



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: Laurie A. Cumbo

Party Affiliation(s): Democrat

Age: 42

Education: Brooklyn Tech (HS) Spelman College (BA) NYU (MA)

Office Sought (including district): City Council (District 35)

Occupation/Employer: New York City Councilmember

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement:

Progressive Association for Political Action (PAPA), Downtown Brooklyn Arts Alliance, Cultural Equity Group, Soul of Brooklyn Consortium, ArtTable, Spelman College Alumni Association, Achieving Leadership's Purpose

Progressive Association for Political Action (PAPA), Downtown Brooklyn Arts Alliance, Cultural

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

Campaign Contact Information

Campaign Manager Name: Ben Ernst

Additional Staff Contact:

Address: 625 Washington Ave

Telephone: 703-328-2457

Fax:

Website: www.Lauriecumbo.com

Email: lauriecumboforbrooklyn@gmail.com

Twitter: @cmlauriecumbo

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/lauriecumbo2017/>

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.)

Signature of Candidate:

Date:

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 / Oppose
2. What is your position on instituting Instant Runoff Voting for all citywide offices and for all special elections for city offices?	Support / Oppose
3. What is your position on creating a voluntary municipal poll worker program to supplement poll worker recruitment by district leaders?	Support / 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?	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?	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?	Support / Oppose Believe in requiring full disclosure and transparency.
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 / 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?

___The reformed bill drafting process has been an important step in the right direction, but am always open to further reform and improvement.

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?	<u>Support</u> / Oppose
22. What is your position on granting the CCRB authority to prosecute officers who lie under oath during the course of their investigations?	<u>Support</u> / Oppose

BUDGET REFORM

23. What is your position on establishing independent budgeting for:	
a. the borough presidents?	<u>Support</u> / Oppose
b. Conflicts of Interest Board?	<u>Support</u> / Oppose
c. the public advocate?	<u>Support</u> / Oppose
d. community boards?	<u>Support</u> / Oppose
24. What is your position on making the budget process more transparent by clearly defining and limiting units of appropriation?	<u>Support</u> / Oppose
25. What is your position on release of revenue projections (other than property taxes) prior to Council hearings on the Executive budget?	<u>Support</u> / 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?	<u>Support</u> / 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?	<u>Support</u> / 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	
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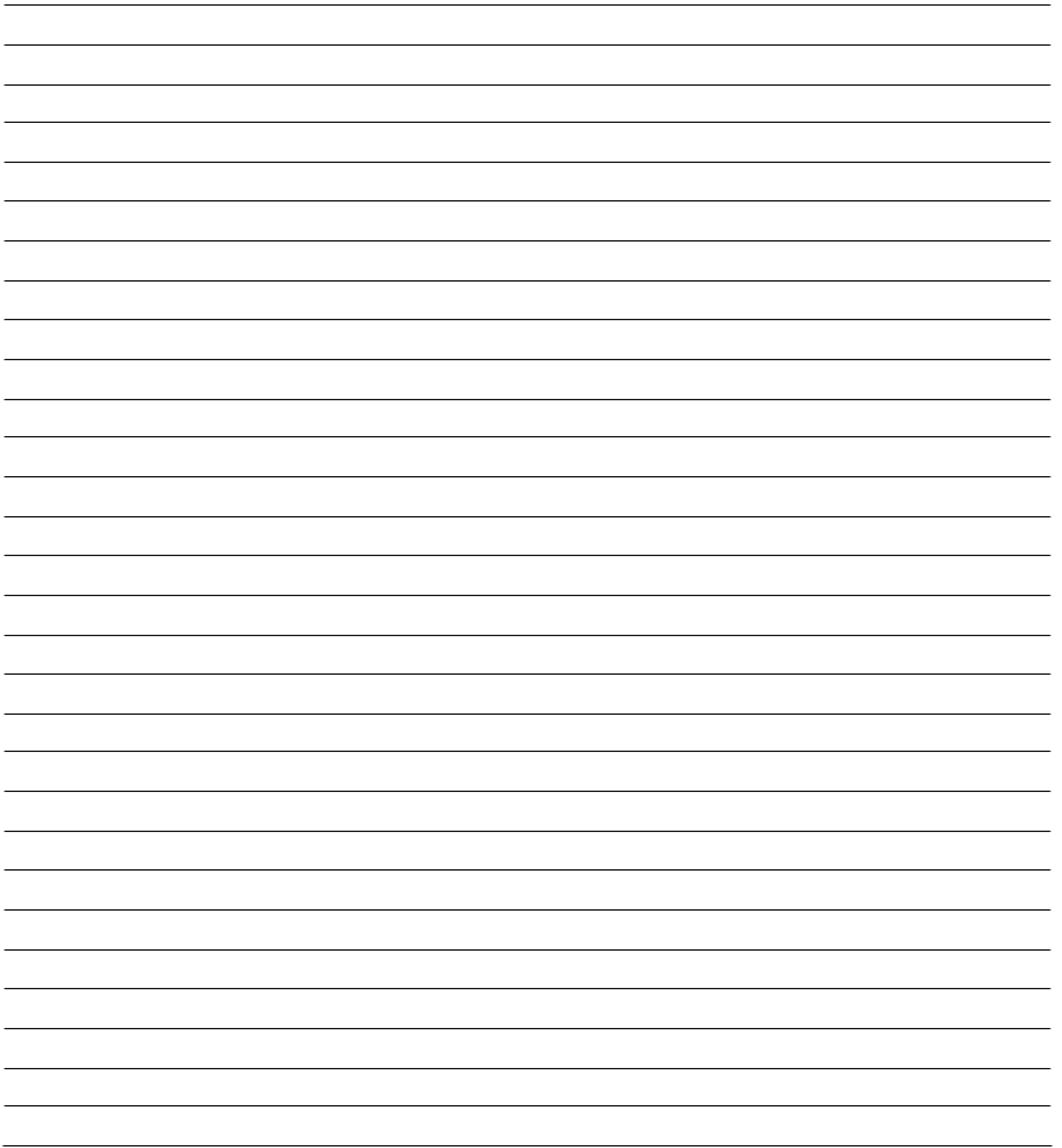
29. If you support the constitutional convention, what actions, if any, will you take to ensure that it takes place? If you oppose the convention, what will you do to defeat it?

_____ I will make my opposition to the constitutional convention known in the community.

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 believe in the reforms recently put in place and the CFB’s mission to root out corruption in our political process.

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.



II. CAMPAIGN PROMISES MADE TO VOTERS (PAST AND CURRENT)

In addition to evaluating stances on the issues above, Citizens Union also assesses incumbents on how well they kept the promises made to voters during the previous election.

As an elected official who is seeking re-election,

- what were the top five promises you made to your constituents when you ran for your current seat and what progress has been made in keeping those promises, and
- what are the top five promises you are making to voters during this campaign?

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 CAMPAIGN PROMISES FROM LAST ELECTION AND ACTION ON THEM

1. Distributing taxpayer dollars equitably and fairly.

Through participatory budgeting, our office has worked to support groups throughout the district in a way that is equitable, democratic and addresses pressing needs.

2. Safety and maintenance for NYCHA residents.

Over the past three and a half years, we have helped deliver millions of dollars for new lighting, security cameras, and recreational facilities for NYCHA residents.

3. Elimination of the budget dance that targets children and seniors.

This Council has worked closely with the Mayor throughout the Preliminary Executive Budget process to identify and come to agreement on new need priorities. The result has been a more progressive, less contentious process than in the past and more transparent budgets.

4. Raising the minimum wage.

Helped lead the Fight for 15 to make the minimum wage a living wage in New York State and continue to advocate for _____ policies like paid family leave that help working families in general and especially the working poor.

5. Creating more community centers in economically challenged communities.

We have worked, and continue to work, to bring new community centers to economically challenged parts of the _____ district and city—whether that is preserving existing senior centers like the 966-972 Grace Agard Harewood Senior Center or supporting centers for NYCHA residents.

TOP FIVE 2017 CAMPAIGN PROMISES OR GOALS

1. Continuing to create more affordable housing throughout the district, improve housing and services for NYCHA residents, and strengthening our rent protection laws to preserve existing affordable housing.

2. Strengthen public schools throughout the district and city, and continue to work to expand pre-K.

3. Preserve vital social services for the most vulnerable, especially our seniors and children.

4. Continue to work to reduce gun violence.

5. Continue to champion issues of special importance to women, including the fight for equal pay, raising awareness and expanding prevention initiatives to stop domestic violence, and protecting every woman's right to choose.

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 will continue as I have for the past three-plus years to put the needs of my constituents first and represent their interests ethically and honestly. And I will continue to support legislation and policies that increase transparency, accountability and responsiveness.

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.