

**CITIZENS UNION CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE
NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
ELECTION 2009**

Citizens Union would appreciate your responses to the following questions related to policy issues facing the City of New York that are of concern to Citizens Union and the citizens 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. 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: **JEROME L. RICE** Age: 47

Office to Which You Seek (Re) Election: Council District #: **CITY COUNCIL 12TH DIST.**

Campaign Address: **COMMITTEE TO ELECT JEROME RICE
P.O. BOX 514 NY,NY 10024**

Campaign Telephone Number: (917) 671-7862 Fax: () _____

Party Affiliation(s): **DEMOCRAT** Campaign Manager Name: **TOMMASINA SAMS-RIDDICK**

Website & Email: WWW.VOTEJEROMERICE.COM / jrice4change@aol.com

Education: **MBA, BUS. MANAGEMENT & AAS, COMPUTER SCIENCE**

Occupation/Employer (or years in currently held elected office): **RET. NYC DOC 21YRS. (CAPTAIN) AND RETIRED MILITARY 22 YRS.**

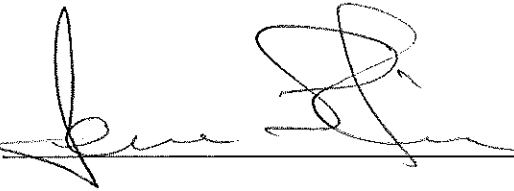
Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement:

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" and "Endorsed Candidate" rating only to candidates we have interviewed. We will make every effort to interview candidates in each race for City Council.)

Signature of Candidate:

A handwritten signature in black ink, written over a horizontal line. The signature is cursive and appears to be "John R. ...".

Date:

8/3/09

I. CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

Please state your position on the following issues by indicating whether you support or oppose each. You may elaborate in the space provided at the end or on additional paper.

VOTING AND ELECTIONS REFORM

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------|--------|
| 1. What is your position with respect to allowing voters who are registered as independents to vote in party primaries? | <u>Support</u> | Oppose |
| 2. What is your position on passage of state legislation that would allow referenda initiated by the City Council and/or the public to appear on the ballot at the same time as a referendum initiated by a charter commission appointed by the Mayor? | Support | Oppose |
| 3. What is your position on increasing the pay of Election Day poll workers above the current \$200 they are allotted per election event? | Support | Oppose |
| 4. What is your position on restructuring New York's current board of elections model to eliminate political party responsibility for overall election administration and replace it with a system that narrows political party involvement to certification of candidate petitions and the actual counting of votes? | Support | Oppose |
| 5. What is your position on having an election administration system where there is a local elections executive director appointed by the mayor upon recommendation by a new board that is chosen by the mayor and the city council? | Support | Oppose |

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

- | | | |
|---|----------------|--------|
| 6. What is your position on implementing "war chest" restrictions that would prohibit a candidate from transferring funds raised in a previous election cycle into a current campaign committee for a different office? | Support | Oppose |
|---|----------------|--------|

- | | | |
|---|----------------|--------|
| 7. What is your position on allowing campaign financing for ballot proposals? | Support | Oppose |
|---|----------------|--------|

CITY COUNCIL REFORM

- | | | |
|--|----------------|---------------|
| 8. What is your position on allowing Council committees to function more independently of the speaker than is presently the case? | Support | Oppose |
| a. Should committee staff be hired by and report to committee chairs? | Support | Oppose |
| b. Should committee hearings and votes be scheduled at the direction of the chairs? | Support | Oppose |
| c. Should committees be able to issue subpoenas by a vote of their members? | Support | Oppose |
| 9. What is your position on: | | |
| a. limiting councilmembers' ability to earn outside income? | Support | Oppose |
| b. making the job of councilmember a full-time position? | Support | Oppose |
| c. eliminating or limiting stipends for committee chairs and leadership positions? | Support | Oppose |
| 10. What is your position on requiring that any future increase in councilmember compensation not affect those serving in the current term of the council and only be applied prospectively to the following term? | Support | Oppose |
| 11. What is your position on consolidating the current City Council committee structure and reducing the number of overall committees? | Support | Oppose |
| 12. What is your position on term limits for elected officials? | Support | Oppose |
| 13. What is your position on modifying the City Charter to require that changes to term limits may only be approved by the voters? | Support | Oppose |

- | | | |
|---|---------|---------------|
| 14. What is your position on the recent extension of term limits for the city’s elected officials to three consecutive four-year terms? Please explain your answer. | Support | Oppose |
|---|---------|---------------|

I FIND THE RECENT CHANGES IN TERM LIMITS TO BE DISGRACEFUL. THE PEOPLE OF NEW YORK CITY HAD VOTED TWICE AGAINST THE CHANGES. YOU SHOULD NOT GO AGAINST THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE. ALSO IF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES CAN ADHERE TO TERM LIMITS, SO SHOULD THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL, NO ONE IS ABOVE THE LAW.

POLICY ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE

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.

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|--------|
| 15. Knowing that the police department and commissioner retain ultimate authority for determining whether an officer is guilty and penalty, what is your position on transferring power to the Civilian Complaint Review Board to prosecute cases of police misconduct, such as force, abuse of authority, discourtesy, and offensive language? | Support | Oppose |
| 16. What is your position on changing the current land use process under ULURP to increase the role of community-based planning? | Support | Oppose |
| 17. What is your position regarding the creation of a Charter Revision Commission to review specifically the roles of the various offices of government and how well government has functioned since the 1988 and 1989 charter review commissions? | Support | Oppose |
| 18. What is your position on reforming the current pension funding structure to create multiple tiers for future city government employees? | Support
Must review | Oppose |

- a. In FY 2008-09, New York City spent \$12 billion on pensions and fringe benefits for City employees out of a total budget of \$62 billion. What would you do to address the growing pension costs borne by the city and New York City tax payers?

NYC CURRENTLY HAVE TOO MANY EMPLOYEES WITH A LOT OF SENORITY. MOST OF THE EMPLOYEES WANT TO RETIRE, BUT THE CITY HAVEN'T PROVIDED A LIVABLE BUY-OUT TO ITS EMPLOYEE. I WILL SEEK TO PROVIDE A LIVABLE PLAN FOR THOSE WISHING EARLY RETIREMENT. I WILL ALSO REVIEW ALL OUTSIDE CONTRACTORS THAT PROVIDE US THE FRINGE BENEFITS.

- | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|--------|
| 19. What is your position with respect to the City Council passing a resolution calling upon the State Legislature to establish a State Constitutional Convention? | Support
Must
review | Oppose |
|--|-----------------------------------|--------|

- a. If support, what are the three most important areas that need improvement?

- b. Do you believe that greater home rule should be granted to the City of New York? If so, in what areas should further sovereignty be given?

- 20. 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 would you propose to address the MTA's fiscal solvency issues and ensure that the burden for funding the MTA is equitably distributed among all stakeholders?

The on-going problem with the MTA is that they often use raising the tolls as a option to get out of debt, only to later declare a surplus. The MTA needs someone on the outside to monitor their books. I will also call for unannounced inspections on the way the money are being both spent and directed to.

21. What would you propose in terms of creating a greater role for the city council in determining and deciding the city budget?

I will ask that all special projected are clearly defined at a public hearing. This will expose all councilmen that are trying to direct funding to projects that are not useful to this city. It will also benefit projects that are often neglected and useful to the city.

22. What is your position regarding the City's past practice of using surplus tax revenues to pay down future health cost and pension obligations, and the decision not to do so this year?

The city should have a plan in place that is consistence and affordable. We shouldn't create an atmosphere that will be financially harmful to our children and grandchildren. Surplus is never promising.

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

To best solve this tax fiasco, we need to ensure that everybody is paying their share on taxes. I also think that having a millionaire tax is also the solution. Many of our city's elite (millionaires) believe that they are doing us a favor by having their business in our city, the truth is we are doing each other a favor, however we need to stop giving the rich too many tax breaks and encourage them to finally pay their share.

24. Many policy advocates champion the creation of a more diversified economy, and one that is less reliant on Wall Street. What is your position on such a plan? If you support it, what would you do to diversify the city's economy? How would you adjust spending in New York City to accommodate the anticipated reduction in tax revenue as the tax base shifts to lower paying jobs?

Because New York City is so diverse, it serves as an attraction throughout the world for tourism. I will support and welcome people of various cultures to invest in our city, by advertising the many thing cultural events in other countries.

25. 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?

The Mayor's control, almost eliminate the voices of concern parents, so we need the Mayor to understand that the parents must have a voice on educational change. The other problem is that some of our parents are young and can't assist their child on their

homework primarily because they had dropped out of school, so we need to have a program in place that is willing to bring our parents up to the educational level.

26. 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 and its voters?

The Board of Elections should be more independent and less political influence. During election time, every candidate including incumbents must be on one accord. The board must establish a site that will clearly update the voters on how and where every money was obtained. Currently all incumbents during petitions gathering are allow to piggyback off other candidates seeking a different office for signatures example Councilman Saunders can be on Bill Thompson's petition sheets. If you are doing the work for the people, then gathering signatures shouldn't be hard.

27. What would you propose to further enhance transparency regarding the relationships between council members, their families, and nonprofits that receive funding from New York City?

Because Councilman Larry Seabrook has a extensive history of personally hiring his sister, brother and nephew, bypassing the Conflict and Interest Board chaired by Councilwoman Inez Dickens, I call for stronger penalties. I recommend that all family members, organization etc. all go through the conflict and Interest board to avoid any delay in any funding.



CANDIDATE ACCOUNTABILITY QUESTIONNAIRE

Citizens Union is adding a new element to its evaluation of candidates running for office. As a candidate who presently does not hold elected office, CU is interested in knowing your top five campaign promises you are making to the voters during this campaign for this position.

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

We thank you very much for your response. Please feel free to use additional paper if the space provided is not sufficient.

TOP FIVE 2009 CAMPAIGN PROMISES

1. **Affordable Homes**- having 3 families in one house is not version of affordable homes.
2. **Education**- We need to prepare our youth for the Real World (Sub-prime, predatory lending.
3. **Public Safety**- Close the communication gap between both the Police and the community “Because those who are paid to protect you, must also respect you”
4. **Economy**- We must support local business and encourage other business to invest in our city, community. This will bring in more jobs and revenue to your community.
5. **Community base programs** like Stay Out Of Prison (SOUP)- this program will reduce the amount of people returning to prison and jump start their life on the right path.