



**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: ___Lynn Schulman_____ Age: ___51_____

Office to Which You Seek (Re) Election: Council District #: ___29_____

Campaign Address: ___Schulman 2009, 72-11 Austin Street, MBE#341, Forest Hills, NY 11375__

Campaign Telephone Number: (718) ___989-5745__ Fax: (718) ___997-7419_

Party Affiliation(s): ___Democrat__ Campaign Manager Name: ___Jessica Way_____

Website & Email: ___www.schulman2009.com email: lschulman2009@gmail.com_____

Education: ___Juris Doctor from Brooklyn Law School__

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

Relations/Marketing, Woodhull Medical Center (currently on an extended leave of absence_

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement: __

I have been a member of Community Board 6, covering the Forest Hills/Rego Park area since 1994, and have served as a Vice Chair on the Board since 1998.

From 1999 to 2002, I served two terms as an elected officer of the 112th Precinct Community Council, and during that time attended and graduated from the NYPD Citizens Police Academy.

I also served as a Board member of the Forest Hills Chamber of Commerce for two terms, and was selected to participate on the Steering Committee to establish a Business Improvement District for Austin Street, a primary commercial strip in Forest Hills. I currently serve as a Board member of the Queens Historical Society.

In 2001, the Forest Hills Volunteer Ambulance Corps responded to the 9/11 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center. During their heroic response, the Ambulance Corps lost their equipment and had one of their ambulances destroyed when the World Trade Center buildings collapsed. After receiving a call for assistance from the Forest Hills Volunteer Ambulance Corps, I was able to replace their equipment and ambulance within a short period of time. This enabled the Volunteer Ambulance Corps to continue to provide emergency medical response services to the Forest Hills community. In recognition for her extraordinary response to the needs of the Forest Hills community as a result of 9/11, I received honorary lifetime membership in the New York State Volunteer Ambulance and Rescue Association.

In addition, during that period, in partnership with Betsy Gotbaum, I helped to establish a funding mechanism for all of NYC’s volunteer ambulance corps to receive funds to replace equipment and ambulances that were lost and/or destroyed as a result of the World Trade Center attack on September 11, 2001.

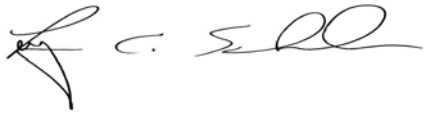
Civic Awards:

- Honored by Committee on Effective Leadership, a progressive citywide advocacy group (2007)
- Honored by Queens Borough President for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month (2006).
- Received Community Leadership Award from Queens Borough President for Women’s History Month (2003).
- Recognized by NYPD with a Certificate of Appreciation for community involvement in National Night Out Against Crime (2001).

As for previous campaigns, I was a candidate for City Council in 2001.

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 16, 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

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| 1. What is your position with respect to allowing voters who are registered as independents to vote in party primaries? | Support | X Oppose |
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I believe this issue needs further study before being supported or implemented.

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| 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? | X Support | Oppose |
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| 3. What is your position on increasing the pay of Election Day poll workers above the current \$200 they are allotted per election event? | X Support | Oppose |
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| 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? | X Support | Oppose |
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| 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? | X Support | Oppose |
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CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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| 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? | X Support | Oppose |
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| 7. What is your position on allowing campaign financing for ballot proposals? | X Support | Oppose |
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CITY COUNCIL REFORM

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| 8. What is your position on allowing Council committees to function more independently of the speaker than is presently the case? | X Support | Oppose |
| a. Should committee staff be hired by and report to committee chairs? | X Support | Oppose |
| b. Should committee hearings and votes be scheduled at the direction of the chairs? | X Support | Oppose |
| c. Should committees be able to issue subpoenas by a vote of their members? | X Support | Oppose |
| 9. What is your position on: | | |
| a. limiting councilmembers' ability to earn outside income? | X Support | Oppose |
| b. making the job of councilmember a full-time position? | X Support | Oppose |
| c. eliminating or limiting stipends for committee chairs and leadership positions? | Support | X 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? | X Support | Oppose |
| 11. What is your position on consolidating the current City Council committee structure and reducing the number of overall committees? | X Support | Oppose |
| 12. What is your position on term limits for elected officials? (ballot access is an issue here) | X 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? | X Support | Oppose |

*For question 9(c) I believe there is room for negotiation on the issue of stipends.

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

___While an argument can be made for extending City Council terms to three terms instead of two, I believe this is an issue that should be presented to the electorate. It is undemocratic for a handful of individuals to overturn the will of the people which was conveyed not once, but twice, in a vote on this issue. Any arguments for extension should be presented to the voters – to state (as some elected officials have) that the voters didn't know what they were voting for is pompous and ridiculous.

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? X Support Oppose

This is a policy issue that needs to be fully vetted, and implemented in a way that ensures that it does not lead to poor morale within the rank and file members of the NYPD which could affect public safety.

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

I believe the current pension structure needs to be reformed, and need to further study the benefits and challenges of seeking multiple tiers for future city employees.

- 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?

__First, we need to stop the growth in government employment. I would bring together my Council colleagues to review the hiring needs of city agencies to determine areas of cost savings. In addition, I would advocate holding meetings with various unions to discuss ways to reduce pension and benefit costs. With the union support I have in my campaign, I would leverage my relationships to open a dialogue on this crucial 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? X Support Oppose

I want to state that requesting a State Constitutional Convention is an extreme step, but given the State’s current malaise and ineffectiveness, it is the only constructive measure that can get government moving in the right direction.

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

__ 1. leadership succession for state government; if we have learned any lessons over the past month, we need to have clear guidelines on succession with regard to the governor and other executive leadership positions.

2. the budget process; to allow for more transparency, planning and consistency (if a budget is not passed by April 1 then the previous year’s budget should be continued to avoid chaos among local governments that rely on the state budget)

3. campaign finance; currently the campaign finance structure for state office is weak with high contribution limits and lacks transparency on many levels.

- 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 do agree that greater home rule should be granted to NYC. NYC is very different from other parts of New York State and has very different needs and issues to address. In relying on Albany to resolve issues, very often NYC suffers the consequences of determinations that are made to resolve issues in upstate localities or on Long Island. The most important areas where I believe further sovereignty would benefit and should be given to the City of New York are: power to impose local taxes, regulate rent protection laws, and fund transportation 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?

I would advocate taking another look at the Commission's proposal to increase the payroll tax (though I would not apply it to city and state government or non-profits, as suggested). In addition, I would advocate for Comptroller Thompson's proposal (which did not receive much attention) to charge an additional fee on registered vehicles based on weight. I believe this would provide an added benefit to the environment in that car owners would (hopefully) switch from heavy gas guzzlers to more fuel efficient, and lighter, vehicles. Further, I believe the MTA needs to be held fiscally accountable and I would request a review of their books.

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 propose a process be instituted that would allow members of the Council to have more opportunity to effectively challenge and review allocation decisions by the Mayor's Office. Currently, much of the Council's budget review powers rest with the Council Speaker, which weakens each member of the Council and in turn has an effect on their respective constituents. I would also propose more transparency of the negotiation process between the Council Speaker's staff and the Mayor's staff with regard to capital allocations.

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 use of surplus tax revenue to pay down future retiree obligations has always been viewed as a "rainy day" fund with no legislative standards that would dictate how it was operated. As such, it has been used by the Mayor as a discretionary fund at his disposal. This year it was used to offset pension losses from the weakening economy, thus demonstrating the need for a strategic plan for dealing with increasing pension obligations for the long-term.

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 believe there are other options other than cutting services or raising taxes. There are redundancies in city government that can be reduced and opportunities to share administrative functions as a way to save money. In addition, if taxes needed to be raised, I won't support regressive taxes that primarily harm middle class and lower income residents. The one tax I would support is an increased income tax for residents with large incomes – greater than \$250,000. In addition, I am a proponent of revising the current personal income tax system to make it more equitable for the working class while raising needed revenue for the city. Services should be the last item that is cut; we must be careful not to revert to the New York that existed during the fiscal crisis of the 1970s.

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?

___ With the current economic climate, the huge loss of jobs in New York City, and the probable restructuring of Wall Street once the economy begins to rebuild, it is an opportune time to look to other, alternative, industries that have the potential to create new jobs and increase revenue for the City.

To implement this priority, it is important to prepare the workforce for jobs in the green industry. Re-training will be needed for workers so that their skills match the new jobs in development and maintenance of green buildings. I would use my influence to explore creating a public/private partnership to expand 32BJ's own Thomas Shortman Training Fund (TSTF), a national model for green training of building service workers. My goal would be to make the program more accessible to a wider pool of workers. In addition, the City Council can advocate that environmental standards be attached to City projects benefiting from economic development or housing subsidies. These subsidized projects also must be required to pay living or prevailing wages, and provide benefits and training to their workers.

As a further step, I would introduce legislation in the Council that would require buildings to be assessed for their energy usage and retrofitted to achieve energy savings and reduce pollution. To ensure the work is done in an appropriate and consistent manner, it is vital that licensing requirements be made mandatory and that the work be done by men and women who have been trained, and are paid a family-sustaining wage.

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?

Mayoral control has brought accountability to the education process in New York City. However, the original intent of Mayoral control has not been realized, which is to bring transparency, along with checks and balances, to the system. In addition, educators, parents and the community have been locked out of the process and currently have little say on educational decisions that affect the future of our city's youth.

To increase the involvement of parents in the education system, I support the proposal for a Uniform Parental Engagement Procedure (UPEP) to create a mechanism, carried out by the Borough Presidents, to provide training and support for parental engagement. In addition, I support a public review period for major policy proposals brought before the Panel for Education Policy (PEP) to ensure community input into the education of our city's youth. Further, I believe a majority of PEP members should be parents of public school students. In addition, teachers should be made part of the process and have input into the education of the children they teach.

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?

First, I would propose the hiring of staff based on merit, instead of political connections. In addition, I would propose that the pay for poll workers be increased and that poll workers be required to attend training sessions in order to be able to work at the polls. Further, I would require the Board of Elections to post sample ballots on the BOE website and offer email notifications of election dates, deadlines and information pertaining to upcoming elections (e.g., polling location, voter hours, etc.). As for accountability, I believe that the performance of the Board of Elections should be included in the Mayors Management Report and be submitted as a report to the City Council on a yearly basis (this is required by State law). Performance criteria would include voting system breakdowns, poll worker training statistics, rejection numbers for affidavit ballots, etc. These are a few of the many reforms needed at the city Board of Elections to raise the level of public trust in the system which is quite low.

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 propose greater transparency of relationships between Council Members and the non-profits they provide funding for. In addition, the list of discretionary funding allocations should be presented by district and neighborhood in a way that is easy for the average person to review and understand. I would also advocate that an allocation report be

disseminated for each district with an asterisk next to the funded entities where there is a relationship with the local Council Member (with an explanation of the specific or potential conflict). We must increase the public's trust in their local elected government, particularly the City Council.



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. I pledge to make NYC and the district affordable for working families and small businesses, the backbone of our economy.
2. I pledge to hold Town Hall meetings in each part of the district at least once a year to hear from constituents on the issues most important to them.
3. I pledge to use the Internet to create a dialogue between me and my constituents. In addition, I will use the Internet to provide additional transparency to my work in the City Council and to educate and inform the communities I serve.
4. I pledge to establish a 24 hour, 7 day a week hotline that will be monitored by staff to ensure effective service delivery to the district
5. I pledge to hire a part-time grants writer to identify alternative funding opportunities for important district programs that might not be able to obtain government funding, given the projected deficits the city is facing.