



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: Christopher Marte

Party Affiliation(s): Democrat Age: 28

Education: Long Island University Global

Office Sought (including district): City Council District 1

Occupation/Employer: Full-time candidate

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement:

Candidate for State Committee (2016), member of DID, organizer at Elizabeth St Garden, volunteer basketball coach at MS 131, volunteer at Bowery Mission, co-founder of NYCHA green committee at LES Infill I & II

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

Campaign Contact Information

Campaign Manager Name: Caitlin Kelmar Additional Staff Contact:

Address: 42 Rivington St, Apt 25, New York, NY 10002

Telephone: 646.450.0165 Fax:

Website: marteny.com Email: martefornyc@gmail.com

Twitter: @chrismartenyc Facebook: Christopher Marte for City Council

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: 6/28/2017

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?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support / <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose
2. What is your position on instituting Instant Runoff Voting for all citywide offices and for all special elections for city offices?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support / <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose
3. What is your position on creating a voluntary municipal poll worker program to supplement poll worker recruitment by district leaders?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support / <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose
4. What is your position on requiring the Board of Elections to report performance metrics to the City Council that conform to the Mayor's Management Report?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support / <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose
5. What is your position on modifying the City Charter to require that laws enacted by referendum only be changed through approval by the voters?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support / <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose

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

CITY COUNCIL REFORM

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

The Council Rules Reforms in 2014 were a significant step towards improving accountability in the Council, and streamlining drafting requests. This legislation has been going well, however I believe it needs to be enhanced

further and expanded to include more types of bills, not just those that fall between the cracks of committees. If elected, I will work to push the Council to adopt a more independent process like the state's legislature.

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?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support / <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose
b. Should committee hearings and votes be scheduled at the direction of the chairs?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support / <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose
c. Should committees be able to issue subpoenas by a vote of their members?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support / <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose
d. Now that committee chair stipends have been eliminated what is your position on reducing the overall number of committees so members can participate more meaningfully in fewer issues?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support / <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose
10. What is your position on greater disclosure of councilmembers' outside income?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support / <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose
11. When the Quadrennial Compensation Commission is reconvened, what is your position on requiring that any future increase in councilmember compensation only apply prospectively to the following term?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support / <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose
12. What is your position on ensuring a more equitable and needs-based distribution of discretionary funding?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support / <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose
13. What is your position on increasing transparency of discretionary funding by requiring the list of capital and expense funds and their sponsors be provided to Councilmembers and the public three days in advance of any vote, and expanding the online searchable database of expense funds to include all capital fund recipients and applicants?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support / <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose
14. What is your position on extending term limits from two four-year terms to three four-year terms?	Support / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support / <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose

PUBLIC SAFETY AND OVERSIGHT OF POLICE MISCONDUCT

16. What is your position on establishing the Commission to Combat Police Corruption (CCPC) as a permanent commission in the City Charter while empowering the CCPC to issue subpoenas?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support / <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose
17. What is your position on enhancing the Civilian Complaint Review Board's (CCRB) authority to initiate an investigation into reported or known incidents of police misconduct without receipt of a formal complaint?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support / <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose
18. What is your position on granting the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) with the authority to prosecute officers found guilty of lying during CCRB investigations?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support / <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose
19. What is your position on reinstating the zero tolerance penalty for false official statements by public officers?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support / <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose
20. What is your position on requiring the Police Commissioner to explain divergence from NYPD trial judge and CCRB disciplinary recommendations and to make the explanation public?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support / <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose
21. What is your position on requiring the NYPD to publish a regular report of use of force incidents with data disaggregated by race?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support / <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose

22. What is your position on requiring the NYPD to publish a regular report of use of force incidents with data disaggregated by race?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support / <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose
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BUDGET REFORM

23. What is your position on establishing independent budgeting for: a. the borough presidents?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support / <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose
b. Conflicts of Interest Board?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support / <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose
c. the public advocate?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support / <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose
d. community boards?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support / <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose
24. What is your position on making the budget process more transparent by clearly defining and limiting units of appropriation?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support / <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose
25. What is your position on release of revenue projections (other than property taxes) prior to Council hearings on the Executive budget?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support / <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose

LAND USE AND COMMUNITY BOARD REFORM

26. What is your position on designating urban planners for use by community boards and requiring borough president's report to the Council the manner in which they advertise and make community board appointments?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support / <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose
27. What is your position on establishing a formal standardized and transparent process for community board appointments including written applications, interviews of candidates, and filling vacancies within 30 days?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support / <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

28. In November, voters in New York will be asked whether they wish to hold a constitutional convention to amend the New York State Constitution. What is your position on holding such a convention?	Support / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oppose
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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?

A Constitutional Convention would endanger laws that unions and the broader public have lobbied for for decades. Pensions and even civil liberties could be rewritten by just a select number of individuals without consulting the public at large. The lack of accountability and democracy that would result from a Constitutional Convention can only be a detriment to the rights of all those who live in New York State. The estimated cost of a constitutional convention is too large of an expenditure at a time when we do not know which funding cuts will take place with the current federal administration. I will work to educate the public as a part of my campaign, discussing the constitutional convention and my opinion as to the threats it poses to working families and our basic rights.

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

I will work to pass legislation that further limits contributions from those who do business with the City, and restricts the amount they can give for at least 2 years after their business with the City has formally concluded. I would support the recent campaign finance reform bills that would open New York City government to public scrutiny. By expanding the matching program, candidates will have to raise less from private funds, which in turn leads to fewer opportunities for candidates to be bought off by private interests. I also support the legislation that would expand the definition of “doing business” with the City because it will reduce the “pay-to-play” culture in City elections and government.

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.

I strongly support improving oversight of police corruption, and reforming the criminal justice system. I previously served on the young professional board of Defy Ventures, where I helped previously incarcerated individuals start their own small businesses. The obstacles that many of these people faced after they left prison gave me a clear view of why so many end up returning. Part of this system is a distrust in policing. Broken window policies and a lack of accountability do not serve the public interest, and work against the police reform movement that has been widely called for.

A super PAC created by The Real Estate Board of New York spent over \$250,000 on the incumbent’s re-election campaign in 2013. I do not support and will not accept funds from any super PAC or from large scale developers. I have made this promise publicly, and my financial disclosures will prove that I have kept this promise. In the Council, I will work to ensure that those running for election or reelection are not tied to special interests.

II. CAMPAIGN PROMISES MADE TO VOTERS

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

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

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

TOP FIVE 2017 CAMPAIGN PROMISES OR GOALS

1. Host a Town Hall Meeting: The current Councilperson has not hosted a Town Hall in her 8 years in office. I believe Town Halls are one of the most effective ways to learn about community issues that may not otherwise receive attention.
2. Pass Community-based Zoning policies: In order to preserve the District and protect the immigrant and working families that built this community, I will work to pass community-based zoning that reflects the character of the neighborhood. The District needs more proactive zoning to prevent overdevelopment.
3. Enact Participatory Budgeting: I firmly support Participatory Budgeting because it gives a voice to those who are otherwise voiceless in government. I wrote an op-ed about it in The Lo-Down: <http://www.thelodownny.com/leslog/2017/04/opinion-city-council-district-1-needs-participatory-budgeting.html>
4. Address the Small Business Crisis: I will pass legislation that gives small business owners an equal voice in the lease renegotiation process with their landlords so that we have fewer vacant storefronts.
5. Waterfront resiliency: I will work with community members, elected officials, and local businesses to improve and coordinate resiliency efforts along the waterfront so that another storm does not cause such damage.

III. ETHICAL REPRESENTATION OF CONSTITUENTS

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

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

~~I will work to restore my constituents' trust in local government by running a fully transparent City Council office. After each filing deadline, I send out charts showing how my campaign spends its funds, who are donors are, and the industries that they work in. While this information is publicly available, I make it accessible by taking a proactive step to engaging with those invested or supporting my campaign. I will take this same approach to my City Council office. Through hosting Town Hall meetings and enacting Participatory Budgeting, I will make sure that the voice of my constituents is accurately and proactively represented in the Council. Even though they do not all reside in my District, I have already organized a Town Hall with small business owners where I spoke about how they can have a voice in the neighborhood they help make up. Having similar focused Town Halls to address community questions and concerns will enable residents to hold me accountable to the promises that I make to them, and to the services they request from my office.~~

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