impact investments in mission-driven companies like benefit corporations that were doing good while making money. Benefit corporations will allow New York to harness these potential investments and create a hub for companies that serve the public good.

f. Education – please see above.

## CANDIDATE ACCOUNTABILITY QUESTIONNAIRE

Citizens Union is adding a new element to its evaluation of elected officials running for offices. 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 currently holds an office other than the one for which you are running,

- 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?
- b. what are your top five campaign promises you are making to voters during your campaign for this new 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 2009 AND ACTION ON THEM

(The following are based on my campaigns for State Senate starting in 2008.)

1. As part of my fight to reform Albany, I promised to continue not to take contributions from corporations, PACs, and lobbyists and to fight for campaign finance reform, redistricting and term limits reform, and rules reform in the State Senate.

Since 2008, I have continued not to take contributions from corporations, PACs, or lobbyists in my state campaigns. I have taken contributions from registered lobbyists in my New York City campaign, where the public campaign finance system limits their contributions to only \$400, but, alone among candidates continue not to take contributions from PACs.

To further reform Albany, I worked alongside Citizens Union and other respected advocates for reform to achieve some hard-won progress:

- Rules changes. One barrier to accountability in the State Senate is the enormous power wielded by the leader of the body; when I arrived, the Senate majority leader held a de facto veto over every piece of legislation by controlling singlehandedly which bills would be considered on the floor. Working with my colleagues Eric Schneiderman and Liz Krueger, I pushed for and won a new rule that would allow individual Senators to move their bills faster through committees and to allow a 3/5 majority of Senators to bring any bill to the floor – adding a step of transparency to an otherwise opaque and unaccountable body.
- Campaign finance reform. Ultimately, we need a system in which elections are publicly funded – a privately funded system is ripe for abuse. In the meantime, I worked to curb some of the particularly toxic elements of a campaign finance system. I introduced legislation to reduce the amount of money a single individual is allowed to contribute campaigns, and I pushed—unsuccessfully – to eliminate the "LLC loophole," in which one person can give unlimited contributions by spreading the money through different LLC entities. Additionally, I introduced legislation to require that for-profit corporations that fund election campaigns disclose the contributions they made and explain to the public the business rationale for investing corporate money in the campaigns they selected.

2. I promised to serve as a full-time legislator and fully disclose my financial information every year.
  - Since 2008, I have never held an outside job while serving as a Senator and have fully disclosed all my financial information. In fact, I'm the only candidate in the Public Advocate race to release my full household's tax returns and my full financial disclosure forms.
3. I promised to support the reauthorization of mayoral control with a stronger voice for parents and communities.
  - Since 2008 I was the first Senate Democrat to sponsor the bill that ultimately granted mayoral control over New York City's schools and was a key vote in support of it. I proposed legislation to give parents a greater role in Community Education Councils (CECs).
4. I promised to “reprioritize the environment” and expand our public transportation system with aggressive, far-reaching policies such as congestion pricing.
  - In 2012, I received the highest environmental score in the entire Senate from Environmental Advocates of New York. I have helped lead the campaign to ban hydrofracking in our state and move forward key clean energy and climate change legislation.
  - I have been a strong supporter of sustainable transit funding.
  - I partnered with the usually impenetrable MTA to conduct the first-ever “full-line reviews” of three subway routes that run through my legislative district, a model that resulted in improved service and maintenance, and a model that the new MTA Chairman recently said should be applied across the system.
  - I worked to restore and maintain bus and establish ferry service throughout my district.
  - I authored and passed the Hayley and Diego law, strengthening penalties for careless drivers, and I convened a task force to improve safety along Delancey Street.
  - I sponsored legislation to pilot a speed camera program along McGuinness Boulevard in Greenpoint. But I also believe we need cameras citywide, which is why I am a strong supporter and co-sponsor of legislation to install them across the city.
5. I promised to push the state legislature to be a national leader in expanding civil rights.
  - Since 2008, I proudly voted twice for marriage equality and held a subsequent forum “After I Do” on the challenges that remain after same sex couples are married -- including DOMA, interstate travel and relocation, adoption, social security, and health benefits.
  - I am the prime sponsor of the Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act (GENDA), which would prohibit discrimination against transgender New Yorkers.
  - I sponsored legislation to end the practice of finger imaging food stamp applicants.
  - Working with the Mayor’s office and advocates for the homeless, I negotiated an end to the City’s counterproductive policy of charging rent to families in homeless shelters.
6. I promised to fight to save affordability by repealing vacancy and luxury decontrol, and by developing a progressive 21<sup>st</sup> century affordable housing program.

While there is still much to do, including repealing vacancy and luxury decontrol, I am proud to have passed and carried multiple bills in the senate, and worked closely with advocates and community stakeholders, to create and preserve affordable housing.

- In the Senate, I wrote and passed landmark legislation to improve access to Mitchell-Lama housing for middle class New Yorkers.
- As part of the renewal of rent stabilization, I introduced and successfully passed legislation to crack down on landlord abuse of the Individual Apartment Increase, a system that was shown to be rife with fraud and poorly monitored by state authorities.
- I helped broker the compromise that was central to winning approval for facilitating the Seward Park Urban Renewal Area, which allowed community-driven process leading to agreement on land use from a diverse range of communities in the area, after four decades of failed government policy and bitter community infighting.
- I wrote and passed a bill banning source of income discrimination in housing, which would have protected those on Social Security Insurance from housing discrimination had the bill not been vetoed.
- As Chair of the Senate Social Services Committee I passed rent cap legislation sponsored by Sen. Tom Duane that corrected a major flaw in New York housing benefits law and meant that people with HIV/AIDS receiving benefits from HASA would get the same 30% rent cap as those on other benefits like Section 8.
- I founded the Save Our Underfunded NYCHA Developments (SOUND) Housing Campaign alongside Assemblymember Brian Kavanagh and dozens of colleagues in Federal, State, and City government that represent NYCHA complexes, as well as public housing residents, and tenant advocates. The campaign was a coordinated effort to ensure that NYCHA got the funding it needed to stay afloat, and that funds were properly spent on basic maintenance and repairs, safer and more reliable elevators, security cameras, and other measures to keep buildings and hallways safe and clean.
- I sponsored and passed a bill that allowed the federalization of 21 NYCHA developments while protecting public housing for tenants. As a result, in collaboration with Senator Chuck Schumer and Congressman Nydia Velazquez, these developments were eligible for an immediate infusion of \$400 million in capital funding and the Housing Authority will also be able to draw approximately \$75 million in additional federal funds each year in perpetuity.

**TOP FIVE 2013 CAMPAIGN PROMISES**

1. Provide everyday citizens the information and tools they need, through increased technological transparency, to demand accountability from our City government.
  - I will aim to put 99% of the information the City collects and creates online within five years in user-friendly formats.
  - I will create a “people’s response” to the annual Mayor’s Management Report to assess the performance of City government from the perspective of its real boss: the consumers of its services.
  - I will turn complaints about City services into solutions by working with the Public Advocate’s complaint bureau to identify patterns of complaints that suggest larger systemic problems.
  
2. Ensure that City government works best for the most vulnerable New Yorkers.
  - I will build support and identify locations for several new worker centers in the city to protect the rights and safety of New York’s more than 8,000 day laborers.
  - I will monitor the relocation of New Yorkers with severe mental illness from adult homes into community living, a transition which would otherwise occur largely without public scrutiny.
  - I will use the office’s special information request powers to obtain data on the use of solitary confinement in our jails and review accounts of deaths and injuries in City jails in order to improve the system.
  
3. Protect our children, who typically have no recourse in the political or governmental process.
  - I will work to make data from the implementation of Governor Cuomo’s Close to Home initiative public and ensure that the agencies involved adapt their practices to learn from the results.
  - I will make sure that school discipline does not become a pathway to prison, and that all children are provided an environment that promotes learning.
  - I will make Community Education Councils more independent and more effective by serving as the elected partner for CECs.
  
4. Serve as a voice for tenants in both public and private housing.
  - I will seek an end to the Memorandum of Understanding requiring that NYCHA provide a significant proportion of its federal funding to the NYPD for ongoing law enforcement to NYCHA residents – an obligation to pay for policing that is, among all of the City’s landlords, unique to NYCHA.
  - I will institute “Prevention-Based Budgeting” for homeless policy, linking proven homeless prevention strategies – including housing subsidies and eviction prevention legal services – with the savings they create by reducing the demand for shelter.

- I will strengthen the Landlord Watchlist, an online database of the City's worst landlords, making it an ever-more useful tool for apartment seekers in the fight for housing quality.
5. Continue not to accept contributions from PACs. In fact, I've offered my opponents the opportunity to sign a pledge agreeing not to undermine New York City's campaign finance system – one of the best in the country – by continuing to accept contributions from groups operating in the shadows that undermine our great process. I have yet to receive a response from any of the other candidates for public advocate.