



**2013 QUESTIONNAIRE FOR
CANDIDATES FOR CITY COUNCIL**

Citizens Union would appreciate your response to the following questions related to policy issues facing the City of New York that are of concern to Citizens Union and residents 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.

If you seek our support, we would also need to schedule an interview with you as part of the evaluation process. We will not automatically schedule an interview with you if you return this questionnaire, as we prioritize competitive races and resources constrain us from evaluating all races. Please contact us if you wish to be interviewed. We thank you very much for your response.

Candidate Name: Margaret S. Chin

Age: 60

Campaign Address: PMB 913, 39 Bowery, New York, NY 10002

Campaign Telephone Number: (212) 227 2280

Fax: () _____

Party Affiliation(s): Democratic Party

Campaign Manager Name: Trip Yang

Website & Email: www.margaretkhin.com and margaretkhin2013@gmail.com

Education: P.S. 130, JHS 65, Bronx Science High, City College NY - BS Education

Occupation/Employer (or years in currently held elected office): New York City Council (2010 – Present)

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement:

Educator, Community Activist, Nonprofit Administrator, Community Boards 1 & 3, NYS Democratic Committee

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

(Please note: Citizens Union can only grant its support to candidates we have interviewed. If you would like to be interviewed, please follow up with Citizens Union staff, as resources constrain us from interviewing every candidate.)

Have you completed requisite campaign finance filings?

YES

Signature of Candidate:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margaret Chin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent flourish at the end.

Date: 8/3/2013

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

<p>1. What is your position with respect to eliminating party primaries and establishing a non-partisan election system in which all candidates and all voters participate in the first round and the top two candidates advance to the second round?</p>	<p>I have supported nonpartisan elections in the past, especially in immigrant communities where a large number of residents are not registered to a party. It has taken a long time to explain the importance of voting in a primary as opposed to just voting in a more publicized general election. I am interested in working toward increasing voter participation.</p>
<p>2. What is your position on instituting Instant Runoff Voting for all citywide offices and for all special elections for city offices? (Int. No. 1066)</p>	<p>I am looking very closely at legislation that was introduced on this and would be interested in discussing it.</p>
<p>3. What is your position on creating a voluntary municipal poll worker program to supplement poll worker recruitment by district leaders? (Int. No. 721)</p>	<p>I have signed on to this legislation.</p>
<p>4. What is your position on requiring city agencies to report the number of applicants that they register to vote as required by current law (Int. No. 760)?</p>	<p>Support. I am a cosponsor of this legislation.</p>
<p>5. What is your position on transmitting electronically voter registration information collected by city agencies to the Board of Elections in the City of New York?</p>	<p>Support</p>
<p>6. What is your position on requiring the Board of Elections to report performance metrics to the City Council that conform to the Mayor’s Management Report? (Int. No. 778)</p>	<p>Support. I am a cosponsor.</p>

7. What is your position on modifying the City Charter to require that laws enacted by referendum only be changed through approval by the voters?	Support.
8. What is your position on expanding the Voter Guide published by the Campaign Finance Board to cover all races occurring in New York City, such as state and federal contests, and providing the opportunity for voters to receive the guide electronically rather than in print form? (Int. No. 769)	Support. I am a cosponsor.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

9. What is your position on eliminating matching funds for contributions bundled by lobbying organizations or lobbyists?	Support. I don't see the point of amplifying contributions that are already bundled.
10. What is your position on banning placement agents from bundling contributions for any elected official who influences the selection of pension investors?	Support.
11. What is your position on prohibiting participants in the city's campaign finance program from using public matching funds to purchase strategic campaign consulting services from firms that also provide lobbying services?	Not sure. Many firms provide both, so it while theoretically it may be a good idea, it might raise difficulties in practice.

CITY COUNCIL REFORM

12. What is your position on creating a bill drafting service independent of the Speaker's Office, similar to the New York State Legislature's bill drafting commission?	Support
13. What is your position on the following proposals enabling Council committees to function more effectively and independently of the speaker :	
a. Should committee chairs have the ability to hire at least one committee staffer?	Support
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

<p>d. Should the number of overall committees be reduced so members can participate more meaningfully in fewer issues?</p>	<p>Not sure. Depends on which committees are being eliminated. I am not sure it is the number of committees that makes it difficult for meaningful participation. It is also important for members to commit to sitting through hearings as close to their entirety as possible – something I always try to do.</p>
<p>14. What is your position on greater disclosure of councilmembers' outside income?</p>	<p>Support</p>
<p>15. What is your position on limiting stipends or "lulus" to only members holding majority or minority leadership positions?</p>	<p>Chairing a Committee comes with extra responsibilities, and I have always used the extra funds directly for the staff. Without the extra funds, I would have more difficulty funding the legislative staff I need for committee work. I would support a reform that <i>standardizes</i> the amount received based on committee chair leadership.</p>
<p>16. When the Quadrennial Compensation Commission is reconvened, what is your position on requiring that any future increase in councilmember compensation only apply prospectively to the following term?</p>	<p>Support</p>
<p>17. What is your position on ensuring a more equitable and needs-based distribution of discretionary funding?</p>	<p>I would need to know what the "equitable" metric is that is being considered. My district, for example, generally suffers from the city's "equitable" zip-code needs metric. District 1 has areas of high poverty and high wealth, but aggregation generally makes it seem like the district doesn't have serious needs – which it does.</p>

<p>18. What is your position on increasing transparency of discretionary funding by requiring the list of capital and expense funds and their sponsors be provided to councilmembers and the public three days in advance of any vote, and expanding the online searchable database of expense funds to include all capital fund recipients and applicants?</p>	<p>Support. This would be especially useful for Council Members, who don't know until the last minute what has made it in.</p>
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PUBLIC SAFETY AND OVERSIGHT OF POLICE MISCONDUCT

<p>19. What is your position on reducing the frequency of stop, question and frisks by conducting stops more judiciously?</p>	<p>I voted for and am a cosponsor of the Community Safety Act. I believe that racial profiling and quotas are problematic as currently applied to stop and frisk.</p>
<p>20. What is your position on establishing the Commission to Combat Police Corruption (CCPC) as a permanent commission in the City Charter while empowering the CCPC to issue subpoenas?</p>	<p>Support – alongside Community Safety Act reforms, I am in favor of anything that will increase accountability in government</p>
<p>21. What is your position on enhancing the Civilian Complaint Review Board's (CCRB) authority to initiate an investigation into reported or known incidents of police misconduct without receipt of a formal complaint?</p>	<p>Support – alongside Community Safety Act reforms, I am in favor of anything that will increase accountability in government.</p>
<p>22. What is your position on granting the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) with the authority to prosecute officers found guilty of lying during CCRB investigations?</p>	<p>Support – alongside Community Safety Act reforms, I am in favor of anything that will increase accountability in government</p>
<p>23. What is your position on reinstating the zero tolerance penalty for false official statements by public officers?</p>	<p>Support – alongside Community Safety Act reforms, I am in favor of anything that will increase accountability in government</p>

BUDGET REFORM

<p>24. What is your position on establishing independent budgeting for: a. the borough presidents?</p>	<p>Support</p>
<p>b. Conflicts of Interest Board?</p>	<p>Support</p>
<p>c. the public advocate ?</p>	<p>Support</p>
<p>d. community boards?</p>	<p>Support</p>

II. 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 2013 CAMPAIGN PROMISES

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

**Please return to: Citizens Union, Local Candidates Committee
via fax to 212.227.0345 or via email to candidates@citizensunion.org
Call us at 212-227-0342 with any questions.**