



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 28<sup>th</sup>.** 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: Marti Speranza

Party Affiliation(s): Democratic

Age:

Education: M.B.A, Harvard University; B.A., Economics and Political Science – University of Pennsylvania

Office Sought (including district): City Council District 4

Occupation/Employer: Currently full-time candidate. Formerly: Director of Women Entrepreneurs NYC, Director of Strategic Initiatives for New York City Department of Consumer Affairs, Small Business Owner

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement: Democratic State Committeewoman for the 74th Assembly District, Manhattan Community Board 5, President of Gramercy Stuyvesant Independent Democrats, Community Board 5

Member, Board of Directors Habitat for Humanity NYC, NYC Health + Hospitals Bellevue Community Advisory Board.  
(Please feel free to affix any additional information such as a résumé, campaign brochure, or issue statements.)

**Campaign Contact Information**

Campaign Manager Name: Tracey Diaz

Additional Staff Contact:

Address: 241 5th ave #15, New York, NY 10010

Telephone: (914) 924-1480

Fax: N/A

Website: www.martiforcouncil.com

Email: marti@martisperanza.com; traceyjdz@gmail.com

Twitter: www.twitter.com/MartiSperanzaNY

Facebook: www.facebook.com/MartiSperanzaNY

**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 / 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
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 2014 Rules Reform was undeniably a step in the right direction and the bill drafting unit has streamlined the process of drafting legislation, an important improvement that helps to dispel the notion that bills may be held up because of political will. Ideally the bill drafting unit will be expanded and be able to draft all legislation, like the 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 / 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

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?

I will work with allies to spread the message to voters in op-eds and other outreach.

---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---

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?

Upholding trust in our institutions is extremely important to me. Another way to reduce the perception and/or reality of pay-to-play politics is to prohibit individuals doing business with the city from skirting the doing-business contribution limits by bundling contributions for candidates. Closing this loophole, which seriously undermines the purpose of the doing-business contribution limit, should be a top-priority.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

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.

Please see attached separate sheet at the end of this document.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



## 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. Protect and expand the creation of affordable housing through the use of a Community Land Trust to convert city-owned lots to permanently affordable multi-family housing.  

---

---

---
2. Eliminate the commercial rent tax for small businesses and form a legacy business preservation fund to provide annual financial assistance to qualifying small businesses.  

---

---

---
3. Expand outreach and opportunities for students and families to become more familiar with STEM career paths and programs as early as elementary school and continuing through high school.  

---

---

---
4. Expand local bus service to increase mobility for seniors and people with disabilities and fight for a fair fares subsidy for low-income New Yorkers  

---

---

---
5. Launch a robust outreach campaign to educate seniors about Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE), increase enrollment, and raise the income eligibility threshold to bring more seniors into the program.  

---

---

---

### 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.

To date, over 78% of contributions to my campaign have been from donors contributing \$250 or less and over half of all contributions came from women. I am strongly against taking contributions from real estate developers or lobbyists and I am proud to be participating in the city's Matching Funds program.

If elected, constituents would be my only clients. I have no professional relationships, past or present, that could create conflicts of interest, and I intend to run a responsive office that is always open to dialogue with community members and committed to transparency.

---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---

Please return to: Citizens Union, Local Candidates Committee, 299 Broadway, Suite 700 New York, NY 10007  
Via email to [candidates@citizensunion.org](mailto:candidates@citizensunion.org) or fax to 212.227.0345 • Call us at 212-227-0342 with questions.



### Additional Comments

1. Closed primaries change campaign dynamics for the worse by incentivizing candidates to tailor their messages to primary voters, often the most radical in their party. But open primaries have their problems too, like the threat of tactical voting where one side could try to intentionally nominate a weak candidate. The solution is eliminating primaries altogether and moving to the runoff system described above.
2. Voters should not have to feel as though they are compromising when they cast a ballot. Instant-runoff voting gives people the chance to vote their true preference and ensures that the most popular candidate is ultimately elected.
6. Taxpayer dollars should not be going to lobbyists, especially if they are in the midst of an ongoing effort to influence city or state lawmakers.
7. The full public matching of funds will further level the playing field and create more opportunities for women and minority candidates — those typically less represented in the political process —to run competitive campaigns.
10. Those who earn an outside income should be required to disclose the source, amount, and nature of the work.
11. This exists at the federal level and should also apply to our local government.
16. The perception of corruption can be as damaging as actual corruption. A permanent CCPC with the power to issue subpoenas would strengthen public trust in the NYPD.
17. Victims of misconduct may not feel comfortable making a complaint, or may not even know they have the option at all. I believe a stronger, empowered CCRB would improve the relationship between civilians and police.
24. Council Members need more insight into how the funds within units of appropriation are being spent. Greater transparency in this regard will make the Council more efficient and effective.
26. I believe access to an independent planning consultations (not from Department of City Planning) would be extremely valuable and necessary to help boards navigate the complex land use process.
27. I see no valid reasons why the community board appointment process should be done in a black box.
28. I have concerns that a constitutional convention could affect state pensions, the ability to organize for collective bargaining, public education, and social services. If the measure to convene the convention is passed, it would be extremely difficult to guarantee the parts of the constitution that protect union workers and low-income groups across New York State would remain untouched.

# Viability Memo:

# MARTI SPERANZA

# FOR CITY COUNCIL



**D**emocrat Marti Speranza has the community experience, professional background and in-district support necessary to build a winning campaign for Manhattan's 4th Council District. The district, which is open due to term limits, includes parts of Carnegie Hill, Yorkville, the Upper East Side, Lenox Hill, Sutton Place, Central Park South, Midtown, Midtown East, Turtle Bay, Murray Hill, Kips Bay, Waterside Plaza, Stuy Town and Peter Cooper Village.

With a crowded field, Marti's progressive values and her unique background strongly position her for a successful campaign for the September Democratic Primary.

## A Unique Background, and A Fresh Perspective

**With her private sector, public sector and non-profit experience,** Marti's unique skill set gives her a fresh perspective for the New York City Council.

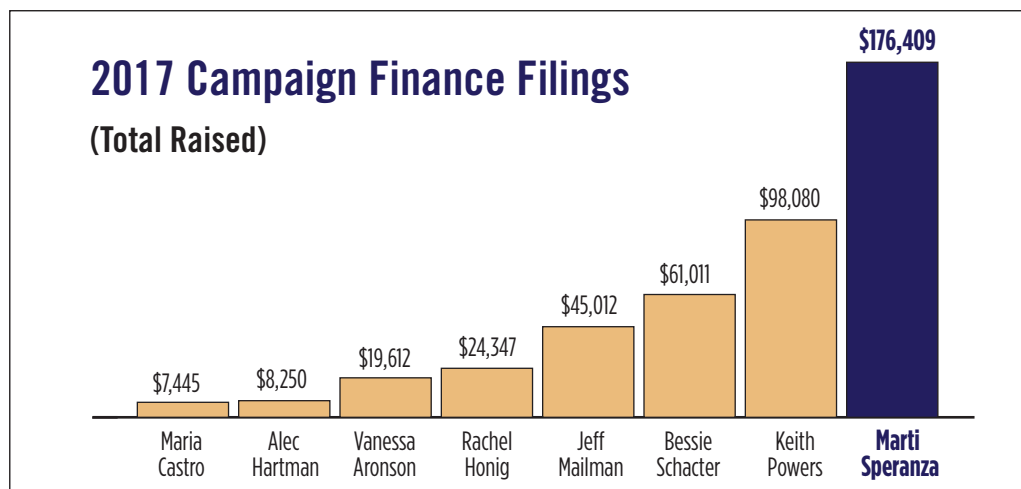
- Marti earned her MBA from Harvard University, where she developed her expertise in fostering and growing small businesses. As a senior manager for a global technology company, Marti oversaw a market development team covering seven countries.
- Marti is a former small business owner, who spent a decade learning the real life difficulties of building and managing a successful small business.
- She protected consumers and low income New Yorkers as Director of Strategic Initiatives for the NYC Department of Consumer Affairs.
- Marti most recently ran Women's Entrepreneurs NYC (WE-NYC), a successful City initiative designed to foster and grow women's businesses across the five boroughs, with a particular focus on providing access to capital and mentorship for low-income women entrepreneurs.

## A History of Women's Advocacy

- **Marti has a lifetime of experience advocating for and empowering women,** from her start as head of her campus NOW Chapter to her recent service as Executive Director of WE NYC.
- **With women leading the resistance to the Trump presidency,** Marti will be strongly positioned to capitalize on this energy in a district whose primary electorate is 62% female.

## Advantages in Field and Fundraising

- **Marti has a history of advocacy and political involvement across the spectrum.** She is the **Democratic State Committeewoman** for the 74th Assembly District; **President of Gramercy Stuyvesant Independent Democrats**; and was appointed by incumbent Council Member Dan Garodnick to be a member of **Community Board 5** where she sits on the Public Safety and Quality of Life Committee and the Fifth Avenue Business Improvement District (BID).
- Marti has significantly outraised her opponents and has more cash on hand following the May financial filings – in a crowded field, **Marti is the only candidate who has completed her fundraising within NYC’s matching funds system – with over 80% of her donations under \$250 and no contributions from corporations or special interest groups.**



- **Marti has already built an unprecedented field program in early 2017;** she has over 30 interns on the ground, is spearheading a successful district wide small business tour, has a large number of volunteers hosting house parties, phone banking, and volunteering. In addition, Marti has personally spoken to (and followed up with) over **3,000 targeted voters** in the district, nearly half of the likely win number.

## Marti's Path To Victory

- With an expected Democratic Primary turnout of **15,000 voters**, Marti will need **6,000 votes** to reach the likely win **threshold of 40%** for a multi-candidate race. With her strong grassroots base, early fundraising advantage, and depth of individual contact with her voters, **Marti is well-positioned to reach an insurmountable lead of 9,000 ID'd supporters before Primary Day.**
- **Marti's Uptown base is the largest percentage of the likely electorate**, while more competitive areas like StuyTown/PCV only represent **20%** of the likely turnout.

Paid for by Marti Speranza for New York City Council  
Printed in-house with donated labor





**MARTI**  
**SPERANZA**  
DEMOCRAT FOR CITY COUNCIL

# Plan for a Livable City



## Affordable Housing

- Create a citywide **Community Land Trust** that will ensure a community-backed model for converting vacant lots into permanently affordable, multi-family, rent-stabilized buildings and low-income cooperative housing.
- Analyze all existing federal, state, and local tax incentives and abatements to identify where there are gaps or additional funds needed to build more affordable units for the individuals and families that need it the most.
- Expand community education and outreach to seniors who qualify to receive The Senior Citizen and/or Disability Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE/DRIE) benefits.



## Small Business

- Form a Legacy Business Preservation Fund to provide qualifying small businesses (including nonprofits) with annual financial assistance. The funds will also provide grants to commercial landlords in exchange for creating 10-year leases with these businesses.
- Amend the administrative code and New York City Charter to allow socially responsible, mission-driven businesses (such as B-Corporations and nonprofit organizations) to better compete for government contracts, similar to the City's MWBE program (which aims to increase the participation of Minority and Women Business Enterprises in the economy through local government contracting).
- Establish a new public-private partnership that provides 1,000 small businesses with free advisory committees comprised of volunteers who are experts in key fields.



## Education

- Create a city-wide after-school financial literacy program to educate high school students about student loans, saving, credit, and budgeting.
- Analyze Department of Education data on race/ethnicity, gender, special education status, English language learner status, and other identifiers for all pre-K children to best integrate UPK and identify opportunities for integrated classrooms.
- Require schools and universities who receive City funding to train staff on how to respond when students experience cyberbullying.



## Meet Marti Speranza

District 4 City Council Candidate Marti Speranza is the former Director of Strategic Initiatives for New York City's Department of Consumer Affairs and leader of a city initiative empowering female entrepreneurs. She is a member of Community Board 5, President of the Gramercy-Stuyvesant Independent Democrats, and a former Democratic State Committee member. Marti's campaign is grounded in conversations with residents to address the issues that most impact our District 4 community.



## Transportation

- Work with the Department of Transportation to quickly identify the best locations for short-term expansion of Select Bus Service on the Upper East Side to reduce congestion on the Lexington line, and expand and protect local bus service to increase mobility for seniors and people with disabilities.
- Hire more bike cops to improve bicycling conditions, safety against careless drivers, and mobility, but also protect pedestrians and seniors from aggressive biking behavior.
- Ensure all public school students are provided with a full fare MetroCard and make reduced fare MetroCards for low-income New Yorkers a reality.



## Seniors + Health

- Establish a public-private partnership to scale senior-focused technology centers like the first-of-its-kind Senior Planet Center, which provides seniors with social connections and education around technology and health.
- Hold Mount Sinai Health System accountable to keep their commitment to expand their facilities, including a new hospital at 13th Street and 2nd Avenue to counter the downsizing Beth Israel at 16th Street and 1st Avenue.
- Bring and expand mobile health clinics that provide preventative care and flu shots to families with small children and seniors.



## Environment

- Support the East Side Coastal Resiliency Project, as long as community needs are addressed, and continue to reinforce our waterfront above 23rd Street, especially Waterside Plaza, with green infrastructure to protect residents against future Sandy events and rising sea levels.
- Enhance the district's green canopy by planting thousands of trees in our parks and neighborhoods.
- Address the air quality and noise concerns with power plants in neighboring districts by working with power plant operators to find appropriate times to release steam and supporting a resolution to call on the State to phase out the harmful number 6 and 4 oils burned at power plants



## Arts + Culture

- Sign onto City Council's City Spaces legislation to create a searchable database of underutilized community and city-owned spaces that can serve as performance and rehearsal spaces.
- Build on existing pilot that exchanges arts workshops for public school students, seniors, and NYCHA residents, for access to rehearsal/performance spaces as advocated by League of Independent Theaters NY (LITNY).
- Work with the many arts advocacy organizations in NYC to fight for the classroom space and funding schools need to provide their students with a rich education in music, drama, visual arts, and dance.

**Visit [MartiforCouncil.com](http://MartiforCouncil.com) to learn more!**