



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: Noah Gotbaum

Age: 53

Campaign Address: 330 West 87th Street, New York, NY 10024

Campaign Telephone Number: 646 663 5386

Fax: 212 799 7291

Party Affiliation(s): Democrat

Campaign Manager Name: April Tyler

Website & Email: www.gotbaumforcouncil.com

April@gotbaumforcouncil.com

Education: Amherst College; BA, Political Science; Yale University School of Management; MBA – International Finance and Development; Coro Foundation Fellow in Public Affairs; Robert Bosch Foundation International Leadership Fellow

Occupation/Employer (or years in currently held elected office): Community Education Council District 3 (CEC3), President/Vice President – 5 years; New Spirit Capital, LLC - Managing Member;

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement: New York Cares, Inc – Founder/Board Chairman/Director; Sprint Recycling, Inc. - CEO; Management Center Europe – Lecturer; Community Board 5 (Manhattan) – Chair, Development Committee; Fresh Air Fund – Founding Junior Board Member; PS 87 - School Leadership Team; Field Director – Democratic National Committee

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

(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 _X_

Signature of Candidate: _Noah E. Gotbaum

Date: July 25, 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>Oppose – unless all candidates are subject to public financing system in which case I would support</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>Oppose – I believe the electorate should have adequate time to consider the secondary selection</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 – should be paid like others and not coerced in any way.</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</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 – helps increase transparency</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!!</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</p>

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

9. What is your position on eliminating matching funds for contributions bundled by lobbying organizations or lobbyists?	Support! Would go further and not allow them, nor those “Doing Business with the City,” to bundle. Period.
10. What is your position on banning placement agents from bundling contributions for any elected official who influences the selection of pension investors?	Support – I believe this prohibition already exists through Dodd-Frank
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 – clear conflict of interest

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 – Initiatives to limit power of Speaker and democratize the Council are critically important.
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
d. Should the number of overall committees be reduced so members can participate more meaningfully in fewer issues?	Support
14. What is your position on greater disclosure of councilmembers’ outside income?	Support! Outside income often a direct conflict of interest – Council should become a full-time job (with a salary increase)
15. What is your position on limiting stipends or “lulus” to only members holding majority or minority leadership positions?	Oppose – Would take away lulus from leadership positions. But until we have a full time Council and higher pay, Committee responsibility deserves additional comp.

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 – and we need to push for better compensated, full-time elected officials!
17. What is your position on ensuring a more equitable and needs-based distribution of discretionary funding?	Support! Absolutely. Current system is corrupt. Also participatory budgeting.
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!

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! Can be more judicious, preserve civil rights and still reduce crime as in Q1 this year.
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
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.
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
23. What is your position on reinstating the zero tolerance penalty for false official statements by public officers?	Support – provided public officers afforded due process

BUDGET REFORM

24. What is your position on establishing independent budgeting for: a. the borough presidents?	Support – budgets for elected officials and important Boards MUST be baselined and independent other electeds.
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b. Conflicts of Interest Board?	Support
c. the public advocate ?	Support
d. community boards?	Support
25. What is your position on making the budget process more transparent by clearly defining units of appropriation and limiting their size?	Support – impossible to analyze budget as current. Would also require DOE budget - \$20 billion – be subject to same transparency as other City agencies.
26. What is your position on release of revenue projections (other than property taxes) prior to Council hearings on the Executive budget?	Support – how can Council do its job otherwise? Must be IBO projections too.

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 – Would go much further and make Community Boards elected with just a few appointments of BP’s and Council members too, like CEC’s. Otherwise become BP’s political patronage.
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 – see above

Additional Comments:

I fully support almost all of the Citizen Union’s initiatives, and whether as a Council Member or a private citizen, would like to see them go further. For example, in campaign finance reform, Public financing is a great step and important in NYC, but large donations can still dominate city wide elections. As important, the Council (and state legislature) must be a full-time job – albeit with significantly increased pay. We can’t responsibly serve two masters – the public and also private clients. It’s a system set up to be abused.

Additionally, your Council and budget reform initiatives are absolutely critical. The member item situation is out of control – and needs to be reformed - but so too must the almost unlimited power of the Speaker. A 1 and 51 system diminishes the City Council, and democracy and must be changed at both the Council level, as well as in the City Charter. The Council needs to regain its rightful position as the City’s legislative body, which means greater power and independence for individual members to introduce and pass legislation. It also means playing a much greater role in determining the City’s budget, for which your transparency initiatives are absolutely critical. It is folly to expect the Council to play an active role in determining the budget, when it doesn’t have detailed information – including projections.

And the committees should have larger budgets to do this work independent of the Speaker and certainly of the Mayor.

Lastly, given the importance of Education in this City, the role it plays in our economy, the millions who are part of the system, and the amount of funding it consumes, I would love to see the CU focus it's transparency and reform initiatives there. This would include bringing the Education budget back under the Council's purview. Currently, even the Speaker admits that she doesn't know what's in it – even though it represents one of every three dollars we spend! And I would contend that the DOE – ruled by the current system of Mayoral Control in which one person (and his PEP) determines every aspect of policy, contracts, personnel for 2.5 million parents, teachers, students, and administrators – is quite possibly the most anti-democratic and least transparent agency and institution in the Country. The CIA and NSA are more accountable than the DOE. There is no aspect of the system that the Mayor doesn't control – except perhaps tenure for teachers - and there is no recourse for the stakeholders other than waiting 4 years for a new election.

All that said, I believe we as New Yorkers and citizens are incredibly fortunate to have the Citizen's Union around and doing its great and absolutely critical work. I would hugely honored to receive your "preferred candidate's" status.

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. Vote and pursue issues – especially in regard to land use and development in our district and the City – in which the interests of the district’s constituents - rather than party structure and loyalty, other elected officials interest, or moneyed interests – are paramount. Requires increased planning for and by larger community, not just the development community.
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2. Lead the Council and City toward “real” education reform which focuses less on competition and more on local control and collaboration among the main stakeholders – parents, students, teachers – and tending to our interests. These include focusing on the 96% of kids in public schools, not just the 4% in charters; recognizing and addressing the massive impact of poverty on our schools; providing smaller class sizes; wrap around services and early childhood learning; ending high stakes testing; replacing the network system with locally-based superintendents; and establishing a broad-based (not test-based) accountability system which includes our leaders at Tweed, and not just teachers.
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3. Get involved in the budget and provide more accountability for spending at the City level, including evaluating more closely how the entire \$74 billion is being spent. Holding ourselves and the mayor accountable to spend and invest wisely and for real investments in our community rather than simply looking at short term imperatives or listening to those with the strongest lobbyists. Eg. Investing in child care, job training, and proven education initiatives where a dollar spent today is returned 3 and 4x. Also seriously pushing toward revenue increases via higher taxes for the wealthy both locally and at the state level.
4. Actively pursue and pass initiatives – including increased affordable housing, living wage legislation, and as above budgetary focus on our most vulnerable - which diminish the massive and growing wealth gap in this City and ensure maintained affordability for the working class and seniors in this city.
5. Pursue and pass concrete environmental improvement initiatives leading to increased recycling rates, and lower carbon output.

**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.**