

2013 QUESTIONNAIRE FOR CANDIDATES FOR BOROUGH PRESIDENT

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: Robert Jackson Age: 62

Campaign Address: 39 Broadway, Suite 1740, New York, NY

Campaign Telephone Number: (646)820-9894

Party Affiliation(s): Democrat Campaign Manager Name: Jeff Yurcan

Website & Email: www.Jackson2013.com info@Jackson2013.com

Education: BA, SUNY, New Paltz

Occupation/Employer : City Councilmember, 7th District, elected in 2001

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement: Community School Board President

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: 8/2/2013

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.

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?	Support/Oppose Support
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?	Support/Oppose Support
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)	Support/Oppose Support
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?	Support/Oppose Support
5. What is your position on independent budgeting for the following:	
a. the borough presidents	Support/Oppose
b. the Conflicts of Interest Board	Support/Oppose
c. the public advocate	Support/Oppose
d. community boards	Support/Oppose
6. Do you support standardizing term limits to five consecutive two-year terms for members of all community boards?	Support/Oppose
7. If elected, would you post on your website all applications received by your office for capital and expense discretionary funds, as well as groups which ultimately received funding?	Support/Oppose
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?	Support/Oppose

9. What is your position on granting the borough presidents the ability to make an additional appointment to the Board of Standards and Appeals?	Support/Oppose
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1. How would you use the office of the borough president to impact city policies affecting the borough?

Above all, I see the role of Manhattan Borough President to be a fighter for the people of this Borough. I will be an advocate for our children, a fighter for our neighborhoods and an energetic leader for all of Manhattan. Throughout my life, I've taken on the tough fights for our children, our seniors and hard working families across our city. I've stood up to powerful interests and been a strong voice for New Yorkers who just want a fair share and a chance to succeed. I want to continue this work to make people's lives better and futures brighter with a forward looking office.

I will use my important appointees on the Panel for Educational Policy, the Hudson River Park Trust and to advisory boards for Manhattan's municipal health facilities to make sure voices are heard and policies are developed that serve the people.

On land use, we will review all projects. With so many large projects in the development phase, our office will monitor their progress for maximum community benefit and make sure the developers are living up to their promises and agreements. We will also work to provide expertise to Community Boards to evaluate new projects.

I will listen to and work with Councilmembers and Community Boards to develop community based 197-a plans for the future of their neighborhoods and work to bring change that directly meet the community's needs.

I will also work to use our capital and expense budget to its full potential particularly in the areas of education, housing, parks, culture and job training. I want to be an activist force in moving our city forward.

And finally, the Borough President must make sure that our Borough is secure, are people are ready and our buildings and infrastructure are resilient to future storm occurrences.

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?

I think they are all right. I recognize that some feel that the ULURP process is annoying and cumbersome, but it has real value in allowing a wide range of viewpoints and impacts to be considered, as well as providing a context for identifying ways to mitigate some of such impacts. Projects such as the Columbus Circle development were very contentious in the early stages of ULURP, but many would agree that the project benefitted from the changes that resulted. The pace of development in the city has been healthy over recent years -- even with ULURP in its present form. Any new construction will likely be a part of the city for the next 50 to 100 years, so it is not unreasonable to spend 7 months considering its impact. Communities must be given the time and expertise to properly consider and evaluate a project. That said, I also would be willing to consider a shorter ULURP clock for projects that are relatively modest in scale, if such a compromise would be acceptable to all parties involved. With respect to planning for post 9/11 security issues, as well as post-Sandy environmental issues, clearly these issues must be addressed either through the zoning process or changes to the building code. Either way, new homes and businesses must be resilient to extreme weather events.

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?

Overall my priorities would be school construction, affordable housing and parks -- all areas of great need in Manhattan and areas I have focused on as a Councilmember. Many of our schools are overcrowded with the Board of Education doing a poor job of planning for population growths. To help correct this, I passed legislation mandating that DOE make available accurate counts of available space and school seats in school buildings. Furthermore, the overcrowding in our elementary schools will soon be showing up in our middle schools. Lowering class sizes is critical for our children getting the opportunity for a good education.

Manhattan is made strong by its diversity, but it is threatened by diminishing affordable housing. As a Councilmember I've invested in model projects like the Sugar Hill apartments that will provide 124 units.

And we need to invest in our parks and more waterfront access. I've worked to do that as Councilmember providing resources for parks and open space, and increasing access to the waterfront. I will expand this commitment as Borough President. In addition, it is important to see what your other partners in government are funding and be ready to support the projects that may have been underfunded.

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?

I believe in community-base planning and will work to make sure Community Boards have access to the expertise and tools they need to make good community decisions. Staffing that office with individuals who can assist community boards in assessing environmental impacts, financial issues, compatibility with neighboring uses, fair share concerns, and quality of life issues is among my highest priorities. In addition, training and education won't be limited to community board leadership, but strongly encouraged for all appointees. Much can be learned from understanding how some Boards have been successful in advancing their neighborhood's agenda and using such successes as a model.

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?

In all positions, I would look for excellence, commitment and independence. I want people who can think creatively and can work with others to find solutions. I also would seek diversity so that all voices in our borough are heard. Obviously, there are certain positions that should be filled by individuals with recognized expertise in areas such as education, finance, land use, or the arts, for example. I am confident that it will be possible to identify such expertise, while also representing the geographic, gender, age, ethnic and other characteristics that will reflect the diversity of Manhattan. With respect to Community Board appointments, I will build on the work Scott Stringer has done with screening panels and the approach I used as a Councilmember. As a Councilmember, I have put considerable time and thought into each appointee through the search and interview process. Once appointed, I don't try to persuade them to make decisions based on politics and instead encourage them to look to real needs of the community. I believe that the Community Boards function best when they include a diversity of people and talents as well as a

reasonable amount of new appointees, providing some turnover from year to year. I would look to attract a small committee of well qualified volunteers that can assist with outreach, as well as help with interviewing prospective appointees. Free media, such as TV interviews, articles in local community newspapers, articles in the Latino, Asian, Jewish, Greek and other such press are also a useful part of the outreach process.

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?

One of the main shortcomings of recent years has been a lack of transparency and people getting shut out of the process. We have seen it our schools where parents are shut out of the process, schools closed and others co-located without involvement of those most impacted. We seen in NYCHA, where residents have little say, repairs not addressed and proposal like building luxury housing on NYCHA projects thrust upon them. And we see it across the board. I will use every power in my office, including holding hearings and issuing reports to change this. I believe the people are smart and the best decisions are made when people and communities are involved. I have built a record of getting things done by increasing involvement, awareness and building coalitions. That's what I will continue to do as Borough President.

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?

As a Councilmember for the past 12 years I understand how the Council process works. I have not been afraid to take on powerful interests and the status quo. I also recognize that despite what they may have said on a questionnaire like this when they were running, few borough presidents have utilized this authority. Therefore, I would first seek to build on my established relationships with the Council to pass legislation. This cooperative approach is the best way to get things done. However, if this approach didn't work particularly in the areas of education, affordable housing and worker's benefits and rights, I would not hesitate to use all the powers I have to get the job done.



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. **Work to Improve Education** – Helped create 4,000 new Pre-K slots, helped save thousands of teachers and school personnel, passed School Safety Act, passed True Blue Book legislation and fought everyday for our children as Chair of Education Committee.
2. **Fight to create jobs and opportunity** – Helped start Jobs to Build On to provide community based job training and a leader in landmark MWBE legislation.
3. **Enhance open space** – Installed irrigation in historic Isham Park and worked with Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance to create eco-dock in the Dykman marina.
4. **Create affordable housing** – Help fund Broadway Housing Sugar Hill project providing and working Boys & Girls Club to convert vacant building into affordable housing.
5. **Provide great constituent service** – Office works everyday to solve tenant, benefit, immigration, helping fire victims and other quality of life issues. My staff knows that their number one priority is serving the people.

TOP FIVE 2013 CAMPAIGN PROMISES

1. Making sure every child receives the best education possible;
2. Strengthening our economy and creating opportunities so progress is shared by all;
3. Protecting our seniors, and making sure Manhattan stays affordable, and that we don't squeeze out the middle and working class, so hard working and older Manhattanites can stay here and young people can start here;
4. Fighting for justice and equality for all and against bigotry and intolerance everywhere;
5. And above all, protecting the safety and security of our people, both from crime on the street and from natural disasters like Hurricane Sandy.

**Please return to: Citizens Union, Local Candidates Committee
via fax to 212.227.0345 or via email to candidates@citizensunion.org
Call 212-227-0342 Rachael Fauss ext. 22 or Alex Camarda ext. 24 with any questions.**