

**CITIZENS UNION CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE
NEW YORK CITY MAYOR
ELECTION 2013**

Citizens Union would appreciate your response to the following policy questions facing the City of New York and its residents that are of concern to Citizens Union. 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. In order to receive Citizens Union's "preferred" or "endorsed" status, in addition to completing the questionnaire, candidates must participate in an interview with Citizens Union's Local Candidates Committee. We thank you very much for your response.

Candidate Name: **William Thompson** Age **60**

Campaign Address: **39 Broadway, Suite 640, New York, NY 10006**

Campaign Telephone Number: (646) 560-5940 Fax: () _____

Party Affiliation(s): Democrat Campaign Manager Name: **Jonathan Prince**

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

Education: **Tufts University**

Occupation/Employer (or years in currently held elected office): **See bio**

Previous Offices and Campaigns: **See bio**

Are you willing to be interviewed by CU's Local Candidates Committee? YES X___ NO___

Have you completed requisite campaign finance filings? YES X___ NO___

(Please note: Citizens Union can grant its "Preferred Candidate" or "Endorsed Candidate" rating only to candidates we have interviewed. We will make every effort to interview candidates in this race.)

Signature of Candidate: Date: _____

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.

CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

Please circle 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.

CITIZENS UNION ISSUES

VOTING AND ELECTIONS REFORM

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?	Support/Oppose Oppose
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)	Support/Oppose Support
3. What is your position on creating a voluntary municipal poll worker program to supplement poll worker recruitment by district leaders? (Int. No. 721)	Support/Oppose Support
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)?	Support/Oppose Support
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?	Support/Oppose Support
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)	Support/Oppose Support

7. 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)	Support/Oppose Support
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CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

8. What is your position on eliminating matching funds for contributions bundled by lobbying organizations or lobbyists?	Support/Oppose Support
9. 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/Oppose I strongly support removing special interest influence over public officials, which is why I am a supporter of public financing of campaigns, however at the current time I am not convinced that this measure will achieve its stated objective.

CITY COUNCIL REFORM

10. 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/Oppose Support
11. 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/Oppose Support

PUBLIC SAFETY AND OVERSIGHT OF POLICE MISCONDUCT

12. What is your position on reducing the frequency of stop, question and frisks by conducting stops more judiciously?	Support/Oppose Support
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<p>13. 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?</p>	<p>Support/Oppose</p> <p>As Mayor, I will work with the City Council , NYPD and others to develop a series of substantive reforms to the CCPC, which help to create more fairness and transparency</p>
<p>14. 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?</p>	<p>Support/Oppose</p> <p>As Mayor, I will work with the CCRB to develop a more transparent process</p>
<p>15. 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?</p>	<p>Support/Oppose</p> <p>As Mayor, I will work with the CCRB, NYPD and legal experts to determine an appropriate course of action</p>
<p>16. What is your position on reinstating the zero tolerance penalty for false official statements by public officers?</p>	<p>Support/Oppose</p> <p>As Mayor, I will work with the City Council , NYPD and others to develop a series of substantive reforms to the CCPC, which help to create more fairness and transparency</p>

BUDGET REFORM

17. What is your position on establishing independent budgeting for: a. the borough presidents?	Support/Oppose Independent budgeting may allow the offices listed below to better serve the public and therefore, I will work with all parties to develop a proactive and fair solution
b. Conflicts of Interest Board?	Support/Oppose See above
c. the public advocate ?	Support/Oppose See above
d. community boards?	Support/Oppose See above
18. What is your position on making the budget process more transparent by clearly defining units of appropriation and limiting their size?	Support/Oppose
19. What is your position on release of revenue projections (other than property taxes) prior to Council hearings on the Executive budget?	Support/Oppose

LAND USE AND COMMUNITY BOARD REFORM

20. 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/Oppose Support
21. 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

ISSUES of CITYWIDE IMPORTANCE

1. What is your view of the amount of taxes paid by New Yorkers compared to the value that is received in City services? Do you believe that taxes should be raised or lowered? If you believe taxes should be changed, please provide specific proposals about what taxes you would change and if you didn't raise taxes, what services you would cut, listed in order of greatest magnitude

As Mayor, I will not raise taxes on New Yorkers, and will work to make sure non-residents have to pay their fair share. As Mayor I would establish a progressive commuter tax – one in which commuters with higher incomes are taxed at higher rates, similar to how City residents are taxed, though at one-third the rates. I would also work to eliminate tax breaks for companies that no longer need them. Where possible, I would provide tax breaks for industries that have potential to grow our economy and create jobs such as the high technology industry. Finally, my administration will aggressively go after tax cheats and hold them accountable for their fiscal responsibilities.

2. Certain New York has been trying to create a more diversified economy, and one that is less reliant on Wall Street. What is your position on such efforts? If you support it, what would you do to diversify the city's economy? How would you ensure that the city would receive adequate tax revenue as a result of potential shifts in the tax base?

While I we have made some progress we still need to work harder to diversify our local economy. We can still grow our tourism and hospitality industries. The technology sector has immense potential for our city. I also believe that local manufacturing can help reduce our reliance for tax revenue from the city's historically important industries. I think that "Made in NYC" will have a tremendous appeal internationally and we should work to find a way to realize that potential by marketing garments, crafts and other products that are locally made.

3. In FY 2013-14, New York City is budgeted to spend \$13.568 billion on pensions and fringe benefits for City employees out of a total net budget of \$68.5 billion. What would you do to address the growing pension and health care costs borne by the city and New York City tax payers, particularly in the context of contractual bargaining with the city's unions for retroactive raises?

I respect the municipal workers and I respect the work they provide the City. When it comes time to negotiations, we are going to open the books together. We are going to find saving to provide them what they deserve. I won't demonize them. I respect the workers, but I am also going to protect the taxpayer.

4. What is your overall position on public education and what changes, if any, would you make to mayoral control of city schools? What would you do to increase test scores and graduation rates? How would you propose the Department of Education increase the ability for parents and teachers to become more meaningfully involved? What are your views on shuttering underperforming schools and opening new ones, including charter schools, oftentimes in the same buildings?

We have an education crisis in New York City, and it's at the root of every great challenge we face. The pathway to reducing poverty and creating opportunity in New York City runs directly through our public schools - the bridge across the income gap, the mobility gap and

the achievement gap is education. That's how we end the divisions that threaten the future of our city and build one New York where every person who lives here can build a good life.

My mother was a NYC schoolteacher. I've been a University trustee. As president of the Board of Education, I helped lead the fight for reform. My entire life has prepared me for the biggest challenge our city faces: to reverse the failed education policies of the Bloomberg years so our schools prepare every child in New York for success in college and at work.

My plan for quality education is rooted in four principles:

- Teach for success in college and career, not to the test.
- Fix neighborhood schools, not close them
- Respect and support teachers and principals, not demonize them.
- Bring parents in, not shut them out.

I'm proud to be endorsed by New York's teachers and principals - they know me, they know my commitment to our kids, and they support my plan to improve our schools. It's time to stop blaming and start changing. To bring teachers and principals who work hard together with reformers who have new ideas, so we can all work together to do what's right for our kids.

I want to do more than just be an education mayor, because this isn't about me. I want to make New York the education city, because this is about you, your children, and our future.

5. How would you propose the city address the shortage of affordable housing, particularly given the expected growth in population? Would you continue to attempt to reach the goals of PlaNYC 2030? If not, what is your vision for long-term development particularly in light of climate change and extreme weather?

Our city desperately needs more affordable housing for our hardworking residents that are starting to be priced out of the city. We should work toward building at least 70,000 more units of affordable housing and seeking to preserve and retrofit 50,000 units. I generally support many aspects of PlaNYC 2030. We have to do everything in power to truly be a "Green" city. It is a moral, economic and public safety concern that we have as a country to take serious. As Mayor of New York City I will seek to set a national model.

6. What would you propose to increase the transparency of the Board of Elections in the City of New York's operations and accountability to the city? What is your position on non-citizen voting?

A good government has to be open. The Board of Elections is under perpetual fire because it has been less than transparent on many issues. We have to work toward making it more transparent. Many of the bills that Citizens United support is a start toward making the agency more transparent. Part of the issue is that we also need to have the right personnel

at the Board of Elections that is committed to transparency. The Board finally has a new Executive Director hopefully he will work toward improving the agency and will be committed to transparency. The general public and persons in government need to hold the Board accountable.

I do not support non-citizen voting at this time. I understand the idea of non-citizen voting and I respect and admire the sentiment but I believe it sets a dangerous precedent. Right now, our Federal Government is contemplating comprehensive immigration reform. Many elected officials across the country have no qualms about letting pay stay here to work as cheap labor without providing them an opportunity to ever obtain a pathway to citizenship. Providing non-citizens with a right to vote in New York City is a perfect excuse for many people to argue that a pathway for citizenship is not necessary. Our country desperately needs immigration reform that includes a clear pathway to citizenship I would never want to see our city complicate that.

7. Taking into consideration the lessons learned from the debates surrounding congestion pricing and the Ravitch Commission's recommendations to provide the MTA with long-term funding, what do you think should be done to address the MTA's fiscal solvency issues and ensure that the burden for funding the MTA are equitably distributed amongst all stakeholders? What is your view on expanding alternative forms of transportation like the Citibike program and the installation of bike lanes?

Transportation is an essential element of life in NY. The MTA is the lifeblood of our City and it is too underfunded to truly meet its mandate. In order for us to equally distribute the funding needs for the MTA with all stakeholders we must reinstitute the commuter tax, which will be charged to non-residents who drive into the city. At just .45% it would generate approximately \$725 million each year. Additionally, if we institute weight-based registration this would generate \$1 billion annually that we can pump into the MTA. I believe that we should continue to explore alternative forms of transportation but do so in a more measured way that promotes safety for riders and the general public.

8. What do you believe is the proper role of government in regulating public health? Would you advocate for continuing policies proposed by Mayor Bloomberg banning large sodas and reducing the proportion of people who smoke cigarettes?

Good government has a responsibility to lead when it comes to public health through initiatives and smart regulations. As Mayor I want to continue to lead the fight against reducing the proportion of people who smoke cigarettes. While I applaud the Mayor for trying to reduce the obesity rate I don't intend to continue with his crusade the ban large sugary drinks. I intend to educate people on smart food options, working to eradicate food deserts, promote healthy activity and providing all New York residents with access to affordable healthcare.

9. How can the city continue to keep the crime rate at record low levels? What is your position on stop, question and frisk? How would you ensure that city agencies share data and resources and coordinate in delivering services? Do you believe that management should be decentralized, allowing agency heads greater independence, or centralized in the mayor's office? Would you continue executive order 41 ensuring all New Yorkers, regardless of immigration status can access the city services that they are entitled to receive?

Under my administration New York will continue to be the safest big city in the world. I will appoint a new commissioner that will focus on reinstating community policing, which provides our police officers with better intelligence and cooperation from the public that will lead to further reductions in crime. I think that Mayor Bloomberg and Commissioner Ray Kelly have abused Stop and Frisk. I think that large numbers of stops that failed to yield an arrest and the disproportionate number of Black and Latinos stopped speak for themselves. While the tactic can be a necessary tool, the Bloomberg model of connecting the number of stops to performance reviews has led to abuse that must stop. As Mayor, I will end the abuse of Stop and Frisk and end racial profiling.

10. How actively would you use the office of the mayor in working on national issues such as immigration and gun control?

Executive Order 41 will continue to be in effect while I am in Mayor. I will also seek to expand the funding of the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs to provide more outreach and services to our city's immigrant residents and help those that can petition for status obtain status.

Additionally, I will continue the Mayor's efforts to be a voice on national gun control reform. New York City is in many ways is the financial, media and cultural capital of the country. Other municipalities and even state governments look to us for guidance. If you look at our history we have always lead. We have a moral obligation to speak in favor of immigration reform and gun control. Whether it was advocating for labor rights, gay rights and anti-discrimination laws our City has been in the forefront. Under my administration, I will lend my voice to these issues.

11. How would you utilize city-affiliated nonprofit organizations such as the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City in raising private revenue to supplement city agencies and programs? How would you ensure that there is sufficient transparency and accountability of funding received through such entities?

Private funding can be an important source to achieve programs and services that all New Yorkers enjoy. What we can't tolerate is for city-affiliated nonprofit organizations to serve as conduits of corruption. As Mayor, I will work to make sure that all donations made to these entities and how these groups spend that money are fully disclosed and available for the public to view online.

BIOGRAPHY

As Comptroller of New York City from 2002 through 2009, Bill Thompson was responsible for managing the finances of the nation's largest municipality and supervised a staff of 700 professionals. As a lifelong Democrat and the city's top financial watchdog, he oversaw the city's \$100 billion pension fund and made crucial investments in affordable housing for lower- and middle-class families.

Because of a last-minute change to the city's charter revision law, Bill was given the opportunity to run for a third term in 2009. He chose not to violate the two-term limit put in place by the voters, announcing that he would run for Mayor of New York City instead. As the Democratic nominee, Bill was outspent 14 to 1 and still came within just a few percentage points of unseating a lavishly self-financed incumbent.

A product of New York City's public schools, Bill has a deep understanding of the needs of both students and educators. As the head of the Board of Education for five terms, he oversaw a school system with 1.1 million students and 130,000 employees. He has been a persistent champion of meaningful accountability, more extensive after-school programs, an expanded arts curriculum, and higher standards of teaching.

Bill is also Chair of Governor Cuomo's Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Team, which seeks to promote economic opportunities and eliminate barriers for minority- and women-owned businesses. In 2012, he stepped down as Chairman of the Hugh L. Carey Battery Park City Authority to focus on his campaign for Mayor.

In addition to his eight years of service as a citywide executive, Bill has valuable private sector experience. He served as the Chief Administrative Officer and Senior Managing Director at Siebert, Brandford, Shank & Co. LLC, the nation's largest minority public finance firm, where he led efforts to underwrite loans for schools, roads, bridges and infrastructure projects.

A son of Bedford-Stuyvesant who moved to Manhattan in 2008 after a lifetime in Brooklyn, Bill is proud of what he calls his dual citizenship. He lives in Harlem with his wife, Elsie McCabe Thompson, and two stepchildren. He is also the proud father of a grown daughter, Jennifer.

CANDIDATE ACCOUNTABILITY QUESTIONNAIRE

Citizens Union is adding a new element to its evaluation of incumbents running for re-election. In addition to evaluating their stances on the issues above, Citizens Union will assess candidates on how well they kept the promises they made to voters during the previous election.

As an elected official who currently or has held public office other than the one for which you are running:

- 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 fulfilled or not fulfilled those promises?

I'm extremely proud that I took on Michael Bloomberg and the City Council when they overturned term limits against public will. Besides being outspent by Michael Bloomberg 4 to 1, I came within five percentage points of the 2009 Mayoral election, which would have allowed me to execute my agenda and increase government accountability and transparency for all New Yorkers.

- b. What are your top five campaign promises you are making to voters during your campaign for this new position?

I want to do more than just be an education mayor, because this isn't about me. I want to make New York the education city, because this is about you, your children, and our future.

We have an education crisis in New York City, and it's the key to every great challenge we face, from reducing poverty to creating opportunity in New York City to reducing the income gap.

As Mayor, I am going to make sure that we are going to teach to help our students succeed and not teach to the test. We are going to fix neighborhood schools, not close them. We are going to respect and support teachers and principals, not demonize them. And, we are going to bring parents in, not shut them out.

I'm proud to be endorsed by New York's teachers and principals - they know me, they know my commitment to our kids, and they support my plan to improve our schools. It's time to stop blaming and start changing. To bring teachers and principals who work hard together with reformers who have new ideas, so we can all work together to do what's right for our kids.