



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: Laurie Cumbo Age: 38

Campaign Address: 466 Lincoln Place, Brooklyn NY

Campaign Telephone Number: (347) 470-0609

Party Affiliation(s): Democrat_Campaign Manager Name:Jarvis Houston

Website & Email:Lauriecumbo2013.com/ laurie@lauriecumbo2013.com

Education: Brooklyn Tech (HS) Spelman College (BA) NYU (MA)

Occupation/Employer (or years in currently held elected office):Former Founder and Executive Director of MoCada (Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts)

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement:

Progressive Association for Political Action (PAPA), Downtown Brooklyn Arts Alliance, Cultural Equity Group, Soul of Brooklyn Consortium, ArtTable, Spelman College Alumni Association, Achieving Leadership’s Purpose

Are you willing to be interviewed by CU’s Local Candidates Committee? YES NO

Have you completed requisite campaign finance filings? YES NO

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

<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>Support/Oppose I am open to exploring the opportunity to improve the political process</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>Support/Oppose Support</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>Support/Oppose Support, It would create more fairness in the voting process</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/Oppose Support</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/Oppose Support, However, I would need more information on the checks and balance of the system</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 /Oppose Support</p>
<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?</p>	<p>Support/Oppose Case by case basis</p>
<p>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)</p>	<p>Support/Oppose Support However, I want to make sure that people who do not have electronic access receive the print form</p>

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

9. What is your position on eliminating matching funds for contributions bundled by lobbying organizations or lobbyists?	Support/Oppose Support
10. What is your position on banning placement agents from bundling contributions for any elected official who influences the selection of pension investors?	Support/Oppose 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?	Support/Oppose Case by case basis

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/Oppose 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/Oppose Support
b. Should committee hearings and votes be scheduled at the direction of the chairs?	Support/Oppose Support
c. Should committees be able to issue subpoenas by a vote of their members?	Support/Oppose Support
d. Should the number of overall committees be reduced so members can participate more meaningfully in fewer issues?	Support/Oppose Oppose
14. What is your position on greater disclosure of councilmembers' outside income?	Support/Oppose Support
15. What is your position on limiting stipends or "lulus" to only members holding majority or minority leadership positions?	Support/Oppose Oppose
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?	Support/Oppose Support

17. What is your position on ensuring a more equitable and needs-based distribution of discretionary funding?	Support/Oppose SUPPORT!!!!!!!
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?	Support/Oppose SUPPORT!!!!!!!

PUBLIC SAFETY AND OVERSIGHT OF POLICE MISCONDUCT

19. What is your position on reducing the frequency of stop, question and frisks by conducting stops more judiciously?	Support/Oppose Support
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?	Support/Oppose Support
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?	Support/Oppose Support
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?	Support/Oppose Support
23. What is your position on reinstating the zero tolerance penalty for false official statements by public officers?	Support/Oppose Support

BUDGET REFORM

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

25. What is your position on making the budget process more transparent by clearly defining units of appropriation and limiting their size?	Support/Oppose Support
26. What is your position on release of revenue projections (other than property taxes) prior to Council hearings on the Executive budget?	Support/Oppose

LAND USE AND COMMUNITY BOARD REFORM

27. What is your position on designating urban planners for use by community boards and requiring borough presidents report to the Council the manner in which they advertise and make community board appointments? (Int. No. 913)	Support/Oppose Support
28. What is your position on establishing a formal standardized and transparent process for community board appointments including written applications, interviews of candidates, and filling vacancies within 30 days?	Support/Oppose Support

Additional Comments:

I believe the city's discretionary budget should be evenly allocated among the 51 City Council Districts and not based on insider politics like it is currently.

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. Needs based formula for distributing tax paying dollar resources equitably and transparently
2. Creating comprehensive safety and maintenance plan for NYCHA residents
3. Elimination of a budget dance that always targets child and senior services
4. Raising the minimum wage and indexing it with the rate of inflation and negotiating a fair and equitable contract for all municipal workers
5. Creating a series of world class, state of the art community centers in the most under resourced, economically challenged communities that are most often challenged by gun violence, imprisonment,

**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.**