



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: John Quaglione

Party Affiliation(s): Republican Age: 38

Education: American University, Bachelor's of Arts, Political Science

Office Sought (including district): New York City Council District 43

Occupation/Employer: Deputy Chief of Staff and Press Secretary, State Senator Martin J. Golden

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement: 2013 Candidate, NYC Council District 43

Chairman, St. Anselm Catholic Academy Board of Directors, Co-Chair, Brooklyn Committee of the March of Dimes, NY Honorary Chair, American Cancer Society Relay for Life Bay Ridge, Bensonhurst and Dyker Heights

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

Campaign Contact Information

Campaign Manager Name: John Orlando Additional Staff Contact:

Address: 7304-5th Avenue, Box #255, Brooklyn, New York 11209

Telephone: (646) 261-1480 Fax:

Website: www.votejohnq.com Email: jorlando@votejohnq.com

Twitter: @JQuaglione Facebook: John Quaglione for City Council 2017

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

Table with 5 rows of questions regarding voting and elections reform, each with a 'Support / Oppose' response column.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

Table with 2 rows of questions regarding campaign finance reform, each with a 'Support / Oppose' response column.

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 we need a bill drafting commission. We need to ensure that the Council has more democracy, not less and that’s consistent with my platform. The voters elect their Councilmember to take action, not to wait. And by taking action, public debate can occur. But controlling what can get into print as a bill means that those bills never become law and that there will be no public debate on those issues.

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 / Oppose
b. Should committee hearings and votes be scheduled at the direction of the chairs?	Support / Oppose
c. Should committees be able to issue subpoenas by a vote of their members?	Support / 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 / Oppose
10. What is your position on greater disclosure of councilmembers' outside income?	Support / 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?	Support / Oppose
12. What is your position on ensuring a more equitable and needs-based distribution of discretionary funding?	Support / 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?	Support / Oppose
14. What is your position on extending term limits from two four-year terms to three four-year terms?	Support / 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 / 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 / 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?	Support / 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 / Oppose
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 / 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?	Support / Oppose

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BUDGET REFORM

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

I am opposed to a constitutional convention that has the potential to cost taxpayers over \$300 million.

I will proudly stand with the people who I seek to represent, who are part of the labor force, in helping to educate New York's voters of what such a convention would mean to New York State. The State Constitution has a responsibility to care for the needy and provide health care, and any potential erosion of these provisions would be dangerous.

Such a convention also stands to endanger benefits that union workers have earned, and potentially can jeopardize their earned pensions. I do believe that the public integrity and corruption issues that should and must be addressed can be addressed in a different, less costly way, that specifically addresses these and only these, independent from the New York State Legislature.

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?

As the "Preferred" candidate of the Citizens Union in the 2013 NYC Council race for District 43, you can be assured of my support to help end the "pay-to-play" culture that I believe is much a part of City politics.

One suggestion I would make would be to place a cap on the amount of money allowed to be donated to each candidate in total from individuals employed by a specific non-profit or community entity. Therefore, it would help to offset any attempts to circumvent the law by establishing a contribution limit or prohibition on the number of employees, and total amount raised from one not for profit being allowed to donate. This would stifle attempts at bundling and yielding undue influence.

Additionally, I believe that transparency will stop corruption and corruption can only breed where there is no air.

I support a requirement that non profits reveal their contributions but I think we should also take it a step further.

Lobbyists have used their influence with elected officials to provide funding for nonprofits who then pay the lobbyist consulting fees for other services. I think this is wrong and should be ended.

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.

In 2013, I was named the preferred candidate by the Citizens Union in the 2013 City Council race for the 43rd District, and over the past few years, I have successfully improved our community culture and my reputation has grown stronger. My beliefs are aligned with the Citizens Union's; I seek to improve the effectiveness of our government while remaining transparent.

Furthermore, I will work to involve our communities in Brooklyn in our local government. Through one of my initiatives, participatory budgeting, community members can discuss and determine how a portion of our budget is spent. By giving the community real decision-making power, transparency and public trust will only grow.

It is incredibly important to utilize technology to operate efficiently while also remaining transparent. Through my Eyes on the Street program, iPhone cameras and home security footage will be an integral part in keeping our streets, and our people, safe. By using modern technology for anti-crime purposes, the community is directly involved in my initiatives. A decrease in crime and the involvement of our community will build trust in my ability to represent our communities. I firmly believe that an open and accountable government is crucial to the success of democracy.

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. Eyes on the Street: A city-wide photo and video database that calls for greater civilian involvement in cutting crime through the use of modern technology in anti-crime efforts by making iPhones and home security cameras an integral part in keeping the communities safe. A databse provided by civilians could help police stop crime, prevent crime and arrest those responsible for crime.

2. Participatory Budgeting: I will bring Participatory Budgeting to the 43rd Council District. Budget transparency will further involve the community in the decision making process regarding how their tax dollars are spent.

3. Increase the number of police officers assigned to our neighborhood precincts: To truly tackle some of the crimes taking place in our neighborhood, and endangering our quality of life, we need more police officers assigned to the 68th and 62nd precincts. Greater police resources will allow us to solve crimes faster and root out offenses such as commercial burglaries, package thefts, car break-ins and more.

4. Transportation: I will work to increase the number of express buses during morning and evening rush hour, increase express train service, and freeze transit fare hikes. These changes will make transportation more accessible.

5. Senior Assistance: I will work to increase the quality of life for seniors by supporting an increase in funding and income eligibility for both the SCRIE and EPIC programs. Additionally, I will look to create new Senior Housing and support efforts to increase at home services for our elderly.

