



**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: Arthur Gregory_ Age: __55

Office to Which You Seek (Re) Election: Council District #: _City Council 1st District

Campaign Address:46 Stone Street #4 New York, New York 1004

Campaign Telephone Number: (646) 408 0033

Party Affiliation(s): Democrat

_ Campaign Manager Name: Chris Arnaold

Website & Email: www.arthurgregory.org , arthur@arthurgregory.org

Education: have been out of collage for over 25 year, I do not really think this should be a consideration.

Brookdale collage, Rutgers and Fordham

Occupation/Employer (or years in currently held elected office):_ Self employed, hospitality, specialty foods and real estate

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement: c.a. **POLITICAL:**
Member Ex Board, Downtown Independent Democrat's

Legislative Aide to Assemblyman Richard Van Wagner 11th District N.J.

Campaign Manager and Legislative Aide to Ray Kramer Chair of the Monmouth County Board of Freeholders

Vice Chair of the New Jersey Young Democrats

Ex Board of the Nation Young Democrat

Docent for 911 Tribute Center

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

Member Speaker Silvers committee on Downtown schools

Member Speaker Silver Committee on Futerman Hall

Member Councilman Allan Gerson committee on housing and noise

Spokesperson for the American Cancer Society - NYC Health Department smoking in the workplace campaign

Spokesperson for the NYC Health Departments Tran's fat campaign

Friends of City Hall Park

ORGANIZATIONS:

NYPD Auxiliary police Harbor Unit

Tribeca CERT Team

Public (former appointed) member Community Board One

Founding Member and Vice (former Chair), The Tribeca Organization

Founding Member, From The Ground Up

Young's member of a Y M H A's Board of Directors in the USA

HONORABLE MENTIONS:

Salvation Army's award for service to the recovery effort at Ground Zero

Named Everyday Hero of the Week Newsday the newspaper

Should committees be able to issue subpoenas by a vote of their members?

Yes, but you would have to have the NY State legislature give the council some real power to enforce

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: Arthur Gregory
& 20 2009

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?

I would allow any registered voter to sign a petition to have a person have the right to run for public office, and sign for as many people as they want

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?

I would allow any referendum that has past the test to get on the ballot allowed, let the voters up or down the issue

3. What is your position on increasing the pay of Election Day poll workers above the current \$200 they are allotted per election event?

At this time the amount paid to poll workers is in my option fine, if I really thought that y a better grade of poll worker by paying more I would support that, but I do not believe that would happen

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?

This is a tough one, coming from a area that has nonpartisan municipal elections, there still is the party influence in that style of elections, in a perfect world I would like it to be as non bias possible, but that world does not exists0 128

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?

That would be fine, if there were total transparence and check and balances to make sure its non partisan

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?

The people that gave funds to a particular campaign, should not have there donations put into another campaign with out there consent, the campaign committee has no right to just transfer funds

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

I believe that there would have to a very strong test to have ballot proposals get public monies

CITY COUNCIL REFORM

8. What is your position on allowing Council committees to function more independently of the speaker than is presently the case?
- a. Should committee staff be hired by and report to committee chairs?

Yes the committee chairs should have the power to conduct all of the business of the committees, with input from the entire council and the speakers office

- b. Should committee hearings and votes be scheduled at the direction of the chairs?

Like in and structure governmental or business, there has to be someone that manages the day to day business, and the chair should be that person

- c. Should committees be able to issue subpoenas by a vote of their members?

The issuing of subpoenas would be a helpful tool in hearings, especially if there is an investigation of a city agency or the mayors office ect, but the state legislature I believe would have to give the council some power and penalty’s such as contempt of council to make it work

9. What is your position on:
- a. limiting councilmembers’ ability to earn outside income?
- b. making the job of councilmember a full-time position?
- c. eliminating or limiting stipends for committee chairs and leadership positions?

- A. if there is no conflict and it does not take away from there job as a council person
- B. That is a no brainer this city is to big to have part time legislatures
- C. There has to be some compensation for committee chairs other than just prestige

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?

I think the pay for city council members is a little low for this large a city, you only get what you pay for, and in the whole of the city budget there salary's is a very little cut of the pie, people should get paid for what they do, those candidates that would only take some of there salary as a campaign issues are just not going to do the joba , the people of your origination are paid for what you do and city council people should be too

11. What is your position on consolidating the current City Council committee structure and reducing the number of overall committees?

The more you have input into the workings of government works better that just a few having all the power to choose what is important to the council, there should be as many committees as needed to look at every matter of the people

12. What is your position on term limits for elected officials?

I am not in favor of term limits, I believe in this day and age, the public as the tools and access to information to decide to vote out an incumbent, I am in favor of having no elected office being less that four years, to have elected official such as congress, assembly and state senators elected to only two year terms, has them continually running for office instead of doing there real job governing

13. What is your position on modifying the City Charter to require that changes to term limits may only be approved by the voters?

I am in favor of the voters deciding almost everything

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.

This is a very tough issue, the Mayor, myself been a student of politics in my life, pulled off a very legal (maybe not that above board, but legal) maneuver. He let the powers that be look the other way (thinking he was running for the presidency)consider he would try for a third term.

The two referendums, for term limits were almost as brilliant with Ralph Lauder and the republican party out maneuvered the Dem's twice, if you look at the results of the two votes

for term limits as you know you will find that except for a couple of districts in the city the issues was voted down, just in those districts that Lauder and his group spent millions of dollars knowing that they would get the Republican base out to the polls in mass, which they did to pass the referendum

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?

The commissioner has to have the final word, but he should have a legislative guidelines how to rule, with the CCRB recombination being his guide, with appeal to the decision if not in the lines of the board being allowed

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

The community Board system, should be given more power, other than just recommending to land use in there area, with the use of real public hearing and a appeal 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?

Review of the city charter should happen every ten year, just of course as the census does, the world is changing to fast not to examine the workings of the city

18. What is your position on reforming the current pension funding structure to create multiple tiers for future city government employees?

I am not up to speed with the pension system at this time, of course if elected I will to the best of my and my staffs ability to be abreast of all the city's needs and issues

- 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?

Since this not my expertise, I would find the best and brightest people in this city to examine and recommend to the council what should be the best way of the city in curbing pension costs.

I can not know everything, and believe that is always good to get the opinion of the experts in any field before I take any action on a issue

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?

I believe its time for a look at the state constitution especially with respect to the city

- a. If support, what are the three most important areas that need improvement?
 1. The formula of tax money from the city coming back to the city
 2. The control and schools being controlled by the city with less control of the state legislature
 3. the reform of the election system, especially when it comes to the petitioning system
- 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?

The need what and desires of the City compared to most of the rest of the state are in many cases very different, if the city is going to give the state such a large percentage of the tax dollars, we should get a bigger say in how it is spent, not that the upstate legislators are not looking out for the interest of the whole state they sometimes do not or will not look at our needs

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 commuter tax should be put back in place (this is one of the upstate officials only seeing there needs), if you do not live in the city but want to make your fortune here, you have to pay for that privilege

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

This is the councils on real role, but it should not be just a hearing and up or down vote system, the council has to be allowed to dictate, may be with line item veto power on the city 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?

At this time I am not in the position to make a comment on this issue

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.

I am sorry I would have to talk to you for hours on this question, there are so many ways to cut costs with out raising tax's. this city has become a very anti small business city, they use tax's fines and fee's to beef up the city bank accounts but make it almost imposable to make a go of it as a small retail business owner, vacant retail space in my district just below Canal street is more than most small city's it this country, as of March 2009 there were 386 vacant store fronts as of June 2009 in china town there were 82, the tax dollars alone lost by the lake of people working in those retail establishment is in the is staggering, the perks of city employees in the management level, such as city cars that are just used to go to and from the employs home. Because the city is self insured, we pay out millions of dollars in liability cases that would never would of happened if insurance companies were involved with whether or not thinks like bike paths stair cases and thousands of other dangerous situations were allowed by city agencies

As I stated this is a subject that would take hours of discussion just to get threw the facts the ramifications and the solutions

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?

My district being part of the financial area of the city and now that it has become a 24 7 area, with over 48 thousand new residents since 9/11 I am a little parcel on the change in relying on the wall street industries, we are the financial capital of the world and are not going anywhere fast, so we will have to live with it and hope to add to the outer boros a new industrial base

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?

Teach and also on a smaller level ave a much larger say in the workings of the city school system

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?
27. The new and better way of government every were in this country is demanding my actability and transparence , that the way of now and the future

28. 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?

There has to be a strict set of oversights to all money given to any person, non profit or anyone getting funds from the city, I know this sound like a very simple answer to your question, but it should be, you want to get funds you are going to have to jump thew hopes to prove you should



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. assessable, accountability and transparency
2. Have web site for each of the 5 areas of the district, so my residents and workers in the district can get information easier and get answers to there needs faster
3. get more school funding for the increase of new school age children moving into this are (the most growth in the city)
4. Parking, get ride of most of the city agency parking permits for non essential automobiles in the area
5. make guild lines for devolpment , making developers give make to the area, with schools, parks and affordable housing in new and converted building, especially if there or tax, size or interest on government loans in play