



**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: Daniel R. Garodnick Age: 37

Office to Which You Seek (Re) Election: Council District #: 4

Campaign Address: 132 East 43rd Street, #126, New York, NY 10017

Campaign Telephone Number: (646) 209-6012 Fax: (212) 922-2978

Party Affiliation(s): Democrat Campaign Manager Name: Matthew Rising

Website & Email: www.danigarodnick.com; garodnick2009@gmail.com

Education: Dartmouth College, B.A.; University of Pennsylvania Law School, J.D.

Occupation/Employer (or years in currently held elected office): City Council Member since January 1, 2006.

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement: Public Member, Community Board 6. No previous offices held.

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

Have you completed requisite campaign finance filings? **YES**

(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: 7/17/09

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 | 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 | 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? | Support | 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? | Support | 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? | Support | 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? | Support | Oppose |
|---|---------|--------|

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

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

- | | | |
|---|---------|--------|
| 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 philosophically do not believe in term limits. However, I did not believe that the City Council should change the term limits rules without public referendum in the vote that took place last year. Accordingly, I voted against the proposal.

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 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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? | | |

I support city efforts to work with unions to create a responsible plan for new employees that takes into account New York City's fiscal health, while preserving benefits for workers.

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?

Gubernatorial succession, nonpartisan redistricting, and judicial pay.

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, in the areas of tax and housing law.

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 supported congestion pricing, as well as the Ravitch Commission's efforts to create long-term and consistent funding streams for the MTA. Clearly, the long term stability of the MTA depends on having consistent funding streams of this type.

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

I support committees having the ability to examine their specific area of the budget and to propose appropriate changes to the mayor's budget. I also support greater transparency in the information given to the City Council – and the public – regarding the details of agency expenditures.

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?

I support using surplus tax revenues to pay down future health and pension obligations. I also believe that the City should use surplus tax dollars to pay down the city's debt obligations and would support the creation of a rainy day fund. We did not put money into the Health Care Trust Fund this year because of the extraordinary deficits that loom ahead.

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 that the Council and the Mayor have a responsibility to balance any tax increases with a decrease in spending. New Yorkers have significant tax burdens, and should not be asked to shoulder more taxes unless it is clear that government has done everything possible to trim its own budget. Additional taxes should be a last resort. Because of this year's difficult budgetary situation, I supported a city sales tax increase of half a percent from 4 to 4.5%, when it became clear that more progressive taxation options were not going to be made available to us by the state. However, I worked to ensure that we preserved the exemption from tax for clothing items under \$110.

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 strongly believe that we need to diversify our local economy and have taken steps toward that goal. I have encouraged the development of the East River Science Park to create new biotech jobs and to broaden our economic base. I have also worked to connect former Wall Street workers with new emerging businesses, urging talent to stay in New York City in a new professional capacity. As the co-chair of the Infrastructure Task Force, I have been a clear and consistent voice for the need to develop and improve our City's infrastructure, which provides economic benefit and good paying jobs. I have also supported Council initiatives

that provide job retraining, career development at a living wage and assistance to city firms leveraging funds for entrepreneurship and small business development.

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?

I favor mayoral control. However, I believe that the PEP should be better empowered to serve as a check and balance to the DOE on policy matters. I believe that at least one of the Mayor's appointments should also be the parent of a New York City public school student (currently enrolled at the time of the parent's appointment). This would more closely align with the requirements of the Borough Presidents' appointees (all of whom must be parents).

The PEP should also have the ability to "call up" for a discussion or vote any matter of educational policy that is not submitted before them. Votes of the PEP on all matters are not binding; however, the PEP should be able to issue, by majority vote, formal "votes of no confidence" on any policy matter it takes up and does not approve.

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 have been an advocate for reforming the New York City Board of Elections. In particular, I believe that the Board must take steps to be more transparent and accountable to the public. I believe that the Board should agree to have its budgetary matters included in the annual Mayor's Management Report. In a letter dated March 9 2009, I specifically requested this data, as it was not otherwise available. Additionally, I believe that the Board should provide the Council with more detailed summaries of its spending, and agree to webcast its public meetings on its website. Finally, the board should take additional efforts to reach out to new groups of potential poll workers – such as college students – and enlist their service. At the same time, the Board should enforce the cut-off date for District Leaders to send their lists of poll workers, and if the dates are not met, the Board

should fill the slots with newly-recruited and trained people. Nobody should serve as a poll worker who has not been trained.

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?

The Council has taken considerable steps in the past year to create transparency in the budget process by requiring Council Members and their staff to disclose familial and other personal connections with entities receiving funding from New York City.



CANDIDATE ACCOUNTABILITY QUESTIONNAIRE

Citizens Union is adding a new element to its evaluation of incumbents running for re-election. In addition to evaluating their stances on the issues above, Citizens Union will assess incumbents on how well they kept the promises they made to voters during the previous election.

As an elected official who is seeking re-election,

- a. what were the top five promises you made to your constituents when you ran for your current position and what progress have you made to keep those promises, and why and why not have you met them?
- b. what are your top five campaign promises you are making to the voters during this campaign for this position?

We thank you very much for your response. Please feel free to use additional paper if the space provided is not sufficient.

TOP FIVE CAMPAIGN PROMISES FROM 2005 AND ACTION ON THEM

1. **Promised** to create a website to receive constituent complaints. **Result:** Achieved, at www.garodnick.com.
2. **Promised** to address tenant concerns. **Result:** Author of landmark Tenant Protection Act, which passed the Council and signed into law by the Mayor; author of bills to create more transparency in tenant screening reports and to create notification to tenants during a foreclosure process.
3. **Promised** to enact good government reforms. **Result:** Co-sponsored and passed laws on campaign finance reform; promoted and changed policies to make the City budget process more open and transparent; passed Council Rule changes that make it easier to discharge bills from committee.
4. **Promised** to address transportation challenges on the East Side. **Result:** Issued "Left Stranded: How the 4/5/6 Train is Leaving Riders Behind" report; advocated for Bust

Rapid Transit on First and Second Avenues and the Second Avenue Subway; supported congestion pricing.

5. **Promised** responsible development on the East Side. **Result:** Rezoned the former Con Edison Waterside site to allow for a vibrant, mixed use community that includes 5 acres of open public space, a new East Side School, affordable housing and performing arts facility.

TOP FIVE 2009 CAMPAIGN PROMISES

1. Support Good Government Reforms.
2. Promote Green Energy and Protect our Environment.
3. Fight for Better Education and Address Overcrowding.
4. Advocate for the Rights of Tenants.
5. Support Mass Transit and Address Congestion.