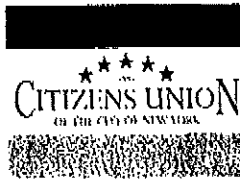


ATT: Andrea



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: David Pechefsky Age: 41

Office to Which You Seek (Re) Election: Council District #: 39

Campaign Address: Pechefsky for City Council 172 5th Ave. PMB 43 Brooklyn, NY 11272

Campaign Telephone Number: 718 369-8959 Fax: 718 255 5714 (cell)

Party Affiliation(s): Green Campaign Manager Name: Jonathan Fluck

Website & Email: david@pechefskyforcitycouncil.com jonathan@pechefskyforcitycouncil.com

Education: MA International Development (American U.)

Occupation/Employer (or years in currently held elected office): Consultant on Legislative Strengthening Internationally

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement: Asst Director NYC Council Finance, Assistant Commissioner Member Econ. Dev. Committee (FD)

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: [Signature] Date: July 20, 09



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

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We thank you very much for your response.

Candidate Name: David Pechefsky Age: 41

Office to Which You Seek (Re) Election: Council District #: 39

Campaign Address: Pechefsky for City Council, 172 5th ave., PMB 43 Brooklyn NY 11217

Campaign Telephone Number: (718) 369-8959

Party Affiliation(s): Green Campaign Manager Name: Jonathan Fluck

Website & Email: pechefskyforcitycouncil.com; david@pechefskyforcitycouncil.com
Education: MA International Development (American University), BA Political Science (Hunter College)

Occupation/Employer (or years in currently held elected office): Consultant on Legislative Strengthening and Reform (have done work in Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Nepal, Jordan, and Liberia)

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement: Former Assistant Director New York City Council Finance Director, Former Assistant Commissioner HPD, Member Economic Development Committee CB 6

Are you willing to be interviewed by CU's Local Candidates Committee? YES

Have you completed requisite campaign finance filings? YES

Signature of Candidate: _____ Date: _____

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? | Unsure |
| 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? Hire No Report Yes
- 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 for the Executive Oppose for Legislatures
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 Mayor, the Speaker, and those members who voted for the extension acted in a self-serving and unprincipled way. My experience as staff of the City Council was that term limits did not have a positive effect on the institution. However, the Council should never have gone along with the Mayor in overriding the voter referendum and approving extensions for sitting members.

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

- 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?

This doesn't seem sustainable. The City needs to get authority over pensions for City employees and try and institute a fair and rational system that doesn't push the problem down the road.

- 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

- a. If support, what are the three most important areas that need improvement? non partisan redistricting, ballot access reform, greater authority for New York City over local matters

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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, tax policy, rent regulations, school governance, MTA governance, pensions of city workers

- 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?

If New York City had greater authority over tax policy it could take care of the MTA in conjunction with demanding greater accountability.

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

Decentralization of the budget process taking power away from the Speaker.

- 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 has to balance it's budget so if there wasn't money to put in the budget then not putting it into the health care trust fund is an obvious step, unless cuts seem preferable.

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 the City Council needs to do a much better job of looking at the budget critically to address this issue of value for money. Comparisons with other Cities is also necessary. I don't think the question "should taxes be raised or lowered" is the correct one. The question is what are the right things for City government to be spending money on, how can it do so efficiently, and where is this money going to come from. I certainly think it is a mistake for the City to invest money in sports stadiums.

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?

It looks like the City will have to become less reliant on Wall Street whether we like it or not. I don't think however it's a zero sum game. The fact that Wall Street was booming crowded out other types of economic activity due to high commercial rents and accelerated gentrification. If the City uses its resources (tax policy, zoning policy, budget resources, bonds etc.) wisely to encourage small entrepreneurs we might help to create an economy that provides more jobs for a greater range of people and a City with a more stable revenue base. Wall Street has proved to be a fickle friend. The City has been in a budget fix seemingly forever. We are going to have to take a hard look at all City spending. Ultimately of course, the City can't do it alone and the City's relationship with the Federal and State government needs to be considered as well.

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 would like to see more democratic school governance, but am not sure at this point of what are the best steps to be taken in this regard. The emphasis on testing of the Bloomberg/Klein DOE seems excessive and wasteful of time and resources that could be put to better use.

It is really impossible to talk about the needs of the New York City public school as a whole. Different communities and neighborhoods throughout the City have different needs and this needs to be taken into account.

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 am happy to listen to Citizens Union's ideas on this topic.

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?

This question can't be answered in isolation from a broader discussion about the budget process more generally. The Council needs to move away from focusing on doling out money to nonprofits etc. and look at the priorities of the City and their districts more broadly.

Additional Comments:

Re Campaign promises

It does not make sense to me to make campaign promises per se regarding specific legislation, budget, or land use actions. Most campaign promises represent posturing of one kind or another. I am committed to the Green Party principals of ecological wisdom, non-violence, grassroots democracy, and social justice and will strive to promote policies and practices that reflect those principals. There are many constraints on what the City Council can do and what individual Council Members can do. So a Council Member must be skillful at building coalitions and working with partners at all levels of government.

I do promise to work hard towards the goal of having a more internally democratic City Council where there is more substantive debate and analysis on the issues.