



Candidate Questionnaire
Local Candidates Committee
New York City Council Elections 2017

Citizens Union appreciates your response to the following questionnaire related to policy issues facing New York City and our interest in reforming city and state government. **Please return the questionnaire to us as soon as possible, and no later than June 28th.** Responses to these questions will be one of several factors Citizens Union uses to evaluate candidates running for the New York City Council, and to issue our preference for the Primary and endorsement for the General Election. Please feel free to affix any additional information such as a résumé, campaign brochure, or issue statements.

If you seek our support, we will also need to schedule an interview with you as part of the evaluation process. **Please contact us if you wish to be interviewed.**

We plan to make responses to this questionnaire public on our website, printed voters directory, and other appropriate venues.

We thank you very much for your response.

Biographical Information

Candidate Name: BARRY SHAPIRO

Party Affiliation(s): DEMOCRATIC Age: 72

Education: BA (UCONN), MA (INDIANA U), MFA (NYU)

Office Sought (including district): COUNCIL - DIST 4

Occupation/Employer: Retired / AMERICAN EXPRESS - ENTERPRISE ARCHITECT; MARKETING SYSTEMS

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement: NONE

(Please feel free to affix any additional information such as a résumé, campaign brochure, or issue statements.)

Campaign Contact Information

Campaign Manager Name: ABOVE Additional Staff Contact:

Address:

Telephone: Fax:

Website: Email:

Twitter: Facebook:

Affirmations

Have you completed required campaign finance filings? SMALL CAMPAIGN YES / NO

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

(Please note: interviews are prerequisites of being considered for Citizens Union endorsements.)

Signature of Candidate:

Barry Sepino

Date:

7-11-17

I. POLICY QUESTIONS

Please state whether you support or oppose the following reform measures, and feel free to elaborate in the space provided at the end or on additional paper.

? = not sure. would like to hear pro 'Argument'

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 <input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> Oppose [?]
2. What is your position on instituting Instant Runoff Voting for all citywide offices and for all special elections for city offices?	Support <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> Oppose [?]
3. What is your position on creating a voluntary municipal poll worker program to supplement poll worker recruitment by district leaders?	Support <input checked="" type="radio"/> / Oppose
4. 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?	Support <input type="radio"/> / <input checked="" type="radio"/> Oppose ^{?*}
5. What is your position on modifying the City Charter to require that laws enacted by referendum only be changed through approval by the voters?	Support <input checked="" type="radio"/> / Oppose

? = not sure what you mean.*

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

6. 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 <input checked="" type="radio"/> / Oppose
7. What is your position on increasing the Campaign Finance Board's public matching grants from a partial match of 55% to a full match of funds raised (Int. 1130-A)?	Support <input type="radio"/> / <input checked="" type="radio"/> Oppose

CITY COUNCIL REFORM

8. How do you feel the reformed bill drafting process is going under the enacted 2014 Council Rules Reforms and do you think we need a more independent process similar to New York State Legislature's bill drafting commission?

I'm For AN independent process But my general CONCERNS will still exist. 'Legal' LANGUAGE needs to be simplified - tries to pack too much into single complex sentences. Legislation should be 'flow charted' much like computer programs in order to identify all possibilities and detect loopholes. Additionally, Key terms need to be defined with 'most likely' examples with the language 'including but not limited:'.

9. What is your position on the following proposals enabling Council committees to function more effectively and independently of the speaker:	
a. Should committee chairs have the ability to hire at least one committee staffer?	Support / Oppose
b. Should committee hearings and votes be scheduled at the direction of the chairs?	Support / Oppose
c. Should committees be able to issue subpoenas by a vote of their members?	Support / Oppose
d. Now that committee chair stipends have been eliminated what is your position on reducing the overall number of committees so members can participate more meaningfully in fewer issues?	<i>PENDING review of need + efficacy</i> → Support / Oppose
10. What is your position on greater disclosure of councilmembers' outside income?	Support / Oppose
11. 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
12. What is your position on ensuring a more equitable and needs-based distribution of discretionary funding?	<i>Though ONE MAN'S NEED CAN BE A LUXURY to someone else ↓</i> Support / Oppose
13. 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
14. What is your position on extending term limits from two four-year terms to three four-year terms?	<i>Actually, no strong opinion for now</i> Support / Oppose
15. What is your position on making all actions designed to influence any City Council outcome, including the choice of Speaker, reportable as a lobbying expense?	Support / Oppose

PUBLIC SAFETY AND OVERSIGHT OF POLICE MISCONDUCT

16. 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?	Support / Oppose
17. 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?	Support / Oppose
18. 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?	Support / Oppose
19. What is your position on reinstating the zero tolerance penalty for false official statements by public officers?	Support / Oppose
20. What is your position on requiring the Police Commissioner to explain divergence from NYPD trial judge and CCRB disciplinary recommendations and to make the explanation public?	Support / Oppose
21. What is your position on requiring the NYPD to publish a regular report of use of force incidents with data disaggregated by race?	Support / Oppose

22. What is your position on requiring the NYPD to publish a regular report of use of force incidents with data disaggregated by race? *Repeat?* Support / Oppose

BUDGET REFORM

23. What is your position on establishing independent budgeting for:
a. the borough presidents? Support / Oppose
b. Conflicts of Interest Board? *I Don't know enough to express an opinion about these.* Support / Oppose
c. the public advocate? Support / Oppose
d. community boards? Support / Oppose

24. What is your position on making the budget process more transparent by clearly defining and limiting units of appropriation? *Support* Oppose

25. 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

26. What is your position on designating urban planners for use by community boards and requiring borough president's report to the Council the manner in which they advertise and make community board appointments? *Support* Oppose

27. 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

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

28. In November, voters in New York will be asked whether they wish to hold a constitutional convention to amend the New York State Constitution. What is your position on holding such a convention? *Support* Oppose

29. If you support the constitutional convention, what actions, if any, will you take to ensure that it takes place? If you oppose the convention, what will you do to defeat it?

As I'm an advocate for Home Rule with respect to Residential Rent Regulations, I would during ~~the~~ the campaign I would underscore this issue and urge voters in District 4 to vote in favor of holding the Convention.

30. Last year, Citizens Union helped craft and push for the enactment of a law that placed political contribution limits and disclosure requirements on nonprofits that are formed by, or affiliated with, elected officials, which helped prevent some significant features of an emerging "pay-to-play" culture in New York City. Do you have any other ideas to further limit such a culture and create a better environment where contributions, either personal or political do not unduly influence the actions of elected officials?

I'd advocate Full Disclosure of Super PAC membership, donations and would investigate if legally possible to put limits on Super PAC Donations. Would also advocate severe penalties for any collusion discovered between campaigns and Super PAC's. Would also investigate if possible to bring political ads under the legal 'Truth in Advertising' umbrella. I expect a lot less money would be spent on TV ads if that were the case.

Please use the space provided or a separate sheet of paper to elaborate on your positions on the issues contained in the previous pages. You may also provide additional information on any actions that you have taken or plan to take to advance your positions on these issues.

II. CAMPAIGN PROMISES MADE TO VOTERS

As a candidate who presently does not hold elected office, what are your top five campaign promises you are making to the voters during this campaign for this position.

If elected, Citizens Union will use these promises to evaluate your performance while in office, as well as to evaluate your candidacy in the future.

Please feel free to use additional paper if the space provided is not sufficient, and to affix additional information such as a résumé, campaign brochure, or issue statements. We thank you very much for your response.

TOP FIVE 2017 CAMPAIGN PROMISES OR GOALS

1. STRONG ADOVACY for 'Home Rule' with respect to ALL Residential Rent regulation with strong focus ON Democratic State Party deal with 'renegade' Democratic State Senators.
2. Quality of Life follow-ups including generation of weekly District 311 complaints (and follow-up) and raising issues of litter, dog waste on sidewalks, reckless Bike riding.
3. Support of the Small Business jobs Survival Act.
4. Homelessness solutions including 'halfway' housing experiments for those who have a path to being self-supporting. Also seeking solutions to return to native areas those who have traveled from afar to receive NYC homeless benefits.
- 5.

IN ADDITION to ensuring highest possible standards met in District schools, would like to review the application and oversight of public funds & facilities benefitting Charter school including a review of compensations?

III. ETHICAL REPRESENTATION OF CONSTITUENTS

Citizens Union believes that all New Yorkers deserve to be represented by officials who work for the public interest and honor public trust. With the corruption conviction of recent state legislative leaders, we seek to endorse a candidate who will demonstrate that she/he will honor the full commitment of the oath of office, and will always represent the public interest above all else.

Please tell us how you have and would continue to conduct the political affairs of this office in an upright manner, and restore the public trust in your district.

I think the key to public trust is transparency and a dedication to the principle that 'majority rules'.

I've stated the following at my website.

1. I view the role of councilmen as 80% representative + 20% leadership and by leadership I don't mean 'my view prevails.' I mean the role sometimes calls for explaining issues, clarifying all points of view and informing about less obvious deals. It also means championing clear community ~~and~~ causes.

2. I've also stated I intend to make public all points of view and requests whether made by lobbyists, family, friends, acquaintances - not necessarily identifying sources but rather holding up the requests for public ~~scrutiny~~ scrutiny.

3. I intend to hold many town halls ~~to~~ and work with Community Boards to understand majority opinion.

Please return to: Citizens Union, Local Candidates Committee, 299 Broadway, Suite 700 New York, NY 10007
Via email to candidates@citizensunion.org or fax to 212.227.0345 • Call us at 212-227-0342 with questions.