



**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: Jin "PJ" Kim Age: 30

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

Campaign Address: 47 Mott St. #11 NY, NY

Campaign Telephone Number: (917) 509-3967 Fax: ()

Party Affiliation(s): Democrat Campaign Manager Name: Maty Simon

Website & Email: www.pjkim.com & pj@pjkim.com

Education: Princeton University-public policy BA, Harvard Business School MBA & Harvard Kennedy School Master of Public Administration

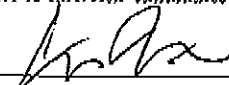
Occupation/Employer (or years in currently held elected office): _____

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement: Vice President of Singlestop USA, Director of Income Policy at Foodchange

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:  Date: July 17, 2009

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Peter J.W. Sherwin, Chair • Dick Dadey, Executive Director



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We thank you very much for your response.

Candidate Name: _Jin “PJ” Kim_____ Age: ___30___

Office to Which You Seek (Re) Election: Council District #: ___1_____

Campaign Address: _47 Mott St. #11 NY, NY_____

Campaign Telephone Number: (917) 509-3967 _____ Fax: () _____

Party Affiliation(s): _Democrat_____ Campaign Manager Name: _Mary Simon_____

Website & Email: _www.pjkim.com & pj@pjkim.com_____

Education: _Princeton University-public policy BA, Harvard Business School MBA & Harvard Kennedy School Master of Public Administration_____

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

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Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement: Vice President of
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Signature of Candidate: _____ Jin "PJ" Kim _____ Date: July 17, 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? | Support | <u>Oppose</u> |
| 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? | <u>Support</u> | 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? | <u>Support</u> | 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? | <u>Support</u> | 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? | <u>Support</u> | 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? | <u>Support</u> | Oppose |
|---|----------------|--------|

7. What is your position on allowing campaign financing for ballot proposals?	Support	<u>Oppose</u>
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CITY COUNCIL REFORM

8. What is your position on allowing Council committees to function more independently of the speaker than is presently the case?	<u>Support</u>	Oppose
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a. Should committee staff be hired by and report to committee chairs?	<u>Support</u>	Oppose
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b. Should committee hearings and votes be scheduled at the direction of the chairs?	<u>Support</u>	Oppose
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c. Should committees be able to issue subpoenas by a vote of their members?	<u>Support</u>	Oppose
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9. What is your position on:		
a. limiting councilmembers' ability to earn outside income?	<u>Support</u>	Oppose

b. making the job of councilmember a full-time position?	<u>Support</u>	Oppose
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c. eliminating or limiting stipends for committee chairs and leadership positions?	<u>Support</u>	Oppose
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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?	<u>Support</u>	Oppose
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11. What is your position on consolidating the current City Council committee structure and reducing the number of overall committees?	<u>Support</u>	Oppose
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12. What is your position on term limits for elected officials?	Support	<u>Oppose</u>
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13. What is your position on modifying the City Charter to require that changes to term limits may only be approved by the voters?	<u>Support</u>	Oppose
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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 oppose the extension of term limits without a referendum from New Yorkers. Although I am personally against term limits, I believe that it was wrong for the City Council members to act in their self-interest and vote to extend term limits for themselves in direct opposition to the stated will of the voters.

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

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?

Our city workers are dedicated and hard working and get paid less than many private contractors who sometimes do the same work. However, in municipalities across the US, the current pace of growth in pension costs will quickly become financially unsustainable. This will be to the detriment of both taxpayers and current retirees if local governments are forced to default on their obligations and make drastic cuts across the board. All options must be on the table, including looking at multiple tiers for future employees in the long term. However, I do not believe that there are enough short term savings from enacting multiple tiers to warrant the amount of attention given to this issue as a way to address our immediate budget crisis. We need to look at the rising costs of private contractors and revenue opportunities from targeted taxes and not use public employee pensions as a scapegoat for our budget crisis. The financial black hole of quasi-public authorities which continue to operate in a shadowy world of unaccountable spending and questionable debt issuance should also be examined for cost savings.

19. What is your position with respect to the City Council Support Oppose
 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?

1. Budget reform in terms of transparency of process
2. Campaign finance reform to lower individual limits and require more disclosure
3. Government ethics commission that can investigate and meaningfully enforce penalties on those who abuse the public trust

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?

Yes, more sovereignty in taxation, education policy, housing and transit would give the City the critical ability to govern itself as it sees fit.

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?

I would support the enactment of a new regional Mobility Tax so that those who do not live in New York City but benefit from its transit systems are also paying their fair share. Right now, the percentage of operating costs borne by MTA riders' fares is the highest of any transit system in the country while the percentage of the budget provided by regional and state sources is among the lowest. The percentage of the budget that is derived from dedicated funding sources is also among the lowest in the country. If we are serious about making sure the MTA is a world class transit system, then we need to ensure that we spread the burden for both operating and capital support among everyone who rides and benefits.

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

I do think that the City Council should have a greater role in not only budget oversight and review but also in allocation and appropriation, particularly with capital budget items pertaining to agencies under the purview of a Councilperson's particular committee. The recent slush fund scandal has demonstrated that the process of distributing member items and discretionary funds needs more transparency and accountability. I am hopeful that a speedy resolution of the ongoing investigations will clear the way for sweeping reforms.

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?

In principle, I support using surplus tax revenues, when available, to pay down future health costs, pension obligations, and any onerous debt service, since this will save us money in the long term. But we are in an extraordinary fiscal crisis with immediate gaps that need to be addressed so I agree that this is not the year when we have the luxury of paying down future obligations. _____

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 think that New Yorkers, particularly those who live in Lower Manhattan, do not receive the full value of their tax dollars in terms of having adequate schools, clean parks, and improved public transit. I believe that we need to work with our state legislators to reinstate a regional commuter/mobility tax. If we brought back this tax level to the .45% that existed in the late 1990s, it would raise an additional \$755 million a year. I think the Independent Budget Office's proposal to add two new tax brackets merits serious attention. They propose a new top rate of 3.92% for single filers making \$125k and joint filers \$225k and top rate of 4.2% for single filers making \$250k and joint filers making \$450k. This would raise an additional \$603 million per year. Expanding and changing the bottle bill to include sports drinks, prepared iced tea, and bottled water would also bring in an additional \$55 million per year and reduce trash volume as well. Besides revenues, I would also certainly look at the cost side of the equation. Many critics of increased private contracting by the City cite its high cost and low return – I believe this deserves serious investigation.

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?

I support such a plan, particularly because Lower Manhattan is a prime example of the dangers of an undiversified economy. We need to encourage entrepreneurship, promote innovations in the social and civic sector, and strengthen Lower Manhattan's competitive advantages in higher education, research & development, the arts, and culture. The district includes NYU, Pace University, the Borough of Manhattan Community College, and numerous artistic, historic, and cultural assets. We must better harness the incredible talent and energy of unemployed and underemployed workers in Lower Manhattan to rebuild our foundation for future economic growth. We need to repeal the Unincorporated Business Tax which unfairly targets the growing number of freelancers. We also need to promote portable benefits so that people with great ideas for starting new businesses don't have to be stuck in a dead-end job because they are worried about losing vital benefits. I support the expansion of Mayor Bloomberg's initiatives to make it easier for entrepreneurs to start new businesses by providing "incubator" office spaces and partnerships with Universities. In particular, the successful

clusters of high-tech entrepreneurship in California and Massachusetts are based around local government support, the presence of highly motivated entrepreneurs, and anchor institutions of higher learning such as MIT and Stanford. I believe we can replicate this in New York City as well to take advantage of the next waves of business and technology innovation so that we can eventually rebuild our tax base with higher paying jobs.

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?

I support mayoral control with modification. For instance, Community Education Councils and School Leadership Teams should be given more support and training along the model that the Manhattan Borough President's office has done with local community boards so that we can lower barriers to participation and ensure that parents and teachers have the tools and knowledge necessary to navigate the new system and provide substantive input. I also believe there needs to be strengthened oversight and auditing power from the City Comptroller's office so that there is more transparency about procurement contracts and data about student achievement.

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?

We should strive for the Board to be less political and have fewer patronage jobs so that they can be an independent watchdog of the political process. We need to improve public access to information so that it is easily available online, similar to the efforts of the New York City Campaign Finance Board. The performance of local boards should also be tracked and available for public review. I believe we need to eliminate the ten-day advance voter registration requirement and implement no-excuse absentee voting.

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?

I support a uniform qualification process to make sure that all nonprofits receiving City funding are legitimate organizations and a more accessible way for the public to know more details about all discretionary funding allocations. I would further support a measure restricting a City Councilperson from providing discretionary funds to any nonprofit

organization that employs or has on their board a member of the Councilperson's immediate or extended family, subject to review by an independent board.

Additional Comments:

My name is Jin “PJ” Kim and I am running for New York City Council to represent District 1, which encompasses all of Lower Manhattan, including: Chinatown, Tribeca, SoHo, Little Italy, Battery Park City, City Hall, the Financial District and parts of the Lower East Side and Greenwich Village.

I live in the Financial District in the Greenwich Street South neighborhood and served for 2 years on Community Board 1 (Lower Manhattan), with assignments on the Quality of Life Committee and the World Trade Center Redevelopment Committee. I see firsthand that our neighborhoods are the fastest growing residential areas in New York City. But I also see that government services and local politics have not kept pace with the speed and direction of these tremendous changes. I’m running because I believe the City Council needs a dose of progressive professionalism.

The residents and businesses of Lower Manhattan are suffering during this economic downturn. I offer new ideas, energy, and leadership to bring our diverse community together to make Lower Manhattan a more livable place for both long-time and new residents.

I will fight to improve access to crucial social services, invest in public education so that we have the best teachers in less crowded classrooms, expand our economic base by focusing on our competitive advantages, protect affordable housing, and ensure that our public transit is world class and adequately funded. I will work hard every day to ensure that government services in Lower Manhattan serve the families in our growing neighborhoods and that City Hall promotes innovative policies so that all New Yorkers can be confident about our shared future.

I am a first generation immigrant from South Korea. My parents and I moved to the US and first lived in Louisiana and Tennessee. My parents were graduate students so they only earned \$500 a month for 5 years. We lived in subsidized student housing and I ate free school breakfast and lunch. Even at a young age, I knew our poverty was only temporary because my parents’ education would lead to better opportunities for our family. But I also knew that many of my classmates and friends were not so lucky and faced a less promising future. Personally experiencing income inequality and seeing its limiting effects on human potential was a formative experience that I’ve never forgotten. That’s why I’ve dedicated my professional career to social justice and expanding economic opportunity.

I was fortunate to receive generous financial aid so that I could attend Princeton, where I studied public policy, served as President of the Student Government, and eventually served as a Young Alumni Trustee. After graduation, I moved to New York City and worked at McKinsey as a management consultant, helping to improve the impact of businesses and nonprofit organizations, such as Teach for America, the National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship, and Vote for America.

I left McKinsey to attend Harvard Business School and the Kennedy School of Government to earn a joint MBA/MPA degree. I turned down lucrative job offers and returned to New York to enlist my passion for social justice, experience working in business, and belief in good government, to fight poverty and expand economic opportunity for all New Yorkers.

I have spent the past few years helping to start and lead nonprofit anti-poverty programs that have helped tens of thousands of low income residents in New York City and across the country to access public and private assistance, move out of economic crisis, and begin to build assets.

As Director of Income Policy at FoodChange, now part of the Food Bank of New York, I helped forge innovative partnerships between corporations, labor unions, foundations, community organizations, and local government to deliver tangible results. I led 200 employees and 400 volunteers in 11 locations in all 5 boroughs so that 43,000 low income New Yorkers could stay out of poverty through almost \$80 million in annual tax credits, and thousands of enrollments for subsidized health insurance, food stamps, free bank accounts, and free legal and financial counseling. As Vice President of Programs and part of the start-up team at SingleStop USA, I helped replicate this “one-stop-shop” model throughout New York City and in San Francisco, New Mexico, and Newark.

I am proud of my work to help families survive financial crisis and begin to build assets for their future because I believe that inequality of opportunity is a major threat to the future our country. But I realized that it was not enough for me to just address the symptoms of poverty as I began to see more formerly middle and working class New Yorkers needing assistance. And more distressingly, I did not see traditional local New York City politics producing enough innovative ideas or leaders equal to the immediate crisis.

I decided that running as a candidate this year was the best way I could energize the political process, offer new ideas, and create a sense of urgency to focus on the fundamental challenges that will shape New York City’s future.



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. Ensure that all New Yorkers are connected to the resources that will help them survive this recession by aggressively raising awareness and providing program enrollment assistance.
2. Improve public education by building more schools and attracting the best teachers.
3. Improve Public Transit by supporting long term sustainable funding for MTA operating and capital budget.
4. Improve parks and open space through partnerships with community groups and private sector.
5. Revive and diversify the economy by focusing on innovation and entrepreneurship.