



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: Henry L. Butler
 Party Affiliation(s): Democrat Age: 50
 Education: B.A., Hunter College
 Office Sought (including district): City Council, 41st District
 Occupation/Employer: District Manager, Brooklyn Community Board 3, MTA train conductor for 15 years before that.

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement:

Community Board Chair for 5 years before becoming the District Manager, Chair, Industry and Labor committee of the Brooklyn NAACP, President of the Vanguard Independent Democratic Association

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

Campaign Contact Information

Campaign Manager Name: Jenna Klaus Additional Staff Contact: Jonathan Yedin
 Address: 185 Howard Avenue Brooklyn NY 11233
 Telephone: 917 589 7855 Fax:
 Website: HenryButler41stCouncil.com Email: info@henrybutler41stcouncil.com
 Twitter: Facebook: /Butler41stdistrict

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?	Support / <input checked="" 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 / Oppose
3. What is your position on creating a voluntary municipal poll worker program to supplement poll worker recruitment by district leaders?	Support / <input checked="" 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 / 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 / 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 / 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 / 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 reforms that were implemented during the 2014 Council. I support an independent bill drafting process similar to the State Legislature. I also support reforms aimed at making it easier for bills to get a hearing.

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
--	---

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
---	--

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 will work with the coalition of those opposed to a constitutional convention on educating the public about the dangers of a constitutional convention in an effort for it to be defeated at the polls in November.

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. To be as assesible as possible with off-hour and weekend office hours. Mobile office hours in various parts of the district. Hold regular town halls throughout the district. Bring government to the people. I also plan on introducing participatory budgeting which is something we currently do not do in this district.

2. To fight to ensure our public schools have the support and resources they need to provide the best public education possible to our youth. We need to increase college readiness and we need to train those who aren't college bound with the skills and vocational training needed to succeed in the real world.

3. To work with the healthcare community on proactive ways of getting to residents on the benefits of preventative care and cancer screenings so our population can be healthier. Right now, this district has some of the higher rates of asthma, cancer, high-blood pressure, diabeties, and obseity. We need to create a strong public awareness campaign so residents can get healhier.

4. To work with the private sector and the small business administration on bringing good paying and career training services to the district so residents who have been formally incarcerated, veterans, long-term unemployed or those without a high school or college degree can get the training needed to suceed in today's world.

5. To expand programs like Access-a-Ride, SCRIE, DRIE, and preserve, maintain, and create more affordable housing so that those living in the community have the ability to age in the community without being forced out due to rising costs of living. I plan to partner with non-profit developers on creating 100% affordable housing.

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 plan to run a very transparent office that provides the public with my official schedule so they can see who I have met with. I plan on basing my decisions on the merits of each item before me. After 12 years of the same council member, I feel it is important to do a thorough re-evaluation of everything from staff, office location, any pending projects that I may inherit other than just automatically keeping with the status quo. I plan on introducing participatory budgeting to the district which something we currently do not do here.~~

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.