



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 28<sup>th</sup>.** 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: Cory Provost

Party Affiliation(s): Democratic Age: 31

Education: BA, Philosophy, 2008; MA, Urban Policy & Administration, 2011, both CUNY-Brooklyn College

Office Sought (including district): City Council Member, 41st District

Occupation/Employer: Community Organizer, N/A

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement: Current District Leader, 58th Assmebly District, HFA Brooklyn Field Organizer, former Brooklyn Community Liaison in Comptroller Stringer's Office, former Chair of the CUNY University Student Senate and CUNY Trustee, Delagate to the 2012 & 2016 Democratic National Conventions  
*(Please feel free to affix any additional information such as a résumé, campaign brochure, or issue statements.)*

**Campaign Contact Information**

Campaign Manager Name: Trevor Scott

Additional Staff Contact: Fernando Araujo, Treasurer

Address: 667 E 34th St, Apt 6K, Brooklyn, NY 11203

Telephone: 347-210-2275

Fax: N/A

Website: coryprovost.com

Email: info@coryprovost.com

Twitter: @coryprovost

Facebook: facebook.com/teamprovost

**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.)*

**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?

I support the reformed bill drafting process enacted during the 2014 City Council session and very much support an independent process modeled after the State Legislature's.

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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?	Support / <input checked="" 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?	Support / <input checked="" 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?

The threat of special interests influencing voters is a major concern and reason for my opposition. I also feel the millions needed to conduct the constitutional convention would be better spent on fully funding public education, upgrading our infrastructure and other desperately needed services.

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 fully stand with Citizens Union and any other good government groups in removing all “pay for play” opportunitites in city governement. As well, I think it's time to update the meaning of "lobbying" to include any group actively influencing the city government. Regardless, I will fully support any measures Citizens Unions advocate for in the City Council.

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.

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## 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. Require 100% affordable housing for new developments within the district

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2. Secure more funding for senior housing & provide Free Full Fare Metro Cards for seniors

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3. Closing Rikers Island

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4. Redesigning streets to make them safer for kids and seniors

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5. Shutting down NYC's school to prison pipeline and ending Broken Windows policing

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### 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.

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higher office. Executive members, district leaders and myself conduct a transparent screening and endorsement process with full participation from members. After polling members, we endorse and expect our candidates to attend regular meetings and update members on their work in Albany. As district leader, I fully support campaign finance reform, more transparency and early voting measures for the hard working members of my district.

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When elected council member, I will participate in any press conferences related to campaign finance and election reform. I will stand with my colleagues in government to call on state electeds to pass real election reform. And I will continue the good government efforts put forth in my Assembly district throughout the 41st City Council District.

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