

**CITIZENS UNION CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE
NEW YORK CITY MAYOR
ELECTION 2013**

Citizens Union would appreciate your response to the following policy questions facing the City of New York and its residents that are of concern to Citizens Union. 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. In order to receive Citizens Union's "preferred" or "endorsed" status, in addition to completing the questionnaire, candidates must participate in an interview with Citizens Union's Local Candidates Committee. We thank you very much for your response.

Candidate Name: Bill de Blasio Age: 52

Campaign Address: 32 Court Street, Suite 902, Brooklyn, NY 11201

Campaign Telephone Number: (347) 746-2455 Fax: N/A

Party Affiliation(s): Democrat Campaign Manager Name: Bill Hyers

Website & Email: www.billdeblasio.com info@billdeblasio.com

Education: New York University (B.A.); Columbia University, School of International and Public Affairs (M.A.)

Occupation/Employer (or years in currently held elected office):

Public Advocate for the City of New York (2010-present)

Previous Offices and Campaigns: Member of the New York City Council, District 39; Member of the School Board, District 15; Campaign Manager for Hilary Clinton's 2000 U.S. Senate bid; Regional Director for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; Director of Operations, New York City Council; Aide to New York City Mayor David Dinkins.

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

Have you completed requisite campaign finance filings? YES X 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: Bill de Blasio Date: August 4, 2013

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.

CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

Please circle 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.

CITIZENS UNION ISSUES

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>Support (<input checked="" type="radio"/> Oppose)</p> <p>I support New York City’s current system of primary elections coupled with strong public financing to help level the playing field among candidates. I personally believe that switching to nonpartisan elections in New York City could undermine our successful public financing system, and lead to a political system dominated by wealth. It should also be noted that nonpartisan elections in New York City – which currently take place during special elections for City offices – have unfortunately correlated with lower voter turnout.</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>Support / Oppose</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)	Support / Oppose
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 / Oppose
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 / Oppose
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 / Oppose
7. 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 / Oppose

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

8. What is your position on eliminating matching funds for contributions bundled by lobbying organizations or lobbyists?	Support / Oppose
9. 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 / Oppose

CITY COUNCIL REFORM

10. 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 / Oppose
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11. 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 / Oppose

In 2010, as one of my first efforts as Public Advocate, I created the City's first online tracking system to record the applicants and recipients of City Council discretionary funding. I was pleased when the City Council decided to replicate this system and I would like to see these transparency measures expanded.

We must not stop there – I believe that much more can and must be done to address the serial abuse of our City Council discretionary funding system. Following the string of corruption scandals this Spring, including the arrest of Council Member Dan Halloran, I laid out a legislative package to establish a truly independent ethics watchdog on the City Council, require disclosure of lobbyist meetings (Int 1121), and strengthen punishment for elected officials that betray the public's trust. My office has also been working with the legal department at the City Council to enact reforms that would require any discretionary funding issued by the City Council to be allocated according to objective measures that take into account socio-economic indicators, encourage equity across political jurisdictions, and engage community residents in decision making.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND OVERSIGHT OF POLICE MISCONDUCT

<p>12. What is your position on reducing the frequency of stop, question and frisks by conducting stops more judiciously?</p>	<p>Support/ Oppose</p> <p>As Public Advocate, I have pushed for real reforms to rein in the excessive use of stop and frisk tactics and end racial profiling at the NYPD. When communities in New York feel that the police officers are antagonists rather than partners in keeping their neighborhoods safe, it puts residents and officers at risk. My office has been one of the leading voices in the fight to reform stop and frisk, producing a series of reports and analysis to document excessive use of these tactics and outlining tangible reforms to protect the civil liberties of all New Yorkers and strengthen community policing.</p>
<p>13. 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?</p>	<p>Support/ Oppose</p>
<p>14. 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?</p>	<p>Support/ Oppose</p>

<p>15. 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?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Support / Oppose</p> <p>The recent Memorandum of Understanding between the CCRB and the NYPD made clear that 'false statements' fell outside the jurisdiction of the CCRB - namely, charges relating to force, abuse of authority, discourtesy, and offensive language (FADO).</p> <p>However, false statements have the potential to undermine the efficacy of CCRB's investigations, and I support strengthening effective deterrents to this type of misconduct. As the Administrative Prosecution Unit becomes established, I will work with the CCRB and NYPD to determine the most effective way of instituting real accountability for false statements - while remaining cognizant of Charter-mandated FADO jurisdiction restrictions.</p>
<p>16. What is your position on reinstating the zero tolerance penalty for false official statements by public officers?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Support / Oppose</p>

BUDGET REFORM

<p>17. What is your position on establishing independent budgeting for:</p> <p>a. the borough presidents?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Support / Oppose</p>
<p>b. Conflicts of Interest Board?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Support / Oppose</p>
<p>c. the public advocate ?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Support / Oppose</p>
<p>d. community boards?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Support / Oppose</p>

18. What is your position on making the budget process more transparent by clearly defining units of appropriation and limiting their size?	<input type="radio"/> Support / <input type="radio"/> Oppose
19. What is your position on release of revenue projections (other than property taxes) prior to Council hearings on the Executive budget?	<input type="radio"/> Support / <input type="radio"/> Oppose

LAND USE AND COMMUNITY BOARD REFORM

20. 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)	<input type="radio"/> Support / <input type="radio"/> Oppose
21. 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?	<input type="radio"/> Support / <input type="radio"/> Oppose

ISSUES of CITYWIDE IMPORTANCE

1. What is your view of the amount of taxes paid by New Yorkers compared to the value that is received in City services? Do you believe that taxes should be raised or lowered? If you believe taxes should be changed, please provide specific proposals about what taxes you would change and if you didn't raise taxes, what services you would cut, listed in order of greatest magnitude

I often speak about New York becoming a "Tale of Two Cities." For the wealthiest New Yorkers, these are the best of times. Meanwhile, nearly half of all New Yorkers are at or below the poverty level. To help support working parents during these challenging times and invest in our city's economic future, I put forward a plan to fund universal pre-K and expanded after-school with a small tax surcharge on New Yorkers making more than \$500,000 a year. The plan would permanently close the gap of nearly 50,000 four-year-olds underserved by the current system, and would extend learning time between 3 and 6 p.m. for 120,000 middle school students. To fund this transformation, I have called for a time-limited, five-year increase in New York City income tax on earners over \$500,000 from 3.876% to 4.3%. The increase would yield \$532 million in new revenue. By comparison, a similar surcharge implemented between 2003 and 2005 raised rates on earners over \$150,000 to 4.46%. The 4.46% rate was also the top bracket for the surcharge implemented between 1991 and 1998 to finance the Safe Streets, Safe City initiative.

2. New York has been trying to create a more diversified economy, and one that is less reliant on Wall Street. What is your position on such efforts? If you support it, what would you do to diversify the city's economy? How would you ensure that the city would receive adequate tax revenue as a result of potential shifts in the tax base?

Mayor Bloomberg deserves credit for some of his administration's efforts to diversify the city's economy from its over-reliance on Wall Street. Especially since the financial crisis in 2008, the administration has pursued smart strategies to nurture the growth of new jobs and industries in tech, biosciences, film and television, design, advanced manufacturing and tourism. Those efforts, coupled with expansions of our colleges and universities and the launch of the Cornell-Technion partnership, have helped New York continue to be a magnet for talent from across the country and the world. In fact, I just completed a weeklong tour of emerging industries in NYC, including film & TV, tech, and manufacturing.

But we can and must do better. The next mayor can't simply replace one elite economy with another.

I believe the most dependable path to a stable and strong fiscal future for New York City is a vibrant working class. For all the progress in nurturing new industries, too many New Yorkers are still being left out and left behind. Deep inequality that has left 46% of New Yorkers at or near the poverty line, and too many others struggling to get by. We must raise the floor on low wage work through a real living wage law and expanded paid sick leave. We must also redirect wasteful one-shot economic development subsidies into rebuilding CUNY and supporting neighborhood economic development.

3. In FY 2013-14, New York City is budgeted to spend \$13.568 billion on pensions and fringe benefits for City employees out of a total net budget of \$68.5 billion. What would you do to address the growing pension and health care costs borne by the city and New York City tax payers, particularly in the context of contractual bargaining with the city's unions for retroactive raises?

As Public Advocate, I partnered with the Fund for Public Advocacy and New York University's Wagner School of Public Service to produce a series of forums with government officials, representatives from organized labor, and other key stakeholders and generate an informed, solutions oriented discourse around how to address New York City's rapidly growing long-term financial liabilities. Pension and benefit reform represents one of the greatest challenges facing the next mayor and I believe we must have an honest discussion about how unfunded liabilities can and will impact public employment levels and how the declining number of public employees will impact our economy and middle class. One area where we can begin to rein in costs right away is with health care for City workers. Health care costs for the city's 300,000 municipal workers, their families, and 200,000 retirees are expected to hit \$8.3 billion by 2018. To help bring those costs down, I will work through the city's Health and Hospitals Corporation (HHC)—which already delivers services to more than a million New Yorkers—to create or contract 20 new primary health care clinics to serve city employees at or close to their workplaces. These convenient clinics would encourage preventative care and take advantage of HHC's scale to provide services at a lower cost. The city can incentivize workers to use the clinics by waiving co-pays and

providing flexible scheduling to use them. This would improve access and the quality of care for the city's workforce. The city could save \$750 million to \$2 billion through long-term savings by investing just 2 percent of current health care spending in these clinics over four years.

4. How would you propose the city address the shortage of affordable housing, particularly given the expected growth in population? Would you continue to attempt to reach the goals of PlaNYC 2030? If not, what is your vision for long-term development particularly in light of climate change and extreme weather?

I have outlined a plan to dramatically accelerate the pace of affordable construction and preservation, largely by converting incentives into hard and fast standards for builders. In total, my plan would produce 100,000 new affordable units and preserve nearly 90,000 more over the next eight years. My plan calls for mandating developers include affordable housing in large developments; closing the vacant land tax loophole that encourages developers to keep land idle for prolonged periods, and creating a City registry and land bank to accelerate construction; investing \$1 billion from the City's public pension funds in revitalizing and rehabilitating aging affordable housing developments; bringing basement and other unconventional units like "granny flats" into the legal regulated system; allowing development rights to be transferred not just to adjacent properties, but within a neighborhood, in order to encourage more affordable construction; expanding free legal resources to help tenants fight unlawful evictions; and increasing enrollment in senior and disability rent support programs through outreach and by raising the income threshold to qualify. I would continue the goals outlined in PlaNYC 2030 and I believe that Mayor Bloomberg's Climate Change Plan also provides a strong foundation to prepare New York City for the inevitable impacts of climate change. The plan rightly focuses on bolstering our resilience through infrastructure improvements like flood walls, tidal basins, sand dunes, surge barriers and green infrastructure, and is right to take a multi-sector approach emphasizing residential homes, businesses, the electrical grid and health care assets.

5. What would you propose to increase the transparency of the Board of Elections in the City of New York's operations and accountability to the city? What is your position on non-citizen voting?

As Public Advocate, I have been a strong voice for accountability at the Board of Elections and my office has been actively involved with the City's Voter Assistance Advisory Committee (VAAC). To truly reform our broken elections administration, we need to start at the rotten bureaucratic core - working with our colleagues at the State to push through an overhaul of the City Board of Elections that replaces patronage jobs with civil servants who will put progress ahead of politics.

I have yet to take a position on non-citizen voting as I believe that changes of this kind should not be taken lightly and must take into consideration public input. However, I do believe that significant reforms – including early voting and same day voter registration – are needed to make voting easier and more accessible.

6. Taking into consideration the lessons learned from the debates surrounding congestion pricing and the Ravitch Commission's recommendations to provide the MTA with long-term funding, what do you think should be done to address the MTA's fiscal solvency issues and ensure that the burden for funding the MTA are equitably distributed amongst all stakeholders? What is your view on expanding alternative forms of transportation like the Citibike program and the installation of bike lanes?

While City Hall doesn't control the MTA, it has a duty to help protect the affordability of our transit system on behalf of the millions of New Yorkers who use it every day. As mayor, I will fight to protect the critical financial support of the transit system, including the payroll tax. I also intend to partner with New York City's congressional delegation for a national transportation agenda that fully funds public transit maintenance and expansion, instead of fueling sprawl with unnecessary and wasteful new highways far from urban centers.

I am a strong supporter of bicycling and the city's Bike Share program. Bicycling is inexpensive, promotes public health, and it's a key part of helping the city respond to climate change. Right now, the city's goal is to increase bicycling to 3 percent of all trips by 2020. I will double that goal—using education, promotion and safer streets to grow bicycling to 6 percent by 2020. I will continue expanding bike lanes around the city so that bicyclists have a safe, dedicated space to ride—and drivers and pedestrians will have more predictable streets. I will also expand the public Bike Share program to outer-borough neighborhoods and increase

education outreach to promote safe riding. I believe strongly that communities deserve a voice in decisions that affect them—and this includes bike lanes. As mayor, I will expand communication before street changes are installed by notifying residents and small businesses through the distribution of fliers and door-to-door outreach. I will work to address their feedback before projects are installed and by better communicating on the front end, I believe I can reduce friction and bolster public support for expanding cycling in the city.

7. What do you believe is the proper role of government in regulating public health? Would you advocate for continuing policies proposed by Mayor Bloomberg banning large sodas and reducing the proportion of people who smoke cigarettes?

I have never shied away from opposing Mayor Bloomberg when he's wrong—however, on issues of public health, I have been one of the most steadfast supporters of the Bloomberg Administration's agenda. Obesity and smoking remain two of New York City's biggest killers—which is why I have been a strong supporter of reforms like banning smoking in restaurants and bars, and the policy's expansion to parks and public spaces. I also backed mandates to post calorie counts to inform consumers and ban harmful trans-fats. These policies have not always been popular, but they have collectively saved thousands of lives. As Mayor, I would advocate for continuing policies proposed by Mayor Bloomberg banning large sodas and reducing the proportion of people who smoke cigarettes.

8. How can the city continue to keep the crime rate at record low levels? What is your position on stop, question and frisk?

New York City is the safest big city in the country because of constant innovation and dedicated policing. My approach to fighting crime and criminal justice is centered on smart, innovative policing and the restoration of trust between police officers and the communities they serve. To accomplish this, I will expand successful and targeted policing strategies while investing in technologies that support intelligence-driven responses to crime. I will expand resources for force-multipliers like cameras and gunshot detection technology, and will demand meaningful oversight and police accountability. I will also address commonsense criminal justice reforms by expanding alternatives to incarceration and increasing the number of community courts across

the city. As mayor, I will listen to the voices of community stakeholders in public safety and criminal justice policy.

As Public Advocate, I have been a leading voice in the fight to rein in the excessive use of stop and frisk tactics. To rebuild police-community relations and reform the use of stop and frisk, I support new leadership at the NYPD, an inspector general, and a strong racial profiling bill.

9. How would you ensure that city agencies share data and resources and coordinate in delivering services? Do you believe that management should be decentralized, allowing agency heads greater independence, or centralized in the mayor's office? Would you continue executive order 41 ensuring all New Yorkers, regardless of immigration status can access the city services that they are entitled to receive?

As Public Advocate, I have worked to open up access to government data and hold agencies accountable for FOIL violations, while also pushing for greater centralization in the City's information systems. This includes co-sponsoring the City's open data law, which was enacted in 2012, authoring a bill on proactive disclosure of public information online (Int 1122), and advocating for the creation of a centralized FOIL processing hub for the City.

I believe that the Mayor's office and Deputy Mayors must play a central role in helping to streamline government bureaucracy, and ensure resource sharing and coordination across agencies. While independent-minded and talented Commissioners are important to promote innovation and the diversity of ideas, a lack of coordination by the Mayor's office can result in duplication, inefficiencies and waste.

As Mayor, I would continue executive order 41 and take additional steps to ensure that all New Yorkers—regardless of immigration status—are fully integrated into city life. Towards this goal, I have called for the creation of a Municipal ID program that would help immigrants access City services, further limiting cooperation with the federal detention and deportation process, protecting victims of domestic violence, and ending New York City's arcane practice of punishing the loved ones of legal immigrants who seek out social assistance.

10. How actively would you use the office of the mayor in working on national issues such as immigration and gun control?

I believe that it is critically important for the Mayor of New York City to be a leader on issues such as immigration and gun control which are national in scope but carry particular importance to New York City. As Public Advocate, I have helped lead the fight to combat the rise of corporate political spending following the Supreme Court's *Citizens United* decision and, in the aftermath of the gun violence in Newtown, Connecticut, I initiated a national divestment campaign against manufacturers of assault weapons and high-capacity ammo clips. Six months after launching the gun divestment campaign, eight hedge funds and money managers had completely divested their gun holdings, valued at \$150 million. Fourteen more firms had scaled back their gun investments by 7.4 million shares—27 percent of their holdings.

11. How would you utilize city-affiliated nonprofit organizations such as the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City in raising private revenue to supplement city agencies and programs? How would you ensure that there is sufficient transparency and accountability of funding received through such entities?

I believe that private-public partnerships can be a tremendous asset for leveraging the impact and reach of government. During my tenure as Public Advocate, I oversaw a dramatic expansion of the Fund for Public Advocacy. The Fund for Public Advocacy has lead a multitude of high-impact programs including convening roundtable events, producing educational materials and resource guides, conducting surveys, and leading a Citywide campaign to recruit and assist New Yorkers interested in completing their GED. To ensure maximum transparency and accountability, these entities must have independent governing structures and publicly disclose all funding sources. The Fund for Public Advocacy discloses its donor, and this is a practice that should continue.

Additional Comments:

Since 2010, my office has introduced more than two dozen pieces of legislation and passed two notable bills that are now law. The first strengthens and reforms financial penalties for landlord who repeatedly withhold heat and hot water from their tenants. The second expands recycling in New York City Schools. A full list of legislation can be found online at: <http://legistar.council.nyc.gov/PersonDetail.aspx?ID=42301&GUID=E5F2CF8D-3204-411C-B032-1A52033A4580>

CANDIDATE ACCOUNTABILITY QUESTIONNAIRE

Citizens Union is adding a new element to its evaluation of incumbents running for re-election. In addition to evaluating their stances on the issues above, Citizens Union will assess candidates on how well they kept the promises they made to voters during the previous election.

As an elected official who currently or has held public 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? Why have you fulfilled or not fulfilled 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 YOUR LAST ELECTION AND ACTION ON THEM

1. Giving parents a greater voice in our schools.

When I ran for Public Advocate, I promised to be a voice for parents across the city who often feel that their opinions are not valued at the Department of Education (DOE). As a public school parent and former school board member, this role came easily. When struggling schools were unfairly condemned to close by the Bloomberg Administration, I joined parents and fought back, securing victories at P.S. 114 in Canarsie, Wadleigh in Harlem, and Maxwell High School in East New York. As the co-location of public and charter schools became a highly contentious issue, I partnered with the Alliance for Quality to examine DOE's handling of co-locations and I outlined a series of reforms to make the process more open and fair to all school communities, both charter and traditional. To reduce future conflicts between charter and public schools over co-locations, I called on the DOE to establish additional venues for parents to relay their concerns, require more information on the way co-locations will impact programs for students with disabilities, and create a process in which the DOE responds to parents' concerns. As Public Advocate, I have also placed an emphasis on standing up for the 183,000 — or 17 percent — of students with disabilities in New York City public schools. In 2010, I initiated a multi-year evaluation of the DOE's Special Education Reform in partnership with the Fund for Public Advocacy and over the course of the last three years have fought for

series of reforms including increased professional development for principals and teachers and improvements to the kindergarten admission process for students with disabilities.

2. Protecting and empowering tenants.

During my first year in office, our constituent services staff was inundated with calls about a lack of heat and hot water in apartments. To fight this negligence, I launched a legislative campaign to force harsher penalties and increased enforcement on landlords to ensure they provide heat and hot water to their tenants. I introduced and passed the HEAT Act, which was signed into law in 2011, making these reforms the law of the land. I also brought innovative new approaches to the fight to protect tenants. In 2010, I launched NYC's Worst Landlords Watchlist, a website exposing landlords responsible for the City's most dangerous and dilapidated buildings. Since its launch, the site has received more than 750,000 pageviews—making it one of the most-used resources in city government. Thanks to tenant organizing and media pressure spurred by the Watchlist, more than 380 buildings have been substantially repaired and removed from the list. The model is so successful it is featured on Craigslist as a tool for apartment hunters and has been replicated by the City of Vancouver.

3. Protecting vital city services against budget cuts.

On my first day in office as Public Advocate, I created the City's first ever Community Organizing Department to provide New Yorkers with organizing tools and strategies in addition to helping them navigate City bureaucracy and connecting them to the services they need. When City Hall threatened to lay-off thousands of teachers, I responded by organized a successful coalition of elected officials, parents, students, and advocates to win back millions of dollars in classroom funding. Similarly, I successfully fought to protect neighborhood schools and save firehouses that were slated for closure.

4. Enhancing government transparency and accountability.

Throughout my career, I have championed ethics reform and more transparency in government. Since my first day in office as Public Advocate, I have posted details on all meetings with city lobbyists on my website and recently introduced legislation in the City Council to mandate this practice for all elected officials. I have also tried to lead by example

with regards to public access to information. In 2011, I launched an online document library to make public information more easily accessible and I established an online tracker for Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) requests. To improve transparency and accountability at City agencies, I introduced legislation to require that agencies submit monthly reports on FOIL requests and I conducted the City's first comprehensive study of FOIL compliance in 2011-2012, resulting in a "Transparency Report Card" that graded each of the City agencies on their adherence to the law. In 2013, I also introduced legislation to require City agencies to proactively publish on their website all information of public interest including minutes of public meetings; public notices regarding proposed regulations, policies, and scheduled hearings; all public forms and applications administered by the agency; and a list of all contracts awarded by the agency.

5. Reform the work of the Civilian Complaint Review Board and strengthen police-community relations.

When running for Public Advocate, I made reforming the city's Civilian Complaint Review Board a pillar of my campaign. I called on the City to give the CCRB independent power to prosecute misconduct cases rather than simply refer them to the Police Department. In addition, as Public Advocate, I introduced legislation to provide the CCRB with an independent budget by pegging its funding as a percentage of the NYPD's budget. In 2012, an agreement was signed between the NYPD and CCRB to expand the board's powers marking an important step in the right direction. Complementing these efforts to reform the CCRB, my office has also been a leading force for the reform of stop and frisk, mobilizing thousands of New Yorkers to help compel changes at the NYPD.

TOP FIVE 2013 CAMPAIGN PROMISES

1. Establish Truly Universal Full-Day Pre-Kindergarten

Our economic future depends on the best-trained, best-educated workforce in the world — and that starts with early education. By 2020, China will enroll 70 percent of children in three years of pre-school. India will have twice as many children prepared to learn on their first day of school by 2018. But right now, of the 68,000 4-year-olds in New York City that should receive full-time pre-kindergarten, only 20,000 get it. The remaining children get no pre-k at all, or an inadequate half-day that's an anachronism in today's economy where parents work long hours. Too many kids are wasting critical years and months where they should be absorbing new words, skills and habits.

We need a system in place that when your son or daughter turns 4, the gears automatically start turning on his or her educational future. I'm not talking about a pilot project or a one-off for a few hundred lucky kids. This needs to be universal. Every child, in every borough deserves the right start -- and our economic future depends on it. I have proposed a plan to close the gap in early education and make pre-k universal for all 4 year olds for the first time in New York City. This isn't just for a few hundred kids lucky enough to make the cut. It would be for every child, in every borough. To fund this transformation, I have called for an increase in NYC income tax on earners over \$500,000 from 3.876% to 4.3%.

2. Strengthen Police-Community Relations by Ending the Excessive Use of Stop & Frisk

As Mayor, I will end the abuse and misuse of stop and frisk tactics and help mend the growing rift between police and communities in New York City. We need a new vision for the New York City Police Department, committed to reform, and this demands a new police commissioner. Commissioner Kelly has guided the NYPD through many challenges

and should be credited for major gains made in public safety over the years. At the same time, One Police Plaza has been largely deaf to community concerns and unresponsive to demands for greater transparency. To truly turn a corner and embrace needed change, I will select a police commissioner with demonstrable successes in driving down crime and the ability to mend police-community relations.

In addition to changing the leadership at the NYPD, real reform only can be achieved by creating an independent Inspector General of the NYPD and by enacting legislation banning racial profiling in law enforcement activity. Contrary to Mayor Bloomberg's misinformation and fear-mongering, these two pieces of legislation would improve public safety in New York City. Effective policing depends on trust and collaboration between the police and the communities they serve. These two bills will help mend the divisions that currently exist, and will help keep both community members and police officers safe.

3. Build and Preserve Nearly 200,000 Units of Affordable Housing.

New York City is facing a crisis of affordability that threatens our economic livelihood. According to the New York City Housing and Vacancy Survey, nearly half of all New York City residents pay more than 30 percent of their income on housing and about a third of all households spend at least half their income on housing. Meanwhile over the last decade, New York City has lost nearly as many affordable apartments as it has built or preserved. Gentrification, unscrupulous landlords, and the real estate lobby's hold on government have pulled tens of thousands of apartments out of rent stabilization, and more are lost every year.

To combat this crisis, I've called for a major overhaul of the City's affordable housing strategy, centered around a plan to build over 100,000 new affordable units and preserve nearly 90,000 more over the next eight years. The plan calls for transitioning from the

voluntary “inclusionary zoning” program to mandatory requirements to build permanently affordable housing. It proposes new incentives to convert vacant lots and abandoned buildings into safe, affordable units and bring undocumented dwellings like those in basements into the legal, rent-regulated system. And it lays out strong new protections for tenants and seniors.

4. End Wasteful Corporate Tax Giveaways and Invest in a Five-Borough Economy

A New York City that continues the economic and educational policies of the last decade cannot – and will not – be a city of neighborhoods where middle-class families can live, work, and raise their children. Without a dramatic change of direction – an economic policy that combats inequality and rebuilds our middle class -- generations to come will see New York as little more than a playground for the rich – a gilded city where the privileged few prosper, and millions upon millions of New Yorkers struggle each and every day to keep their heads above water.

New York City currently disperses around \$4 billion a year on economic development, including \$3 billion on tax expenditures that too often go to single large companies. Yet many of these projects would have happened even in the absence of the tax and subsidy giveaways. As Mayor, I will undertake a wholesale reform of our city’s tax incentive policies—and eliminate programs with notoriously weak payoffs like the Industrial and Commercial Abatement Program (ICAP) — that will save \$250 million per year. I will also create a Unified Development Budget to ensure any subsidies create jobs that offer a living wage with benefits and that development is spread throughout the city. In lieu of big giveaways to a few specific companies, we will pursue a city economic strategy that puts a

premium on growing whole sectors of small businesses in emerging industries – from green jobs, to food exports, to advanced manufacturing – companies that can generate good jobs at decent wages in all five boroughs.

5. Improve Access to Quality, Affordable Health Care

In neighborhoods where poverty and unemployment are widespread, access to affordable, quality health care is tenuous, while the epidemics of our time — diseases caused by smoking and obesity — take their toll on families. Of the 62 counties in New York State, the Bronx is ranked dead last in health indicators, and Brooklyn fares little better. Parents are forced to forgo preventive check-ups and medication so they can pay their bills instead. More than a million New Yorkers are without health insurance. Hospitals are closing from Jamaica to South Brooklyn and Greenwich Village. All this inequity exists in the same city that boasts the finest doctors and medical institutions in the world.

New York City needs a renewed commitment to universal coverage and community-based health that delivers quality, affordable care to every family and every neighborhood. As Mayor, I will take advantage of the Affordable Care Act to expand coverage, committing every financial and human resource needed — which will be repaid through the new federal dollars flowing to the city — to enroll 600,000 more New Yorkers in ACA-covered health insurance programs by 2018. To protect our community hospitals, I will work to partner financially-strained institutions with flagship hospitals that can help pool resources, share best practices, and improve quality of care. The expansion of coverage in coming years will also increase the need for health care workers. To meet this demand, we must invest in training programs in our high schools and at the City University of New York to ensure New York City graduates have the skills needed to fill the current gap of 16,000 nursing positions and deliver care to those who need it.

A GOVERNMENT AS GREAT AS OUR CITY

It seems each new day brings with it another disturbing report of a New York public official accused of malfeasance or arrested for corruption. And just as common are the stories of the rich and powerful having their voices heard above the rest of us because of weak laws and loopholes that allow money to permeate our elections. It is enough to shake one's faith in our system.

We can and must do better.

Throughout his career, Bill de Blasio has championed ethics reform and more transparency in government, and he will bring this commitment to City Hall as mayor.



The De Blasio Record on Good Government

As a City Council member and as Public Advocate, Bill de Blasio has fought for good government—the kind that New Yorkers can trust and respect for its honesty and integrity.

Leading the Fight Against the Undemocratic Extension of Term Limits. As a City Council member in 2008, Bill de Blasio led the fight against Mayor Bloomberg's back-room deal to overturn the will of voters and give himself a third term in office.

Fighting Against Citizens United. The Citizens United decision delivered a body blow to our democracy and a fair and equitable election system. Over the past three years, Bill de Blasio has successfully pressured companies such as Goldman Sachs, JPMorgan, Citigroup and Morgan Stanley to adopt policies against spending their corporate

treasury dollars in elections. In August 2010, de Blasio also founded the Coalition for Accountability in Political Spending (CAPS), the nation's first and only bipartisan coalition of elected officials dedicated to curbing corporate influence in our elections.

Reforming Practices at the Board of Elections. When a host of Election Day snafus in 2010 created chaos, and, in some cases, even disenfranchised voters, Bill de Blasio's office recorded and reported the problems, forcing the Board of Elections to improve some of its procedures for future elections.

Going Above and Beyond in Disclosure. From his first day in office as Public Advocate, Bill de Blasio began reporting all meetings with city lobbyists—publishing the information on his website, going above and beyond the disclosure required by law.

Spurring a Transparency Initiative at the City Council.

In 2010, Bill de Blasio called for a new searchable database of applications for City Council discretionary funding. After his activism, the Council eventually opened up to provide the information. The Daily News editorialized on this development, giving de Blasio kudos for his advocacy in pushing reforms forward.⁶⁸

Holding the Executive Branch Accountable for FOIL Compliance.

As Public Advocate, Bill de Blasio has monitored and reported on the city’s compliance with the Freedom of Information Law (FOIL). De Blasio’s “Transparency Report Card” helps the public track which agencies have complied with their FOIL obligations—and which have not.



A Plan For a Government as Great as Our City

Bill de Blasio will bring his commitment to integrity and transparency to City Hall by instituting reforms that will give New Yorkers confidence that we have a government as strong as its people.

End Discretionary ‘Member Item’ Funding. The arrest of a sitting city councilman earlier this year over allegations that he planned to abuse his discretionary funding in a bribery scheme brought back painful memories of earlier scandals. At the same time, press reports have recounted allocation decisions used to punish members of the City Council who cross leadership.⁶⁹ The system is broken, and, as mayor, Bill de Blasio will use his power in the budget process to demand a ban on the member item system. In fact, Bill de Blasio believes passionately that participatory budgeting and RFP grant programs will actually better serve community groups.

Expand Participatory Budgeting. This year, more than 13,000 New Yorkers in eight City Council districts, in four of the five boroughs, directly decided how to allocate nearly \$10 million in local capital funding allocations that had

previously been decided solely by their council member through the non-transparent and all-too-often abused discretionary funding system.⁷⁰ New Yorkers worked together to identify local priorities, develop funding proposals, and then voted to decide what projects in their communities would be funded—joining residents of Chicago, Boston and cities around the world that have opened up local grant funding and increased citizen engagement in local communities through participatory budgeting. As mayor, Bill de Blasio will work to replace the broken member item system with a transparent, merit-based small grants process. Moreover, he will work to scale up participatory budgeting in council districts across New York City. Bill de Blasio will also pilot expanding participatory budgeting to broader pools of city grant funding and engage New Yorkers more deeply in setting priorities for their communities.

Strengthen Penalties For Officials Convicted of Corruption. Under the New York State Constitution, it is impossible to deny or diminish retirement benefits for current public officials. This means public officials convicted of corruption charges have continued to collect their pensions at taxpayer expense, even while serving jail time. To offset this loophole in the law, Bill de Blasio will work to enact legislation proposed by New York State’s Comptroller DiNapoli,⁷¹ which imposes a mandatory fine upon public officers convicted of felony offenses related to their official duties. Guilty officials would be forced to pay a penalty up to twice the amount they benefited from the committed crime.

Disclose All Contacts With Lobbyists. Building on his own practice as Public Advocate, Bill de Blasio will require that city officials in executive agencies publicly disclose meetings with registered lobbyists on a monthly basis. Regardless of whether discussions qualify as “lobbying communications” under the Administrative Code or not, all meetings requested by registered lobbyists would be disclosed along with a brief description of the subject matter covered in the meeting. These disclosures would be publicly available online.

Strengthening Independent Oversight of the City Council. While an inspector general’s office exists for executive agencies—with a commissioner who can only be removed for written, publicly filed cause—Bill de Blasio would push for legislation establishing a similar position in the City Council. The position would replace the now defunct Independent Compliance Office in the City Council, a short-lived position which, despite its name, lacked true

independence from the Council leadership. The new independent position would be nominated by the Council and approved by the mayor. To ensure the independence of this position, the office would have a set term of five years, a fixed salary that could not be decreased by the City Council, and would require at least five years of prior law enforcement experience. Staffing levels for the office would be fixed by law and would require agreement by the mayor to reduce. Among its functions, powers and duties, the office would investigate complaints from sources, or upon its own initiative, concerning alleged abuses and fraud.

Unlocking Public Information With FOIL Reform. Bill de Blasio will increase transparency with a series of reforms of the Freedom of Information Law. He will include FOIL statistics in the Mayor’s Management Report, mandate routine reports on outstanding FOIL requests to the Public Advocate and City Council, and establish a unified online source to file, process and track all FOIL requests. Bill de Blasio will also levy fines and penalties against city agencies that regularly duck and delay FOIL requests, and he will proactively post online information that is most-frequently sought by FOIL request.

Reforming Local Elections. Bill de Blasio will push for a number of reforms to make local elections more democratic and open to the people. This includes allowing same-day voter registration and making voter registration available online. Bill de Blasio also supports efforts that boost voter participation, such as allowing early voting and making election information materials available in multiple languages.