CITIZENS UNION CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE
NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL ELECTION 2009

Citizens Union would appreciate your response to the following questions related to Council and election reform policy issues facing the City of New York. We plan to make public your responses to this questionnaire on our website and in other appropriate venues.

Citizens Union will also be using your answers to guide the process of evaluating candidates for this office and to assist us in determining whether to issue a candidate “endorsement.”

We thank you very much for your response.

Candidate Name: John Tabacco Age: 41

Office to Which You Seek (Re) Election: Council District 0: 49

Campaign Address: 14 St. Pauls Ave

Campaign Telephone Number: (311) 286.5918 Fax: (201) 332.8880

Party Affiliation(s): I Campaign Manager Name: Todd Tabacco

Website & Email: www.JohnTabacco.com

Education: B.S. Finance St. Johns Univ. 90

Occupation/Employer (or years in currently held elected office): CEO - Locatesock.com - Financial Software Technology

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/G Civic Involvement:

BIO

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

(Percent: Citizens Union can grant the “Preferred Candidate” and “Endorsed Candidate” rating only to candidates we have interviewed.)

Signature of Candidate: John Tabacco Date:

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Peter J.W. Martin, Chair • Beth Witty, Executive Director

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I. CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

Please state your position on the following reform measures. Specify whether you support or oppose each. You may elaborate in the space provided at the end or on additional paper.

VOTING AND ELECTIONS REFORM
1. What is your position on allowing independents to vote in party primaries? [Support] [Oppose]
   Comments: I support open non-partisan elections + primaries.

2. What is your position on passage of state legislation that would allow referenda initiated by the City Council and/or the public to appear on the ballot at the same time as a referendum initiated by a charter commission appointed by the Mayor? [Support] [Oppose]
   Comments: I think referendum is a critical reform necessary to better the representative democratic process.

3. What is your position on increasing the pay of election day poll workers above the current $200 they are allotted per election event? [Support] [Oppose]
   Comments: I think proper compensation for poll workers will ensure quality and performance enhancements to the election day process.

4. What is your position on requiring that the Board of Elections in the City of New York be included in the preliminarily and final mayor’s management report? [Support] [Oppose]
   Comments: I think the B.O.E. needs critical reform and any oversight should be comprehensive.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM
5. What is your position on establishing stricter requirements for the disbursement of campaign finance matching funds to candidates that face non-competitive challenges? [Support] [Oppose]
   Comments: I'm opposed to unopposed and non-comp. participants creating matching fund options for incumbents.
6. What is your position on banning the transfer of funds that were raised in a previous election cycle into a current account?  
**Comments:** You should spend the money you raised it for.

7. What is your position on allowing campaign financing for ballot proposals?  
**Comments:** Ballot initiatives & referendums should have the necessary funding needed to create viable and dynamic proposals.

8. What is your position on lowering the campaign contribution limit for City Council candidates from the current $2,750 for those who participate in the city's campaign finance program?  
**Comments:** I support lowering the minimum.

9. What is your position on lowering the expenditure limit for City Council candidates who participate in the city's campaign finance program?  
**Comments:** I think campaign finance should be eliminated for candidates not seeking matching.

**CITY COUNCIL REFORM**

10. What is your position on allowing Council committees to function more independently of the speaker than is presently the case?  
- Should committee staff be hired by and report to committee chairs?  
- Should committee hearings and votes be scheduled at the direction of the chairs?  
- Should committees be able to issue subpoenas by a vote of their members?  

**Comments:**
11. What is your position on eliminating or limiting stipends for committee chairs and leadership positions?  
Comments: **Support/Oppose**

12. What is your position on consolidating the current City Council committee structure and reducing the number of overall committees?  
Comments: I think the current construction has some distinct benefits, but more intracommunity communication would help.  

13. What is your position on the recent extension of term limits for the city’s elected officials to three consecutive four-year terms? Please explain your answer.  
Comments: The will of the people was usurped by the Term Limits Extension.  

14. What is your position on modifying the City Charter to require that changes to term limits may only be approved by the voters?  
Comments: Great idea.  

**POLICY ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE**

15. What is your position on transferring prosecutorial power over substantiated claims of police misconduct to the Civilian Complaint Review Board? If oppose, what would you propose to ensure sufficient public oversight and effective adjudication in handling claims of alleged police misconduct?  
Comments: I think the P.C. is faced with many challenges and creating more oversight and multiple adjudicatory procedures will add to efficient process.  

16. Do you believe that the State Legislature should renew mayoral control of the city’s public schools in its present form? If oppose, what specific changes to the current system would you recommend?  
Comments: I think the Mayor has made some great advances, with control concentrated at the mayoral level.
17. What is your position on establishing mandatory inclusionary zoning standards and requirements for all new residential development projects? If so, what should be the minimum percentage set aside for low income households?
Support/Oppose
Comments: All residential development should have a diversified blend of economic housing opportunities. All socioeconomic conditions should be provided for.

18. What is your position on changing the current land use process under ULURP to limit the role of community-based planning?
Support/Oppose
Comments: I am opposed to limiting community-based planning.

19. What is your position on the Ravitch Commission’s recommendations for new revenue sources for funding the MTA and altering its governance? Please explain your answer, as well as your thoughts on how the experiences of the debate surrounding the city’s efforts to implement congestion pricing can inform the current discussion.
Support/Oppose
Comments: I have not reviewed the Ravitch Commission report, but I should and I will. I think any move in the direction of posture + transparent governance reform is good. I think congestion pricing was not the right solution for NYC but I think some sort of pass thru tax on vehicles which pass thru our borough should be considered to offset shortfalls.
CAMPAIGN PROMISES BEING MADE TO VOTERS IN 2009

Citizens Union is adding a new element to its evaluation of incumbents running for reelection. 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 a candidate who presently does not hold elected office, CU is interested in knowing what are the top five promises you are making to the voters during this campaign?

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 BEING MADE IN 2009

1. To vote against New Taxes.

2. To fight against Property Tax Increases.

3. To establish a Senior Administrative Mobile Unit to assist with critical Medicare/Medicaid Filings.

4. To advocate on behalf of Public Private Education Initiatives.

5. Seek thoughtfully out of the Box solutions to begin Homeport Redevelopment.

Please return to: Citizens Union, Local Candidates Committee
299 Broadway, Suite 700 New York, NY 10007
or via fax to 212.227.0345