



June 14, 2017

Dear Candidate:

Since 1910, Citizens Union has evaluated candidates and published a Voters Directory that provides useful and important information to New Yorkers about candidates' positions on city and statewide issues. With an ongoing desire to ensure that democracy works for all New Yorkers, Citizens Union in 2017 is once again evaluating candidates for municipal races in New York City. Our city government has made improvements since the 2013 elections, however, New Yorkers continue to believe that city government could better serve the broader public interest rather than narrow special interests. To this end, the city must address anti-corruption measures and remaining reform issues like campaign finance, police accountability, and modernizing voter registration and participation.

**As a candidate for New York City Council, we ask that you please complete and return the enclosed questionnaire as soon as possible, and no later than June 28<sup>th</sup>.** Your responses to the candidate questionnaire will be included in our annual Voters Directory and made available on our website. Returning the questionnaire will allow us to inform New Yorkers about your positions on key issues affecting the city. Please email completed questionnaires to [candidates@citizensunion.org](mailto:candidates@citizensunion.org) or via fax to 212-227-0345.

If you wish to be considered by Citizens Union for our designation of "Preferred Candidate" for the Primary Election and "Endorsed Candidate" for the General Election, you must complete this questionnaire and be interviewed by our Local Candidates Committee. To indicate your willingness to be interviewed, please mark the appropriate box on the questionnaire. We will not automatically schedule an interview with you if you return this questionnaire, as we prioritize competitive races, and resources constrain us from evaluating all races. Please contact us if you wish to be interviewed. We also welcome any additional information such as a résumé, campaign brochure, or issue statements.

Support for Citizens Union's reform agenda is the primary criteria used in deciding our support for a candidate. We will also evaluate incumbent elected officials not only on their views of city government reform, but also on how well they fulfilled the promises and commitments made during their last election. We will examine challengers on their support for reform, their ability to be effective city public officials, and the viability of their candidacy.

Please also see the attached document, which outlines the principles and process that guide our evaluation of candidates. This will help you better understand the criteria we use in our analysis of candidates and what you can expect from the process.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact Ethan Geringer-Sameth, Policy and Program Manager, at [egeringer@citizensunion.org](mailto:egeringer@citizensunion.org) or (212) 227-0342 ext. 28. Thank you for your time.

With best wishes,

Handwritten signature of Tony Mattia in black ink.

Tony Mattia  
Co-Chair, Local Candidates Committee

Handwritten signature of Dick Dadey in black ink.

Dick Dadey  
Executive Director

Signature of Candidate: Kris Peter Conrad

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?	Support <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Oppose</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. What is your position on instituting Instant Runoff Voting for all citywide offices and for all special elections for city offices?	<u>Support</u> / Oppose
3. What is your position on creating a voluntary municipal poll worker program to supplement poll worker recruitment by district leaders?	<u>Support</u> / 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?	<u>Support</u> / 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?	<u>Support</u> / 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?	<u>Support</u> / 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)?	<u>Support</u> / 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?

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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?	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 <i>Depends</i>
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

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 / Oppose

**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

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?

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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

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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.

1. *Protect our public school system and propose further projects; be it additions to standing schools or new school construction to address the overcrowding that's systemic.*
2. *Create a council of PTA's as a means to have direct oversight over our schools.*
3. *Make the subway system wheelchair accessible at more stations.*
4. *Protect our parks and the environment.*
5. *Work to create more affordable housing for seniors because too many are being priced out of their homes. Our seniors should be allowed to spend their twilight years living where they want, not where they can afford.*



Citizens Union of the City of New York

I. Policy Questions (long form answers)

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.

**City Council Reform**

8. How do you feel about the reform 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 impartial and constructive input from an independent body is a good thing as long as it remains impartial. If an independent commission can aid City Council in drafting legislation; advise on the constitutionality, consistency or effect of proposed legislation has on city life and not be beholden to special interests. If such a commission can conduct independent research and publish that research while maintaining the documents of the City Council then yes. As long as there's a mechanism in place to assure they are independent.*

**Constitutional Convention**

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 do not support a constitutional convention. I fear that at this time such a convention could have numerous unforeseen consequences because it is essentially a conference to remake the constitution. As a lifelong supporter of unions I think workers rights could easily be targeted in such a conversation.*

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 think there should be a clear demarcation between elected officials and related organizations with whatever necessary means to limit any type of "pay-to-play" culture as it is. I think financial disclosures, and maybe a grace period of four years before a previously elected official can work in an affiliated organization should be mandated by the city. I think the revolving door culture should be shut down.*

**Top Five 2017 Campaign Promises or Goals**

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 the these issues.

Campaign Promises Made To the Voters