

**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: Kevin D. Kim Age: 39

Office to Which You Seek (Re) Election: Council District #: 19

Campaign Address: P.O. Box 604903, Bayside, NY 11360

Campaign Telephone Number: (718) 224-4922 Fax: (718) 224-4923

Party Affiliation(s): Democrat Campaign Manager Name: Kevin Clemency

Website & Email: www.votekevinkim.com kclmency@votekevinkim.com

Education: Stanford University '93 (B.A. & M.A.) Columbia Law School '99 (J.D.)

Occupation/Employer (or years in currently held elected office): Deputy Director of Community Affairs for United States Representative Gary L. Ackerman (D -Queens/L.I.)

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement: *Federal Law Clerk, Board member for American Red Cross (Queens) and Friends of Thirteen (PBS), NYC certified community mediator.*

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" 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: Kevin D. Kim Date: July 18, 2009

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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? 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

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

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

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

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

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

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
- a. Should committee staff be hired by and report to committee chairs? Support
- b. Should committee hearings and votes be scheduled at the direction of the chairs? Support
- c. Should committees be able to issue subpoenas by a vote of their members? Support
9. What is your position on:
- a. limiting councilmembers' ability to earn outside income? Support
- b. making the job of councilmember a full-time position? Support
- c. eliminating or limiting stipends for committee chairs and leadership positions? Support
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
11. What is your position on consolidating the current City Council committee structure and reducing the number of overall committees? Support
12. What is your position on term limits for elected officials? Support
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
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.

The people of New York City have voted twice to limit elected officials to two terms. That the Mayor and the City Council took action to extend term limits, without the consent of the people, is disgraceful.

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?
- See
below.

I would like to see the creation of an independent review board that is composed of representatives of the police department and the Civilian Complaint Review Board

16. What is your position on changing the current land use process under ULURP to increase the role of community-based planning?
- Support

I would like to see the role of community boards in planning extend beyond the ability to make recommendations and to have a real say in the process.

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

18. What is your position on reforming the current pension funding structure to create multiple tiers for future city government employees?
- See (a)
below.

- 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?

Everyone, including city employees, realizes that the current system is unsustainable in the long-term. We need to sit down with all concerned parties to create a sustainable pension system for the future.

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

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

Education, Economy, and Public Safety

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?

I believe that if we have learned anything from the current fiasco in the State Senate, it is that New York City must have increased sovereignty over the management of our public schools. It is unacceptable that political games in Albany can put our children's education in jeopardy.

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?

First, I support having the MTA open up its books to the public so that we may be certain that public funds are being spent responsibly. Second, I would ask the MTA to increase its efficiency and decrease its costs by rooting out waste (e.g., the recent abuses uncovered about MTA retirees receiving potentially inappropriate disability payments).

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

I would like to see the City Council play a greater role in the development of the City's budget and increase their say in the approval of the budget.

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?

Not necessarily. While paying down health costs and pension obligations are important, we should consider other potential needs of the City that would possibly provide a better return, like allocating funds for our schools.

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.

New York City residents pay some of the highest taxes in the country, and as such, deserve nothing less than the highest quality of City services in return. I believe that to best improve the quality of services, we first need to closely examine if there are ways to make the City operate more efficiently and effectively before we can figure

out if the current level of allocated resources is enough or not. What we should not be doing is focusing on increasing the amount or number of “nuisance” taxes that disproportionately hurt the middle class families.

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?

While Wall Street certainly plays a significant role in the City’s economy, we must remember that most New Yorkers do not work on Wall Street. Instead, it is the small businesses that are the backbone of our economy in the city and we must support policies that promote the growth of these businesses. The anticipated reduction in tax revenue is an excellent time to focus on making government more transparent and rooting out waste, for e.g., “slush fund scandal.”

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 positive changes can be made to the New York City public school system?

In an ideal world, I would like to see the new School Board (or PEP if Mayoral Control is reinstated by the State Senate) composed of six appointees by the mayor, one representative from each of New York’s five boroughs, one representative of public school teachers, and one member representing the parents. Such an educational committee would create a checks and balance system over the mayor’s absolute control over educational policy in the City, while still maintaining a high-level of accountability in the Mayor.

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?

I would like to see an end to political appointments and patronage at the Board of Elections. Hiring (and firing) should be done solely on merit instead.

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?

No family member of a council member should be allowed work for or sit on board of a non-profit that receives money from NYC. In my opinion, there is a clear conflict of interest if family members of council members are in line to receive any city funds. How many more scandals must we experience with city council members and their families before we realize that clear lines must be drawn between council members, their families, and non-profits that receive funding from NYC?



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. To increase parental involvement in educational policy.
2. To limit irresponsible development.
3. To seek out greater private-public partnerships as a means to increase funding for public projects.
4. To incorporate greater use of technology to enforce quality-of-life issues, such as illegal parking and truck traffic, to free up police officers to concentrate on preventing and solving more serious crimes.
5. To demand fiscal responsibility and full transparency over how taxpayers' money is allocated and spent.