



## 2013 QUESTIONNAIRE FOR CANDIDATES FOR BOROUGH PRESIDENT

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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: Gale A. Brewer

Age: 62

Campaign Address: 2510 Broadway, New York, NY 10025

Campaign Telephone Number: (212) 531-2013

Fax: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Party Affiliation(s): Democrat

Campaign Manager Name: Jessica Mates

Website & Email: www.GaleBrewer.com

Contact: Jessica@GaleBrewer.com

Education: Masters of Public Administration (MPA) from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government

Occupation/Employer (or years in currently held elected office): City Councilmember – 12 Years

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Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement: Member of Manhattan Community Board 7, Chair of the NY State Chapter of the National Women's Political Caucus, Project Manager for the NYC Nonprofits Project at CUNY's Graduate Center, Employed by the Telesis Corporation – Affordable Housing, New York City Deputy Public Advocate (1994-1998), Director of the Mayor's Federal Office in NYC (1990-2004), Executive Director of the Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women (1993-1994), Chief of Staff to West Side Council Member Ruth W. Messinger, Staff member for Lt. Governor Mary Anne Krupsak, Worked in the Parks Department during the Lindsay Administration

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

Signature of Candidate: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 2 August 2013

**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.

<p>1. What is your position on changing the current land use process under the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP) to require that community-based 197-a plans are responded to when other development proceeds in conflict with those plans?</p>	<p><b>Support</b>  <i>Community-based 197-a Plans will be recognized and considered when development in conflict arises. There also exists a need for a thorough organizational process that manages and mediates the divergent actions in place while considering community development.</i></p>
<p>2. Do you support ending mid-year amendments to the Annual Citywide Statement of Needs and including other than city-owned property in the Atlas of City Owned Property so a more comprehensive picture of services, facilities, and environmental burdens is known to inform future development?</p>	<p><b>Support</b>  <i>Mid-year amendments to the Annual Citywide Statement of Needs should to reviewed and revised to make clear changes to city facilities including developments and reductions.</i></p>
<p>3. What is your position on designating urban planners for use by community boards and requiring borough presidents to report to the Council the manner in which they advertise and make community board appointments? (Int. No. 913)</p>	<p><b>Support</b>  <i>Funding should be made available to community boards to hire and designate a select group of urban planners to assist with responsibilities. This group of urban planners should be shared by community boards to better assist in developing relationships amongst the boards and the greater serviced community.</i></p>

	<i>Communication between the borough president and the Council regarding appointments to community boards is critical to strengthening working relationships.</i>
4. 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?	<b>Support</b> <i>Formal, standardized, and transparent processes for community board appointments, aligned with the actions of Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer are essential. These measures include required written applications, thorough interviews, and filling vacancies within a 30-day deadline.</i>
5. What is your position on independent budgeting for the following:	
a. the borough presidents	<i>The budget of the borough president should be set between 5%-7% of the City Council's budget.</i>
b. the Conflicts of Interest Board	<b>Support</b>
c. the public advocate	<i>The budget of the public advocate should be set between 5%-7% of the City Council's budget.</i>
d. community boards	<b>Support</b>
6. Do you support standardizing term limits to five consecutive two-year terms for members of all community boards?	<b>Oppose</b> <i>Community board members should be allowed to serve more time because the complexity and zoning and land use issues.</i>
7. If elected, would you post on your website all applications received by your office for capital and expense discretionary funds, as well as	<b>Support</b> <i>All information</i>

<p>groups which ultimately received funding?</p>	<p><i>regarding applications for capital and expense discretionary funds received and groups who receive funding will be made transparent and posted to the office website. I authored and passed the Open-Data bill, which requires all agency information to be in a single accessible and transparent portal.</i></p>
<p>8. Do you support empowering borough presidents to require the appearance of borough commissioner of city agencies for monthly interagency meetings led by the borough presidents?</p>	<p><b>Support</b> <i>Borough presidents will be empowered to require the appearance of borough commissioner of city agencies for monthly interagency meetings led by the borough president as an amendment to the City Charter – Chapter 4, Section 82.</i></p>

<p>9. What is your position on granting the borough presidents the ability to make an additional appointment to the Board of Standards and Appeals?</p>	<p><b>Support</b>  <i>Borough presidents should be granted the ability to make additional appointments to the Board of Standards and Appeals (BSA). The BSA should be comprised of one appointment from the office of the public advocated and one from each of the five offices of borough presidents.</i></p>
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**Additional Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_

1. How would you use the office of the borough president to impact city policies affecting the borough?

*The borough president can be effective in using the power of bully pulpit to ensure city government is focusing on the important issues facing Manhattan. Though borough presidents cannot directly introduce legislation, they may have Councilmembers do so on their behalf. I have introduced more legislation than any other Councilmember, and I will continue to press the issues as borough president. More importantly, I think there is an opportunity to establish greater collaboration among the five borough presidents, and I will work to ensure a united effort to improve our city.*

2. Developers argue ULURP should be streamlined while community groups and advocates believe more opportunities for input should be provided or that voting thresholds should be changed for application approval. Others note that the ULURP process does not integrate the need to plan for post 9/11 security issues in development. What reforms to ULURP do you support?

*The reexamination and reform of the ULURP process is essential. It is the key to making development in the City serve the needs of the community.*

*I am firmly committed to neighborhood stabilization. Our problem in New York is not “overdevelopment” per se, but development that entails almost exclusively high income housing, high concept retail, and chain stores, without thoughtful consideration of local needs. This works against the needs of established, existing neighborhood populations. It has led to the loss of affordable housing, the loss of individual entrepreneurs, (including both necessary services such as shoe repair, small markets, tailors, etc., but also the more creative, idiosyncratic local establishments) and the loss of racial, cultural and economic diversity.*

*My approach would be to encourage vibrant economic and housing development that is responsive to the true needs of the community. We have to consider whether proposed development will enhance or erode the quality of life of a given neighborhood, and make sure that the necessary adjustments are mandated.*

*Local input is crucial. I am very proud of the very long-term outreach that my office accomplished to obtain as much neighborhood input as possible in developing my Upper West Side Neighborhood Retail Streets Proposal, and that adopted by the City Planning Commission and enacted. I believe this zoning amendment was a reasonable, fair measure to balance the needs of the community.*

3. The borough presidents make recommendations to the mayor on capital projects as part of the budget process. All of the boroughs combined additionally receive 5 percent of the appropriations in the mayor’s capital budget divided between the boroughs based on formulas related to land size and population. What would be your priorities for capital projects in the borough?

*Once again, capital project must reflect the needs of the existing communities, and not impose new stressors which may drive out long term residents and businesses. Obviously, the biggest*

*need in our communities is for affordable housing. All housing development must include permanent affordable units, fully integrated into the project. Our communities also need new, modern schools, and safe open play and exercise areas for students. I would also support projects that increase public open space and facilitate its use.*

4. Borough presidents are charged with establishing a planning office that, among other functions, provides training and technical assistance to community boards on land use issues. How would you use the office to help community boards fulfill their charter mandated responsibilities in providing feedback on land use proposals while enabling the boards to make decisions independent of the borough president's office?

*The office of borough president would help community boards fulfill their charter mandated responsibilities in providing feedback on land use proposals while enabling the boards to make decisions independent of the borough president's office. Community boards should be allocated funding to hire and designate a select group of urban planners to assist with community board responsibilities on land use. Under the City Charter - Chapter 4, Section 8, training and assistance will be provided to the community boards. In some situations where the borough president and community board members are not in agreement on proposals of land use, it is essential that community boards' independence is respected and maintained.*

5. Borough presidents are charged with making hundreds of appointments. What criteria would you use for appointments to positions appointed by the borough president (the Panel on Educational Policy, City Planning Commission, community boards, etc.)? What processes would you put in place for advertising open positions and recruiting qualified candidates that represent the diversity of New York City?

*The current borough president has done a great job reforming the process of community board appointments, ensuring that these groups are aided by people who are knowledgeable about specific issues. I will continue this work, using the Open Data law that I authored and passed in the City Council to ensure that only the most qualified people are appointed to the various positions under the control of the borough president. My criteria will be based on not only an individuals' deep understanding of and known history of dealing with relevant issues, but also their demonstrated commitment to working with city officials to improve the city.*



6. Borough presidents can hold hearings on any matter of public interest and are charged with establishing a borough-wide complaint program to report public complaints to better service delivery by agencies. How would you use these powers and the position of the office to amplify the concerns of borough residents? What issues might you focus on to improve agency performance or draw public attention to?

*Borough boards are important entities for discussing and resolving service delivery issues. As borough president, I will be present and actively involved in every borough board meeting. In addition, as a city councilmember for the past 12 years, I have conducted extensive and comprehensive constituent services. I have used the knowledge gleaned from constituent services to inform the legislation and policy changes I have drafted and often successfully passed and implemented. I understand how government works, and so know the agencies or entities that must be involved to resolve issues.*

7. The borough presidents have the authority to introduce legislation yet few borough presidents in recent years have exercised this authority. Would you utilize this power, and, if so, what legislation would you introduce?

*According to the charter, borough presidents can have legislation introduced on their behalf by councilmembers. I would certainly use this power, as there are issues best addressed through legislation (such as Paid Sick Leave). I will continue to introduce legislation that can positively impact quality of life issues and also enhance the quality of life for low wage workers.*

8. How would you leverage the office of Borough President to address any of the following issues, if not discussed in answering previous questions:
  - a. Affordable Housing
  - b. Public Safety
  - c. Public Transportation
  - d. Health and the Environment
  - e. Economic Development
  - f. Education

*The borough president has specific powers of oversight to deal with issues of land use and development. However, I believe my four decades in city government have given me the knowledge and experience to address a variety of other issues. Beyond just understanding how a problem should be solved, I know exactly which people and agencies should be brought*

*together in order to effect change. These issues cannot be properly addressed without including the groups that are most knowledgeable about the subject.*

*I also believe that data is a crucial tool in creating informed, effective solutions for the issues currently facing our city. As councilmember, I introduced and helped pass the country's most progressive Open Data law, which mandates that all city agencies make their data available in one portal by September of this year. As borough president, I would make sure this data is not only available, but also decipherable, especially to community boards, who need the information to make decisions for their neighborhoods.*

**Additional Comments:**

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## **CANDIDATE ACCOUNTABILITY QUESTIONNAIRE**

As an elected official who is seeking another office,

- a. What were the top five promises you made to your constituents when you ran for your current position? What progress have you made to keep those promises? Why have you kept or not kept your promises?
- 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 PROMISES FROM YOUR LAST CAMPAIGN AND ACTION ON THEM**

- 1) To have an accessible office always open and available to constituents
- 2) To pass meaningful legislation
- 3) To continue to promote technology as a key way to make government transparent and accessible
- 4) To champion the residents of my district who truly need their voices heard in government
- 5) To fight for my district – services, housing, transportation, etc.

### **TOP FIVE 2013 CAMPAIGN PROMISES**

- 1) My office will reflect the diversity of New York City
- 2) My appointments will reflect the diversity of New York City
- 3) I will be the hardest working elected official in New York
- 4) My office and constituent services will be completely accessible to all Manhattan residents
- 5) I will work to create and maintain affordable housing, quality and accessible health care, and quality education.

**Please return to: Citizens Union, Local Candidates Committee**

via fax to 212.227.0345 or via email to [candidates@citizensunion.org](mailto:candidates@citizensunion.org)  
Call 212-227-0342 Rachael Fauss ext. 22 or Alex Camarda ext. 24 with any questions.