



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: Deidre Olivera

Party Affiliation(s): Democrat

Age: 46

Education: Bachelors, Certified in Conflict resolution, Workshop Instruction, Parenting, Housing Readiness,

Office Sought (including district): City Council for the 41st District

Occupation/Employer: Laborer/ Posillico Tully

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement:

Community Board #16 Member, 73rd Pct. Council executive member, Community Corners member, Black lives matter member, Peacekeeper member, PTA president (elementary), CEC member, PTA Vice chair (high school),

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

Campaign Contact Information

Campaign Manager Name: Pamela Junior

Additional Staff Contact: Liaison

Address: 1432 Pitkin Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11212

Telephone: 845 – 244- 0748

Fax:

Website: olivera2017.com

Email: olivera4council@gmail.com

Twitter: @olivera4council

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Affirmations

Have you completed required campaign finance filings?

YES /



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

YES /








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

Signature of Candidate: Deidre Olivera (to be accepted Date: 7/5/2017 as an electronic signature)



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 believe that the Council rules reform pertaining to the bill drafting process is a great start, however I would also advocate for a more proactive approach, akin to the institution of New York State Legislatures Bill drafting commission.

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?	██████ / Oppose
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?	██████ / Oppose
18. What is your position on granting the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) with the authority to prosecute officers found guilty of lying during CCRB investigations?	Support / ██████
19. What is your position on reinstating the zero tolerance penalty for false official statements by public officers?	Support / Oppose
20. What is your position on requiring the Police Commissioner to explain divergence from NYPD trial judge and CCRB disciplinary recommendations and to make the explanation public?	Support / ██████
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 requiring the NYPD to publish a regular report of use of force incidents with data disaggregated by race?	Support / [REDACTED]
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BUDGET REFORM

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

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 / [REDACTED]
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 / [REDACTED]

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?	[REDACTED] / 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?

N/A

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?

Contributions to Elected officials already have a doing business limitation which I am in favor of.

I also believe that any organization or non profit that has ties to an elected official should be barred
From city contracting opportunities during the time that the politician is in office/ not to
prematurely be reinstated for a period of no less than 2 years after the departure of the elected
official.

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.

As it is now, the failed bidding process systems, rely far to heavily on theory versus application.

An example of the failure of this purportedly open process is the overall housing affordability issue.
Currently, the loans, term and rate sheets for percentage and market rate designation is under the influence of
one large agency with little to no oversight into the effectiveness of the plan and lacks accountability to any other
agency. It is a grave disservice to the residents of these identified neighborhoods and its perspective workforce,
(which is controlled by oligarchic developers and “pay to play” parties) that such a massive city funded
undertaking lacks an unbiased system of accountability and is being used as a means of forced migration.

I intend on enforcing MIH housing regulations; as well as, instituting an economic investment mandate in
conjunction with union labor and local residents funded in part with rental subsidies for a truly 100% affordable
plan.

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. Affordable housing lottery system (without prejudice) which includes higher MIH percentages to in district residents

regarding all pre-existing and new housing stock

2. Economic Re-Investment and empowerment into the district with a focus on becoming a stakeholder through

Business ownership, Union jobs and Apprenticeship programs

3. Healthy living through the promotion of health education and addressing the socio-economic factors which

Contribute to rising rates of cancers (all forms), infant mortality, death through violence, HIV and obesity.

4. I will Support and promote Womens rights as it pertains to equal pay, reproductive health and affordable child care.

As one of the first women into the heavy duty construction field, I understand the importance of having a healthy workplace with appropriate opportunities for women to excel, not just in the construction field, but on every level from "Blue collar to white collar"

5. Education: It is imperative that the students within my district receive an education that will allow them to be prepared and equipped for the upcoming job markets and global completion. My son received a public school education and has

been excepted into the Schreyer's Honors college at The Penn State school for science to continue his research at finding a cure for osteogenesis imperfecta at 19 years old. It is an opportunity that all of our children should be afforded in life.

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.

A political office is one that should be clearly understood as a position of service. For far too long, Politicians have become a law unto themselves and often represent big business and political alliances while neglecting the very same constituents that have put them in office. I have, throughout my last 27 years, consistently dedicated my life to the up-building and empowerment of the people. As Executive Management of the largest Tier II homeless family shelter whose motto was “we are all a few paychecks from being homeless,” while positioning families into a place of self-sufficiency. As a senior building consultant, addressing the needs of seniors and protecting them from becoming victims. As a PTA president advocating for the youth to have a quality education beyond basic classroom instruction. As a Community Board #16 member representing the community and proposing legislation to protect and economically benefit the residents. As a business consultant who provides free instruction and workshops on how to own and operate your own business. As a woman in trades who paved the way for other women in a male dominated industry. As a recovery center provider that was instrument in the relief efforts for thousands of families and businesses affected by superstorm sandy. As a grass roots organizer and participant assisting people at their basic level of contact. And as a Editor –In – Chief for the first Brownsville, Brooklyn newspaper that set out to engage, encourage and inform the public regarding the issues that are most important to them.

In summation, I can most assuredly affirm that I will uphold the office with integrity and transparency. That it will be my honor to restore trust to the people through effective foundation building that will serve as a blueprint model for all districts. To accept the salary that I receive as complete payment for services, not to be offset with side deals or crooked agreements in search of a payday. I will serve with fairness and implement policies that will truly reflect the desires of my constituents. My political office shall be open and accessible to all, not as a mirage of hope, but as a tangible structure utilizing measurable standards of progress. And I will, At all times, continue to be humble and remember “we are all a few paychecks from being homeless.” and as such, continue to fight for fair housing, above par educational standards for our youth, economic reinvestment into our neighborhoods, women’s rights and opportunity for a quality livelihood.

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.
