



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: Michael Beltzer
Party Affiliation(s): Democrat Age: 31
Education: BA Sociology and Political Science, SUNY Stony Brook. MBA Finance/Investments, CUNY Baruch
Office Sought (including district): Bronx City Council District 18
Occupation/Employer: Unemployed

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement: Bronx Democratic County Committee Member, Bronx Community Board 9, 43rd Police Precinct Council, Friends of Soundview Park, Discovery for Justice Bronx Progressives (NYPAN Chapter),
(Please feel free to affix any additional information such as a résumé, campaign brochure, or issue statements.)

Campaign Contact Information

Campaign Manager Name: Samelys Lopez Additional Staff Contact:
Address: 213 Husson Ave, Apt 2, Bronx, NY 10473
Telephone: 347-946-2318 Fax:
Website: Beltzer.NYC Email: BeltzerNYC@Gmail.com
Twitter: @BeltzerNYC Facebook: facebook.com/BeltzerNYC

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?

I believe the reforms have allowed for more dialog to occur, but it still seems the speaker has too much control over which bills come up for a vote. I am supportive of a more independent process.

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?

While I am opposed to the convention as a matter of practicality, I will not be pushing my constituents one way or the other. I have been working with local groups such as Bronx Progressives to push to have forums in the community to explain what the convention is and its pros and cons. Frankly, I think it is irresponsible for both sides to have waited so long to educate the public about the convention.

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. Pass a comprehensive Community-Based Plan for Council District 18. I intend to pass a 197-a plan so that we are no longer dealing with spot rezonings. I initiated a community visioning series that engaged almost a thousand residents to hear their goals and dreams for the community, as well as what they would like to see stay and fixed.

2. Increase Public Safety. Council District 18 has a long history of Community-Police relations that include tragedies like Amadou Diallo and most recently Debroah Danner. I am committed to improving relations by expanding the NCO program and working on getting the police to get out of their vehicles and walk the beat. I also will allocate more money for cameras and lighting in the district.

3. Modernizing our Transportation. Over 60% of our district does not have cars and many rely on buses to get around. I will work with DOT and the MTA to install more bus lanes, upgrade lines to SBS and building proper bus stations at key transfer points. I will also push for full shutdown of 6 train to upgrade all signals and install an elevator at Parkchester train station.

4. Participatory Budgeting. Bring PB to the district and increase the amount the community gets to spend.

5. Bring a Higher Education facility to the District. There is no higher education or trade school facility in the district. I intend to change that.

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.

Transparency and accountability or two of the main reasons I am interested in government in the first

place. District 18 has seen its fair share of elected officials betray the public trust, such as Pedro Espada.

The first way I tackle the distrust is to put myself out there and meet people where they are at. Second

I utilize the power of social media to share ideas and information. I intend to run my office in the same manner. I will have an open door and calendar policy. I believe options like live streams for public

meetings can also make the public feel that they are a part of the affairs of the office.

I have consistently made sure to get more people involved in the political process, such as electing

almost a dozen people to local party positions in their own communities. This will allow them to have a voice in making policy, selecting judges and voting in special elections. I did this simply by explaining

the process and showing them how to do it. What drives me is local governance, empowering people to make change on their own. I will continue to do so whether I attain this office or not.

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.