

# 2013

## CITIZENS UNION VOTERS DIRECTORY

A NONPARTISAN GUIDE TO INFORMED VOTING

**VOTE  
GENERAL ELECTION  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5th**

VISIT [WWW.CITIZENSUNION.ORG](http://WWW.CITIZENSUNION.ORG)  
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION



**CITIZENS UNION**  
OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK



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*Director of Public Policy  
and Advocacy*

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*Executive Assistant*

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## INTERNS AND VOLUNTEERS

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Nick Bowe  
Jihoon Chang  
Eric Dobosh

Dorothy Manevich  
Jamie Moon

Melisa Tekin  
Jacob Watkins



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## VOTERS DIRECTORY GENERAL ELECTION 2013

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## ABOUT THIS DIRECTORY AND CITIZENS UNION'S EVALUATION PROCESS

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New Yorkers this November will vote in the General Election on Tuesday, November 5, 2013 to elect a new Mayor for the first time in twelve years, in addition to electing new members to the City Council and other city and borough positions. In this packed election cycle, Citizens Union has evaluated more races than in any other year in recent memory.

New Yorkers are faced with important decisions and different choices. There are three seats in which legislators are no longer seeking office due to ethical misconduct or corruption. In addition, there is considerable turnover in the City Council – 20 of its 51 seats are open – as well as other significant borough-wide and citywide races. This is a pivotal time for New York, twelve years since our city endured a terrorist attack and elected a new mayor. Citizens Union's voice for reform is crucial in this election season, as well as candidates' character and competence to lead the city going forward. We are hopeful that Citizens Union's policy priorities will be addressed and the public interest served by newly-elected and otherwise reform-minded legislators in 2014.

Please note that City Council district lines were redrawn earlier this year in order to address changes in population following the 2010 U.S. Census. To find which districts you reside in, you can call 1-866-VOTE-NYC. To locate your polling place and districts online, as well as see a sample ballot, go to <http://vote.nyc.ny.us/html/voters/where.shtml>.

To help our supportive Citizens Union members prepare to vote in the upcoming general election, we bring you our 2013 General Election Voters Directory, which would not be possible without the hard work of members of the Citizens Union Board, Local Candidates Committee, staff and our interns. Members of Citizens Union's Board of Directors and Local Candidates Committee formed nonpartisan interview teams and evaluated candidates for the citywide offices of Mayor and Comptroller in addition to Borough President, District Attorney and City Council races. We thank them for contributing their time, energy, expertise and commitment to interviewing and evaluating candidates.

Provided in this directory are Citizens Union's recommended candidates, descriptions of the positions and backgrounds of candidates we interviewed, and listings of every contest for all races that will be on the ballot in New York City on November 5th. We caution voters that there may be last minute eliminations or reinstatements of candidates on the ballot, so the list contained in this directory may have changed since this document was printed.

Recommendations are first made by interview teams of the Local Candidates Committee on the basis of interviews, research, questionnaire responses, and first-hand knowledge of the candidates. These recommendations are advisory and then reviewed by the full Local Candidates Committee, followed by the Citizens Union Board, which makes the final decision. An "Endorsed" rating reflects a candidate that Citizens Union deems not only qualified for the office with a viable candidacy, but committed to an agenda of positive reform. Please note that candidates not endorsed may nevertheless be highly regarded, which is generally reflected in the commentary. Citizens Union issues an "Endorsed" rating only during General Election contests, as "Preferences" are issued during the Primary Election. A "No Endorsement" rating may result when there is insufficient information available, it is believed that the candidates are of equal merit, or if no candidate interviewed by Citizens Union is believed to be effective or capable of representing the district.

We thank you for your support, and hope you enjoy the latest edition of the Voters Directory.

To view candidates' complete questionnaires, please visit Citizens Union's website at [www.citizensunion.org](http://www.citizensunion.org).



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ENDORSEMENTS

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**CITIZENS UNION 2013 GENERAL ELECTION  
CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENTS**

**Citywide Races**

Mayor

Bill de Blasio (D, WF)

New York City Comptroller

Scott M. Stringer (D, WF)

**Brooklyn Races**

Brooklyn District Attorney

Kenneth P. Thompson (D, WF)

Brooklyn Borough President

Eric Adams (D, WF)

City Council District 43

John F. Quaglion (R, C, I)

City Council District 47

Mark Treyger (D)

City Council District 48

David Storobin (R, C, I)

**Manhattan Races**

Manhattan District Attorney

Cyrus Vance Jr. (D)

City Council District 5

Ben Kallos (D)

**Queens Races**

Queens Borough President

Melinda Katz (D, WF)

City Council District 19

Paul A. Vallone (D, I)

City Council District 22

Costa G. Costantinides (D, WF)

City Council District 23

Mark S. Weprin (D)

City Council District 30

No Endorsement

**Staten Island Races**

Staten Island Borough President

James S. Oddo (R, C, I)

City Council District 50

Steven Matteo (R, C, I)



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## CONTESTED GENERAL ELECTIONS

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**Please note that candidates' party affiliations have been abbreviated as follows:**

Parties with Ballot Status

Democratic – D  
Republican – R  
Conservative – C  
Working Families – WF  
Independence – I  
Green – G

Other Parties

Affordable Tmrw – AT  
Civic Virtue – CV  
Common Sense – CS  
Dump the Dump – DTD  
Faith and Values – FV  
Flourish – Fl  
ForwardBrooklyn – FB  
Freedom – Fr  
Jobs & Education – JE  
Liberal – Li  
Libertarian – Lt  
Populist – P  
Reform – Re  
Rent Is 2 Damn High – R2H  
Save 2nd Avenue – S2A  
School Choice – SC  
Socialist Worker – SW  
Students First – SF  
Taxes 2 High – T2H  
Tax Wall Street – TWS  
Unity – U  
War Veterans – WV

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## CITYWIDE OFFICES

### NEW YORK CITY MAYOR

*TERM OF OFFICE: 4 YEARS • SALARY: \$225,000*

Adolfo Carrion Jr. (I)  
Randy Credico (TWS)  
**Bill de Blasio** (D, WF)†  
Michael J. Dilger (Fl)  
Daniel Fein (SW)  
Michael K. Greys (Fr)  
Anthony Gronowicz (G)  
Jack Hidary (JE, CS)

*Joe Lhota* (R, C, T2H, SF)†  
Jimmy McMillan (R2H)  
Joseph Melaragno (AT)  
Carl E. Person (Re)  
Erick J. Salgado (SC)  
Michael Sanchez (Lt)  
Sam Sloan (WV)



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## CONTESTED GENERAL ELECTIONS

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### NEW YORK CITY PUBLIC ADVOCATE

*TERM OF OFFICE: 4 YEARS • SALARY: \$165,000*

Irene Estrada (WV)

Deborah O. Liatos (SW)

Mollena G. Fabricant (SF)

Michael K. Lloyd (Fr)

Letitia James (D, WF)†

Robert Maresca (C)

James Lane (G)

Alex Merced (Lt)

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### NEW YORK CITY COMPTROLLER

*TERM OF OFFICE: FOUR YEARS • SALARY: \$185,000*

Richard Bozulich (WV)

**Scott M. Stringer** (D, WF)†

John L. Burnett (R, C, SC)†

John W. Studer (SW)

Hesham El-Meligy (Lt)

Julia Willebrand (G)

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## BOROUGHWISE OFFICES

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### BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT

*TERM OF OFFICE: 4 YEARS • SALARY: \$160,000*

Ruben Diaz Jr. (D, WF)^

Carl Lundgren (G)

Mark Escoffery-Bey (I, WV)

Elizabeth V. Perri (R, C)

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### BROOKLYN BOROUGH PRESIDENT

*TERM OF OFFICE: 4 YEARS • SALARY: \$160,000*

**Eric Adams** (D, WF)†

Elias Weir (C)†

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### BROOKLYN DISTRICT ATTORNEY

*TERM OF OFFICE: 4 YEARS • SALARY: \$190,000*

Charles J. Hynes (R, C)^†

**Kenneth P. Thompson** (D, WF)†

**Citizens Union endorsed candidate in bold.**

Italicized candidates preferred in primary.

^ Incumbent

† Has returned questionnaire; for responses see pages 18-21 for City Council, or visit [www.citizensunion.org](http://www.citizensunion.org).

\* District crosses multiple boroughs.



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CONTESTED GENERAL ELECTIONS

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**MANHATTAN BOROUGH PRESIDENT**

*TERM OF OFFICE: 4 YEARS • SALARY: \$160,000*

*Gale A. Brewer (D)†*

David B. Casavis (R, I, DTD, Lt)

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**MANHATTAN DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

*TERM OF OFFICE: 4 YEARS • SALARY: \$190,000*

**Cyrus Vance Jr. (D)^†**

Peter J. Gleason (R)†

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**QUEENS BOROUGH PRESIDENT**

*TERM OF OFFICE: 4 YEARS • SALARY: \$160,000*

Aurelio A. Arcabascio (R)†

**Melinda Katz (D, WF)†**

Everly D. Brown (JE)

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**STATEN ISLAND BOROUGH PRESIDENT**

*TERM OF OFFICE: 4 YEARS • SALARY: \$160,000*

Henry J. Bardel (G)

Louis L. Liedy (D, WF)†

Silas Johnson (Lt)

**James S. Oddo (R, C, I)†**

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**JUDICIAL OFFICES**

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**BRONK JUDGE OF THE CIVIL COURT – COUNTY**

*TERM OF OFFICE: 10 YEARS • SALARY: \$159,900*

Paul L. Alpert (D)

Harry Hertzberg (R, C)

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**BRONX JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT –  
12TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT (VOTE FOR 4)**

*TERM OF OFFICE: 14 YEARS • SALARY: \$174,000*

Laura G. Douglas (D)

Larry S. Schanchner (D)

Kevin P. Kuehner (R)

Robert D. Siano (R, C)

Julia I. Rodriguez (D)

John H. Wilson (R, C)

Norma Ruiz (D)

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CONTESTED GENERAL ELECTIONS

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**BRONX JUSTICE OF THE CIVIL COURT –  
1ST MUNICIPAL COURT DISTRICT**

*TERM OF OFFICE: 10 YEARS • SALARY: \$159,900*

Armando Montano (D)  
Lucianna Locorotondo (WV)

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**BROOKLYN JUDGE OF THE CIVIL COURT – COUNTY**

*TERM OF OFFICE: 10 YEARS • SALARY: \$159,900*

Vincent F. Martusciello (C)  
Shawndya L. Simpson (D)

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**BROOKLYN JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT –  
2ND JUDICIAL DISTRICT (VOTE FOR 5)**

*TERM OF OFFICE: 14 YEARS • SALARY: \$174,000*

Ross Brady (C)	Dawn M. Jimenez Salta (D, R, C)
Kevin Finnegan (WF)	Ilan Schoenberger (WF)
Bernard J. Graham (D, R, C)	Kenneth P. Sherman (D, R, C)
Desmond A. Green (D, R)	Betty J. Williams (D, R, C)
Mendy Mirocznik (WF)	

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**MANHATTAN JUDGE OF THE CIVIL COURT –  
COUNTY (VOTE FOR 4)**

*TERM OF OFFICE: 10 YEARS • SALARY: \$159,900*

John J. Kelley (D)	Dakota Ramseur (D)
Ann E. O'Shea (D)	Mary V. Rosado (D)

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**MANHATTAN JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT –  
1ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT (VOTE FOR 3)**

*TERM OF OFFICE: 14 YEARS • SALARY: \$174,000*

Debra A. James (D)	Peter H. Moulton (D)
Pauline T. Mistrella (R)	Anil C. Singh (D)

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**Citizens Union endorsed candidate in bold.**

Italicized candidates preferred in primary.

^ Incumbent

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\* District crosses multiple boroughs.





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CONTESTED GENERAL ELECTIONS

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*District 17* Maria Del Carmen Arroyo (D)^  
Jose A. Colon (R)  
Selsia Evans (C)

*District 18* Walter Nestler (G, Pr)  
William Russell Moore (JE)†  
Annabel Palma (D, WF)^  
Lamont L. Paul (R)  
Eduardo Ramirez (C)

**BROOKLYN**

*District 33* John A. Jasilli (C)  
Stephen T. Levin (D, WF)^†

*District 42* Inez Barron (D, WF)  
Ernest Johnson (C)

*District 34\** *Antonio Reynoso* (D, WF)†  
Gladys Santiago (SC)

*District 43* Patrick Dwyer (G)  
Vincent Gentile (D, WF)^†  
**John Quaglion** (R, C, I)†

*District 36* *Robert E. Cornegy Jr.* (D)†  
Kirsten John Foy (WF)  
Veronica L. Thompson (R)

*District 44* David G. Greenfield (D, C, I)^  
Joseph Hayon (R)

*District 37* *Kimberly Council* (WF)†  
Rafael L. Espinal Jr. (D)†  
Michael E. Freeman-Saulsberre (C)

*District 45* Erlene J. King (R2H)  
*Jumaane D. Williams* (D, WF)^†

*District 38* *Carlos Menchaca* (D, WF)†  
Henry Lallave (C)

*District 46* *Alan N. Maisel* (D, WF)†  
Anthony Testaverde (R, C, I)

*District 39* Bradford S. Lander (D, WF)^†  
James E. Murray (C)

*District 47* Connis M. Mobley (SC)  
Andrew J. Sullivan (R, C)†  
**Mark Treyger** (D)†

*District 40* Mathieu Eugene (D, WF)^  
Brian Kelly (C)  
Sylvia G. Kinard (R2H)†

*District 48* Chaim Deutsch (D)†  
**David Storobin** (R, C, I)†  
Igor Oberman (WF)†  
Alexander Lotovsky (FB)

*District 41* Bilal Malik (I)  
Darlene Mealy (D, WF)^

**MANHATTAN**

*District 2* Miles Budde (G)  
Rosie Mendez (D, WF)^

*District 3* *Corey Johnson* (D, WF)†  
Richard E. Stewart (R)

**Citizens Union endorsed candidate in bold.**

Italicized candidates preferred in primary.

^ Incumbent

† Has returned questionnaire; for responses see pages 18-21 for City Council, or visit [www.citizensunion.org](http://www.citizensunion.org).

\* District crosses multiple boroughs.



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## CONTESTED GENERAL ELECTIONS

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*District 4* Daniel Garodnick (D, WF)<sup>^</sup>  
Helene Jnane (R, Lt)

*District 7* *Mark Levine* (D, WF)<sup>†</sup>  
Christina Gonzalez (G)

*District 5* David Garland (R, I, DTD, Li, Lt, S2A)<sup>†</sup>  
***Ben Kallos*** (D)<sup>†</sup>  
Micah Kellner (WF)<sup>†</sup>

*District 8\** Ralina M. Cardona (R)  
Christopher R. Giattino (Lt)  
*Melissa Mark-Viverito* (D, WF)<sup>^†</sup>

*District 6* Harry DeMell (R)  
Mark A. Landis (WF)<sup>†</sup>  
Helen Rosenthal (D)<sup>†</sup>  
Thomas Siracuse (G)

*District 10* Ronnie Cabrera (R)  
Miguel Estrella (SC)  
Ydanis Rodriguez (D, WF)<sup>^</sup>

### QUEENS

*District 19* Dennis J. Saffran (R, C, Re)<sup>†</sup>  
**Paul A. Vallone** (D, I)<sup>†</sup>

*District 28* Mirielle P. Leroy (U)  
Ruben Wills (D)<sup>^</sup>

*District 20* Evergreen C. Chou (G)  
Martha Flores-Vazquez (JE)  
Sunny Hahn (Re)  
Peter A. Koo (D, C)<sup>^†</sup>

*District 29* Karen Koslowitz (D, WF)<sup>^</sup>  
Jon Tordash (CV)

*District 22* **Costa G. Costantinides** (D, WF)<sup>†</sup>  
Danielle M. De Stefano (C)  
Gerald F. Kahn (P)  
Daniel P. Peterson (R)<sup>†</sup>  
Lynne Serpe (G)<sup>†</sup>

*District 30* Elizabeth Crowley (D, WF)<sup>^†</sup>  
Craig N. Caruana (R, C)<sup>†</sup>

*District 31* Ricardo Brown (JE)<sup>†</sup>  
*Donovan J. Richards* (D)<sup>^†</sup>  
Scherie S. Murray (R)

*District 23* Joseph R. Concannon (Re)  
**Mark S. Weprin** (D)<sup>^†</sup>

*District 32* Lew M. Simon (D)  
Eric A. Ulrich (R, C, I)<sup>^</sup>

*District 24* Alexander Blishteyn (R, C)  
Rory I. Lancman (D, WF)  
Mujib U. Rahman (FV)

*District 34\** *Antonio Reynoso* (D, WF)<sup>†</sup>  
Gladys Santiago (SC)

*District 27* I. Daneek Miller (D, WF)<sup>†</sup>  
Sondra H. Peeden (I)

### STATEN ISLAND

*District 49* Mark A. Macron (R, C)  
Deborah L. Rose (D, WF)<sup>^</sup>

*District 51* Vincent M. Ignizio (R, C, I)<sup>^</sup>  
Christopher Walsh (D)

*District 50* **Steven Matteo** (R, C, I)<sup>†</sup>  
*John M. Mancuso* (D, WF)<sup>†</sup>



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## UNCONTESTED GENERAL ELECTIONS

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### NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL

The following candidates are wholly uncontested:

#### **BRONX**

None

#### **BROOKLYN**

*District 35* Laurie Cumbo (D, WF)†

#### **MANHATTAN**

*District 1* Margaret Chin (D, WF)^†

*District 9* Inez Dickens (D)^†

#### **QUEENS**

*District 21* Julissa Ferreras (D)^

*District 25* Daniel Dromm (D, WF)^

*District 26* James Van Bramer (D, WF)^

#### **STATEN ISLAND**

None

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The following major-party candidates have no major-party challengers:

#### **BROOKLYN – (MAJOR PARTY)**

*District 33* Stephen T. Levin (D, WF)^†

*District 34\** Antonio Reynoso (D, WF)†

*District 37* Rafael L. Espinal Jr. (D)†

*District 38* Carlos Menchaca (D, WF)†

*District 39* Brad Lander (D)^†

*District 40* Mathieu Eugene (D, WF)^

*District 41* Darlene Mealy (D, WF)^

*District 42* Inez Barron (D, WF)

*District 45* Jumaane D. Williams (D, WF)^†

#### **MANHATTAN – (MAJOR PARTY)**

*District 2* Rosie Mendez (D, WF)^

*District 7* Mark Levine (D, WF)†

#### **QUEENS – (MAJOR PARTY)**

*District 29* Karen Koslowitz (D, WF)^

*District 34\** Antonio Reynoso (D, WF)†



— BALLOT QUESTIONS AND CITIZENS UNION RECOMMENDATIONS —

The language provided below is the text of six proposed amendments to the state constitution which will appear on the ballot. All ballot initiatives will appear on the back of your paper ballot.

For more information about the ballot questions, including arguments in favor and against, see the Campaign Finance Board Voter Guide, available at [www.nycfb.info](http://www.nycfb.info), and the League of Women Voters NYS Voters Guide, available at [www.lwvny.org](http://www.lwvny.org). The full text of the proposals can be found on the New York State Board of Elections website at [www.elections.ny.gov](http://www.elections.ny.gov).

1. FORM OF SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL NUMBER ONE, AN AMENDMENT

**AUTHORIZING CASINO GAMING**

The proposed amendment to section 9 of article 1 of the Constitution would allow the Legislature to authorize up to seven casinos in New York State for the legislated purposes of promoting job growth, increasing aid to schools, and permitting local governments to lower property taxes through revenues generated. Shall the amendment be approved?

CITIZENS UNION HAS NOT EVALUATED THIS PROPOSAL.

2. FORM OF SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL NUMBER TWO, AN AMENDMENT

**ADDITIONAL CIVIL SERVICE CREDIT FOR VETERANS WITH  
DISABILITIES CERTIFIED POST-APPOINTMENT**

The proposed amendment to section 6 of article 5 of the Constitution would entitle a veteran who has received civil service credit for a civil service appointment or promotion and subsequently is certified as disabled to additional civil service credit at a subsequent appointment or promotion. Shall the proposed amendment be approved?

CITIZENS UNION HAS NOT EVALUATED THIS PROPOSAL.

3. FORM OF SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL NUMBER THREE, AN AMENDMENT

**EXCLUSION OF INDEBTEDNESS CONTRACTED  
FOR SEWAGE FACILITIES**

The proposed amendment to Article 8, section 5 of the Constitution would extend for ten years, until January 1, 2024, the authority of counties, cities, towns, and villages to exclude from their constitutional debt limits indebtedness contracted for the construction or reconstruction of sewage facilities. Shall the proposed amendment be approved?

CITIZENS UNION HAS NOT EVALUATED THIS PROPOSAL.



— BALLOT QUESTIONS AND CITIZENS UNION RECOMMENDATIONS —

4. FORM OF SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL NUMBER FOUR, AN AMENDMENT

**SETTLING DISPUTED TITLE IN THE FOREST PRESERVE**

The proposed amendment to section 1 of article 14 of the Constitution would authorize the Legislature to settle longstanding disputes between the State and private entities over ownership of certain parcels of land in the town of Long Lake, Hamilton County. In exchange for giving up its claim to disputed parcels, the State would get land to be incorporated into the forest preserve that would benefit the forest preserve more than the disputed parcels currently do. Shall the proposed amendment be approved?

CITIZENS UNION HAS NOT EVALUATED THIS PROPOSAL.

5. FORM OF SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL NUMBER FIVE, AN AMENDMENT

**IN RELATION TO A LAND EXCHANGE IN THE STATE FOREST PRESERVE WITH NYCO MINERALS, INC.**

The proposed amendment to section 1 of article 14 of the Constitution would authorize the Legislature to convey forest preserve land located in the town of Lewis, Essex County, to NYCO Minerals, a private company that plans on expanding an existing mine that adjoins the forest preserve land. In exchange, NYCO Minerals would give the State at least the same amount of land of at least the same value, with a minimum assessed value of \$1 million, to be added to the forest preserve. When NYCO Minerals finishes mining, it would restore the condition of the land and return it to the forest preserve. Shall the proposed amendment be approved?

CITIZENS UNION HAS NOT EVALUATED THIS PROPOSAL.

6. FORM OF SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL NUMBER SIX, AN AMENDMENT

**INCREASING AGE UNTIL WHICH CERTAIN STATE JUDGES CAN SERVE**

The proposed amendment to the Constitution, amending sections 2 and 25 of article 6, would increase the maximum age until which certain state judges may serve as follows: (a) a Justice of the Supreme Court would be eligible for five additional two-year terms after the present retirement age of 70, instead of the three such terms currently authorized; and (b) a Judge of the Court of Appeals who reaches the age of 70 while in office would be permitted to remain in service on the Court for up to 10 years beyond the present retirement age of 70 in order to complete the term to which that Judge was appointed. Shall the proposed amendment be approved?

CITIZENS UNION OPPOSES THIS PROPOSAL.

**STATEMENT OF OPPOSITION**

Citizens Union opposes ballot proposition number six, which would extend the retirement age for only certain state judges.

All New York State judges must currently retire at age 70; however, justices of the Supreme



## — BALLOT QUESTIONS AND CITIZENS UNION RECOMMENDATIONS —

Court (one of the State’s trial courts) can remain until 76 upon being “certificated.” This process requires the state’s court administrators to find the Supreme Court justice physically and mentally capable of performing her or his judicial duties, and that there is a need for the justice to continue to serve in the court system. A justice continuing past age 70 must undergo this certification procedure every two years during the period from age 70 to 76. The amendment would increase the age at which Supreme Court justices may remain on the bench from 76 to 80, using the certification process.

The amendment would additionally permit judges of the State’s highest court, the Court of Appeals, to remain on the bench beyond age 70 without any certification process to finish out his or her term but not beyond age 80; if a Court of Appeals judge’s term expires after age 70, he or she would not be eligible for reappointment.

Citizens Union is concerned by the application of the amendment only to certain state judges. There is no principled reason for raising the retirement age for only two groups of judges – judges of the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court – and not having the same apply to the majority of the state’s judges. Further, even the amendment’s limited changes appear arbitrary. Supreme Court justices would be certificated, but no such evaluation process would be in place for Court of Appeals judges to determine whether they are able to perform the duties of the office. In addition, Court of Appeals judges whose terms expire while in their 70s have to leave the bench immediately before reaching 80 and cannot be reappointed, whereas those judges whose terms expire in their late 60s can be reappointed to serve until 80. Their retirement age will thus be determined by the vagary of their age at the time of appointment.

Proponents of this measure argue that it will provide additional judges to a court system that badly needs them. Citizens Union believes, however, that this is not a particularly effective way to address that need. Citizens Union has supported reforms to the judicial system to simplify and modernize the state’s court system by consolidating the nine trial courts into a two-tiered system. While we recognize that this reform has not yet gained sufficient traction, we believe that this amendment is not a substitute for this important systemic reform, which would more effectively address the shortage of judges and provide for greater efficiencies in the court system. The State Legislature also currently has the authority to create additional judgeships in many courts, particularly in New York’s Family Courts where the number of judges has not kept up with the burgeoning caseload.

A further criticism of the proposal is that the certification process for Supreme Court justices is ineffective, in that virtually all justices who seek to remain on the bench past age 70 have been permitted to do so. To address this concern, the Chief Judge of the State of New York has proposed improvements to the certification process, including providing for a public hearing process. We applaud the Chief Judge for proposing improvements to the process, which are needed and should be implemented regardless of whether this amendment is adopted.





## CANDIDATE EVALUATION PRINCIPLES AND AIMS AND CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRES

Citizens Union (CU) is a nonpartisan good government group dedicated to making democracy work for all New Yorkers. Citizens Union serves as a civic watchdog, combating corruption and fighting for political reform. We work to ensure fair and open elections, honest and efficient government, and a civically-engaged public.

In keeping with our mission, CU aims to promote a competitive and diverse political culture, a fair and open political process, and accountable and responsible governance. To that end, CU evaluates candidates for elected office and backs those who strongly support and can advance our stated agenda for reform.

CU's terminology for expressing its support for a candidate shall be to "prefer" a supported candidate in a party primary election and to "endorse" a supported candidate in a general election. It is recognized that not all races will provide a clear-cut example of one candidate more closely aligned with CU's agenda. In such instances, a finding of "no preference" or "no endorsement" may be issued.

### OUR CRITERIA

The following guidelines are used by the Local Candidates Committee and Citizens Union Board of Directors in the evaluation of candidates:

1. Support for Citizens Union's reform agenda shall be the primary criteria used in deciding its support for a candidate.
2. Evidence of ability to wage an effective and competitive campaign shall be considered, but not be determinative.
3. Ability to advance CU's goals, if elected, shall be considered, but not determinative.
4. Incumbents will be held accountable for their record of reform in office and shall be judged accordingly on the basis of their demonstrated support for CU's issues.
5. State, local, or community issues specific to the race's jurisdiction shall be considered as will candidates' ability to grasp these issues and propose thoughtful solutions to represent their constituents' interests.
6. Evaluation of the candidates and the decision to support a particular candidate shall be made without regard to political party and in a nonpartisan manner.

### Voting and Elections Reform

1. What is your position with respect to eliminating party primaries and establishing a nonpartisan election system in which all candidates and all voters participate in the first round and the top two candidates advance to the second round?
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)
3. What is your position on creating a voluntary municipal poll worker program to supplement poll worker recruitment by district leaders? (Int. No. 721)
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)



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## CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

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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?
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)
7. What is your position on modifying the City Charter to require that laws enacted by referendum only be changed through approval by the voters?
8. 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)

### **Campaign Finance Reform**

9. 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)
10. What is your position on banning placement agents from bundling contributions for any elected official who influences the selection of pension investors?
11. 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?

### **City Council Reform**

12. What is your position on creating a bill drafting service independent of the Speaker's Office, similar to the New York State Legislature's bill drafting commission?
13. 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?
  - b. Should committee hearings and votes be scheduled at the direction of the chairs?
  - c. Should committees be able to issue subpoenas by a vote of their members?
  - d. Should the number of overall committees be reduced so members can participate more meaningfully in fewer issues?
14. What is your position on greater disclosure of councilmembers' outside income?
15. What is your position on limiting stipends or "lulus" to only members holding majority or minority leadership positions?
16. 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?



## CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

17. What is your position on ensuring a more equitable and needs-based distribution of discretionary funding?
18. 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?

### **Public Safety and Oversight of Police Misconduct**

19. What is your position on reducing the frequency of stop, question and frisks by conducting stops more judiciously?
20. 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?
21. 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?
22. 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?
23. What is your position on reinstating the zero tolerance penalty for false official statements by public officers?

### **Budget Reform**

24. What is your position on establishing independent budgeting for:
  - a. the borough presidents?
  - b. Conflicts of Interest Board?
  - c. the public advocate?
  - d. community boards?
25. What is your position on making the budget process more transparent by clearly defining units of appropriation and limiting their size?
26. What is your position on release of revenue projections (other than property taxes) prior to Council hearings on the Executive budget?

### **Land Use and Community Board Reform**

27. 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)
28. 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?



QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES



QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q11	Q12	Q13a	Q13b	Q13c	Q13d	Q14	Q15	Q16	Q17	Q18	Q19	Q20	Q21	Q22	Q23	Q24a	Q24b	Q24c	Q24d	Q25	Q26	Q27	Q28			
<b>BRONX</b>																																					
8/Mark-Viverito^	D,WF	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
11/Cohen	D,WF	O	N/A	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	N/A	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
15/Torres	D,WF	N/A	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	N/A	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
15/Rivera, J. R.	R	S	S	S	S	N/A	N/A	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
16/Gibson	D	O	N/A	N/A	S	S	S	S	S	N/A	S	N/A	S	S	S	N/A	N/A	S	N/A	N/A	S	N/A	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	N/A	S	N/A	N/A	N/A	
18/Moore	JE	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
<b>BROOKLYN</b>																																					
33/Levin^	D,WF	N/A	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	O	S*	S	S	S	S*	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
34/Reynoso	D,WF	N/A	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	O	O	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
35/Cumbo	D,WF	N/A	S	S	S	S*	S	N/A*	S*	S	S	N/A*	S	S	S	O	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	N/A	S	S	
36/Cornegy Jr.	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
37/Council	WF	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
37/Espinal Jr.	D	S	S	S*	S	S	S	S	S	N/A	N/A	N/A	S	S	S	N/A	O	O	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
38/Menchaca	D,WF	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
39/Lander^	D,WF	O	S	S	S	S	S	S*	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S*	S	S	S*	S	S	S	N/A*	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
40/Kinard	R2H	O	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	O	S	S	S	S	O	S	O	O	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	
43/Gentile^	D,WF	S	S	S	S	S*	S	S	S	S	S	S*	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
<b>43/Quaglione</b>	R, C, I	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
45/Williams^	D,WF	N/A	N/A	S	S	S	S	N/A	S	O	S	O	N/A	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	N/A	S	S	S	S	N/A	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S*
46/Maisel	D,WF	O	S	S	S	N/A	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	N/A	S	N/A	N/A	S	N/A	N/A	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	N/A
47/Treyger	D	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
47/Sullivan	R, C	O	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	O	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S
48/Deutsch	D	N/A	N/A	N/A	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	O	O	S	S	O	S	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	O	S	O	S
48/Oberman	WF	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S*	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
48/ <b>Storobin</b>	R, C, I	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	O	S	S	O*	O	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S

KEY: Citizens Union endorsed candidate in bold. ^ Incumbent legislator S = Support O = Oppose N/A = No answer or undecided \* = Nuanced answer



QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES



QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q11	Q12	Q13a	Q13b	Q13c	Q13d	Q14	Q15	Q16	Q17	Q18	Q19	Q20	Q21	Q22	Q23	Q24a	Q24b	Q24c	Q24d	Q25	Q26	Q27	Q28			
<b>MANHATTAN</b>																																					
1/Chin^	D,WF	S*	N/A	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	N/A	S	S	S	S	S	N/A	N/A*	S	N/A*	S	N/A*	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
3/Johnson, C.	D,WF	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
5/Garland	R,I	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
<b>5/Kallos</b>	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
5/Kellner	WF	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
6/Rosenthal	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
6/Landis	WF	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
7/Levine	D,WF	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
8/Mark-Viverito^	D,WF	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
9/Dickens^	D	O	S	O	S	S	S	O	S*	O	O	O	S*	N/A	S	O	O	O	O	N/A	O	N/A*	O*	S	O*	N/A	O	O	O	S*	O*	N/A	S*	N/A	S*	N/A	
<b>QUEENS</b>																																					
19/Saffran	R, C, Re	N/A*	N/A*	O	S	S	S	S	S*	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S*	S	S	N/A*	S	O*	S	O	O*	S	O	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
19/Vallone	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
20/Koo^	D,C	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
22/Costantinides	D,WF	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	N/A	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
22/Peterson	R	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S*	S*	S	O	S	S	S	O	O	O	S	S	S	S	O*	O*	O	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
22/Serpe	G	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
23/Weprin^	D	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	N/A	S	N/A	S	N/A	N/A	N/A	S	S	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
27/Miller	D,WF	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S*	S	S	S	N/A	N/A	S*	S	S	S	S	S	S*	S*	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
30/Crowley^	D,WF	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	O	O	O	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
30/Caruana	R,C	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S*	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	S	S	S
31/Richards^	D	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
31/Brown	JE	O	S	S	S	O	O	S	O	O	O	S	O	S	O	O	S	O	S	S	S	S	S*	O	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
34/Reynoso	D	N/A	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	O	O	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
<b>STATEN ISLAND</b>																																					
50/Mancuso	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S*	N/A	O*	S	O*	S	S	S	S	N/A*	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
50/Matteo	R	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O*	S	O	O	O	O	O	S	S	S*	O	S	S	O	S	O	S	

KEY: Citizens Union endorsed candidate in bold. ^ Incumbent legislator S = Support O = Oppose N/A = No answer or undecided \* = Nuanced answer



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## CITYWIDE RACES

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### MAYOR

#### ★ ENDORSED CANDIDATE - BILL DE BLASIO (D, WF) ★

*Has returned questionnaire, responses available at [www.citizensunion.org](http://www.citizensunion.org)*

*Age: 52 Occupation: Public Advocate, City of New York*

*Education: New York University (BA); Columbia University (MA)*

Bill de Blasio is currently the Public Advocate for the City of New York, having been first elected in 2009 with Citizens Union's support. He previously served in the City Council from 2002 to 2009 and served as Hillary Clinton's campaign manager in her 2000 race against Rick Lazio. Before that he was Regional Director for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and an aide to former Mayor David Dinkins.

On reform issues, de Blasio touted his work as Public Advocate in response to the controversial Citizens United decision, in which he organized the largest response ever to a Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) rule change related to the decision and acted locally to support transparency of campaign spending. De Blasio sees transparency as potentially transformative for government reform, pointing to his public list of landlords who were compelled to fix violations in their buildings as an example of the power of transparency. De Blasio supports boards of elections reform and campaign finance reform at the state level, and will lobby Albany on both of these issues. In addition, he supports ways to increase voter turnout such as early voting and voting by mail. He believes offices that serve as check on a strong mayoralty – the Conflicts of Interest Board, borough presidents, the public advocate and community boards – are deserving of fixed budgets.

De Blasio has separated himself from his major opponent on police issues. He supports reforming the practice of stop, question and frisk in a way similar to the less critical position put forward by Citizens Union, as well as our reform proposals to improve oversight of the police. These include making the Commission to Combat Police Corruption permanent, as well as allowing the Civilian Complaint Review Board to initiate investigations without a formal complaint. De Blasio supports additional reforms to police oversight beyond those examined by Citizens Union, including an inspector general for the New York Police Department as well as expanding access to the courts for racial profiling claims.

Beyond reform, de Blasio's overarching focus of his campaign is addressing income inequality, from which many of his policies flow. He is a public school parent, with a longstanding Brooklyn affinity. His signature policy is universal pre-kindergarten and expansion of after-school programs in middle school, which would be funded by a 5-year temporary tax of 4.3 percent (up from the current 3.9 percent) for those earning \$500,000 or more. On affordable housing, he supports mandating inclusionary zoning. De Blasio supports a more robust version of paid sick leave, as well as a living wage law. On jobs and economic development, he supports the elimination of tax breaks provided to individual business and would use the potential savings on overall economic development and to increase the job skills of workers. While de Blasio backs mayoral control of schools, he also supports greater parental engagement and would require certain charter schools pay rent for the use of school space. He would also continue current Mayor Michael Bloomberg's health and climate change initiatives.



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## CITYWIDE RACES

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Citizens Union believes that de Blasio is arguably the most eloquent of the candidates in conveying a vision of what he will tackle as mayor, and has been able to tap effectively into the pulse of the general public in articulating his goals for the office and attracting considerable support. De Blasio has a strong record on reform, and as mayor would be dedicated to a transparent administration that engages all stakeholders and residents in the City. While the issue of income inequality – or possibly better put as affordability or standard of living – needs attention, Citizens Union is concerned over the language he has used to articulate the problem. This language has had the unfortunate consequence of alienating some like-minded citizens in ways that are counterproductive in creating support for tackling a pressing issue, and we urge him to move forward on this issue in a more inclusive manner.

While his management experience is less than that of his major opponent, and he is untested in managing an enterprise on the scale of city government, de Blasio has a coherent sense of how he would run city government. The job of mayor is more than simply managing the delivery of city services; it is about providing a vision that appeals broadly to the need and hopes of New Yorkers. De Blasio possesses some important and appealing leadership qualities that may enable him to rally the city in support of his policies in a way that his opponent has not been able, and make happen the changes he seeks. Given his leadership abilities, compelling vision, and commitment to reform, Citizens Union endorses Bill de Blasio.

### **JOE LHOTA (R, C, T2H, SF)**

*Has returned questionnaire, responses available at [www.citizensunion.org](http://www.citizensunion.org)*

*Age: 58 Occupation: Former Chairman, Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA)*

*Education: Georgetown University (BS, BA); Harvard University (MBA)*

Joe Lhota has extensive public service experience. He most recently was the chairman of the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA), and previously served as the Deputy Mayor of Operations and Budget Director under Mayor Rudy Giuliani. Lhota also has experience in municipal finance, including infrastructure project finance, and was an executive for Cablevision and Madison Square Garden.

On reform issues, Lhota supports nonpartisan elections. He believes the boards of elections should be revamped to remove partisanship, but recognizes this requires a change to state law. Lhota supports making the city's budget more transparent by reforming the presentation of agency spending. He believes term limits should be put in place for state legislators.

Regarding oversight of the police, Lhota supports the implementation of stop, question and frisk in its current form, contrary to Citizens Union's point of view, and opposes Citizens Union's proposals to make the Commission to Combat Police Corruption permanent and grant the CCRB the authority to initiate investigations.

Beyond reform issues, Lhota's top priorities are job creation, education and quality of life issues. Lhota will continue Mayor Bloomberg's emphasis on diversifying the city's economy through growing the technology industry. Regarding education, Lhota supports mayoral control and wants to double the number of charter schools. He would replicate educational practices used in other countries that devote many more hours to professional development of teachers. Lhota would utilize evaluations as a tool to improve teacher performance rather



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## CITYWIDE RACES

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than as a disciplinary tool. Another priority of Lhota's is addressing quality of life issues, which he defines as being inclusive of affordability as well as public safety. He supports mixed development, specifically requiring developers to reserve 20-30 percent of new housing for low and middle-income residents. Lhota also believes that the properties of state authorities and closed post offices should be considered for development. Lhota supports clawback provisions in tax abatements to ensure that affordable housing and other development agreements are honored.

Lhota would focus on the way the mayor's office communicates with the public, engaging communities more by visiting all the community boards in his first year. He was critical of Mayor Michael Bloomberg's "siloed" approach in managing agencies, supporting a more centralized approach, and would encourage cross-agency collaboration, stressing follow-up and persistence as the key to accomplishing his agenda.

Citizens Union believes Lhota's executive experience running the MTA and as Deputy Mayor of Operations makes him a well-qualified candidate for mayor. We admire his management skill in getting the MTA up and running after Hurricane Sandy, which demonstrated a solid capacity for leadership during times of crisis. Lhota supports a number of CU's reform issues, but does not go as far as his opponent in support of election reform, police issues, and independent budgeting for certain city offices and agencies. His solid support for key reforms, however, and his strong management experience earned him Citizens Union's preference in the Republican Party primary. His opponent in the general election, though, has a clearer record of and commitment to reform and possesses more appealing leadership qualities, which is why Lhota is not able to earn our final level of support.

**The following candidates were not scheduled for an interview by Citizens Union:**

ADOLFO CARRION JR. (I)  
RANDY CREDICO (TWS)  
MICHAEL J. DILGER (FL)  
DANIEL FEIN (SW)  
MICHAEL K. GREYS (FR)  
ANTHONY GRONOWICZ (G)  
JACK HIDARY (JE, CS)  
JIMMY MCMILLAN (R2H)  
JOSEPH MELARAGNO (AT)  
CARL E. PERSON (RE)  
ERICK J. SALGADO (SC)  
MICHAEL SANCHEZ (LT)  
SAM SLOAN (WV)





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## CITYWIDE RACES

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### COMPTROLLER

#### ★ ENDORSED CANDIDATE - SCOTT M. STRINGER (D, WF) ★

*Has returned questionnaire, responses available at [www.citizensunion.org](http://www.citizensunion.org)*

*Age: 53 Occupation: Manhattan Borough President*

*Education: John Jay College of Criminal Justice (degree not reported)*

Scott Stringer has 20 years of experience as an elected official and is currently the Manhattan Borough President. He is seeking election to the office of City Comptroller because he believes he has made a difference in his prior offices and wants to continue serving the City. Stringer believes an effective comptroller must have an independent voice and be a watchdog over the Mayor, yet at the same time work with stakeholders to form coalitions to put proposals into effect. Citing his experience as one who has stood up against special interests and his ability to work with others to get policies enacted, Stringer thinks he can effectively serve in this dual capacity. Stringer's top reform issues are consolidating the five pension funds into one to reduce expenditures on fees and improve portfolio performance. He will continue to make the office more transparent by furthering Comptroller Liu's work in creating Checkbook, an online portal for the city budget. He favors abolishing placement agents. Aside from government reform, Stringer prioritizes modernizing the structure and technology of the 18 bureaus within the office, and organizing around improving services in key issue areas such as immigration and sustainability. He wants to curtail excessive spending on contracts by participating in pre-bid conferences and establishing triggers within contracts to ensure goals are met. Stringer will also perform agency audits to identify where costs can be cut and savings can take place. Stringer will use shareholder resolutions and the leverage of the pension fund to improve corporate governance, for example tying executive pay to performance, but only if it results in better returns for the funds. Impressed with his work reforming the office of Borough President and utilizing its powers effectively, Citizens Union feels that Stringer has the skills and demeanor to work collaboratively and implement the thoughtful vision he has laid out for the office of City Comptroller.

#### JOHN L. BURNETT (R, C, SC)

*Has returned questionnaire, responses available at [www.citizensunion.org](http://www.citizensunion.org)*

*Age: 43 Occupation: Full-time candidate*

*Education: New York University (BS); Cornell University (MBA)*

A former Wall Street executive, John Burnett is seeking election in order to ensure that there is more than one party on the ticket, as he believes competition is good for a healthy, accountable democracy. Burnett is a former manager at Merrill Lynch with twenty years of experience doing performance reviews of over 800 branches at Merrill. He stresses his independence and outsider credentials, noting he is "unbossed and unbought." Burnett believes this separates him from his democratic opponent, and sees no disadvantages in his political inexperience, noting the similarities between forming coalitions in business and political settings in order to move things forward. Among Burnett's priorities if elected is to reduce the millions of dollars in fees the city pays outside consultants in managing its five pension funds. Burnett supports consolidating the five pension funds into one and modifying



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## CITYWIDE RACES

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state law to allow for greater diversity in investments. He is concerned that continuing with the status quo will result in the pension fund payments crowding out other spending in the city budget. He would leverage his audit experience from Merrill Lynch to make city agencies more effective and efficient, noting he would target the Department of Education and focus on improving economic development. Burnett also wants to increase the number of contracts going to minority and women owned businesses, pointing out that only 3.1 percent of contracts go to these groups in the city, which trails the state's 9 percent. Citizens Union believes Burnett can draw from his business experience to address certain elements of the office, but lacks a broader, more comprehensive vision for the office that his major opponent possesses.

**The following candidates were not scheduled for an interview by Citizens Union:**

**RICHARD BOZULICH (WV)**

**HESHAM EL-MELIGY (LT)**

**JOHN W. STUDER (SW)**

**JULIA WILLEBRAND (G)**



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## BROOKLYN RACES

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### **BROOKLYN DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

#### **★ ENDORSED CANDIDATE - KENNETH P. THOMPSON - DEM ★**

*Has returned questionnaire, responses available at [www.citizensunion.org](http://www.citizensunion.org)*

*Age: 47 Occupation: Founding Partner, Thompson Wigdor LLP*

*Education: John Jay College of Criminal Justice (BA), New York University (JD)*

Ken Thompson established and ran his own law firm for 10 years, handling high-profile cases like the prosecution of Dominique Strauss-Khan and Justin Volpe, the police officer convicted of sodomizing Abner Louima. Thompson is running for district attorney because he believes the Brooklyn DA's office is mismanaged and in crisis. He points to a number of cases which have been mishandled by the office, which Thompson believes are indicative of a trend of seeking victory rather than justice. Those cases include that of David Ranta, who a judge released after 23 years in prison for a crime he did not commit because witnesses were coached by the district attorney's office to choose Ranta out of a lineup. Another mishandled case, according to Thompson, was the prosecution of Darrell Dula, who was indicted despite a rape victim recanting her accusations. Two assistant district attorneys resigned amidst allegations of mishandling exculpatory evidence. Thompson also referenced the case of Jabar Collins, who was found guilty of murder but later determined to be innocent and released after witnesses recanted their testimony. Thompson also cites the ruling of Eastern District Judge Nicholas Garaufis in releasing William Lopez after serving 23 years for a murder he did not commit, which the judge called "rotten from day one" and chastised the trial lawyer for being "overzealous and deceitful." Beyond wrongful convictions and the mishandling of particular cases, Thompson argues Hynes has not brought a public corruption case since 2003, and by being too friendly with politicians has put himself in a position in which he has to recuse himself from cases like Vito Lopez's. Thompson would not recuse unless he has a personal relationship and would keep his distance from political events. Thompson said he would invite the FBI to the DA's office to do training and review public records to actively bring public corruption cases. Thompson also criticizes Hynes for his policies in relation to sex offenders in the Orthodox Jewish community believing that defendants should be identified. He said witnesses and defendants get no such protection in gang cases while sometimes facing violent repercussions for cooperation with the police. He would prosecute witness intimidation and cultivate contacts in the Orthodox Jewish community to ensure sexual abuse is reported. Citizens Union believes Thompson made a compelling case for a change in the office, thoroughly critiquing practices and mishandled cases by the incumbent that raise serious questions about Hynes' ability to lead the office going forward. We therefore continue to support Thompson in the general election.

#### **CHARLES J. HYNES - DEM**

*Has returned questionnaire, responses available at [www.citizensunion.org](http://www.citizensunion.org)*

*Age: 78 Occupation: District Attorney*

*Education: St. John's University (BA), St. John's University School of Law (JD)*

Charles Hynes has held the office of Brooklyn District Attorney for 23 years but believes there remains important work to be done. If re-elected, Hynes wants to expand a number



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## BROOKLYN RACES

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of groundbreaking programs he established that are being replicated across the country. One of these is Project Redirect, an alternative sentencing program for gang members that requires community service and academic performance in lieu of a prison sentence. Forty of its 58 participants have graduated school and the government has saved tens of thousands per participant annually. Hynes also wants to expand Community and Law Enforcement Resources Together (ComALERT), which provides wraparound services for parolees including job training and placement, housing support, and assistance with mental illness, among other services. A Harvard professor's study found the program reduced recidivism by half and the \$2,200 cost per participant was far less than the incarceration average of \$64,000. Hynes also wants to resurrect community courts, specifically in Brownsville, because it shows the community justice is being carried out while also providing crime prevention services. On good government issues, Hynes rebuts the criticism that his office did not bring cases against Senators Carl Kruger or John Sampson, noting that he has convicted more elected officials than any other district attorney in history including most notably, Brooklyn Democratic Party Chair Clarence Norman. He also supports the Governor's Public Trust Act. Hynes believes criticism of his policy of not making immediately known defendants in sexual abuse cases in the ultra-Orthodox Jewish community is unwarranted. He notes that successful prosecutions of sexual abuse cases in the ultra-Orthodox community are historically low, and that the Kol Tzedek program created in collaboration with community groups resulted in the arrest of over 80 people before it generated media criticism over shielding the names of defendants. In response to reporting of wrongful convictions by his office, Hynes argues they represent a minuscule fraction of the tens of thousands of cases his office has prosecuted. Hynes, however, concedes a Brady violation in the case of Jabar Collins but disagrees with Eastern District Judge Dora Irizarry that Michael Vecchione, the head of the office's rackets division, was responsible. He points to his open-file discovery policies and the release of 22 defendants for wrongful convictions in demonstrating how his office works well with defense attorneys. Citizens Union believes that while Hynes has established many innovative prisoner reentry and alternative sentencing programs during his career, earning our preference in 2005, there comes a time when change is needed for an office even when held by a long-serving public official with notable successes. That there are questions about too many cases and practices in his office only further informs CU's decision to support Hynes' opponent.

### **BROOKLYN BOROUGH PRESIDENT**

#### **★ ENDORSED CANDIDATE – ERIC ADAMS (D, WF) ★**

*Has returned questionnaire, responses available at [www.citizenunion.org](http://www.citizenunion.org)*

*Age: 53 Occupation: Member, NYS Senate*

*Education: NYC Technical College and John Jay School of Criminal Justice (BA); Marist College (MPA)*

Eric Adams has been a member of the New York State Senate since 2007, and was previously a police officer for the New York Police Department. He has been an active community member, having co-founded 100 Black Men in Law Enforcement Who Care. He is running for Brooklyn Borough President because he believes that given the limited powers of the office, "the person makes the office," and he has the energy and ability to use



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## BROOKLYN RACES

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its powers effectively. If elected, he would focus on financial literacy, conducting studies to recommend policies that will ensure that Brooklyn residents – particularly those below the poverty line – are educated about their finances so that they are better able to save money and avoid foreclosure and credit card debt. Adams would also focus on healthy food for schools and the general public, partnering with farms in Upstate New York, creating roof-top gardens, and mapping “food deserts.” Regarding job creation, he would seek to create incubators for growing industries like 3D printing, and local artisan food production. On government reform, Adams supports all of Citizens Union’s agenda, and he specifically would seek to open up his office through online transparency of office’s schedule as well as discretionary funds. He believes, however, that nonprofits are too dependent on discretionary funds, and supports action by the city to ensure that they are more self-dependent and able to raise their own funds outside of government. Regarding community boards, Adams supports term limits and standardization, and would look at models such as Manhattan Borough President Stringer’s reforms. In ensuring that community boards have the tools they need, he would partner with the City University of New York (CUNY) to bring in volunteer students to educate community boards about land use, health, and other issues, believing that it would have reciprocal benefits for students. Citizens Union believes that Adams will be energetic voice for the borough of Brooklyn, and has a good grasp of government reform issues that will enable him to manage the office effectively and transparently.

### **ELIAS WEIR (C)**

*Has returned questionnaire, responses available at [www.citizensunion.org](http://www.citizensunion.org)*

*Age: 55 Occupation: Political Consultant*

*Education: New York Institute of Technology (BA)*

Elias Weir is running for Brooklyn Borough President because he believes that certain neighborhoods in Brooklyn have not been adequately represented, and too many citizens have a negative reaction to city government. If elected, he would seek to reduce litter, which he believes has created additional problems regarding flooding. He would also seek to address quality of life issues such as noise pollution. Weir would focus on educating Brooklyn residents about the environment, and would charter a fishing boat to enable school-age youth to learn about nature and the food chain. Regarding reform issues, Weir believes that community boards are not representative of their communities, and would seek to open up the appointment process to any interested applicants, and would select individuals who can “think outside the box.” Regarding the capital budget, he would create an advisory board to assist him in making spending decisions. While Citizens Union believes that Weir is sincere in his desire to represent the borough and include more voices in government, his lack of knowledge of policy issues prevents him from earning our support.



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## BROOKLYN RACES

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### **BROOKLYN CITY COUNCIL RACES**

#### DISTRICT 43

#### **★ ENDORSED CANDIDATE - JOHN QUAGLIONE (R, C, I) ★**

*Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 18*

*Age: 34 Occupation: Aide, NYS Senator Martin Golden*

*Education: American University (BA)*

John Quaglione grew up in District 43 and has worked on various community projects as an aide to State Senator Martin Golden. He is running because he believes that his district has been left behind, particularly as it relates to providing needed funding to the community, and what he believes is an imbalance in the ratio of taxes paid to services delivered. Regarding reform issues, Quaglione supports ensuring that candidates cannot use public matching funds to pay for the services of campaign consultants who are also registered lobbyists. He supports reforming the City Council, and has a sophisticated plan for restructuring the City Council's committees, believing that certain committees should be combined where synergies would allow members to better understand the overlapping jurisdiction of city agencies. Quaglione also supports instant runoff voting to save taxpayer resources. Regarding community boards and the borough presidents, he supports eliminating borough presidents and restructuring community boards so that they are supported through local council offices, while still holding community meetings and having an independent staff member devoted to land use. Regarding police reform, while he is hesitant to change the way stop, question and frisk is conducted, he supports giving the Civilian Complaint Review Board greater teeth so that police officers think twice before abusing their authority. On local issues, Quaglione opposes the creation of the Gravesend Bay waste transfer station, supports weekend express bus service return, and would seek to create more middle school classrooms and a second senior housing facility in order to target these two growing populations. Citizens Union was impressed by Quaglione's specificity with regard to the needs he identified in the district and ways to address them, as well as his thoughtful understanding of reform issues and city government structure, and therefore endorses his candidacy for office.

#### **VINCENT GENTILE (D, WF)**

*Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 18*

*Age: 54 Occupation: Member, New York City Council*

*Education: Cornell University (BA); Fordham University School of Law (JD)*

Vincent Gentile is running for re-election, having served in the City Council since 2003. He was previously a state senator from 1997 to 2002, and an Assistant District Attorney. Gentile stated that he would seize the opportunity of a new administration to bring improvements to his community. If re-elected, he would be the most senior member of the City Council, and believes that this clout would enable him to deliver more to his constituents. Regarding reform issues, Gentile supports Citizens Union's agenda, believing that rules reforms are needed to ensure that members of the City Council are better able to move legislation forward. He also believes that chairs of committees should be able to hire



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## BROOKLYN RACES

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their own staff, and that member items should be divided more equitably and based on need. Regarding election reform, he believes that the recount procedure should be improved, and cited his own election in 2003 as an example of the unnecessary delays that have occurred. On local issues, Gentile believes that the “gotcha” mentality of city regulatory agencies must be improved so that the focus is on health and safety rather than revenue generation. He would also focus on improving transit options, such as continuing the ferry service from Bay Ridge that has been implemented during construction on the R train. He also supports increasing the number of police officers to improve public safety. While Citizens Union believes that Gentile has been a sincere advocate for his community, his opponent provided more specificity in articulating his plans for the district, and demonstrated a more thoughtful approach regarding reform issues.

**The following candidate was not scheduled for an interview by Citizens Union:**

**PATRICK DWYER (G)**

### DISTRICT 47

**★ ENDORSED CANDIDATE - MARK TREYGER (D) ★**

*Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 18*

*Age: 31 Occupation: Full-time candidate*

*Education: Brooklyn College (BA and MA, Education and School Leadership)*

Mark Treyger has had significant experience in community relations, having worked on constituent services in Assemblymember William Colton’s office. Treyger has also served as a full time teacher, and has been an active member of the United Federation of Teachers as a union delegate and staff developer. From working to prevent violence in public high schools to restructuring the waste transfer and incineration process, Treyger has a variety of experience on policy issues. One of his primary goals is to restore the infrastructure and living conditions in Coney Island, which were heavily effected by Hurricane Sandy. Treyger is thoughtful on environmental issues, and opposes the Gravesend Waste Transfer station, having worked in Assemblymember Colton’s office on a lawsuit to stop the proposal. Regarding City Council reform, he believes that discretionary funding is not the most democratic form of distributing funds, and supports creating a more equitable process for allocation to members of the City Council. Treyger also supports creation of an independent bill drafting commission for the City Council. He opposes nonpartisan, top-two elections because he believes that it would allow wealthier candidates to have greater influence over elections, though supports the rest of Citizens Union’s election reform agenda. Citizens Union believes that Treyger would be an effective advocate for his community and has a good grasp of reform issues as well as the political process; we therefore endorse his candidacy.

**ANDY SULLIVAN (R, C)**

*Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 18*

*Age: 47 Occupation: Field Supervisor, Triton Construction*

*Education: High School*

Andy Sullivan is a field supervisor in the construction industry and a political activist,



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## BROOKLYN RACES

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healing opposed the construction of the Park51 project near the World Trade Center site. Sullivan is not a current resident of the district, though he grew up and went to public school in the area, and stated he would move if elected. Though a conservative candidate, he states that he is also a staunch supporter of unions and an independent thinker. If elected to office, Sullivan would focus on job creation for southern Brooklyn, and believes that by reducing the costs of business, private sector jobs can be created that will help to rejuvenate the district. For example, he does not believe that restaurant inspections are conducted fairly and opposes the use of letter grades. He also supports lowering the costs of insurance for small businesses. Regarding reform issues, Sullivan supports in concept much of Citizens Union's agenda, including election reform such as nonpartisan elections and instant runoff voting. He was concerned, however, about granting the City Council committees greater subpoena power that could be potentially used against private individuals. He supports reforms to ensure that discretionary funds cannot be abused, and believes that elected officials have not "felt the pinch" that taxpayers have. On police reform, Sullivan believes that stop, question and frisk has increased as a result of officers feeling the need to compete due to CompStat metrics, and supports ensuring that it is used in a more judicious manner. While Citizens Union felt that Sullivan was sincere in his desire to represent his community, we question his ability to be effective given his lack of knowledge of policy issues and the political process, as compared to his opponent.

**The following candidate was not scheduled for an interview by Citizens Union:  
CONNIS M. MOBLEY (SC)**

### DISTRICT 48

**★ ENDORSED CANDIDATE - DAVID STOROBIN (R, C, I) ★**

*Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 18*

*Age: 34 Occupation: Lawyer, Storobin Law Firm*

*Education: Brooklyn College (BA); Rutgers University School of Law (JD)*

David Storobin is seeking election to the City Council, having previously served briefly in the State Senate. After winning a special election to Senate District 27 in 2012 following a lengthy recount process, the seat was substantially redistricted following the 2012 redistricting process and he did not regain the seat. If elected to office, Storobin would seek to focus City Hall's attention on the "forgotten" parts of Brooklyn, in order to continue his community's recovery process after Hurricane Sandy. Regarding education, he believes that parents and children should not rely on luck to give them good placements in schools, but rather should have greater choice. He also believes that principals should have greater control over hiring and firing decision within their schools. On transportation, he supports leveraging federal dollars to expand services. On police issues, Storobin believes that stop, question and frisk should be applied constitutionally, but supports giving the Police Department discretion regarding the chain of command; however, he supports ensuring that the Civilian Complaint Review Board and other existing oversight bodies are able to address abuses of power by the police. Regarding other reform issues, Storobin supports limiting lulus to only leadership positions,





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## BROOKLYN RACES

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as well as ensuring that salary increases are made prospectively. He also supports ensuring that the member item process is strictly limited to prevent possible corruption. Storobin does not support independent budgeting for the Public Advocate or Borough Presidents, believing that the offices need to be reconsidered in terms of their necessity. Citizens Union believes that Storobin is thoughtful regarding reform issues, and demonstrated policy knowledge in several areas, particularly regarding the intersections of city, state and federal law; he therefore earns our endorsement.

### **CHAIM DEUTSCH (D)**

*Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 18*

*Age: N/A Occupation: Real Estate; Part-time candidate*

*Education: N/A*

Chaim Deutsch is a dedicated community activist and has worked as a City Council aide, mostly under Michael Nelson, since 1996. He is currently seeking office in order to more effectively help the community. His top issues include providing better services to senior citizens, improving the education system, and developing waterfront infrastructure. While he was very passionate about constituent services and community relationships, Citizens Union felt that Deutsch had little knowledge of reform issues. He supported a strong Speaker's position, and thought that empowering individual City Council members would create chaos and nothing would get accomplished. Due to his lack of commitment to reform issues, he does not earn our support.

### **IGOR OBERMAN (WF)**

*Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 18*

*Age: 40 Occupation: Administrative Law Judge*

*Education: Brooklyn College (BA), New York Law School (JD)*

Igor Oberman is seeking office because as a judge in litigation, board president of a co-op, and aide to borough president Marty Markowitz, he has both the legal and budgeting experience necessary to effectively serve the community. His top issues include developing hurricane preparation, pushing for rules reform, and improving public education. In regards to CU issues, he displayed a depth of understanding in discretionary funding issues and supports a formula-based system of distribution Oberman remains on the Working Families Party line for the General Election, though he lost the Democratic Primary; therefore we question his viability.

**The following candidate was not scheduled for an interview by Citizens Union:**

**ALEXANDER LOTOVSKY (FB)**



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## MANHATTAN RACES

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### **MANHATTAN DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

#### **★ ENDORSED CANDIDATE – CYRUS VANCE JR. (D) ★**

*Has returned questionnaire, responses available at [www.citizensunion.org](http://www.citizensunion.org)*

*Age: 59 Occupation: District Attorney, Manhattan*

*Education: Yale University (BA); Georgetown University (JD)*

Cy Vance was first elected as Manhattan District Attorney in 2009, and is now seeking a second term to build on his record with regard to reducing youth and gang violence, building capacity to tackle cybercrimes, and more effectively prosecuting and preventing domestic violence. Vance is particularly proud of his work to take “cold cases” that were unsolved for many decades and bring closure for families who have been the victims of violence and other crimes. Through the recent building of a Family Justice Center in Manhattan, Vance believes that the public will be able to be served in multiple intersecting capacities, including assistance for housing, domestic violence, elder abuse, and human trafficking, among other services. Regarding reform issues, Vance has created an Official Corruption Unit to address corruption within the police department, as well as a Public Integrity Unit to investigate public officials. He has also served as a chair of the New York State District Attorneys Association, spearheading the White Collar Crime Task Force, which produced a set of recommendations to address shortcomings of New York State law with regard to the ability for prosecutors to investigate and prosecute cases of public corruption. On police reform, Vance stated that he does not utilize evidence that he believes has been unfairly obtained as a result of police stops and frisks, and has prosecuted police officers who have lied under oath. He has also created a Conviction Integrity Unit that examines trends across cases to determine whether certain police officers have a pattern of providing evidence that has been found to not be credible. Citizens Union admires Vance’s leadership with regard to advocating for tougher state laws on public corruption, and endorses his candidacy for District Attorney, believing that he will continue to build on his impressive record.

#### **PETER GLEASON (R)**

*Has returned questionnaire, responses available at [www.citizensunion.org](http://www.citizensunion.org)*

*Age: N/A Occupation: Attorney, Private Practice*

*Education: N/A*

Peter Gleason is a former police officer and fire fighter who has been in private practice as an attorney for the last nine years. He has stated that he believes in equal treatment for all, why he has represented those such as police officers, as well as Anna Gristina, who was charged with operating a high-end prostitution ring on the Upper East Side. He is seeking the office of District Attorney in order to draw attention to the need for the District Attorney’s office to tackle high-profile public corruption cases in Manhattan, such as the William Rapfogel case, which was handled by the State Attorney General. Gleason supports term limits for the office of three, four-year terms, believing that the past practice of district attorneys serving for more than twenty years or more does not serve the public interest. He also supports the opening of additional satellite offices in Upper Manhattan. Regarding the police department, he believes his background as a police officer would be advantageous for the position, and



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## MANHATTAN RACES

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proposes that district attorneys be stakeholders in CompStat to ensure the integrity of crime data. Gleason also supports better training of officers to ensure that stop, question and frisk is properly implemented. While Citizens Union believes that Gleason brings interesting ideas to the table, and is rightly supportive of measures to ensure public integrity of elected officials, we have concerns regarding his viability. Further, we believe that his opponent has a greater grasp of the responsibilities of the office and more detailed plans for implementing his agenda.

### **MANHATTAN CITY COUNCIL RACES**

#### DISTRICT 5

##### **★ ENDORSED CANDIDATE - BEN KALLOS (D) ★**

*Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 20*

*Age: 32 Occupation: Technology Leader, CivicActions.org*

*Education: SUNY Albany (degree not reported); SUNY Buffalo (JD)*

Benjamin Kallos has made his career in good government. He is former Executive Director of the New Roosevelt Initiative, currently known as EffectiveNY, an organization geared towards state constitutional reform. Kallos has also worked under Public Advocate Mark Green and Assemblymember Jonathan Bing on similar reform-minded initiatives. His platform aligns very closely with that of Citizens Union. Specifically, Kallos wants to increase transparency by making more information on the City Council available online, including outside income disclosures. Kallos would also ensure that the city's landmark Open Data Law is fully implemented, using his oversight role in the City Council to monitor agency compliance. He also supports election reforms such as instituting instant runoff voting for citywide elections, and would utilize participatory budgeting if elected to distribute member items in his district. Beyond good government issues, Kallos opposes the construction of the East 91st Street marine waste transfer plant on East 91st Street and suggests eliminating the need for its construction with increased recycling and a broader plan for waste management by the city. Citizens Union believes that Kallos will be a strong voice for reform in the City Council, and that he has in-depth policy knowledge on our issues; we therefore endorse his candidacy.

##### **DAVID GARLAND (R, I, DTD, LI, LT, S2A)**

*Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 20*

*Age: 43 Occupation: Full-time Candidate*

*Education: Georgetown University, School of Foreign Service (BSFS);*

*University of Pennsylvania (MA); the Wharton School (MBA)*

David Garland is running for office to improve the quality of life in his community, and to bring a nonpartisan perspective to city government. He has worked in the private sector in executive roles and in government relations, most recently as a management consultant. Garland supports the entirety of Citizens Union's reform platform. On reform, he would focus on improving transparency of government through technology and better communications with the public, and seek to reform community boards to give them a greater role through



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## MANHATTAN RACES

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197-a plan. He views himself as an independent candidate and believes that nonpartisan elections would be an important step toward more balanced governance. Garland also supports rules reforms to redistribute power to rank-and-file members of the City Council, and the elimination of member items, instead allowing community boards to have a greater role in determining local funding. Regarding local issues, he opposes the construction of the marine waste transfer plant on East 91st Street, would like to see relief provided to local businesses affected by the Second Avenue Subway construction, and proposes to have schools meet in churches to address overcrowding. While Garland is philosophically supportive of Citizens Union's issues and thoughtful regarding his consideration of issues, he lacks the specific knowledge and experience working on reform issues as has his competitors.

### **MICAH KELLNER (WF)**

*Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 20*

*Age: 34 Occupation: Member, NYS Assembly*

*Education: New York University (BFA)*

Micah Kellner currently serves as a state assemblymember for district 65. During his tenure, Kellner has helped reduce school overcrowding by bringing three new elementary schools to the East Side, and has been a vocal proponent of gun control and marriage equality. Kellner prioritizes middle class issues and believes in policies that will bolster existing infrastructure for the future. For the candidate, this means reforming property tax laws, strengthening uniformed services, and opposing the construction of the East 91st Street marine waste transfer plant. On reform issues, Kellner supports the majority of Citizens Union's agenda, with particular emphasis on eliminating lulus and reforming discretionary funding distribution. He has refused a lulu at the state level, and pledges to do the same if elected to the City Council. Citizens Union is deeply concerned, however, with the sexual harassment allegations surrounding Kellner's tenure in the assembly. We believe that a thorough investigation of these allegations is essential before being able to support someone for elected office.



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## QUEENS RACES

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### QUEENS BOROUGH PRESIDENT

#### ★ ENDORSED CANDIDATE - MELINDA KATZ (D, WF) ★

*Has returned questionnaire, responses available at [www.citizensunion.org](http://www.citizensunion.org)*

*Age: 47 Occupation: Attorney, Greenburg Traurig*

*Education: University of Massachusetts (BA); St. John's University School of Law (JD)*

Melinda Katz currently is an attorney at Greenburg Traurig, and is seeking election as she wants to return to public service to serve the borough with which she has long been engaged. She previously served in the City Council and the State Assembly and was the Director of Community Boards from 1999-2002 in the Queens Borough President's Office. During her tenure in the City Council, Katz was the chair of the Land Use Committee for 8 years. Katz is a supporter of reform, and she hopes to change the budget process, increase transparency in the office, and create a more uniform set of rules guiding the various community boards. More specifically, she wants to put capital and expense funding online to make the system more transparent, give the borough president office more independence in terms of budgeting, and utilize Section 197-a of the City Charter to give the citizens a greater voice in establishing plans for community development. Another priority of hers is to increase diversity on community boards by encouraging more people to apply for appointed positions. Aside from reform issues, Katz would create a war-room to improve education by increasing the number of schools and reducing overcrowding. Additionally, Katz wants to create more jobs by converting Long Island City into a technology hub. Citizens Union believes Katz is extremely well-qualified to be borough president and will be very effective in the position. She has a strong grasp of the importance of good government issues as they apply to the office and is an effective coalition builder. These positive attributes counterbalance her deep ties to the party. Citizens Union therefore endorses her.

#### AURELIO "TONY" A. ARCADESCIO (R)

*Has returned questionnaire, responses available at [www.citizensunion.org](http://www.citizensunion.org)*

*Age: 52 Occupation: NSLIJ Health Systems Team Lead Senior Info Systems Project Manager*

*Education: Mercyhurst College (AA); CUNY School of Professional Studies (BA)*

Tony Arcabascio is a businessman working in the health systems and technology field. In 2012, Arcabascio ran against Michael Gianaris for New York State Senate in District 12. He is seeking election to Queens Borough President because he wants to make Queens a better place and believes that as a businessman rather than a politician, he can be an effective advocate for the borough. Arcabascio is dedicated to reforming the community board appointment process by making appointments based on merit. Claiming that certain people sitting on community boards do not even live or work in the community, Arcabascio wants to increase the transparency of the appointment process. More generally, he plans on establishing capital projects to help beautify the borough and developing businesses by creating an urban enterprise zone. Arcabascio stated that Queens needs a detailed plan in order for the borough to continue to grow going forward. Citizens Union believes Arcabascio has some interesting proposals that he would advance as borough president, but his candidacy is not one that has gained sufficient traction.

**The following candidate was not scheduled for an interview by Citizens Union:**

**EVERLY D. BROWN (JE)**



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## QUEENS RACES

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### QUEENS CITY COUNCIL RACES

#### DISTRICT 19

#### ★ ENDORSED CANDIDATE - PAUL A. VALLONE (D, I) ★

*Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 20*

*Age: 46 Occupation: Attorney, Vallone and Vallone LLP*

*Education: Queens College CUNY (BA)*

Paul Vallone, the brother of Councilmember Peter Vallone Jr. and son of former Council Speaker Peter Vallone Sr., has extensive ties to the district where he has lived for twenty years. He has served on two community boards, coached sports teams, created scholarship programs, and been an active member of the local parish. On reform issues, Vallone laments that in the City Council, “whoever is in the ‘in’ club, gets” and wants to create greater equity in the distribution of discretionary funding. He also believes a majority committee vote should send a bill to the next meeting of the entire City Council. He committed to being a full-time Councilmember and stated that he would no longer handle clients at his firm if elected. Beyond reform, his top priorities include maintaining the quality of life and safety of the district that has attracted families to the area. He also wants to reduce school overcrowding and help small businesses through more public-private partnerships. Citizens Union admires Vallone’s connections to the community. While he is not well versed in reform issues, Citizens Union believes he has a general understanding and would provide an open door if elected. His pragmatic and collaborative approach should serve him well in accomplishing his goals in the Council. We therefore endorse his candidacy.

#### DENNIS J. SAFFRAN (R, C, RE)

*Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 20*

*Age: 57 Occupation: Nassau County Attorney*

*Education: Harvard College (BA), New York University Law School (JD)*

Dennis J. Saffran, a Nassau County attorney, has a passion for politics and public policy, which motivated him to run for City Council. He ran a non-profit organization in the 1990s that supported issues facing Mayor Giuliani including crime and quality of life issues and was a counsel to the New York State Housing Division. On reform issues, Saffran supports expanding poll workers by utilizing the municipal workforce and college students. He also wants to strengthen financial disclosure laws so that politicians must disclose their actual income, rather than a range in which their income falls, while eliminating the reporting of income from mid-level managers altogether. Beyond reform, Saffran’s top priorities include stemming overdevelopment through downzoning, as well as protecting merit-based admission to the specialized high schools by opposing lawsuits that would alter the current test required to gain admission. Saffran is principled in his views, but Citizens Union believes his opponent is better suited to build coalitions in the Council that will enable him to more effectively represent the district.



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## QUEENS RACES

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### DISTRICT 22

#### ★ ENDORSED CANDIDATE – COSTA G. COSTANTINIDES (D, WF) ★

*Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 20*

*Age: 38 Occupation: Deputy Chief of Staff, Councilmember Genarro*

*Education: Queens College (degree not provided); Cardozo School of Law (degree not provided)*

Costa Constantinides has lived in the district his entire life and has spent the past few years as Deputy Chief of Staff to Councilmember James Gennaro. He views himself as a civic activist and is running for election to continue to fight for issues important to the district. On reform issues, Constantinides is committed to reforming the City Council first in order to close the trust gap between the public and government. He would do this by making the job of Councilmember a full-time position and through the elimination of all lulus because, as Constantinides highlights, even donating lulus to charity can become problematic. Concerning discretionary funding, Constantinides has a nuanced position, stating that good organizations get member items, but the process should be more transparent such as reporting where the money is going and why. Other issues that Constantinides is passionate about include improving air quality by making power plants “better neighbors,” improving education by getting kids out of temporary classroom trailers and cleaning up the neighborhood. Overall Citizens Union believes that Constantinides has the experience to hit the ground running, as well as the relationships to build coalitions for reform, which are all reasons why we endorse his candidacy.

#### DANIEL PETERSON (R)

*Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 20*

*Age: 42 Occupation: Lease Administrator, Time Equities, INC*

*Education: Degree-granting institution not provided (AS)*

Daniel Peterson was motivated to run for office after a property tax increase of 18.5% went into effect in 2003, and he strongly believes that in the two-party system, an opposition voice is vital. Peterson considers himself the truly independent candidate in the race and highlights his private sector experience. Regarding reform issues, his plan to move nonpartisan elections forward includes a proposal to make certain off-year elections nonpartisan, stating that nonpartisan issues should have nonpartisan elections. Peterson also supports the nonpartisan election of school superintendents in addition to online voter registration. Peterson is also an advocate for lower tax rates, shrinking city government by consolidating redundant agencies and implementing a small business initiative. Citizens Union believes that Peterson is a well-meaning candidate but lacks the depth and knowledge of reform issues which his opponents possess.



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## QUEENS RACES

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### **LYNNE SERPE (G)**

*Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 20*

*Age: 42 Occupation: Consultant, Queens Library;*

*Independent Election Administrator, True Ballot INC*

*Education: Dartmouth College (BA)*

Lynne Serpe first ran for office in 2009 in response to the overturning of term limits and is running for the second time on the Green Party line. Serpe highlighted her experience in getting things done, such as expanding greening initiatives for Queens Libraries. On reform issues, Serpe authored a 2008 report while working for FairVote on Instant Runoff Voting and strongly supports its implementation. She also supports non-citizen voting which would allow legal immigrants to vote in municipal elections. She believes the campaign finance system in New York can be improved, specifically that those who have competition in both the primary and general election can spend twice as much as those who only participate in the general election. In addition to reform issues, Serpe is a strong advocate for increasing access to healthy foods in the district, affordable housing and increasing library hours, while noting that all these issues are interconnected. While Serpe was knowledgeable on reform issues, her focus on the Green party platform was felt to be too narrow when compared to her opponents' broader message and appeal.

**The following candidates were not scheduled for an interview by Citizens Union:**

**DANIELLE M. DE STEFANO (C)**

**GERALD F. KAHN (P)**

### DISTRICT 23

#### **★ ENDORSED CANDIDATE – MARK WEPRIN (D) ★**

*Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 20*

*Age: 52 Occupation: Member, NYC Council*

*Education: SUNY Albany (BA); Brooklyn Law School (JD)*

Mark Weprin has been an elected official for 20 years, 15 of which were in the New York State Assembly. He is the incumbent for the district, and serves and chair of the Zoning Committee, and is a candidate for Speaker for the next City Council. On reform issues, Weprin is committed to making the City Council a more inclusive body that provides opportunities for rank-and-file members to have meaningful input on legislation through party conferences and debate on the floor. He believes committee chairs should play more of a role in setting committee agendas and supports the establishment of a regular schedule for committees to ensure better attendance and engagement of Councilmembers. Regarding discretionary funding, Weprin believes each member should receive an equal amount of funding. He is also supportive of participatory budgeting. Weprin believes Councilmembers should not vote on their own compensation, and believes compensation, including lulus, should be examined together. Beyond Council reform, Weprin was a co-sponsor of legislation establishing an Inspector General to oversee the New York Police Department and he believes stop and frisk has been overused. Weprin is a big proponent of transparency, and points to his





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## QUEENS RACES

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record supporting the city's Open Data Law in addition to sponsoring a bill in the Assembly that resulted in the telecasting of the Assembly's proceedings. Weprin also backs non-citizens voting and is open to the idea of independents voting in party primaries. Citizens Union believes Councilmember Weprin supports our values of transparency and more of a role for rank-and-file members in the Council, and so we endorse his candidacy.

**The following candidate was not scheduled for an interview by Citizens Union:  
JOSEPH R. CONCANNON (RE)**

### DISTRICT 30

#### NO ENDORSEMENT

##### **CRAIG CARUANA (R, C)**

*Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 20*

*Age: 30 Occupation: RYDAN Security*

*Education: Catholic University of America (BA); Texas A&M University (MA)*

Craig Caruana is running to increase transparency in city government and because he believes the incumbent has failed to deliver for the community in getting its fair share of funding or in providing quality constituent services. He believes by acting collaboratively in the City Council, he can acquire more resources for the district. His other priorities include keeping the crime rate low, improving the responsiveness of the local police precinct, and working to stop the increase in the cost of living in the district through addressing property assessments that don't reflect market value and removing certain regulations on small businesses. On reform issues, he supports participatory budgeting, putting councilmembers' votes online, and making data accessible in open formats. He also supports nonpartisan elections and instant runoff voting. He is still developing his positions around Council reform. Caruana additionally believes the community board appointment process should be reformed and the offices of the borough president should be phased out. Citizens Union believes Caruana is a thoughtful candidate who brings a fresh perspective with innovative ideas, and would be an energetic voice for the district who would work actively on reform issues. Citizens Union was prepared to endorse publicly Caruana, but withdrew our endorsement upon learning about a divisive campaign flyer he mailed. We view the mailer as inappropriate fear mongering targeted at immigrants. Citizens Union therefore makes no endorsement in this race.

##### **ELIZABETH CROWLEY (D, WF)**

*Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 20*

*Age: 35 Occupation: Member, NYC Council*

*Education: BA (name of degree-granting institution not provided);*

*MA (name of degree-granting institution not provided)*

Elizabeth Crowley is the incumbent Councilmember in District 30. She is running for re-election on her track record of supporting the opening of new schools to reduce overcrowding in the district and preserving fire houses while chair of the Fire and Criminal



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## QUEENS RACES

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Justice Committee. Her priorities if re-elected are infusing education with technology, public safety and growing jobs through infrastructure projects. On reform issues, Crowley supports distributing discretionary funding equitably across all 51 Councilmembers and believes that majority support for bills ought to result in a hearing and, if support is sustained, a floor vote. She notes that she stood up to Speaker Quinn when it wasn't convenient to do so and touts her independence. She supports instant runoff voting but opposes nonpartisan elections. Crowley has mixed views on our proposals to address police misconduct. She believes that stop, question and frisk should only be done consistent with the law, but supports the tactic. Crowley claims police officers had to fulfill quotas which drove overaggressive policing and that under a new administration, more police officers should be hired and de facto quotas removed. While Citizens Union believes Councilmember Crowley has been an independent voice in certain instances, we question her commitment to reform issues and ability to advance them.



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## STATEN ISLAND RACES

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### **STATEN ISLAND BOROUGH PRESIDENT**

#### **★ ENDORSED CANDIDATE – JAMES S. ODDO (R, C, I) ★**

*Has returned questionnaire, responses available at [www.citizensunion.org](http://www.citizensunion.org)*

*Age: 47 Occupation: City Council Minority Leader*

*Education: Fordham University (BA), New York Law School (JD)*

James Oddo is currently the Minority Leader in the City Council, a body he has lengthy experience working in, having also served as a counsel and a staffer to former Councilmember John Fusco. He believes the borough president's office would be a natural extension of his work in the City Council to improve the lives of people on Staten Island and in New York City as a whole. Among his top priorities are redevelopment following Hurricane Sandy, North Shore development, and the health and wellness of Staten Islanders. Oddo supports implementation of a program modeled after post-Hurricane Katrina redevelopment in New Orleans that involves government acquisition of coastal areas to jointly build elevated communities with homeowners, given the right of refusal to return. He believes the construction of the ferris wheel and related projects on the North Shore will spur investment and grow jobs. Oddo is troubled by the health indicators of Staten Island residents, and believes the government should work to improve wellness by educating the public, providing incentives for diet and exercise and establishing healthy options for consumers. On reform issues, Oddo will live stream borough president meetings and is committed to diversity in appointments as well as bringing in outside talent. He believes too much transparency, however, can distract from the mission of the office, pointing to disclosure of discretionary funding while in the City Council that resulted in inquiries that tied up his staff and took away time from constituent services and other work. Citizens Union believes Councilmember Oddo is hard-working and focused on delivering for the constituency he serves. His conference's bold moves to change the New York City Board of Elections this past year were also welcomed by Citizens Union. His "can-do" approach and coalition building skills earn him our endorsement.

#### **LOUIS L. LIEDY (D, WF)**

*Has returned questionnaire, responses available at [www.citizensunion.org](http://www.citizensunion.org)*

*Age: 66 Occupation: Retired Teacher*

*Education: Wagner College (BS)*

Louis Liedy is a retired school teacher who is running for office for the first time. He has been involved in politics in the past while serving as a delegate to the teachers' union and as President of the North Shore Democratic Club. Liedy is concerned about overdevelopment on Staten Island and notes that it has become increasingly developed over the years. Even with these concerns he supports the proposals to develop the North Shore, including the ferris wheel and outlet malls, believing it will attract tourists and bring in money to Staten Island. Liedy believes an inventory of tax exempt properties on the Island should be developed along with the amount of unpaid taxes. Under his plan, the city would buy these properties from private entities when they want to sell, and then conduct hearings to ensure the public has a say in how they are used. Liedy also wants to tackle education issues. He believes the Chancellor should be appointed by the Mayor, but ought to have experience in the classroom.



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## STATEN ISLAND RACES

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Liedy is concerned mayoral control has resulted in instruction that is overly focused on teaching to the test. On reform issues, Liedy would hold more hearings on land use decisions, put borough presidents' discretionary capital funding online, and implement term limits for community boards. He would solicit resumes for borough president appointments rather than filling them through patronage, and would serve himself on many of the boards the borough president makes appointments to. Citizens Union believes Liedy is a sincere and well-meaning candidate, but he lacks the experience and vision of his opponent. He also needs a more robust campaign operation to compete in this race.

**The following candidates were not scheduled for an interview by Citizens Union:**

**HENRY J. BARDEL (G)**

**SILAS JOHNSON (LT)**

### **STATEN ISLAND CITY COUNCIL RACES**

#### DISTRICT 50

**★ ENDORSED CANDIDATE - STEVEN MATTEO (R, C, I) ★**

*Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 20*

*Age: 36 Occupation: Chief of Staff, City Council Minority Leader James Oddo*

*Education: St. Francis College (BA), Touro Law School (JD)*

Steven Matteo is running for City Council because he believes Staten Island and New York City are headed in the wrong direction. With nine years' experience working in the City Council, Matteo believes he can navigate the Council and address the issues facing Staten Island. On good government issues, Matteo supports reducing the number of Council committees, noting the many committee meetings takes Staten Island members away from their districts for too long a period. He also supports instant runoff voting. Matteo is concerned that some of Citizens Union's reform agenda could result in changes inconsistent with Staten Island's priorities. For example, he notes that Staten Island has benefited from a good relationship with a strong Council Speaker by receiving ample discretionary funding and the opportunity to pass many bills, something unheard of for most minority parties in local legislatures. Outside of reform, Matteo's first priority is Hurricane Sandy recovery, specifically enrolling Island residents in programs to help them rebuild and get reimbursements. He supports overnight ferry service and expanded express bus service. He supports mayoral control believing the Council can provide better oversight of an agency as opposed to a board, but stresses the need for less teaching to the test and a more meaningful role in decision-making by parents. Matteo departs from Citizens Union's reform agenda in some instances, but he delivered on our issues while working in Councilmember Oddo's office through bringing some change to the New York City Board of Elections. Matteo is well qualified to serve, thoughtful on the issues, and has the experience and relationships to accomplish things for the district and Staten Island. He therefore earns our endorsement.



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## STATEN ISLAND RACES

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### **JOHN M. MANCUSO (D, WF)**

*Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 20*

*Age: 32 Occupation: Full-time candidate*

*Education: Urban Politics and Policy (degree and name of degree-granting institution not provided) /  
Restaurant Management and Culinary Arts (degree and name of degree-granting institution not provided)*

John Mancuso, an auxiliary police officer and former small business owner, is running for City Council to ensure Staten Island gets its fair share in the city budget and to ensure the Island is prepared to weather another superstorm like Hurricane Sandy. He believes his private sector experience, along with being a staffer for former State Senator Seymour Lachman and Councilmember Vincent Gentile, make him the most well-rounded candidate in the race. On reform issues, Mancuso believes every district should receive the same amount of discretionary funding. He wants to get rid of lulus and believes all the positions should be made full-time with lower salaries. Mancuso is open to reducing the number of committees in the City Council, noting that some do not even meet annually. He additionally supports nonpartisan elections. Beyond good government issues, Mancuso opposes mayoral control and calls for the return of school boards albeit with members appointed by borough presidents. He wants to expand transportation options for the island, including the disabled, and improve the quality of roads by purchasing equipment that can both pave and grade roads. Citizens Union believes Mancuso brings a thoughtful approach to all issues, and he has a genuine commitment to our reform agenda which is why we supported him the Democratic Party primary election. His opponent's experience and involvement in achieving change at the Board of Elections this past year, however, results in Mancuso falling just short of earning our endorsement.



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## VOTER REGISTRATION AND VOTING

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### **REGISTERING TO VOTE FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION**

To be eligible to vote in the City of New York's 2013 General Election, you must be a citizen of the United States and 18 years of age by December 31 of the year in which you file a form. If you are not 18 by the day of the election, you will not be eligible to vote. You also must have lived at your present address for at least 30 days before an election and must not claim the right to vote elsewhere. The deadlines for voter registration have already passed for the General Election. Registration forms must have been postmarked by October 11th, and received by October 16th. Change of addresses notices must have been received by October 16th.

To obtain a registration form, you can go in person to your local board of elections office, call 1-866-VOTE-NYC or visit the Board of Elections website at <http://www.elections.ny.gov/VotingRegister.html>. The New York State DMV has created an online portal for voter registration, including new registrations and changes of address. It can be accessed at <http://my.dmv.ny.gov>.

### **APPLYING FOR AN ABSENTEE BALLOT FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION**

If you are unable to appear at the polls due to: (1) being absent from New York City on Election Day; (2) illness or disability; or (3) are detained in jail awaiting Grand Jury action or are confined in prison for an offense other than a felony, you may vote by absentee ballot. To obtain an application, call 1-866-VOTE-NYC or visit the Board of Elections website at <http://www.vote.nyc.ny.us/absentee.html>. The application must be completed in blue or black ink. The deadlines for submitting the application are below, as well as the deadlines for mailing back your ballot.

- **MAILING YOUR ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION:** The last day to postmark an application or letter of application by mail for an absentee ballot is Tuesday, October 29th.
- **APPLYING FOR AN ABSENTEE BALLOT IN PERSON:** The last day to apply in person at your local county board of elections office for an absentee ballot is Monday, November 4th.
- **MAILING IN YOUR ABSENTEE BALLOT:** The last day to postmark your absentee ballot is Monday, November 4th. It must be received by the local board of elections no later than November 12th.
- **DROPPING OFF YOUR ABSENTEE BALLOT:** If you have a friend or relative who can drop off your absentee ballot for you, it must be delivered on Election Day, Tuesday, November 5th to your local board of elections office.

### **VOTING ON ELECTION DAY**

The General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 5th. Polls will be open from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. If you have general questions regarding eligibility or the location of your polling place, please call 1-866-VOTE-NYC. You can also locate your polling place and districts, as well as see a sample ballot online at <http://nyc.pollsitelocator.com>.

Under federal law, if you are disabled and choose to vote in person rather than by absentee ballot, you are entitled to assistance. You can rely on the election employees for help.



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## VOTER REGISTRATION AND VOTING

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At the polls, if you are not on the voter registration list, it may be because your registration form was not received in time or was filled out incorrectly. If you believe that you are eligible to vote, you can still vote by requesting an affidavit ballot. After the election, the Board of Elections will check its records and your vote will be counted if you are indeed eligible. Your affidavit ballot will also serve to update your registration record.

### **CASTING YOUR BALLOT**

Paper ballots will be used for casting votes, which can be marked using either a pen or a ballot marking device (BMD) as described below. Ballots are counted after they are inserted into an electronic scanner. The scanner will then be used to count the votes after the polling place has closed at the end of Election Day. A bin attached to the scanner will capture and keep the paper ballots as a record of all votes. This process began in 2010 with New York's adoption of a new voting system to meet federal accessibility requirements, though the lever machines were used in the 2013 Primary Election in New York City.

The voting process works as follows:

- Enter the poll site, sign in, and receive your paper ballot from the poll worker.
- Mark your ballot through one of two means:
- Go to a privacy booth and fill out your ballot with a pen by marking the appropriate ovals; or
- Use a Ballot Marking Device (BMD), which is available for those who are in need of assistance (see below for more information).
- Once done, place your ballot in the privacy sleeve, proceed to the scanner area, and insert the marked ballot into the scanner to cast your vote. Your ballot can be inserted in any direction.
- If you make a mistake you can request a new ballot. If you mark your ballot incorrectly by marking more choices for one contest than you are supposed to, the scanner will notify you of an "overvote." To have your vote count, you must obtain a new ballot and mark your choices correctly before submitting your ballot. There will be an additional information notice in your privacy booth regarding the "overvote" and what should you do when it appears on the scanner. You can also ask the poll worker for additional information.

### **BALLOT MARKING DEVICE**

Voters will be able to use the Election Systems & Software (ES&S) AutoMARK ballot marking device (BMD), which is mandated to be available at each polling location. Any voter, including voters with disabilities, may use the BMD to view or listen to the ballot in any of the required languages for that poll site (English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean or Bengali). Voters may use the BMD to complete a paper ballot independently and privately on Election Day by using its ATM-style touch screen, Braille-enhanced keypad, sip and puff device, or its rocker paddle. More information on the new process is available at the New York City Board of Elections website, <http://www.votethenewwayny.com/>.



## VOTER REGISTRATION AND VOTING

### YOUR RIGHTS AS A VOTER

You have the right to vote if:

- You are US citizen and registered to vote in New York City by the deadline. If you are currently on parole, you are still eligible to register if you have obtained a Certificate of Relief or Certificate of Good Conduct.
- You are 18 years of age or older by Election Day.
- You are inside your polling place no later than 9:00 p.m. on Election Day.

In any election, you have a right to:

- Ask assistance if you need help voting. It can be any person of your choice (except your employer or union representative), including a trained poll worker. If you need an interpreter, BOE interpreters are available to assist voters at select sites.
- Ask election workers how to vote.
- Vote even if the scanner is broken.
- Vote by affidavit ballot if your name is missing from the voter registration list at your polling site.

### RESOURCES FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

#### Voter Assistance/Voter Hotlines

NYC Board of Elections	(212) VOTE-NYC	<a href="http://www.vote.nyc.ny.us">www.vote.nyc.ny.us</a>
Election Protection	1-866-OUR-VOTE	<a href="http://www.866ourvote.org/state/ny">www.866ourvote.org/state/ny</a>

#### To Research Campaign Contributions

NYC Campaign Finance Board	(212) 306-7100	<a href="http://www.nycffb.info">www.nycffb.info</a>
NYS Board of Elections	(800) 458-3453	<a href="http://www.elections.state.ny.us">www.elections.state.ny.us</a>

#### To Research Candidates

Citizens Union	(212) 227-0342	<a href="http://www.citizensunion.org">www.citizensunion.org</a>
Gotham Gazette	(212) 227-0342	<a href="http://www.gothamvotes2013.com">www.gothamvotes2013.com</a>
NYC Campaign Finance Board	(212) 306-7100	<a href="http://www.nycffb.info">www.nycffb.info</a>
Independent Judicial Election	(212) 340-0572	<a href="http://www.ny-ijeqc.org">www.ny-ijeqc.org</a>
Qualification Commission		
NYC Bar Association	(212) 382-6600	<a href="http://www.nycbar.org">www.nycbar.org</a>

#### To Research Ballot Amendments

League of Women Voters NYC	(212) 725-3541	<a href="http://www.lwvny.org">www.lwvny.org</a>
NYC Campaign Finance Board	(212) 306-7100	<a href="http://www.nycffb.info">www.nycffb.info</a>

#### To Research Incumbent Voting Records

New York City Council	311	<a href="http://www.council.nyc.gov">www.council.nyc.gov</a>
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