

CITIZENS UNION CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
ELECTION 2013

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: Cyrus Vance, Jr. Age: 58~~58~~59
Campaign Address: 333 West 52nd Street, Suite 1003 New York NY 10019

(zip)

Campaign Telephone Number: (646) 543-2013 Fax: (755) 255-9337

Party Affiliation(s): Democrat Campaign Manager Name: Linara Davidson

Website & Email: www.cyvanceforda.org; info@cyvanceforda.com

Education: B.A. Yale University; J.D. Georgetown University

Occupation/Employer (or years in currently held elected office): 3.5 years as the Manhattan District Attorney

Previous Offices and Campaigns: N/A

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

Have you completed requisite campaign finance filings? YES NO

(Please note: Citizens Union can grant its "Preferred Candidate" or "Endorsed Candidate" rating only to candidates we have interviewed. We will make every effort to interview candidates in this race.)

Signature of Candidate: Cyrus Vance Date: 9/26/13

Please state your position on the following issues by using the space provided below each question or a separate sheet of paper to elaborate on your positions on the following questions. 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 trends do you see in criminal activity that the district attorney's office should address?

As violent crime continues to fall Cybercrime & Identity Theft continue to grow faster than any other in New York City. My office investigates between 200 and 300 new identity theft cases each month. I will continue focusing on Guns, Gangs, and Domestic Violence as well.

2. What role do you think the district attorney plays in anti-corruption efforts and building public trust? What changes would you make to the structure of the office to help bolster public confidence in the DA's office?

The District Attorney should play a vital role in anti-corruption efforts and building the public trust. My office currently has an Official Corruption Unit, which prosecutes NYPD and other law enforcement officers who violate the public's trust, and we have a Public Integrity Unit to investigate other forms of public corruption and violations of the public trust. In order to do our job more effectively, however, New York State Law needs to be amended in a number of ways in order to give local District Attorneys better tools to prosecute these cases. I have been supporting these kinds of legislative changes since I took office in 2010, including Governor Cuomo's Public Trust Act bill in 2012. Earlier this month, I testified before the Governor's Moreland Commission and announced the recommendations of the white collar crime task force that I convened last year, which outlines the necessary changes in both procedural and substantive aspects of the law. You can find a copy of the report at <http://www.manhattanda.org/sites/default/files/WCTF%20Report.pdf.pdf>.

3. To what extent would your office use the district attorney's existing authority to investigate and monitor elected officials' conduct in relation to issues like campaign finance compliance and proper use of government resources and influence?

We do it to the greatest extent we can, given the limited authority the State's laws leave local law enforcement in New York. That's why I have proposed the following changes and will advocate strongly for them in Albany:

Eliminate automatic transactional immunity, which lets public servants (and others who might have committed crimes) escape prosecution if they appear before a grand jury about a matter. New York is alone in the entire country in requiring automatic transactional immunity before grand juries.

Change the provisions of the public servant bribery law that require an explicit "agreement and understanding" for a crime to be complete.

Create a law against undisclosed self-dealing.

Create new crimes of Official Misconduct in the Second and First degrees - Class E and D felonies, respectively, to replace current misdemeanors.

Enhance sentences for abuse of Public Trust. For example, if a Commissioner uses his status to significantly facilitate a class C felony fraud, that defendant would be punished for a class B felony and be subject to more serious punishment.

Enhance the crime of Defrauding the Government. Current law only applies to schemes committed by or with people inside the government and exempts outsiders that defraud the government, and current law treats a scheme that obtained more than \$1 million no more seriously than one that obtained more than \$1,000. This should change.

4. Do you support Governor Cuomo's Program Bill No. 3, the Public Trust Act, which strengthens laws against bribery and adds new penalties for those convicted of fraud? Are there additional statewide legislative reforms that you would advocate for if elected to office?

Yes I do, and my office was proud to work with the Governor on that proposed legislation. As both the Manhattan District Attorney and former President of the DAs Association of the State of New York, I stood with Governor Cuomo to push for some of the toughest anti-corruption laws in the country, and I sought and obtained the support of all 62 District Attorneys in New York for the bill.

Here in Manhattan, my office has repeatedly stood up and moved against public servants who abuse their offices, responsibilities, or badges.

5. Do you believe more needs to be done to ease the re-entry of formerly incarcerated persons into society and if so, what would you propose?

As the District Attorney I believe that it is partly my responsibility to make sure that those who have served their time can properly enter back in to the community. Our re-entry work involves partnerships and collaboration with other law enforcement agencies, social services agencies, community based organizations, community leaders, and faith based leaders. Our goal is to enhance public safety by improving the re-entry process and preventing recidivism of formerly incarcerated individuals.

Under a state initiative covering 5 counties, our office coordinates and moderates monthly Manhattan GunStop Forums. We bring together representatives from NYPD, the US Attorney's Office, Re-entry agencies, and formerly incarcerated individuals to run a Parole forum and Probation forum. Together the team speaks to recently released parolees and youthful offenders on probation about choices and consequences they face should they get caught with a gun. The team offers concrete and supportive services to assist them should they choose to turn their life around. Since we started in July of 2012 we have held 17 forums and met with 170 participants. My office also serves on the Manhattan Re-entry Task Force implementing collaborative strategies focused on improving the re-entry process and reducing recidivism.

Additionally, we have worked closely with the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (particularly Parole) to implement various strategies geared towards reducing recidivism of parolees. One specific strategy is the Parole Information Line. This ensures faster and more effective communication between Parole Officers and our office regarding re-arrests and other pending cases.

At least as important, my office has focused on engaging youths before they get sidetracked into illegal activity – helping prevent them from becoming incarcerated in the first place. We created Saturday Night Lights basketball clinics to give young men who might be enticed to join gangs the same type of basketball training that college and pro athletes get – and we offered this at the very hours in a week that they were most likely to make bad decisions or be victims of crime if left without other options. The program has been so successful that we've expanded it across the borough, added young women, and included new sports like volleyball.

6. What should the role of the district attorney be in addressing issues relating to terrorism? How would you ensure citizens' privacy rights while fulfilling this role?

New York City is a beacon of American opportunity and freedom, and as such it will always be a target for domestic and international terrorists. Just as the NYPD has proven that there is a valid and necessary local police function in fighting terrorism so too is there an important role for Manhattan prosecutors to play. This is underscored by the New York County settlements with six international banks that ultimately admitted to executing massive illegal money transfers from countries that were on the U.S. sanctions list, including Iran, Libya, and Cuba. At least one of the Iranian banks making these transfers has been sanctioned for ties to terror organizations. Additionally, just this year my office obtained the first-ever state conviction on terrorism charges arising out of a 2011 conspiracy to attack Manhattan synagogues. The lead defendant in that case was sentenced to 10 years in state prison.

7. Do you feel that the number of incidents of police misconduct is a problem? If so, what would you propose to facilitate more effective oversight of police misconduct? What steps, if any, would you take to ensure that police stops were lawful before prosecuting?

As prosecutors, we obviously work very closely with the NYPD and know first-hand that the vast majority of NYPD officers are straightforward, dedicated and scrupulously careful. But we have to be sure that every piece of information we

use in court is not only true, but fairly obtained. And if it isn't, we don't use the results, period.

We have a robust official corruption unit that brings those who violate New Yorkers' trust to justice.

8. Do you support requiring that police interrogations be videotaped?

Yes, for stationhouse interrogations in more serious cases, such as rapes and homicides. I support legislation that would accomplish this goal

Additional Comments:

CANDIDATE ACCOUNTABILITY QUESTIONNAIRE

As an elected official who is seeking re-election,

- 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 2009 CAMPAIGN AND ACTION ON THEM

1. Open a Family Justice Center- will be complete the fall of 2013
2. Create a Hate Crime Unit- opened first year
3. Mental Health Court- opened first year
4. Toughened Domestic violence laws
5. Created a cybercrime and identity theft unit

TOP 2013 CAMPAIGN PROMISES

1. Continued focus on Cybercrime & Identity Theft
2. Continued focus on Guns & Gangs
3. Continued focus on Crime Prevention
4. Continued Focus on Domestic Violence

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.