

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
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
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)	Oppose
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
5. What is your position on independent budgeting for the following:	
a. the borough presidents	Support
b. the Conflicts of Interest Board	Support
c. the public advocate	Oppose * See comments below
d. community boards	Oppose
6. Do you support standardizing term limits to five consecutive two-year terms for members of all community boards?	Will consider
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?	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

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
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Additional Comments: With respect to question 5c, I am not convinced the Office of the Public Advocate should even exist. I, therefore, cannot support independent budgeting.

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

The reality of the office of Borough President is that it is a personality driven office. As a quasi-executive office, it has been left up to the holders of the position to define it and use the office to effectively advance the interests of their borough. During my campaign I have said that my intention is to use the office as an instrument of good for my community. This means that I will use all my experiences in the City Council, the relationships I have developed with key decision makers, and my persistence to actually impact city policies for the benefit of Staten Island. I will not be reactive; instead I will be proactive and develop new ideas in a think tank type environment. I want Staten Island to be an incubator of new ideas where we will solve the unique problems faced by our various communities.

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 ULURP process is often cumbersome and lengthy, but at its core it seeks to balance various, often competing, interests. With that said, the process should be examined and simplified. I would support efforts to look at lessening some of the burdens imposed by the environmental review process. Several years ago I sought to publicize some of the proposals made by Hope Cohen in her Manhattan Institute paper, Rethinking Environmental Review. She notes that the environmental review process often has the consequence of impeding small, environmentally benign projects, as a result of its cost. At the same time, such reviews often end up being meaningless because developers are not required to implement the mitigations they are required to propose. I believe that we, as a city, should review many of the proposals in this paper to determine what could and should be changed.

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?

Roads: As Council Member I have allocated capital funding to supplement DOT's repaving on Staten Island. This has helped us ensure more lane miles were repaved. I will consider doing the same. I also support the installation of Smart Light technology to help improve traffic flow.

Education: We need more schools, particularly a new high school on the North Shore and a Gifted and Talented School.

Environment: I plan on continuing the Bluebelt process, which will provide flood relief to numerous East Shore communities.

Parks: Staten Island is known as the "Borough of Parks" due to the number of acres of parkland we have. I will continue to ensure that we increase such parkland.

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 intend on keeping a Land Use Director in Staten Island Borough Hall, just as Borough President Molinaro has done. I will ensure that our office continues to be available to assist our local Community Boards, all of whom I have excellent working relationships with.

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?

My goal is to hire the best people available, as well as appoint the most qualified people out there. I want new perspectives to be offered and anyone who I hire or appoint will become an advisor to me in their areas of expertise. I will advertise for open positions and seek to recruit the most qualified people possible, regardless of party affiliation.

I actually have a history of going outside of politics to hire. In fact, my current Chief-of-Staff and my current Counsel were both hired from the same Staten Island Advance Help Wanted ad back in 2004.

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?

As a longtime City Council member, I recognize the importance of hearings on matters of interest and importance. I will host hearings on matters of concern. When I do, I will vary the locations so that hearings are held on the North Shore, the Mid-Island, and the North Shore.

In addition, as a Council Member I have long had a robust constituent services operations. That is one of the core functions of a City Council office. I will continue that operation, while also working closely with the Council Members to ensure constituents receive the services they deserve. Local officials will always be better at solving local problems than 311 operators.

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?

I have been a legislator since 1999 and have passed multiple pieces of legislation. I will utilize this power. I will also work with Staten Island City Council Members to formulate a Staten Island City Hall agenda.

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

a. There is a burgeoning affordability issue on Staten Island. It is not as acute as in other boroughs, but it certainly exists, particularly for young professionals who are leaving Staten Island in droves according to the studies. I will use the powers of the Borough Presidency to get experts around the table to formulate plans to keep Staten Island's young professionals and city employees on Staten Island.

b. I have funded security cameras in certain areas in my Council district and will seek to expand that. Ultimately, public safety will come down to the fact that we do not have enough cops on the street. Working with the next Mayor, I will work to try to reverse the trend and bring more cops on our streets.

c. Staten Island’s public transportation system is inadequate. I will work with Allen Cappelli, Staten Island’s representative on the MTA Board to bring more options to commuters in all parts of Staten Island. The reality is that commuters on the South Shore have the longest commute times in the nation. We have to do better. This will include finally instituting Fast Ferry service on the South Shore.

d. Our health care system is inadequate, largely because of a lack of presence by HHC. This is an inequity that must be corrected by the next Mayor. I will work with the next Administration to finally right this longtime wrong. Also, instead of imposing government’s will through bans, I will cultivate an agenda of personal responsibility, which educates and equips Staten Islanders with tools to improve their own health and wellness.

e. Staten Island’s North Shore is on target to see \$1 billion in private investments, projects that will transform this area and finally bring about the economic development we have been seeking for decades. The next Borough President will be a focal point in local government as this development comes into being. I will be an advocate for residents and businesses interested and affected by this development. I will also work with interested organizations, such as the Staten Island Economic Development Corporation (SIEDC), as we use various methods to attract businesses to the West Shore of Staten Island, which remains a great untapped resource. Finally, we must better use of waterfront. An improved waterfront would mean more jobs and economic opportunities.

f. I would like to see more K-8 schools, if the local communities want such schools. As a City Council Member, working with the PS 48 community, we got the DOE to buy an old hospital across the street and expanded PS 48. We then got the DOE to make it a K-8. The old PS 48 building was then turned into a brand new school – PS 9. I will collaborate closely with parents, teachers, and administrators to help each school with its individual needs. I have a history of doing this and will continue to do so.

Additional Comments:



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. Promise: Bring additional affordable senior housing units to Staten Island. Action: An announcement will be made in the coming weeks about a major new senior housing project.
2. Promise: Ensure the DOE purchases the old Doctor's Hospital site for use as a school to alleviate overcrowding at PS 48 and other local schools. Action: The new PS 48 at the old Doctor's Hospital site opened on September 9, 2013.
3. Promise: Work to bring city agency operations and more businesses to Staten Island to improve our local economy. Action: Despite the best efforts of all in Staten Island, DoITT ultimately decided to relocate some functions to a site in New Jersey instead of in the Teleport on Staten Island's West Shore.
4. Promise: Work with local medical community to convince Bloomberg Administration to help provide capital for medical institutions. Action: The Administration helped ensure partnership with the Primary Care Development Corporation for help for local hospitals. With that said, much more can and must be done by New York City to improve Staten Island's health and wellness.
5. Promise: Ensure that DOT has funding it needs to help repair crumbling roads. Action: Have allocated \$5.5 million in capital funds since 2010 to fund additional resurfacing work.

TOP FIVE 2013 CAMPAIGN PROMISES

1. Ensure Staten Islanders affected by Superstorm Sandy continue to receive the assistance they need, including those who wish to participate in government buyouts have the opportunity.
2. Ensure local, state, and federal agencies construct the shoreline protections that are so desperately needed to protect our communities from inclement weather.
3. Support local small businesses.
4. Pay equal attention to all areas of Staten Island, including neighborhoods that have often been ignored by local government in the past.
5. Have Borough Hall serve as an instrument of good that incubates good ideas that improve the lives of Staten Islanders.

**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.**