



Candidate Questionnaire
 Local Candidates Committee
 NYC Public Advocate Special Election 2019

Citizens Union appreciates your response to the following questionnaire related to policy issues facing New York City and our interest in reforming city and state government. **Please return the questionnaire to us as soon as possible, and no later than January 3rd.** Responses to these questions will be one of several factors Citizens Union uses to evaluate candidates running for New York City Public Advocate, and to issue our endorsement in the Special Election. Please feel free to affix any additional information such as a résumé, campaign brochure, or issue statements.

If you seek our support, we will also need to schedule an interview with you as part of the evaluation process. **Please contact us if you wish to be interviewed.**

We plan to publish returned questionnaires on our website, in printed voters directory, and in other appropriate venues. We thank you very much for your response.

Biographical Information

Candidate Name: **David Eisenbach**
 Party Affiliation(s): **Democratic Party** Age: **46**
 Education: **BA MA MPhil PhD History Dept Columbia University**
 Office Sought: **New York City Public Advocate**
 Occupation/Employer: **Columbia University**

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement:

Founder and President Friends of SBJSA - Small Business Jobs Survival Act

Candidate Cell Phone: **9175281492**

(Please feel free to affix any additional information such as a résumé, campaign brochure, or issue statements.)

Campaign Contact Information

Campaign Manager Name: **Edwin Figueroa** Additional Staff Contact:
 Address: **201 E12th St**
 Telephone: **9175281492** Fax:
 Website: **www.publicadvocateeisenbach.com** Email:
 Twitter: **eisenbach4nyc** Facebook: **David Eisenbach**

Affirmations

Have you completed required campaign finance filings? YES / NO **yes**
 Are you willing to be interviewed by CU's Local Candidates Committee? YES / NO **yes**

(Please note: interviews are prerequisites of being considered for Citizens Union's endorsement.)

Signature of Candidate: _____ Date: _____

I. POLICY QUESTIONS

Please state whether you support or oppose the following reform measures, and feel free to elaborate in the space provided at the end or on additional paper.

CITIZEN UNION ISSUES

1. What is your position with respect to eliminating party primaries and establishing a nonpartisan election system in which all candidates participate in the first round and the top two candidates advance to the second round? All registered voters regardless of party would be eligible to vote in both rounds.	Support / Oppose yes
2. What is your position on instituting ranked choice voting in all elections for citywide office, including all special elections?	Support / Oppose yes
3. 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 / Oppose yes
4. What is your position on establishing independent budgeting for: a. borough presidents? b. The Conflicts of Interest Board? c. The Public Advocate? d. community boards?	a. Support/Oppose b. Support/ Oppose c. Support/Oppose d. Support/Oppose

ISSUES OF CITYWIDE IMPORTANCE

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

When I ran for Public Advocate last year I promised to pass the Small Business Jobs Survival Act. I lost the election but took over leadership on the fight for the bill and after 33 years we are going to pass it in 2019 despite the opposition of REBNY and the mayor. I know how to beat the most powerful lobby in NYC on one of the biggest issues- small business crisis

6. What would be your most important legislative and non-legislative priorities as Public Advocate?

passing SBJSA and reforming ULURP to give communities veto power over rezoning plans. I would also like to lead the fight to end the cash bail system. Stop the big real estate giveaways. Make sure all schools provide a solid education so all students in every neighborhood can compete.

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

- 1) Calling out corruption- including pay-to-play corruption in City Hall
- 2) Appointing a member of the City Planning Commission who will be an advocate for communities not big real estate
- 3) Opposing rezonings that are not in the interest of the City even if the City Council member from the district supports a rezoning application

8. The most recent Public Advocate has used litigation extensively, with mixed results, at least with regard to the Public Advocate's standing to bring a lawsuit. What is your view on the Public Advocate's use of litigation to attempt to force policy changes?

The Public Advocate should have subpoena power and the power to sue the City of New York. But without those powers the PA has to use the Bully Pulpit and the power of the media to draw attention to waste and fraud in agencies like NYCHA and the MTA

9. 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.

We spend \$30,000 per student in our schools but we are not getting our money's worth. We spend 2xs as much on capital projects as Paris
We need independent audits of NYCHA and the MTA. And real accountability in our schools. The Renewal Schools Program was a dismal failure because of a lack of accountability.

10. How would you approach the responsibilities of the Public Advocate regarding access to public information in monitoring the implementation of the city's Open Data Law?

We need to let those who use the Open Data Law that someone is listening and will act when waste, fraud or corruption are exposed
We need a Public Advocate who is willing to call out members of the political establishment and high ranking officials in the agencies. As well as willing to take on the unions.

11. What specifically will you do as Public Advocate to ensure New York achieves a full and complete Census count in 2020?

I am an educator and I will educate the public on why filling out the census form is so important in deciding redistricting and funding

12. 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
- b. Public Safety
- c. Public Transportation
- d. Health and Environment
- e. Economic Development
- f. Education

Affordable Housing: oppose MIH and rezoning that has resulted in mass displacement

Public Safety: Make sure that justice is served to police officers who assault innocent civilians and be willing to take on the police union and DAs.

Health and Environment

Be a true advocate for health issues including calling out the Department of Health's failures to humanely and efficiently care for dogs and cats. We can do better than our kill shelter system. NYC is behind the times.

II. CAMPAIGN PROMISES MADE TO VOTERS

What are the top five promises or goals you are making to voters during this campaign?

If elected, Citizens Union will use these promises to evaluate your performance while in office, as well as to evaluate your candidacy in the future.

Please feel free to use additional paper if the space provided is not sufficient, and to affix additional information such as a résumé, campaign brochure, or issue statements. We thank you very much for your response.

TOP FIVE 2017 CAMPAIGN PROMISES OR GOALS

1. pass SBJSA

2. STOP Displacement - We need to protect our communities from high-rise luxury development that displaces long time residents in favor of the 1 percent. No more mega towers and pro-developer rezonings in our neighborhoods. No subsidies to real estate developers and corporations such as Amazon.

3. Reform ULURP to give communities veto power over rezoning

4. No New Jails - The REAL SOLUTION to overcrowding and abuse in our city jails is not to build new jails but stop unnecessary arrests and eliminate the cash bail system. Eisenbach has called upon his fellow candidates for Public Advocate to take the NO New Jails, End Cash Bail Pledge

5. Stop Wage Theft - Current enforcement of the labor law is weak. Wage theft is rampant. Workers go through the legal process to get a judgment, but can't collect back pay. The real solution is to prevent the fraudulent transfer of assets. In addition, the elimination of tip credit will lead to the elimination of tips. This will increase wage theft and undermine those businesses who comply with the law.

III. ETHICAL REPRESENTATION OF CONSTITUENTS

Citizens Union believes that all New Yorkers deserve to be represented by officials who work for the public interest and honor public trust. With the corruption conviction of recent state legislative leaders, we seek to endorse a candidate who will demonstrate that she/he will honor the full commitment of the oath of office, and will always represent the public interest above all else.

Please tell us how you would continue to conduct the political affairs of this office in an upright manner.

I will not take any corporate money or any contributions with
real estate developers or landlords. I do not want to be mayor and will
not use it as a stepping stone to the mayor's office. I will have not
problem calling out waste fraud and corruption at any level of city gov
from the community boards, to city agencies, the unions, City Council
and the mayor.

Please return to: Citizens Union, Local Candidates Committee, 299 Broadway, Suite 700 New York, NY 10007;
Via email to candidates@citizensunion.org or fax to 212-227-0345 • Call us at 212-227-0342 with questions.