



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: Vanessa L. Gibson Age: 34 years old

Campaign Address: P.O. Box 1303, GPO Station, Bronx, New York 10451

Campaign Telephone Number: (917) 473-7834 Fax: (917) 473-7838

Party Affiliation(s): Democratic Party (Also have received Working Families Party endorsement)

Campaign Manager Name: Benny Catala

Website & Email: www.gibson2013.com Email: info@gibson2013.com

Education: MPA, Baruch College, CUNY, BA Sociology, University at Albany, SUNY, High School Diploma, Murry Bergtraum HS, New York, NY

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

Member of the New York State Assembly (June 2, 2009 to Present)

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement:

Female District Leader, Member of the Bronx Democratic County Committee, Delegate, Democratic National Convention 2012

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

(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 XXX 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 <u>OPPOSE</u></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 <u>Would Need More Information</u></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 <u>Would Strongly Consider</u></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 <u>SUPPORT</u></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 <u>SUPPORT</u></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 <u>SUPPORT</u></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 <u>SUPPORT</u></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 <u>SUPPORT</u></p>

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

9. What is your position on eliminating matching funds for contributions bundled by lobbying organizations or lobbyists?	Support/Oppose <u>Would Strongly Consider</u>
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 <u>SUPPORT</u>
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 <u>Would Need More Information</u>

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

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 <u>Would Strongly Consider</u>
17. What is your position on ensuring a more equitable and needs-based distribution of discretionary funding?	Support/Oppose <u>SUPPORT</u>
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 <u>Would Strongly Consider</u>

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 <u>SUPPORT</u>
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 <u>SUPPORT</u>
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 <u>SUPPORT</u>
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 <u>SUPPORT</u>
23. What is your position on reinstating the zero tolerance penalty for false official statements by public officers?	Support/Oppose <u>SUPPORT</u>

BUDGET REFORM

24. What is your position on establishing independent budgeting for: a. the borough presidents?	Support/Oppose <u>SUPPORT</u>
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b. Conflicts of Interest Board?	Support/Oppose <u>SUPPORT</u>
c. the public advocate ?	Support/Oppose <u>SUPPORT</u>
d. community boards?	Support/Oppose <u>SUPPORT</u>
25. What is your position on making the budget process more transparent by clearly defining units of appropriation and limiting their size?	Support/Oppose <u>Would Need More Information</u>
26. What is your position on release of revenue projections (other than property taxes) prior to Council hearings on the Executive budget?	Support/Oppose <u>SUPPORT</u>

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 <u>Would Need More Information</u>
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 <u>Would Need More Information</u>

Additional Comments:

Borough Presidents and Community Boards have served as important supports for community involvement regarding land use decisions and other important decisions that have a direct impact upon the future of communities throughout New York City. While I am supportive of reform, I believe it is vitally important for public policy makers to recognize the roles of these essential institutions and - as we move forward with reforms that enhance accountability – we need to act in a manner that doesn't hamstring or undermine the decision making latitude that Borough Presidents currently have.

II. 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 YOUR MOST RECENT CAMPAIGN AND ACTION ON THEM

Throughout my four-year tenure in the state Assembly, I have made it a practice to avoid making "campaign promises" to constituents or interested organizations. Instead, I have remained circumspect in my claims and avoided making hollow "campaign promises" when on the campaign trail or answering candidate questionnaires. I have remained committed to being the voice for my constituents in Albany for four years and continue to be a strong advocate for the issues important to them such as education, higher education, economic development, affordable housing, quality healthcare and services for youth and seniors.

TOP FIVE 2013 CAMPAIGN PROMISES

I will use my experience as a state legislator and remained committed to my constituents to fight for the issues important to them. I will stand for equality in our school system, access to healthcare, promoting job opportunities for residents and support the development of affordable housing. I do not make campaign promises but rather prefer to re-affirm my dedication to working for the people who put their trust in me to be their leader.

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.