**Candidate Questionnaire**

**Local Candidates**

**Committee New York**

**City Council Elections 2017**

**Citizens Union appreciates your response to the following questionnaire related to policy issues facing New York City and our interest in reforming city and state government. Please return the questionnaire to us as soon as possible, and no later than June 28th.**

**Responses to these questions will be one of several factors Citizens Union uses to evaluate candidates running for the New York City Council, and to issue our preference for the Primary and endorsement for the General Election.**

**Please feel free to affix any additional information such as a résumé, campaign brochure, or issue**

**statements.**

**If you seek our support, we will also need to schedule an interview with you as part of the evaluation process.**

**Please contact us if you wish to be interviewed. We plan to make responses to this questionnaire public on our website, printed voters directory, and other appropriate venues.**

**We thank you very much for your response.**

**Biographical Information**

**Candidate Name:** Carlos Menchaca

**Party Affiliation(s):** Democrat

**Age:** 36

**Education** Bachelors

**Office Sought (including district): Occupation/Employer:** District 38 City Council

**Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement:** Brooklyn Borough President, Office of the Speaker, current City Council member District 38

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

**Campaign Contact Information**

**Campaign Manager Name:** Devin McAndrew-Greiner

**Additional Staff Contact:** Adrian Koster

**Address:** 940 4th Ave Brooklyn NY

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**Website: www.Carlos2017.com**

**Email: info@carlos2017.com**

**Twitter: @carlos4council**

**Facebook: www.facebook.com/carlos4council/**

**Affirmations**

**Have you completed required campaign finance filings?**

**YES /** NO

**Are you willing to be interviewed by CU’s Local Candidates Committee?**

**YES /** NO

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

**Signature of Candidate:**

**Date:**

**I. POLICY QUESTIONS**

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

**VOTING AND ELECTIONS REFORM**

**1.What is your position with respect to eliminating party primaries and establishing a non-partisan election system in which all candidates and all voters participate in the first round and the top two candidates advance to the second round?**

**Support**

**2. What is your position on instituting Instant Runoff Voting for all citywide offices and for all special elections for city offices?**

**Support**

**3. What is your position on creating a voluntary municipal poll worker program to supplement poll worker recruitment by district leaders?**

**Support**

**4. What is your position on requiring the Board of Elections to report performance metrics to the City Council that conform to the Mayor’s Management Report?**

**Support**

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

**Support**

**CAMPAIGN FINANCE**

**REFORM**

**6. What is your position on prohibiting participants in the city’s campaign finance program from using public matching funds to purchase strategic campaign consulting services from firms that also provide lobbying services?**

**Support**

**7.What is your position on increasing the Campaign Finance Board’s public matching grants from a partial match of 55% to a full match of funds raised (Int. 1130-A)?**

**Support**

**CITY COUNCIL REFORM**

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

I think the improvements to the bill drafting process were long overdue and I look forward to seeing greater changes in the future. The system before was rife with chances for abuse. We must protect the City Council from a biased legislative process and fund allocation at all costs - as this can rob vulnerable districts of important resources.

I believe the New York State Legislature’s bill drafting commission gives more independence to the vote and removes some of the opportunity for favoritism. While their system isn’t perfect - it is important that we approach passing legislation as an independent process with the ability to allocate funds and resources outside of political influence.

**9. What is your position on the following proposals enabling Council committees to function**

**more effectively and independently of the speaker:**

**a. Should committee chairs have the ability to hire at least one committee staffer?**

**Support**

**b. Should committee hearings and votes be scheduled at the direction of the chairs?**

**Support**

**c. Should committees be able to issue subpoenas by a vote of their members?**

**Support**

**d. Now that committee chair stipends have been eliminated what is your position on**

**reducing the overall number of committees so members can participate more meaningfully**

**in fewer issues?**

**Support**

**10. What is your position on greater disclosure of councilmembers’ outside income?**

**Support**

**11. When the Quadrennial Compensation Commission is reconvened, what is your position on requiring that any future increase in councilmember compensation only apply prospectively to the following term?**

**Support**

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

**Support**

**13. What is your position on increasing transparency of discretionary funding by requiring the list of capital and expense funds and their sponsors be provided to Councilmembers and the public three days in advance of any vote, and expanding the online searchable database of expense funds to include all capital fund recipients and applicants?**

**Support**

**14. What is your position on extending term limits from two four-year terms to three four-year terms?**

**Oppose**

**15. What is your position on making all actions designed to influence any City Council outcome, including the choice of Speaker, reportable as a lobbying expense?**

**Support**

**PUBLIC SAFETY AND OVERSIGHT OF POLICE MISCONDUCT**

**16. What is your position on establishing the Commission to Combat Police Corruption (CCPC) as a permanent commission in the City Charter while empowering the CCPC to issue**

**subpoenas?**

**Support**

**17. What is your position on enhancing the Civilian Complaint Review Board’s (CCRB) authority to initiate an investigation into reported or known incidents of police misconduct without receipt of a formal complaint?**

**Support**

**18. What is your position on granting the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) with the authority to prosecute officers found guilty of lying during CCRB investigations?**

**Support**

**19. What is your position on reinstating the zero tolerance penalty for false official**

**statements by public officers?**

**Support**

**20. What is your position on requiring the Police Commissioner to explain divergence from NYPD trial judge and CCRB disciplinary recommendations and to make the explanation public?**

**Support**

**21.What is your position on requiring the NYPD to publish a regular report of use of force**

**incidents with data disaggregated by race?**

**Support**

**22. What is your position on granting the CCRB authority to prosecute officers who lie under oath during the course of their investigations?**

**Support**

**BUDGET REFORM**

**23. What is your position on establishing independent budgeting for:**

**a. the borough presidents?**

**Support**

**b. Conflicts of Interest Board?**

**Support**

**c. the public advocate?**

**Support**

**d. community boards?**

**Support**

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

**Support**

**25. What is your position on release of revenue projections (other than property taxes) prior to Council hearings on the Executive budget?**

**Support**

**LAND USE AND COMMUNITY BOARD REFORM**

**26. What is your position on designating urban planners for use by community boards and**

**requiring borough president’s report to the Council the manner in which they advertise and make community board appointments?**

**Support**

**27. What is your position on establishing a formal standardized and transparent process for community board appointments including written applications, interviews of candidates, and filling vacancies within 30 days?**

**Support**

**CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION**

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

**Oppose**

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

I do not support the Constitutional Convention this cycle. As unpredictable as this last election year has been - I think it is more important than ever to protect the progressive legislation we have fought hard to pass over the last 20 years. The Constitutional Convention this year can result in untold amounts of outside money being spent to attack some of our most important protections. We need to hold our current state legislators accountable to introduce and pass the reform we want today. Otherwise, they will risk loosing their seats to new bold progressive challengers to bring that reform.

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

Individual spending caps, matching funds and more transparent financing regulations have been important steps in removing the influence of money on elected officials. I believe we should require a greater disclosure of bundled contributions and ensure any outside spending is publicly reported in ways that are clear to the public. We should also explore requiring every candidate in New York City at every level to participate in Campaign Matching funds.

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

**II.**

**CAMPAIGN PROMISES MADE TO VOTERS**

**(PAST AND CURRENT)**

**In addition to evaluating stances on the issues above, Citizens Union also assesses incumbents on how well they kept the promises made to voters during the previous election. As an elected official who is seeking re-election,**

**•what were the top five promises you made to your constituents when you ran for your current seat and what progress has been made in keeping those promises, and**

**•what are the top five promises you are making to voters during this campaign?**

**Please feel free to use additional paper if the space provided is not sufficient, and to affix additional information such as a résumé, campaign brochure, or issue statements.**

**We thank you very much for your response.**

**TOP FIVE**

**CAMPAIGN PROMISES**

**FROM LAST ELECTION AND ACTION ON THEM**

**1. In the last election, I was the only one council candidate who defeated an incumbent** with a mission to be visible and vocal for my community. I have stood up to powerful special interests to advance my progressive agenda. My voting record and consistent positions to protect the working waterfront against the administration and private developers has shown my commitment to our community

**2.** Public education, solving overcrowding. Over the last decade, Sunset Park was not getting attention of the School Construction Authority to site and build schools. I focused on building on local activism from parents and facilitated a new relationship with SCA, three years later, we are on track to deliver 5 new schools, accounting for 1/5 of all new seats added across NYC.

**3.** As chairman of Immigration Committee, I have advocated for access to legal representation, better education, and healthcare. I spearheaded the effort to approve IDNYC, a basic ID program that allows for low income and immigrant communities to get better access to city services and discounts.

**4.** I have transformed District 38 office to be representative of the community with multi-lingual and diverse staffers. It’s more responsive and accessible, as its now open 6 days a week and nights – and it was relocated to a main street in the district. This has enhanced our ability to bring legal and educational services to our residents.

**5.** Civic Engagement, my accomplishment of which I’m most proud has been exploding the engagement of participatory budgeting, achieving the highest vote count in the city every year. Last year over8,000 people cast votes, every year I commit at least 2nmillion dollars, but over the last 4 years I have gone beyond 2million each year, granting over 15 of the 20 million dollars of capital to participatory budgeting projects.

**TOP FIVE 2017**

**CAMPAIGN PROMISES OR GOALS**

**1.** Criminal Justice Reform, we will pass Right to Know this year and continue to focus on

**2.** Addressing public housing issues by implementing a successful Right to Council initiative, focusing on delivering the promise of federal dollars to reconstruct NYCHA in Red Hook, which totals almost half a billion dollars of improvements. The economic opportunities must be realized.

**3.** Civic Engagement, continue engaging new members in our immigrant and yoiuth communities. Expand city wide with mayoral support.

**4.** Protect the working waterfront, continue to strengthen the industrial manufacturing and maritime zones.

**5.** Spread immigration expertise to all district offices, with mine being the model.

**ETHICAL REPRESENTATION**

**OF**

**CONSTITUENTS**

**Citizens Union believes that all New Yorkers deserve to be represented by officials who work for the public interest and honor public trust. With the corruption conviction of recent state legislative leaders, we seek to endorse a candidate who will demonstrate that she/he will honor the full commitment of the oath of office, and will always represent the public interest above all else. Please tell us how you have and would continue to conduct the political affairs of this office in an upright manner, and restore the public trust in your district.**

I will continue my work to make government more transparent and accessible – beyond participatory budgeting. Once we make government about a conversation that’s had not just by elected officials behind closed doors, but a roundtable discussion with all community members – then we can foster trust, engagement, empowerment, and real lasting results.

As a candidate that relied on grassroots support to win my campaign in 2013, I have no ulterior motives when it comes to politics. My voice is simply the magnified voice of my constituents and I want to continue to implement procedures and systems of government that allow that process to be as seamless as possible. I have stayed committed to campaign promises from 2013 and I plan to expand those commitments as we face new challenges throughout the city.