

Biographical Information

Candidate Name: Nancy Tong

Party Affiliation(s): Age: 62

Education: High School

Office Sought (including district): 43<sup>rd</sup> City Council District

Occupation/Employer: Public Relation Director, Assemblyman William Colton District Office

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement:

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

Campaign Contact Information

Campaign Manager Name: William Colton Additional Staff Contact:

Address: 29 Bay 25<sup>th</sup> St, Brooklyn NY 11214

Telephone: 917-889-4278 Fax:

Website: Email: [www.nancytong4council.com](http://www.nancytong4council.com)

Twitter: Facebook: nancy tong for new york city council

Affirmations

Have you completed required campaign finance filings? YES / NO YES

Are you willing to be interviewed by CU's Local Candidates Committee? YES / NO YES

(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 nonpartisan 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 SUPPORT

2. What is your position on instituting Instant Runoff Voting for all citywide offices and for all special elections for city offices? Support / Oppose SUPPORT

3. What is your position on creating a voluntary municipal poll worker program to supplement poll worker recruitment by district leaders?

Support / Oppose SUPPORT

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 SUPPORT

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 SUPPORT

### 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 SUPPORT

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 SUPPORT

### 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 enacted inter 2014 Rules Reform are a step in e right direction, but still more reforms need to be done to establish a true independent bill drafting office. Bill drafting requests are still selective as to which are handled by the new bill drafting unit and which go through the central staff process. All proposed ideas for legislation should go through a non-partisan 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  
SUPPORT

b. Should committee hearings and votes be scheduled at the direction of the chairs? Support / Oppose  
SUPPORT

c. Should committees be able to issue subpoenas by a vote of their members? Support / Oppose  
SUPPORT

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 SUPPORT

10. What is your position on greater disclosure of councilmembers' outside income?

Support / Oppose SUPPORT

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 SUPPORT

12. What is your position on ensuring a more equitable and needs-based distribution of discretionary funding? Support / Oppose SUPPORT

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 SUPPORT

14. What is your position on extending term limits from two four-year terms to three four-year terms?

Support / Oppose 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 SUPPORT

#### 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 SUPPORT

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 SUPPORT

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 SUPPORT

19. What is your position on reinstating the zero tolerance penalty for false official statements by public officers? Support / Oppose SUPPORT

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 SUPPORT

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 SUPPORT

But only to extent it does not divide such incidents by race which is divisive.

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 SUPPORT

Except do not support separating such data by race, which is divisive.

#### BUDGET REFORM

23. What is your position on establishing independent budgeting for:

a. the borough presidents? Support / Oppose SUPPORT

b. Conflicts of Interest Board? Support / Oppose SUPPORT

c. the public advocate? Support / Oppose SUPPORT

d. community boards? Support / Oppose SUPPORT

24. What is your position on making the budget process more transparent by clearly defining and limiting units of appropriation?

Support / Oppose SUPPORT

25. What is your position on release of revenue projections (other than property taxes) prior to Council hearings on the Executive budget?

Support / Oppose SUPPORT

#### 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 SUPPORT

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    SUPPORT

#### 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    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 publicly join with grassroots organizations, community groups, and unions to speak out against it and to mobilize people around the vote against it by making them aware of the danger posed to all our rights if special interests get control of such a convention.

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 has been a growing concern of contributions to political committee that are set up to support the agenda supported by public officials. Many large contributors of these political committees has then been found to receive benefits from the same city government officials whose agenda they have contributed to support. Such committees and those who contribute to them must be subject to strict disclosure. Also there should be disclosure and contribution limits for such political committees and those who contribute to them

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.

Government must be transparent and open to restore people's confidence in government. People who do not believe that voting in an election makes a difference will not vote. My philosophy in public service is that public officials must strive to unite people by stressing the concerns and needs, which together we can fight for. We can unite people to fight for better schools, affordable housing for both low and middle income families (including the elderly and the homeless), public safety where there is strong

enforcement against criminal acts together with preventative measures by expanding recreational and after school, employment, and drug treatment and rehabilitation programs. The District Office I will establish during my term as city council member will provide services to people and bring them together to ensure their needs are met and their problems are solved.

## 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. I will work to expand Universal Pre-K and to resolve the shortage of classroom seats in School Districts 20 and 21. I will fight to obtain more funding for all of our schools, including after school programs.
2. I will continue to oppose the Southwest Brooklyn Garbage Station and protect the quality of our waters in Gravesend Bay. I will continue to fight to protect the environment of the neighborhood by sponsoring cleanup of streets where individuals can volunteer and participate in.
3. I will suggest more affordable housing for middle income and low income families, especially for seniors. I will continue to oppose illegal conversions of small homes into multi-unit boarding houses.
4. I will work to control the opioid crisis in Southern Brooklyn. We need strict enforcement and undercover operations against drug dealers and to provide treatment and rehabilitation of individuals suffering from substance abuse.
5. I will maintain a full service District Office where constituents will be able to get help on their needs and concerns. As Community Relations Director for Assemblymember Colton, I have personally helped over ten thousand constituents over the past 8 years in his District Office. I will establish a District Office, which will offer similar services.

## 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 make a commitment to not accept money from groups or organizations where their contributions come with a contingency for a return of any sort of favor. I will support laws to restrict the amount of contributions which groups could potentially use to lobby. In other words, public interest groups would have a campaign donation limit, thus limiting the use of money from private interest that may work against the wishes of a community. This would include full financial disclosure for groups that act as a political lobby. I believe that public/elected officials must be held to the highest ethical standard by serving the individuals who vote for them instead of the ones who donate to them the most.

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)