



2013

CITIZENS UNION VOTERS DIRECTORY

A NONPARTISAN GUIDE TO INFORMED VOTING

VOTE
PRIMARY ELECTION
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10th

VISIT WWW.CITIZENSUNION.ORG
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION





CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

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?
2. What is your position on instituting Instant Runoff Voting for all citywide offices and for all special elections for city offices? (Int. No. 1066)
3. What is your position on creating a voluntary municipal poll worker program to supplement poll worker recruitment by district leaders? (Int. No. 721)
4. What is your position on requiring city agencies to report the number of applicants that they register to vote as required by current law? (Int. No. 760)
5. What is your position on transmitting electronically voter registration information collected by city agencies to the Board of Elections in the City of New York?
6. 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? (Int. No. 778)
7. What is your position on modifying the City Charter to require that laws enacted by referendum only be changed through approval by the voters?
8. What is your position on expanding the Voter Guide published by the Campaign Finance Board to cover all races occurring in New York City, such as state and federal contests, and providing the opportunity for voters to receive the guide electronically rather than in print form? (Int. No. 769)

Campaign Finance Reform

- 9. What is your position on expanding the Voter Guide published by the Campaign Finance Board to cover all races occurring in New York City, such as state and federal contests, and providing the opportunity for voters to receive the guide electronically rather than in print form? (Int. No. 769)
10. What is your position on banning placement agents from bundling contributions for any elected official who influences the selection of pension investors?
11. 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?
12. What is your position on creating a bill drafting service independent of the Speaker's Office, similar to the New York State Legislature's bill drafting commission?
13. 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?
b. Should committee hearings and votes be scheduled at the direction of the chairs?
c. Should committees be able to issue subpoenas by a vote of their members?
d. Should the number of overall committees be reduced so members can participate more meaningfully in fewer issues?
14. What is your position on greater disclosure of councilmembers' outside income?
15. What is your position on limiting stipends or "lulus" to only members holding majority or minority leadership positions?



CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

- 16. 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?
17. What is your position on ensuring a more equitable and needs-based distribution of discretionary funding?
18. 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?

Public Safety and Oversight of Police Misconduct

- 19. What is your position on reducing the frequency of stop, question and frisks by conducting stops more judiciously?
20. 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?
21. 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?
22. 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?
23. What is your position on reinstating the zero tolerance penalty for false official statements by public officers?

Budget Reform

- 24. What is your position on establishing independent budgeting for:
a. the borough presidents?
b. Conflicts of Interest Board?
c. the public advocate?
d. community boards?
25. What is your position on making the budget process more transparent by clearly defining units of appropriation and limiting their size?
26. What is your position on release of revenue projections (other than property taxes) prior to Council hearings on the Executive budget?

Land Use and Community Board Reform

- 27. What is your position on designating urban planners for use by community boards and requiring borough presidents report to the Council the manner in which they advertise and make community board appointments? (Int. No. 913)
28. 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?



QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES



QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q11	Q12	Q13a	Q13b	Q13c	Q13d	Q14	Q15	Q16	Q17	Q18	Q19	Q20	Q21	Q22	Q23	Q24a	Q24b	Q24c	Q24d	Q25	Q26	Q27	Q28		
BRONX																																				
8/Goodwin	D	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S*		
8/Mark-Viverito^	D	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S		
11/Cohen	D	O	N/A	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	N/A	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S		
11/Stanton	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
15/Alvarez, A.	D	O	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O*	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
15/Batista	D	O	N/A	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	N/A	N/A	S	N/A	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
15/Rivera, J. R.	D	S	S	S	S	N/A	N/A	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
15/Thompkins	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
15/Torres	D	N/A	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	N/A	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
16/Alvarez, P.	D	O	N/A	O	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
16/Gibson	D	O	N/A	N/A	S	S	S	S	N/A	S	N/A	S	S	S	N/A	N/A	S	N/A	N/A	S	N/A	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	N/A	S	N/A	N/A	N/A	
16/Johnson, D.	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	O	S	O	S	S	S	S	O*	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
16/Omotoshio	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
16/Sierra	D	N/A	N/A	S*	N/A	N/A	N/A	S	S	S	S	S*	S	S	S	N/A	S	N/A	S	N/A	S	S	S	S*	S	N/A	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O*	O	
17/Pabon	D	S	S	S	S	S*	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
18/Moore	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
BROOKLYN																																				
33/Levin^	D	N/A	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	O	S*	S	S	S	S*	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S		
33/Pierson	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
34/Reynoso	D	N/A	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	O	O	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		
35/Alabi	D	S	S	S	S	S*	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
35/Cumbo	D	N/A	S	S	S	S*	S	N/A*	S*	S	S	N/A*	S	S	S	O	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	N/A	S	S	S	
35/Fox	D	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
35/Hurley	D	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
36/Corney Jr.	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
36/Waterman	D	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	O	O	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
37/Council	D	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
37/Espinal Jr.	D	S	S	S*	S	S	S	S	N/A	N/A	N/A	S	S	S	N/A	O	O	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
37/Sheikh	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
38/Gonzalez^	D	O	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
38/Menchaca	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
40/Kinard	D	O	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	O	S	S	S	S	O	S	O	O	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	O	S	S
40/Thomas	D	S	N/A	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
45/Williams	D	N/A	N/A	S	S	S	N/A	S	O	S	O	N/A	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	N/A	S	S	S	N/A	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S*
46/Maisel	D	O	S	S	S	N/A	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	N/A	S	N/A	N/A	S	N/A	N/A	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	N/A
46/Narcisse	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
47/Dobrin	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O*	S	O*	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
47/Treyger	D	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
48/Bhushan	D	O	O	S	S	S	S	S	N/A	N/A	N/A*	N/A	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	O*	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
48/Deutsch	D	N/A	N/A	N/A	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	O	O	S	S	O	S	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	O	S	S

KEY: Citizens Union preferred candidates in bold. ^ Incumbent legislator S = Support

O = Oppose N/A = No answer or undecided * = Nuanced answer



QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES



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	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q11	Q12	Q13a	Q13b	Q13c	Q13d	Q14	Q15	Q16	Q17	Q18	Q19	Q20	Q21	Q22	Q23	Q24a	Q24b	Q24c	Q24d	Q25	Q26	Q27	Q28			
BROOKLYN CONTINUED																																					
48/Kagan	D	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
48/Oberman	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S*	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S		
48/Scavo	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	O	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	O	O	O	S	S	S	S	O	O	S	S	S	S	S		
MANHATTAN																																					
1/Chin^	D	S*	N/A	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	N/A	S	S	S	S	N/A	N/A*	S	N/A*	S	N/A*	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S		
3/Johnson, C.	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
3/Kurland	D	S	N/A	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
5/Hartzog	D	O	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
5/Kallos	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
5/Kellner	D	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
6/Biberaj	D	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S*	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	N/A	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
6/Cooper	D	O	S	S	S	S	S	N/A	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	N/A	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
6/Gotbaum	D	O	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S*	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O*	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S*	S	
6/Landis	D	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
6/Rosenthal	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
6/Wymore	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	O	N/A	N/A	N/A	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	N/A	N/A	N/A	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
7/Johnson, J.	D	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	O	S	N/A	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
7/Levine	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
7/Otto	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
7/Ramadan	D	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	O*	O*	O*	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	
7/Sasscer-Burgos	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	S	S	S	S	
8/Goodwin	D	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S*	
8/Mark-Viverito^	D	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
9/Dickens^	D	O	S	O	S	S	S	O	S*	O	O	O	S*	N/A	S	O	O	O	O	N/A	O	N/A*	O*	S	O*	N/A	O	O	O	S*	O*	N/A	S*	N/A	S*	N/A	
QUEENS																																					
19/Duane	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
19/Graziano	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
19/Shafra	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S*	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
19/Vallone	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
27/Caughman	D	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	N/A	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	O	O	O	O	S	S	O	O	S	O	O
27/Flowers	D	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	O	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
27/Mays	D	S	N/A	S	S*	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	N/A	N/A	S	N/A	S	N/A	S	S	S	S	S	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
27/Miller	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S*	S	S	S	S	N/A	N/A	S*	S	S	S	S*	S*	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
27/Peeden	D	N/A	S	S	S	S*	S	S*	S	O	O	O	O	S	S	O	N/A	O	S	S	O	S	S	S*	S*	S	S	S	S	N/A	O	S	S	S	S	S	
27/Vanel	D	S*	N/A	S	S	S	N/A	S	S	S	S	N/A	N/A	S	S	S	S	N/A	S	S	S	S	N/A	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
31/Brown	D	O	S	S	S	O	O	S	O	O	O	S	O	S	O	O	S	O	S	S	S	S	O	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
31/Richards^	D	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
34/Reynoso	D	N/A	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	O	O	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
STATEN ISLAND																																					
50/Mancuso	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S*	N/A	O*	S	O*	S	S	S	N/A*	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
50/Mirocznik	D	O	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	O	S	S	S	S	O	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
50/Matteo	R	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O*	S	O	O	O	O	S	S	S	S*	O	S	S	O	S	O	S	

KEY: Citizens Union preferred candidates in bold. ^ Incumbent legislator S = Support O = Oppose N/A = No answer or undecided * = Nuanced answer



BRONX RACES

BRONX STATE ASSEMBLY RACES

DISTRICT 86 - DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

★ PREFERRED CANDIDATE - VICTOR PICHARDO - DEM ★

Has returned questionnaire, responses available on www.citizensunion.org
Age: 28 Occupation: Community Affairs Director, State Senator Gustavo Rivera;
Education: SUNY Buffalo (BA)

Victor Pichardo has a history of public service ever since he saw first-hand the good elected officials can do, when Senator Schumer helped bring his brother’s murderer to justice. Pichardo is running for office because he has lived his entire life in the district, nothing has changed and the people are being left behind since so many elected officials are being led out of a courtroom in handcuffs. If elected his first priority would be to tackle jobs and education, which go hand in hand, by working with CUNY and labor unions to start a pilot program to train students for civil service jobs. Bringing a business incubator to the Bronx is also a key part of Pichardo’s plan to create jobs. On reform issues he was very passionate on extending pension forfeiture to officials who have been convicted of felonies. Pichardo also supports creating a campaign finance system with public matching funds similar to the Campaign Finance Board model in New York City but with better oversight and enforcement mechanisms. His knowledge of the State Legislature, policy, and reform issues is impressive as is his experience. Therefore, Citizens Union prefers Pichardo’s candidacy in Assembly District 86.

HAILE M. RIVERA - DEM

Has returned questionnaire, responses available on www.citizensunion.org
Age: 36 Occupation: N/A
Education: Hostos Community College (AAS), Lehman College (BA)

Haile Rivera is running for City Council as a fresh, independent voice. He has a long history of community activism in the Bronx, founding the non-profit Hands on New York at the age of 25. Rivera says he is running because he is sick of corrupt establishment politicians that have destroyed public confidence in the district over the past decade. If elected, he will prioritize education reform to increase graduation rates and increase programming for troubled youth. Rivera will also work to solve affordable housing issues and increase the availability of local jobs. On reform issues, Rivera will fight for Per Diem reform and to implement early voting in New York State. On some He has not taken a position on several Citizens Union issues, including the constitutional amendment on redistricting reform. Citizens Union has no doubt that Rivera is a genuine candidate with ambitious plans for his district. However, it is unclear how the hard work that he has done within the community translates to legislation at the state level.

IRIS M. BAEZ - DEM

Has not returned questionnaire
Candidate could not be scheduled for an interview



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KENY A. NUNEZ - DEM

Has not returned questionnaire
Candidate could not be scheduled for an interview

ELIZABETH ORTIZ - DEM

Has not returned questionnaire
Candidate could not be scheduled for an interview

HECTOR RAMIREZ - DEM

Has not returned questionnaire
Candidate could not be scheduled for an interview

YUDELKA TAPIA - DEM

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page XX
Candidate could not be scheduled for an interview

BRONX CITY COUNCIL RACES

For District 8, which contains parts of the Bronx and Manhattan, please see page 60.

DISTRICT 11 - DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

★ PREFERRED CANDIDATE - CLIFFORD STANTON - DEM ★

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 16
Age: 49 Occupation: President, United Snacks Inc.
Education: University of Michigan (BBA)

Clifford Stanton has a long record of service within District 11. Aside from his work as the President of United Snacks Inc., Stanton has championed community initiatives by working to limit restrictions on street vendors through Big Apple Food vendors, and starting a volunteer car service for senior citizens within the district. According to Stanton, his community desperately needs a change in leadership because its current politicians are under-serving their constituents. If elected, he will push for education reform and increased constituent services. On City Council reform issues, Stanton has pledged to implement participatory budgeting and push for merit-based selection of the speaker. He also prioritizes reforming community board appointments in order to bolster their independence. Stanton is also willing to act as a leading independent voice in the Council, pushing for these reforms while clearly understanding the role he can play in the Council. Citizens Union is impressed with Stanton’s ability to follow through on policy goals and his passion for reform. Therefore we prefer Clifford Stanton’s candidacy in the District 11 Democratic primary.



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ANDREW COHEN - DEM, WFP

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 16

Age: 43 Occupation: Attorney, Self-employed; Adjunct Professor, CUNY John Jay College

Education: SUNY New Paltz (degree not reported), Yeshiva University (JD)

Andrew Cohen is an attorney and adjunct professor with a history of activism in community boards. Cohen's roots in the Bronx go back to his eight-year service as Court Attorney to a Bronx Supreme Court Justice. Since then, he has served as chair of the Youth Committee and of the Aging Committee for Bronx Community Board 8. If elected, Cohen promises to make his constituents his number one priority by serving as a full-time Councilmember. Within his district, Cohen hopes to act as an advocate for students and parents to the Department of Education. Regarding reform, he is generally supportive of Citizens Union's platform, but with some exceptions including opposition to non-partisan elections. He supports more equitable and needs-based distribution of discretionary funding, and the implementation of participatory budgeting. While Cohen stated that he himself would not take a lulu, he seemed unwilling to oppose lulus outright. Overall Cohen lacked the willingness to act as a leader on reform issues which his opponent brings to the table.

DISTRICT 15 - DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

★ PREFERRED CANDIDATE - ALBERT ALVAREZ - DEM ★

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 16

Age: 45 Occupation: Chief of Staff, Councilmember Joel Rivera's Office

Education: St. John's University (BS), Syracuse College of Law (JD)

Albert Alvarez has extensive experience in both the non-profit and governmental sectors of his community. He has worked with the Citizen's Committee for New York and established several tenant associations in the district. For the past 12 years he has worked for Councilmember Joel Rivera, most recently serving as his chief of staff. With his experience in tenants' rights, Alvarez will make his first priority housing reform. If elected, he will also push for more green space and better park maintenance in the Bronx. On good governance issues, Alvarez pledges to increase community engagement in District 15 by increasing voter registration and holding more community meetings. He also supports eliminating lulus all together and reforming member item distribution. Citizens Union believes that Alvarez has genuine intentions for his district, and the City Council experience to follow through on his promises, which is why Citizens Union prefers Alvarez.

RAQUEL BATISTA - DEM

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 16

Age: 38 Occupation: N/A

Education: CUNY Law School (JD)

Raquel Batista, who formerly worked with the Legal Defense Fund, says that her background in managing large organizations will make her a successful Councilmember.



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On top of her normal legislative workload at the Legal Defense Fund, Batista marshaled resources to provide immigrants of Northern Manhattan access to legal documents in their native languages. As a daughter of immigrant parents, Batista is devoted to the minorities in her district that she believes do not have equal access to New York City politics. Therefore, Batista will work to ensure voting rights and voter access for immigrants as well as civic engagement in communities of color, especially where the infrastructure for strong minority influence already exists. Other issues that Batista is passionate about include social justice, equality and increased transparency in government. On Citizens Union's issues, she believes in eliminating the stop, question and frisk policy. Batista believes that the Council framework needs to be reworked to include more transparency in the committee process. While she did not take a definitive position on eliminating lulus she stated that she would support changing the overall framework for lulus. Citizens Union believes that Batista is a breath of fresh air but lacks needed experience to serve effectively in the City Council.

JOEL R. RIVERA - DEM, WFP

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 16

Age: 35 Occupation: Bronx Liaison, NYC Comptroller

Education: George Washington University (BA)

Joel R. Rivera, the liaison in the Bronx for the city comptroller, was born and raised in the borough. Previously, he ran for the NYS Assembly in the special election of 2009. Rivera has helped advocate for change in his community by fighting for minimum wage increases and paid sick leave. He has also founded Servicing Our Youth, a program that provides civic education and promotes community activism. Some of Rivera's priorities include implementing a living wage, focusing more resources on the community, and ensuring equality. On reform issues, Rivera's main focus is on reforming the Board of Elections, as he has personal experience with the pitfalls of the system. He would also like poll workers to be better separated from candidates in order to make the overall system fairer for candidates. On discretionary funding, Rivera is in favor of creating a community panel to distribute the funds more equally and provide increased oversight. Rivera emphasizes that he is a community-oriented candidate with the ability and ambition to improve the status quo in the Bronx.

CYNTHIA THOMPCKINS - DEM

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 16

Age: 56 Occupation: Attorney at The Legal Aid Society

Education: JD (name of degree-granting institution not provided)

Cynthia Thompkins is running for office because she continues to have concerns about the condition of her neighborhood. Originally when elected officials were unresponsive to her concerns, Thompkins used her neighborhood ties to take action against violence in Fordham Heights. As an attorney, former president of the 46th Precinct Community Council and the Marion Ave. Neighborhood Association, Thompkins has experience in both legislation and law enforcement. Thompkins' priorities include youth empowerment, bridging the gap



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between community members and the NYPD, and providing increased access to adequate housing. On reform issues, she is passionate about eliminating party primaries and stated that this is one of the keys to reaching the people of the community. She is also a strong advocate for better oversight of discretionary funding to ensure that organizations are actually providing the services they claim to provide within each district. Thompkins has extensive experience within her community and has worked hard to improve conditions but Citizens Union is concerned about her lack of vision for her role as a potential Councilmember.

RITCHIE J. TORRES - DEM, WFP

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 16
Age: 25 Occupation: City Council Aide, Councilmember Vacca
Education: N/A

Ritchie Torres, a longtime staffer for Councilmember James Vacca, states that he wants to be “the change” in City Council. Torres believes that his experience in the City Council along with his record of effective advocacy will make him a successful Councilmember. Torres’ main policy priorities focus on housing, following up on his work with Councilmember Vacca. As Housing Director in District 15, Torres fought landlords and NYCHA to ensure tenant safety and security. Torres also advocated for greater decentralization of City government and re-engagement with the constituents. If elected, he pledges to fight for housing code enforcement and implement participatory budgeting. Concerning reform issues, Torres highlighted procedural reform in the City Council as a priority, but did not specify the steps he would take to implement these reforms. Overall he believes that the district is in need of new leadership and greater transparency but is not specific on how to achieve those goals.

JOEL M. BAUZA - DEM

Has not returned questionnaire
Candidate could not be scheduled for an interview

DISTRICT 16 - DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

★ **PREFERRED CANDIDATE - PEDRO ALVAREZ - DEM** ★

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 16
Age: 48 Occupation: Accountant
Education: N/A

Pedro Alvarez is a 20-year resident of the community that he now seeks to represent. He is one of the founders and the current board chairman of Family Life Academy Charter School. Alvarez has also been active in numerous non-profits, including the American Latin Association of NY and the Department of Youth and Community Development. As a Councilmember, the candidate says he will represent the interests of all of the residents of District 16. For Alvarez, the key issues are education and housing-sector reforms. He advocates a system of co-ops to bolster local businesses and create safer neighborhoods.



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In education, Alvarez hopes to replicate his charter school’s success in the public sphere. He is supportive of Citizens Union’s reform agenda but says that his constituents do not understand the importance of reform. However, Alvarez has an open mind regarding reform and would work to connect reform issues to the problems that his constituents face every day. Alvarez understands and possesses knowledge of policy issues which coupled with his deep connection to the community earns Citizens Union’s preference.

VANESSA L. GIBSON - DEM

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 16
Age: 34 Occupation: Member, NYS Assembly
Education: SUNY Albany (BA), Baruch College (MPA)

Vanessa Gibson, currently the Assemblymember for the 77th Assembly District wants to be part of the change in leadership that is happening on the city level and is looking to have more of an impact on her constituents. She has already established connections, experience and has an understanding of the District 16 which she claims gives her an edge. Her priorities include passing the living wage bill, paid sick leave and creating sustainable green jobs in the Bronx. On reform issues she supports participatory budgeting, more equitable distribution of discretionary funding and early voting, stating that she supports a bill to lower the voting age so more young people can participate in elections. Gibson also advocates for making the City Council less speaker driven by giving chairs of committees more leeway. During her time in the state legislature, Gibson has attempted to close loopholes and limit outside income but stated that she cannot legislate common sense. While she did not have a full understanding of certain reform issues, Gibson seems willing to learn and work towards a more accountable government for New York City.

DARYL L. JOHNSON - DEM

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 16
Age: 42 Occupation: Full-time Candidate
Education: USC Irvine (degree not reported), Cornell University (degree not reported)

Daryl Johnson was born and raised in New York City. Although he began his career in the private sector, working with the Associated Press and Anheuser-Busch, Inc. and MMC, Johnson is a longtime community activist. He has been President of the Morris Avenue Tenants Coalition, a community-based organization representing over 200 families, since 1996. As a Councilmember, Johnson would take an analytical approach to providing for more affordable housing and deterring gun violence in the district. Regarding reform, Johnson will advocate for more equitable and needs-based discretionary funding. He has also pledged to implement participatory budgeting and increase outreach to constituents of all ages and ethnic groups. Citizens Union believes Johnson is a thoughtful reform-minded candidate that would serve the district’s diverse communities very well, but questions his ability to connect effectively with constituents.



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BOLA OMOTOSHO - DEM

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 16

Age: 52 Occupation: Clinical Researcher, Montefiore Medical Center

Education: University of Ife (BS), University of Ife (MD)

Bola Omotosho has been serving his community in the Bronx for over the past 20 years. He has chaired Bronx Community Board 5 as well as the Board of Directors at Mount Hope Housing Company Inc., a non-profit instrumental in housing dozens of struggling families. Omotosho says he is running because he wants to help his community on a larger scale. More than any other issue, Omotosho is passionate about health. He wants to help his community navigate the new Obamacare system before tackling affordable housing and education issues. On reform issues, Omotosho wants to promote transparency and accountability. If elected, he will push for Town Hall-style meetings to distribute discretionary funding and reach out to previously inactive segments of his constituency. Omotosho is a charismatic activist, but his lack of knowledge about the inner workings of the City Council may prove problematic. Citizens Union is concerned about Omotosho's ability to effectively promote legislation, if elected.

CARLOS M. SIERRA- DEM

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 16

Age: 35 Occupation: Community Liaison CUNY Citizenship NOW!

Education: Bronx Community College (AA), Lehman College (BA)

Carlos Sierra is a father of two, running to improve the conditions in his district including sanitation and other problems associated with poverty. Sierra grew up in the district and relates to the problems faced by those in the district. He is currently working on a community survey to pinpoint the issues the community wants addressed immediately. On reform issues Sierra supports reforming the way discretionary funding is distributed in order to bring more resources to his district as well as strengthening the position of Public Advocate. Sierra was very vocal about his disappointment in the term limits overturn, stating that it allowed elected officials to play musical chairs. Citizens Union appreciates Sierra's passion for the community and his independence from the party machine, but believes that his platform is not broad enough to effectively serve in the City Council.

CARLTON BERKLEY - DEM

Has not returned questionnaire

Candidate could not be schedule for an interview



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BROOKLYN DISTRICT ATTORNEY – DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

★ PREFERRED CANDIDATE - KENNETH P. THOMPSON - DEM ★

Has returned questionnaire, responses available at www.citizensunion.org

Age: 47 Occupation: Founding Partner, Thompson Wigdor LLP

Education: John Jay College of Criminal Justice (BA), New York University (JD)

Ken Thompson established and ran his own law firm for 10 years, and was involved in the high-profile cases of Dominique Strauss-Khan and Justin Volpe, the police officer convicted of sodomizing Abner Louima. Thompson is running for district attorney because he believes the Brooklyn DA's office is mismanaged and in crisis. He points to a number of cases which have been mishandled by the office, which Thompson believes are indicative of a trend of seeking victory rather than justice. Those cases include that of David Ranta, who a judge released after 23 years in prison for a crime he did not commit because witnesses were coached by the district attorney's office to choose Ranta out of a lineup. Another mishandled case, according to Thompson, was the prosecution of Darrell Dula, who was indicted despite a rape victim recanting her accusations. Two assistant district attorneys resigned amidst allegations of mishandling exculpatory evidence. Thompson also referenced the case of Jabar Collins, who was found guilty of murder but later determined to be innocent and released after witnesses recanted their testimony. Thompson also cites the ruling of Eastern District Judge Nicholas Garaufis in releasing William Lopez after serving 23 years for a murder he did not commit, which the judge called "rotten from day one" and chastised the trial lawyer for being "overzealous and deceitful." Beyond wrongful convictions and the mishandling of particular cases, Thompson argues Hynes has not brought a public corruption case since 2003, and by being too friendly with politicians has put himself in a position in which he has to recuse himself from cases like Vito Lopez's. Thompson would not recuse unless he has a personal relationship and would keep his distance from political events. Thompson said he would invite the FBI to the DA's office to do training and review public records to actively bring public corruption cases. Thompson also criticizes Hynes for his policies in relation to sex offenders in the Orthodox Jewish community believing that defendants should be identified. He said witnesses and defendants get no such protection in gang cases while sometimes facing violent repercussions for cooperation with the police. He would prosecute witness intimidation and cultivate contacts in the Orthodox Jewish community to ensure sexual abuse is reported. Citizens Union believes Thompson made a compelling case for a change in the office, thoroughly critiquing practices and mishandled cases by the incumbent that raise serious questions about Hynes' ability to lead the office going forward. We therefore prefer Thompson in the primary election.

CHARLES J. HYNES - DEM

Has returned questionnaire, responses available at www.citizensunion.org

Age: 78 Occupation: District Attorney

Education: St. John's University (BA), St. John's University School of Law (JD)

Charles Hynes has held the office of Brooklyn District Attorney for 23 years but believes there remains important work to be done. If re-elected, Hynes wants to expand a number



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of groundbreaking programs he established that are being replicated across the country. One of these is Project Redirect, an alternative sentencing program for gang members that requires community service and academic performance in lieu of a prison sentence. Forty of its 58 participants have graduated school and the government has saved tens of thousands per participant annually. Hynes also wants to expand Community and Law Enforcement Resources Together (ComALERT), which provides wraparound services for parolees including job training and placement, housing support, and assistance with mental illness, among other services. A Harvard professor's study found the program reduced recidivism by half and the \$2,200 cost per participant was far less than the incarceration average of \$64,000. Hynes also wants to resurrect community courts, specifically in Brownsville, because it shows the community justice is being carried out while also providing crime prevention services. On good government issues, Hynes rebuts the criticism that his office did not bring cases against Senators Carl Kruger or John Sampson, noting that he has convicted more elected officials than any other district attorney in history including most notably, Brooklyn Democratic Party Chair Clarence Norman. He also supports the Governor's Public Trust Act. Hynes believes criticism of his policy of not making immediately known defendants in sexual abuse cases in the ultra-Orthodox Jewish community is unwarranted. He notes that successful prosecutions of sexual abuse cases in the ultra-Orthodox community are historically low, and that the Kol Tzedek program created in collaboration with community groups resulted in the arrest of over 80 people before it generated media criticism over shielding the names of defendants. In response to reporting of wrongful convictions by his office, Hynes argues they represent a miniscule fraction of the tens of thousands of cases his office has prosecuted. Hynes, however, concedes a Brady violation in the case of Jabar Collins but disagrees with Eastern District Judge Dora Irizarry that Michael Vecchione, the head of the office's rackets division, was responsible. He points to his open-file discovery policies and the release of 22 defendants for wrongful convictions in demonstrating how his office works well with defense attorneys. Citizens Union believes that while Hynes has established many innovative prisoner reentry and alternative sentencing programs during his career, earning our preference in 2005, there comes a time when change is needed for an office even when held by a long-serving public official with notable successes. That there are questions about too many cases and practices in his office only further informs CU's decision to support Hynes' opponent.

BROOKLYN STATE ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 53 - DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

★ PREFERRED CANDIDATE - JASON OTAÑO - DEM ★

Has returned questionnaire, responses available at www.citizensunion.org

Age: 34 Occupation: Solo Practice Attorney

Education: Fordham University (BA), Fordham Law (JD)

Jason Otaño is seeking office in order to better represent all the corners of his community in Albany and prevent favoritism of certain organizations. His experience as the general counsel for the Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz has equipped



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him with not only knowledge in community issues, but also skills in policy and legal work. As an Assemblymember, Otaño will focus on creating and preserving affordable housing, advancing new jobs and economic development, and improving resources available for teachers and parents in public schools. He believes that his predecessor did not appropriately represent the interests of the district regarding housing and rent regulation, and would seek to ensure that policies are in place to protect affordable housing. As for Citizens Union's reform issues, Otaño supports a campaign finance reform similar to the campaign finance system with public matching funds that already exists at the city level. He believes in greater transparency, specifically the disclosure of outside employment information such as income. Given his experience and relatively reform-minded agenda, Citizens Union believes that Otaño would be an effective and independent representative for his district.

MARITZA DAVILA - DEM

Has not returned questionnaire

Candidate could not be scheduled for an interview

CHARVEY GONZALEZ - DEM

Has not returned questionnaire

Candidate could not be scheduled for an interview

BROOKLYN CITY COUNCIL RACES

DISTRICT 33 - DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

NO PREFERENCE

STEPHEN PIERSON - DEM

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 16

Age: 37 Occupation: Director, Canteen Arts

Education: Brown University (BA)

Stephen Pierson is running because of public integrity issues that have plagued the City Council, and if elected, his primary goal would be to increase transparency. Pierson highlighted reform of discretionary budgeting as his biggest priority, saying that it should be equitable and needs-based, not allocated for political reasons. Denouncing the closed-door manner of the process, he said the public should have a two week period where they can review funding decisions. Beyond reform issues, Pierson expressed concern about development and affordable housing issues in Greenpoint, and support for universal pre-kindergarten education and required LGBT education in schools. Although Pierson supports most of our reform issues, Citizens Union believes he lacks a broader vision for the office beyond taking positions that politically contrast with his opponent. He is, however, a welcome newcomer to the political scene who may be a candidate to watch in subsequent elections.



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STEPHEN LEVIN - DEM

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 16

Age: 32 Occupation: Member, City Council

Education: Brown University (BA)

Steve Levin enjoys representing his diverse district, and believes he gained valuable experience in his first term as Councilmember. Regarding reform issues, he thinks discretionary funding should be allocated according to need rather than through a political process decided by the speaker. Levin supports decentralizing the power in the City Council by establishing an independent bill drafting office, and giving committee chairs more power in hiring staff. Levin also ran a \$1 million participatory budgeting project in his district. Beyond reform issues, Levin's priorities are establishing transparency in the educational budget, replacing the Advantage program for the homeless, which was eliminated, and ensuring parks tied to development along the waterfront in his district are constructed. Citizens Union believes Levin is generally supportive of our reform issues yet has not been a leader on good government issues. His funding Ridgewood Bushwick Senior Citizens Council, which is outside of his district, and his relationship with Vito Lopez, raises additional questions. Councilmember Levin is becoming more reform-minded but he has not yet reached the point of earning our preference.

DISTRICT 34 - DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

★ PREFERRED CANDIDATE - ANTONIO REYNOSO - DEM ★

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 16

Age: 30 Occupation: Full-time candidate

Education: Syracuse University (BA)

Antonio Reynoso is running because he hopes to build a community that offers similar, if not better, opportunities as he received growing up in the district. As a recipient of welfare as a child, Reynoso is proud that he was able to advance himself through education. After working as an organizer, Reynoso last worked for Councilmember Diana Reyna, the incumbent of District 34, as her chief of staff. If elected, he would focus on improving education, public transportation, and housing. Reynoso believes that the Department of Education should use the budget more intelligently and focus on improving graduation rates among high schools. He also argued that substantial revenue can be built from public transportation if more people were to use it. As the founder of the New Kings Democrats, Reynoso regards his agenda as progressive and reform-centered. As for CU issues, he supports diluting the speaker's power by pushing rules reforms, as well as rethinking the role of community boards in government. Citizens Union believes that that Reynoso is very knowledgeable about reform issues and, despite his limited experience, would be a far more effective member of the Council than his better known but ethically challenged opponent.

VITO J. LOPEZ - DEM

Has not returned questionnaire

Candidate could not be scheduled for an interview



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GLADYS SANTIAGO - DEM

Has not returned questionnaire

Candidate could not be scheduled for an interview

HUMBERTO SOTO - DEM

Has not returned questionnaire

Candidate could not be scheduled for an interview

DISTRICT 35 - DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

★ PREFERRED CANDIDATE - EDE FOX - DEM ★

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 16

Age: N/A Occupation: Full-time candidate

Education: Vassar College, Ann Arbor (BA), UCLA (MA)

Ede Fox has served as the chief of staff for Councilmember Jumaane Williams and the legislative and budget Director for Councilmember Melissa Mark-Viverito. She is seeking election to the City Council because she believes the district needs a leader that recognizes the changing dynamic of its neighborhoods and people. She has an insider's perspective on policymaking and the city budget, having worked in the City Council, and is running to institute progressive reforms. If elected, she would dedicate her time to ensuring that the city budget better targets improving education and creating jobs. Regarding reform issues, she supports police reforms such as the Community Safety Act and rules reforms that would reduce the power of the speaker and empower rank-and-file members. Regarding discretionary funds, she believes that while the current system is flawed, it better represents community interests rather than using a system of requests for proposals (RFP). She also supports participatory budgeting as an alternative to the current member item system. Citizens Union believes that Fox would be an effective advocate for reform in the City Council given her past experience, thereby earning our support.

OLANIKE ALABI - DEM

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 16

Age: N/A Occupation: Full-time candidate

Education: Temple University (degree not reported); University of London (degree not reported); School of Industrial & Labor Relations, Cornell University (degree not reported)

Olanike Alabi is dedicated to public service, believes that the public needs leadership it can trust, and wants progress for all. She grew up in the district and has committed herself to helping the community as a member of the community board and as a district leader. She has helped raise money for schools, support food pantries in the area, and organize community forums on subjects such as stop, question, and frisk, housing, and education. Regarding reform issues, Alabi presents a strong stance: she believes that there is a necessity for reform of oversight of the police and the City Board of Elections. She views the Community Safety Act is a step in the right direction, but thinks there is still much more to be done on this issue.



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In terms of election reform, she is in favor of instant runoff voting, and is disturbed by the lack of oversight of the Board of Elections, citing its partisanship as one of the reasons it is ineffective. Housing in District 35 is one of Alabi's greatest concerns; she wants housing that working families can afford and to address crucial issues with public housing. Another key issue that Alabi cited is education. She emphasizes that teachers and students need thorough support and funding. She is devoted to her district and spoke with firm clarity about solving reform issues. While CU has preferred Alabi in the past and still believes she would be a great leader for the district, her opponent had more relevant legislative experience.

LAURIE CUMBO - DEM

*Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 16
Candidate could not be scheduled for an interview*

F. RICHARD HURLEY - DEM

*Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 16
Candidate could not be scheduled for an interview*

JELANI MASHARIKI - DEM

*Has not returned questionnaire
Candidate could not be scheduled for an interview*

DISTRICT 36 - DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

★ PREFERRED CANDIDATE – ROBERT E. CORNEGY JR. - DEM ★

*Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 16
Age: 46 Occupation: Legislative Policy Analyst, NYC Council
Education: BS (name of degree-granting institution not provided); MA (name of degree-granting institution not provided)*

Robert Cornegy, Jr. is a legislative policy analyst for the City Council, working with the Aging and Veterans Committees. He is seeking election to office as a long-time resident of the district who has been a public servant for his community for over ten years. His top priorities include developing small businesses, and assisting entrepreneurs through creating an incubator to provide capital funds. He also would seek to protect seniors in his community to ensure that their property assets are protected, using his experience working on aging issues. In regards to reform issues, Cornegy was supportive of the majority of Citizens Union's issues, and stated that he has worked on reform within the Brooklyn Democratic Party as a District Leader by working on its Rules Committee to eliminate at large seats. On City Council reform, he believes that member items should be distributed after an assessment that determines which communities need resources the most. Cornegy also supports the concept of instant runoff voting, while believing that, in general, more voters should be engaged in the electoral process. Citizens Union prefers Robert Cornegy due to his first-hand experience in the City Council, and his in-depth policy knowledge of important issues impacting his community.



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ROBERT WATERMAN - DEM

*Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 16
Age: 49 Occupation: Pastor, Antioch Baptist Church
Education: Hunter College, CUNY (BA); Drew University (MA)*

Robert Waterman, a pastor for the Antioch Baptist Church, public school teacher for P.S. 5, and member of Brooklyn Community Board 3, is running in response to his disappointment with city government. As a teacher, he has provided youth programs through his school and church without government funding. Waterman's top priorities include improving education by eliminating the co-location of charter and public schools. He also proposed improving access to health care in the event of hospital closings through clinics to prevent a gap in service. In regards to reform issues, Waterman supports reforming mayoral control to ensure that communities have a greater voice, but opposed changes to ensuring that public matching funds are not provided where there is a potential for pay-to-play to occur. While Citizens Union believes that Waterman is a sincere, grassroots candidate, he lacked the specific knowledge of issues and policy experience that his opponent possessed.

KIRSTEN JOHN FOY - DEM

*Has not returned questionnaire
Candidate could not be scheduled for an interview*

REGINALD SWINEY - DEM

*Has not returned questionnaire
Candidate could not be scheduled for an interview*

CONRAD B. TILLARD - DEM

*Has not returned questionnaire
Candidate could not be scheduled for an interview*

DISTRICT 37 - DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

★ PREFERRED CANDIDATE - KIMBERLY COUNCIL - DEM ★

*Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 16
Age: 41 Occupation: Reference Librarian, Sullivan & Cromwell LLP
Education: North Carolina Central University (BA); Pratt Institute (MS)*

Kimberly Council is seeking election in order to empower her community and create a more equitable distribution of resources through the district. As a minister and librarian at a law firm, she has experience in both community organizing and legal research. She hopes to use these experiences to improve affordable housing, small businesses, and public education, which she cites as the foundation to better public safety for the community and brighter futures for children. In regards to CU issues, she supports charter reform, equality in discretionary funding, participatory budgeting, and strengthening the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB). Although new to politics, Citizens Union believes that



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Council presents a strong, independent, and knowledgeable campaign and understands the importance of partnerships in achieving policy goals. Moreover, Citizens Union believes her composed and detail-oriented manner would make her a valuable asset in the City Council, earning our preference.

RAFAEL ESPINAL JR. - DEM

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 16

Age: 29 Occupation: Member, NYS Assembly

Education: North Carolina Central University (BA); Pratt Institute (MS)

Rafael Espinal, Jr., currently the Assemblymember for District 54, is running in order to more directly impact the community. As someone who grew up in the district, Espinal emphasized the significance of creating a better environment for youth. He also cited his key issues as improving public safety, creating affordable housing, and developing better infrastructure in schools. Regarding public safety, Espinal expressed the need for a balance between decreasing gun violence and fair, just police conduct. When asked about reform issues, however, Citizens Union believed that he was unfamiliar with issues apart from his support for non-partisan elections.

HELAL SHEIKH - DEM

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 16

Age: 39 Occupation: Public School Teacher

Education: City Tech (BA); Brooklyn College (MS)

Helal Sheikh is running for City Council to better represent the South Asian community. Although he is not involved in community and non-profit organizations, he believes he is actively serving the public through his job as a public school teacher. Moreover, he believes that average citizens, rather than those involved in politics, should run for office. Sheikh hopes to stand as an independent voice from political influences, focusing instead on creating affordable housing, increasing school funding, and supporting small businesses. While his intentions seemed honorable, Citizens Union believes that he was unaware of reform issues and lacked a full understanding of the needs of his community beyond education.

HERIBERTO MATEO - DEM

Has not returned questionnaire

Candidate could not be scheduled for an interview

DISTRICT 38 - DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

★ PREFERRED CANDIDATE - CARLOS MENCHACA - DEM ★

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 16

Age: 32 Occupation: Full-time candidate

Education: Jesuit University of San Francisco (BA)

Carlos Menchaca believes his success in life is due in part to the government assistance he received, and wants to serve because he believes government can help others



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as it did him. He gained experience in public service by working in the Brooklyn Borough President's Office and in coordinating volunteers in Red Hook to provide assistance in response to Hurricane Sandy. On reform issues, Menchaca believes public matching funds should not be used to pay for lobbying services. He supports instant runoff voting to make elections more efficient. He believes the City Council should be made more decentralized by creating an independent bill drafting office, and changing the way that discretionary funds are allocated so distribution is based on need and community input. Beyond reform issues, Menchaca wants to provide further relief in response to Hurricane Sandy. He seeks to alleviate overcrowding in schools, particularly in Sunset Park, create a recreational area along the waterfront in addition to industrial jobs. Citizens Union believes Menchaca is articulate and thoughtful on reform issues. He is an engaging candidate who would emphasize reform if elected. He earns our preference.

SARA M. GONZALEZ - DEM

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 16

Age: 64 Occupation: Member, New York City Council

Education: College of Staten Island (degree not listed); Columbia University (degree not listed)

Sara M. Gonzalez is running for her third City Council term because she wants to give her district the funding that it deserves and complete projects she started. Regarding reform issues, Gonzalez cites stop, question, and frisk as her most important issue, believing her district is especially affected by these stops. She supports passage of the Community Safety Act. She stated that the City Council and the Board of Elections need to be reformed, but did not provide any specific proposals for changing either. She stated that in retrospect she would not vote for extending term limits as she did in 2008. Within her district, she said that reducing class size, enhancing services and aid for immigrants, and creating more affordable housing are priorities. Gonzalez lacked knowledge of Citizens Union's reform agenda, and therefore we do not believe she would advocate for reform during a third term in office.

DISTRICT 45 - DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

★ PREFERRED CANDIDATE - JUMAANE D. WILLIAMS - DEM ★

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 16

Age: 37 Occupation: Member, New York City Council

Education: Brooklyn College (BA); Brooklyn College (MS)

Jumaane Williams is seeking a second term to finish what he was unable to accomplish during his first term. He hopes to continue serving the community by highlighting issues that have been steadily ignored, as he had done before being elected serving as a housing organizer. If re-elected, Williams plans to prioritize public safety by improving policing on the streets, as well as refocusing his efforts on providing better access to education. In terms of public safety, he believes that the police should not be the only agency working to improve safety and address gun violence. Rather, the community should target the root of the problem and access mental health agencies or education programs to help with preventing future violence. Regarding Citizens Union's reform issues, he supports an even distribution



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of discretionary funding, and has implemented participatory budgeting in his district. He is also committed to reforming the rules of the City Council, and has begun discussions with his colleagues in the City Council in that regard. He hopes to raise the bar for integrity for all members, in addition to changing the culture of the City Council to ensure members are more independent in their actions. Williams has also developed a package of reforms to the City Charter to improve the balance of power in city government. Citizens Union believes that Williams is genuine in his support for a reform-minded legislative agenda, and will be an effective and passionate advocate for our issues. He once again earns our support.

JEAN H. SIMILIEN - DEM

Has not returned questionnaire

Candidate could not be scheduled for an interview

GODWIN B. WILLIAMS - DEM

Has not returned questionnaire

Candidate could not be scheduled for an interview

DISTRICT 46 - DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

★ PREFERRED CANDIDATE - ALAN MAISEL - DEM ★

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 16

Age: N/A Occupation: Member, NYS Assembly

Education: N/A

Alan Maisel has spent seven years as the Assemblymember of District 59, which overlaps considerably with Council District 46. Before his election to the State Assembly, he worked significantly with the Board of Education. He is seeking office because he feels Albany is isolated from his community, and he prefers working more directly with constituents on their issues. His primary issues include improving the system of public education and better handling waste management and recycling. Maisel supports many of Citizens Union's issues, though acknowledged that they have not been a past focus of his. On discretionary funding, he believed there should be more balance and equality but did not express support for needs-based allocation of resources funding. Maisel also supports fuller disclosure of public officials' outside income. Citizens Union believes that Maisel would be an effective representative for his community, given his policy knowledge and experience, and would provide an open door to further discussions about reform. CU prefers Maisel.

MERCEDES NARCISSE - DEM

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 16

Age: N/A Occupation: Full-time candidate

Education: N/A

Mercedes Narcisse, a registered nurse, community activist, and small business owner, is seeking office to enhance the community's engagement with politics and government.



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Her principal concerns include creating jobs, improving education, and protecting the environment in her district. Narcisse stated that she would introduce legislation to provide assistance for small businesses, though had not fully developed the scope of the proposal. While her passion for the families in her community was tangible, she was unfamiliar with Citizens Union's priorities and values, as well as the policy process.

DISTRICT 47 - DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

★ PREFERRED CANDIDATE - TODD DOBRIN - DEM ★

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 16

Age: N/A Occupation: Full-time candidate

Education: SUNY Oneonta (BS), Electrical Construction SUNY (AOS)

Todd Dobrin, a passionate community activist, is seeking office to target budget resources for his community, ensure greater committee oversight, and focus on land use issues in the district, where he was born and raised. His primary issues are improving the conditions of infrastructure, jobs, and public safety following Hurricane Sandy. Dobrin was particularly concerned about crime and quality of life issues in New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) buildings in his district. As a public housing resident growing up, he believes strongly that money should more efficiently allocated, and has performed budget analyses regarding redistribution of funds. While he believes in Citizens Union's goals of government transparency, he is skeptical of how effective election reforms, such as nonpartisan elections and instant runoff voting, will increase turnout. Dobrin supports reforming the discretionary funding process to ensure that it is more needs-based and equal. Citizens Union believes that Dobrin would be an effective advocate for his community, and was impressed by his forthright demeanor and practicality in how he would achieve his goals. CU prefers Dobrin.

MARK TREYGER - DEM

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 16

Age: N/A Occupation: Full-time candidate

Education: N/A

Mark Treyger has had significant experience in community relations, having worked on constituent services in Assemblymember William Colton's office. Treyger has also served a full time teacher. From stopping violence in public high schools to restructuring the waste transfer and incineration process, Treyger has a variety of experience on policy issues. One of his primary issues is to restore the infrastructure and living conditions of the Coney Island part of his district. He believes that discretionary funding is not the most democratic form of distributing funds, and supports creating a more equitable process for allocation to members of the City Council. Treyger opposes nonpartisan, top-two elections because he believes that it would allow wealthier candidates to have greater influence over elections. While Citizens Union believes that Treyger would be an effective advocate for his community and has a



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good grasp of reform issues, as well as the political process, we believed his opponent was more appealing as a grassroots voice for his community.

DISTRICT 48 - DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

★ PREFERRED CANDIDATE - ARI KAGAN – DEM ★

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 16

Age: 46 Occupation: Journalist, Democratic District Leader for 45th Assembly

Education: Baruch College, Zicklin School of Business (degree not reported)

Ari Kagan, a journalist, community activist, and previous aide to both former Congressman Michael McMahon and Comptroller John Liu, is seeking office to make sure every community is represented in the district. His top issues include improving hurricane-stricken infrastructure and helping small businesses. In regards to CU priorities, he supports a more democratic City Council with fewer committees, needs-based funding for member items, and a better system for hiring poll workers.

He has run for office twice--in 2006, CU preferred him for the State Assembly, which he lost by a very small margin, and just last year, he defeated an incumbent district leader with 62% of the vote.

As a journalist for an ethnic paper, Kagan believes he is at an advantage because he knows how to leverage ethnic media to push for his causes. Moreover, he has varied support from more well-known organizations such as 1199 SEIU and UFT and individuals such as NYC Comptroller John Liu and Congressman Hakeem Jeffries. CU felt that he was passionate and reform-minded and his strong support from both the community and institutions were noteworthy gaining our preference.

CHAIM DEUTSCH - DEM

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 16

Age: N/A Occupation: Real Estate; Part-time candidate

Education: N/A

Chaim Deutsch is a dedicated community activist and has worked as a City Council aide, mostly under Michael Nelson, since 1996. He is currently seeking office in order to more effectively impact the community. His top issues include helping senior citizens, improving the education system, and developing the waterfront infrastructure. While he was very passionate about constituent services and community relationships, CU felt that he had little knowledge of reform issues in general. He supported a strong speaker's position



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and thought that empowering individual Councilmembers would create chaos and nothing would get accomplished.

IGOR OBERMAN – DEM

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 18

Age: 40 Occupation: Administrative Law Judge

Education: Brooklyn College (BA), New York Law School (JD)

Igor Oberman is seeking office because as a judge in litigation, board president of a co-op, and aide to borough president Marty Markowitz, he has both the legal and budgeting experience necessarily to effectively serve the community. His top issues include developing hurricane preparation, pushing for rules reform, and improving public education. In regards to CU issues, he displayed a depth of understanding in discretionary funding issues and supports a formula-based system of distribution. He has also been endorsed by the Progressive Caucus Alliance, an organization centered on progressive reform policy. In addition to other significant endorsements and support Oberman has raised a significant amount of money in very little. While CU felt that he was not as knowledgeable about reform issues as Kagan, he is seen as someone who could serve effectively in the Council.

THERESA SCAVO - DEM

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 18

Age: 61 Occupation: Chair of Community Board 15

Education: BA, MS

Theresa Scavo, currently the chair of Brooklyn Community Board 15, is seeking office because she is passionate about improving the lives of her constituents and understands the issues on the ground level. Her top priorities lie in improving senior center services, zoning issues, and children's education. In addition to her dedication to constituent services, she expressed strong opposition to corruption such as nepotism in the leadership of community boards. Yet apart from revamping the structure of the community boards and nonpartisan primaries, she showed very little knowledge of CU's other key reform issues. Moreover, there were questions raised about the validity of her campaign, given that she raised over \$100,000 and yet was running a one-woman campaign. While she would be a powerful advocate for causes she supports, her lack of knowledge regarding reform issues prevents Citizens Union from offering full support.

NATRAJ BUSHNAN - DEM

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 18

Candidate could not be scheduled for an interview



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MANHATTAN BOROUGH PRESIDENT - DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

★ PREFERRED CANDIDATE - GALE BREWER - DEM ★

Has returned questionnaire, responses available at www.citizensunion.org

Age: 62 Occupation: City Councilmember, District 6

Education: Harvard's Kennedy School of Government (MPA)

Gale Brewer is a three-term Councilmember from Manhattan's 6th Council District, and one of four very qualified candidates in this race. During her time in office, Brewer has championed a number of causes, including legislation that was recently enacted into law mandating paid sick leave for over 1 million New Yorkers. Brewer has made a career in government, previously working as chief of staff under former Councilmember Ruth Messinger, Deputy Public Advocate for Intergovernmental Affairs, and Director of the Mayor's Federal Office under former Mayor David Dinkins. Brewer has also been a teacher of Urban Planning at Barnard College and a number of CUNY schools. She has a strong record on government reform and transparency, having worked with Citizens Union to introduce and enact into law the city's landmark Open Data Law, which requires all public data housed by city agencies to be posted online in user friendly formats. As the chair of the City Council's Committees on Technology and Governmental Operations, Brewer used her position to conduct important oversight of the City Board of Elections and hold hearings on transparency and needed election reforms. Brewer has also been the prime sponsor of legislation to implement instant runoff voting for citywide offices and special elections. Brewer demonstrated a clear and pragmatic understanding of the role of the Office of Manhattan Borough President and how to leverage that position to effect meaningful change in the areas of land use and community board reform. In order to address citywide issues, Brewer has pledged to work collaboratively with other borough presidents. Citizens Union believes that Brewer's years of experience achieving results in city government will provide her important insight into how best to use the office to conduct oversight of city agencies through the borough board and borough services cabinet. Brewer has a proven track record on reform and a lifetime dedication to service to the benefit of the public interest. Citizens Union prefers Gale Brewer.

ROBERT JACKSON – DEM

Has returned questionnaire, responses available at www.citizensunion.org

Age: 62 Occupation: City Councilmember, 7th District

Education: SUNY, New Paltz (BA)

Robert Jackson, one of four very qualified candidates in this race, has served as representative for City Council District 7 for the past twelve years. In that capacity, Jackson has chaired the Education Committee and co-chaired the Black, Latino and Asian Caucus. Previously, Jackson was instrumental as the lead plaintiff in a landmark lawsuit that brought needed additional funding to New York City's public schools, the Campaign for Fiscal Equity. He has made creating jobs, additional educational opportunities and affordable housing the center of his campaign. He intends to use the Manhattan Borough President's advisory capacity through the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure to advocate for more



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equitable development. Jackson is a longtime, effective advocate for his community. Further, Jackson is a supporter of Citizens Union's issues and has previously co-sponsored legislation we favor in the area of election reform. Citizens Union believes that Jackson would effectively continue his long career of community advocacy if elected Manhattan Borough President and would be an effective office holder.

JESSICA LAPPIN - DEM

Has returned questionnaire, responses available at www.citizensunion.org

Age: 38 Occupation: City Councilmember, 5th District

Education: Georgetown (degree not reported)

Jessica Lappin is a two-term Councilmember, representing City Council District 5. During her tenure, Lappin successfully brought five new schools to her district to help alleviate school overcrowding and wrote a landmark law regulating crisis pregnancy centers. Further, in her capacity as chair of the City Council Aging Committee, Lappin has fought to protect social programs such as Meals on Wheels and senior centers. She expressed support for all of Citizens Union's reform positions and demonstrated a clear plan for empowering and reforming community boards. Further, Lappin had a clear vision for how to ensure that communities are empowered through the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure, believing that 197-a plans should be more effectively used throughout the entire borough. Regarding reforming the land use review process in the City Charter, Lappin did not have specific ideas, but supports the forming of a Charter Revision Commission to achieve this goal. Citizens Union believes that Jessica Lappin is a dedicated and effective public servant who is very creative and holds many ideas. Citizens Union is impressed by her depth of knowledge on a variety of policy issues given her relatively shorter tenure in office, but believes that another candidate brings a longer track record and more experience.

JULIE MENIN – DEM

Has returned questionnaire, responses available at www.citizensunion.org

Age: 45 Occupation: Former Chair, Community Board 1 Chair

Education: Political Science, Columbia University (BA), Northwestern University School of Law (JD)

Julie Menin, one of four very qualified candidates in this race, entered into public service in the wake of the September 11 attacks, which destroyed her business and forced her family's evacuation from their downtown apartment. Menin founded Wall Street Rising, a leading community group dedicated to representing residents and local businesses before insurance companies. She later joined Manhattan Community Board 1, serving as its chair for seven years. Currently, she sits on the boards of the National 9/11 Memorial & Museum and the Municipal Art Society. Menin envisions using the office of Manhattan Borough President to implement a master plan which would serve as a roadmap for sustainable and equitable development for the entire borough through the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure. A strong supporter of Citizens Union's reform agenda, who once sat on Citizens Union's board, Menin promises to use participatory budgeting to distribute capital funds and implement greater transparency of the office of Borough President as well as community boards' operations. Citizens Union believes that Menin presents an important and compelling vision for the office of Manhattan Borough



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President, and is impressed with her long-term thinking and past record of standing up for issues that she believes in, whether or not they have been politically popular or advantageous. We believe that the borough would be well served should she be elected, but believe that the successful track record of CU's preferred candidate outpaces her energy and appealing vision.

MANHATTAN CITY COUNCIL RACES

DISTRICT 3 – DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

★ PREFERRED CANDIDATE - COREY JOHNSON - DEM ★

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 18
Age: 31 Occupation: LGBT Marketing, Sydell Group
Education: Masconomet High School

Corey Johnson is a LGBT activist and marketing professional. Johnson moved to Chelsea 12 years ago, following a New York Times article detailing his uplifting “coming-out” story in a small town in Massachusetts in which he was the captain of his high school football team. He quickly became active in local politics; he has been on Manhattan Community Board 4 for eight years, serving as co-chair for the past two. Johnson is also involved with a number of community organizations, namely the Hudson Yards Development Corporation, Moynihan Station Community Advisory Committee, and the Council of Chelsea Block Associations. Johnson is concerned with keeping his district affordable for residents. Johnson will pursue a greater amount of affordable housing, as well as fight for a higher living wage standard in the city. Johnson’s positions on affordability displayed an impressive degree of awareness about not simply district issues, but also those facing the entire city. Johnson was enthusiastic about all of Citizens Unions reform positions, in particular rules reform in the City Council. Given his record of successful civic engagement, familiarity with City Council functions, and support for reform, Citizens Union prefers Corey Johnson.

YETTA KURLAND – DEM

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 18
Age: 45 Occupation: Attorney, Kurland Group
Education: Women’s Studies, SUNY-Buffalo (BA), US-Asian Studies, SUNY Buffalo (MA), Brooklyn Law (JD)

Yetta Kurland has been serving her community as a civil liberties attorney at her private practice, the Kurland Group. Through her firm, Kurland has represented numerous members and groups from the LGBT community over the past decade. In addition, Kurland is an Executive Committee member of the National Lawyers Guild. She has been a vocal supporter for the creation of a hospital to replace St. Vincent’s Hospital, working with the Coalition for a New Village Hospital. Kurland supports all of Citizens Union’s policies on Council reform, and had strong philosophical support for our issues where she was less familiar with details. If elected, Kurland would undoubtedly be a strong advocate for her district, yet she lacked



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the larger vision for New York City that her opponent displayed. Citizens Union believes that Yetta Kurland is a dedicated civic leader, and believes she will one day win election to office.

DISTRICT 5 – DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

★ PREFERRED CANDIDATE - BENJAMIN KALLOS - DEM ★

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 18
Age: 32 Occupation: Technology Leader, CivicActions.org
Education: SUNY Albany (degree not reported), SUNY Buffalo (JD)

Benjamin Kallos has made his career in good government. He is former Executive Director of the New Roosevelt Initiative, currently known as EffectiveNY, an organization geared towards state constitutional reform. Kallos has worked under Public Advocate Mark Green and Assemblymember Jonathan Bing on similar reform-minded initiatives. His platform aligns very closely with that of Citizens Union. Specifically, Kallos wants to increase transparency by making more information on the City Council available online, including outside income disclosures. Kallos would also ensure that the city’s landmark Open Data Law is fully implemented, using his oversight role in the City Council to monitor agency compliance. He also supports election reforms such as instituting instant runoff voting for citywide elections, and would utilize participatory budgeting if elected to distribute member items in his district. Beyond good government issues, Kallos opposes the construction of the marine waste transfer plant on East 91st Street and suggests eliminating the need for its construction with increased recycling and a broader plan for waste management for the city. Citizens Union believes that Kallos will be a strong voice for reform in the City Council, and that with in-depth policy knowledge on our issues, he earns our preference.

MICAH KELLNER - DEM

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 18
Age: 34 Occupation: Member, NYS Assembly
Education: New York University (BFA)

Micah Kellner currently is the Assemblymember for District 65. During his tenure, Kellner has helped reduce school overcrowding by bringing three new elementary schools to the East Side, and has been a vocal proponent of gun control and marriage equality. Kellner prioritizes middle class issues and believes in policies that will bolster existing infrastructure for the future. For the candidate, this means reforming property tax laws, strengthening uniformed services, and opposing the construction of the East 91st Street marine waste transfer plant. On reform issues, Kellner supports the majority of Citizens Union’s agenda, with particular emphasis on eliminating lulus and reforming discretionary funding distribution. He has refused a lulu at the state level, and pledges to do the same if elected. Citizens Union is deeply concerned, however, with the sexual harassment allegations surrounding Kellner’s tenure in the assembly. We believe that with these serious charges we cannot support him for this office.



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EDWARD HARTZOG – DEM

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 18

Age: 50 Occupation: Executive Director, Kids Voting NYC

Education: N/A

Edward Hartzog is a relative newcomer to New York City politics. Since moving to New York, he has served as the executive director of Kids Voting NYC, an affiliate of Kids Voting USA, and on Manhattan Community Board 8. Hartzog is running to solve the rampant over-development problem he sees in his district. According to him, residents who must bear the burdens of development projects rarely benefit from any community service efforts made by the developer to offset these burdens. For this reason, Hartzog wants to limit development and increase access to open and green space. Like his opponents, Hartzog is opposed to the placement of the marine waste transfer plant on East 91st Street. First and foremost, his priority is land use reform. He, however, lacked knowledge of other reform issues and, thus, of Citizens Union’s City Council rules reform agenda.

DISTRICT 6 – DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

★ PREFERRED CANDIDATE - MEL WYMORE - DEM ★

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 18

Age: 51 Occupation: Full-time volunteer

Education: University of Arizona (BS), University of Arizona (MS)

Mel Wymore has been active in community issues on the Upper West Side for over a decade. He is a two-time chair of Manhattan Community Board 7, where he has served for 17 years. According to Wymore, his background in systems engineering has helped him develop the analytical and practical tools to find long-term solutions for the community. Some of Wymore’s most successful projects include negotiating a new 800-student school at Riverside Center and raising \$15 million to restore the 59th Street Recreation Center. Within District 6, Wymore prioritizes providing more affordable housing to bridge inequality, pushing for greener living, and enriching community gains from limited development. The candidate exhibits a thorough understanding of the City Council, the land use process, and Citizens Union’s reform agenda. If elected, he will advocate for more needs-based allocation of member items and seek to empower rank-and-file members in the City Council, while ensuring the integrity of the institution as an appropriate counterbalance to the mayor. Wymore demonstrated a sophisticated knowledge of committee processes from his work on Community Board 7, which would inform his ability to seek reforms at the City Council. Citizens Union finds that Wymore is a reform-minded consensus builder with an independent voice. For these reasons, Mel Wymore is our preferred candidate for the District 6 Democratic primary.



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KEN BIBERAJ - DEM

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 18

Age: 33 Occupation: Vice President, The Russian Tea Room

Education: American University (BA), Harvard Kennedy School (MA), New York Law School (JD)

Ken Biberaj believes that his mix of business and civic experience make him an ideal candidate for the City Council. Prior to joining the family business at the Russian Tea Room, Biberaj worked as the Florida State Research Director for John Kerry’s presidential campaign. Biberaj also works with the Culinary Council of the Food Bank of New York. He advocates for greater efficiency and responsibility in government through partnerships with business groups. Biberaj wants to see burdensome regulations reduced on small businesses to spur economic and job growth in the city. On reform issues, Biberaj demonstrated support for the majority of Citizens Union’s issues through his questionnaire. However, Biberaj did not show in-depth knowledge of our issues or of the operations of the City Council. While Citizens Union believes that Ken Biberaj is committed to raising the quality of life for citizens of his district, he lacked the political expertise of other candidates in the district.

DEBRA COOPER - DEM

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 18

Age: N/A Occupation: Democratic State Committeewoman, Assembly District 67, Corcoran Salesperson

Education: Brandeis University (BA), Boston College (MA), CUNY Graduate Center (Ph.D Matriculate)

Debra Cooper is an experienced democratic advocate. For the past seven years, she has served as the Democratic State Committeewoman for Assembly District 67. Previously, Cooper has served on a number of boards, including NARAL Pro-Choice NY, the Progressive Congress Foundation and Action Fund, and the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue. Cooper is extremely knowledgeable regarding legislative advocacy in New York, at both the city and state levels. Her primary policy focus has been on women’s issues, namely choice and equality. However, Cooper did not appear fully informed regarding Citizens Union’s reform issues. While supportive of many of Citizen’s Union policy positions, Cooper differs on a few key issues, namely opposition to nonpartisan top-two elections and requiring that laws enacted by referendum only be changed through approval by the voters. Citizens Union believes that Debra Cooper would be a dedicated and effective member of the Council, but lacks familiarity and interest for Citizens Union’s issues.

NOAH GOTBAUM - DEM

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 18

Age: 53 Occupation: Managing Member, New Spirit Capital, LLC

Education: Amherst College (BA), Yale University (MBA)

Noah Gotbaum is a long-time activist in District 6. He is a founder of New York Cares, one of the country’s largest volunteer organizations. According to Gotbaum, he is running to give those people who are traditionally under-represented a voice in policy-making. His children attend public school in the district and Gotbaum is the president of District 3



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Community Education Council. Regarding education, he advocates for better budgeting and more transparency, so that parents and teachers can regain control of their schools. On Citizens Union’s reforms, Gotbaum favors changing the City Council Rules to limit the power of the speaker and reforming discretionary funding distribution. He has also pledged to institute participatory budgeting in his district. However, Gotbaum lacked the clear vision for achieving his goals that other candidates in the race presented.

MARC LANDIS - DEM, WFP

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 18

Age: 50 Occupation: Attorney, Phillips Nizer LLP

Education: Princeton University (AB), University of Pennsylvania (JD), New York University (LL.M.)

Marc Landis has a commendable track record of legal advocacy and civic engagement. He formerly served as vice-chair of Manhattan Community Board 7, chaired the NYC chapter of Citizen Action of New York, and was honored by both Manhattan Legal Services and Legal Services of New York for his pro bono work on behalf of low income tenants. Landis presents himself as a reform candidate, and is planning to join the Progressive Caucus if elected. The candidate has an impressive grasp of Citizens Union’s reform goals, in particular City Council rules reforms. Landis supports the overwhelming majority of our issues, including advocating for the end of the speaker’s arbitrary control over discretionary funding. While Citizens Union believes that Landis would be an effective representative for his community, we believe that other candidates in the race had the potential for more long-term thinking and independence.

HELEN ROSENTHAL - DEM

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 18

Age: 52 Occupation: Chair of the Board, ParentJobNet

Education: Michigan State University (BA), Public Health at Yale School of Medicine (MA)

Helen Rosenthal has a robust background in civic engagement. Rosenthal oversaw New York City’s healthcare budget for nine years as Assistant Director at the New York City Office of Management and Budget. Additionally, she has been a member of Manhattan Community Board 7 since 2001, twice serving as its chair. Rosenthal believes that her first-hand understanding of the city budget sets her apart from her competitors and will enable her to adeptly advocate from greater fiscal transparency. Given her passion on the issue and her professional experience, Rosenthal is perhaps the candidate best equipped to reform the city budget. She expressed support for the entirety for Citizens Union’s reform agenda. Citizens Union believes that because Helen Rosenthal is a smart advocate of fiscal reform in the city, she would make an effective public servant if elected.

AARON BRAUNSTEIN - DEM

Has not returned questionnaire

Candidate could not be scheduled for an interview



MANHATTAN RACES

DISTRICT 7 - DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

★ PREFERRED CANDIDATE - MARK LEVINE – DEM ★

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 18

Age: 44 Occupation: Non-profit Consultant

Education: Haverford College and University of Seville (BA), Harvard Kennedy School of Government (MA)

Mark Levine has an extensive background in community activism and politics. He started his career as a bilingual math and science teacher in the Bronx and has since opened Neighborhood Trust, a local credit union, to help low-income individuals obtain loans. He also demonstrates a thorough knowledge of city politics, influenced by his involvement with Manhattan Community Board 12 and his previous state senate run. If elected, Levine will advocate for universal pre-K and better legal assistance for tenants in housing court. City Council reform issues are also central to Levine’s platform. Sick of the back-room dealing and horse-trading he sees in City Council politics, Levine says that he is running to make government more transparent and accountable to its constituents. He believes in ensuring merit-based selection of the next speaker, providing for more equitable and needs-based distribution of discretionary funding, and implementing participatory budgeting. Citizens Union’s reform agenda coincides with Levine’s very closely. He has clear plans of action for implementing his campaign promises and his connections to existing political structures help make him a strong candidate. For his ambition, preparedness and commitment to reform, Citizens Union prefers Mark Levine.

JOYCE JOHNSON – DEM

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 18

Age: N/A Occupation: Organizational Consultant

Education: Howard University (BS)

Joyce Johnson is an experienced businesswoman and community advocate. She has worked her way up in both the private and public sectors, serving as National Director of Equal Employment Opportunity for Joseph E. Seagram and Sons Inc. and, later, in leadership positions for the New York City Comptroller and New York City School Chancellor. Johnson is also the current Democratic District Leader in the 69th Assembly District. As a Councilmember, she would advocate for more affordable housing and try to increase political engagement in her constituents. Regarding reform, Johnson supports many of Citizens Union’s issues, including City Council reform, and strongly supports reducing the number of committees to increase efficiency and ensuring more needs-based distribution of discretionary funding. While Johnson is an effective manager and has relevant knowledge of city government, she lacked the political insight and passion for Citizens Union’s issues that was demonstrated by our preferred candidate in this competitive field.



MANHATTAN RACES

MARK OTTO – DEM

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 18
Age: 32 Occupation: Assistant Principal, Facing History School
Education: SUNY New Paltz (BA), New York University (MA)

Mark Otto presented a deep passion and commitment to his community. Otto is an Assistant Principal at the Facing History School, which he helped establish more than eight years ago. Since announcing his bid for City Council, Otto has delved deeply into the most entrenched problems in his district. He firmly opposes the city’s stop, question, and frisk policy, asserting that it destroys public trust, particularly within African-American and Latino communities. As an educator, he is also concerned with police presence in city schools. Through his work with parents and students at the Facing History School, Otto has also committed himself to increasing access to affordable housing, defending tenants’ rights, and increasing resources for LGBT homeless youth. On City Council reform issues, Otto supports reducing the quantity of committees as well as pushing for a more equitable and needs-based distribution of discretionary funding. Citizens Union is very impressed with Otto’s commitment and sees great potential in his candidacy. However, his lack of political experience or knowledge of the inner workings of the City Council may prove limiting. Although we do not prefer his candidacy, we hope that we will continue to see his name in city politics.

ZEAD RAMADAN – DEM

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 18
Age: 46 Occupation: Owner, X-Caffe
Education: State University of New York at Stony Brook (BA)

Zead Ramadan is an active, and longtime, participant in the community he now seeks to represent. He has previously chaired Manhattan Community Board 12, the Council on American-Islamic Relations, acted as founding chair to the Malcolm X & Dr. Betty Shabazz Memorial and Education Center and the Northern Manhattan Arts Alliance, as well as numerous other community organizations. Ramadan is well-informed on the issues facing both the city and the district. Ramadan believes that, due to concerns over racial profiling, infringement of civil liberties, and ineffectiveness, the Police Department should no longer practice stop, question, and frisk. His views on City Council reform are largely in line with those of Citizen’s Union; Ramadan supports instant runoff voting and proposes a needs-based distribution of discretionary funding. He is open to nonpartisan elections, though expressed opposition on his candidate questionnaire. Ramadan believes that his strong ties to business, community, and religious groups in the district make him a viable candidate for office. Citizens Union considers Ramadan a knowledgeable and dedicated candidate, with an in-depth understanding of both good government issues and his district. In this competitive field, however, he lacks the in-depth political knowledge and commitment to reform issues of our preferred candidate.



MANHATTAN RACES

DAVID SASSCER-BURGOS – DEM

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 18
Age: 49 Occupation: Vice President of Project and Development Services, Jones Lang LaSalle
Education: Georgia Institute of Technology (BA), Columbia Business School (MBA)

David Sasscer-Burgos has a background in civic engagement, both as an adult English as a Second Language teacher and as chairman of the Visionary Media Organization. His professional career has focused on project management of green, LEED certified development. Sasscer-Burgos decided to run for office after feeling disenfranchised during the 2013 redistricting process. The candidate has made sustainable development a priority of his campaign, particularly affordable housing that incorporates green design. Sasscer-Burgos seemed receptive to Citizens Unions reform agenda, yet lacked in-depth knowledge of reform issues and the operations of the City Council. As a new comer to politics, Sasscer-Burgos lacks the political insight of other candidates in this field necessary for achieving his goal, though presented a compelling vision for his issues.

ALICIA BARKSDALE - DEM

Has not returned questionnaire
Candidate could not be scheduled for an interview

BRODIE ENOCH - DEM

Has not returned questionnaire
Candidate could not be scheduled for an interview

MANUEL LANTINGUA - DEM

Has not returned questionnaire
Candidate could not be scheduled for an interview

LUIS TEJADA - DEM

Has not returned questionnaire
Candidate could not be scheduled for an interview

RUBEN DARIO VARGAS - DEM

Has not returned questionnaire
Candidate could not be scheduled for an interview



MANHATTAN RACES

DISTRICT 8 – DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

★ PREFERRED CANDIDATE - MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO - DEM ★

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 18

Age: N/A Occupation: Member, NYC Council

Education: Columbia College (BA), Baruch College (MPA)

Melissa Mark-Viverito is an accomplished legislator on the City Council and a proven advocate of progressive and reform-minded policies. Prior to her election to the City Council in 2005, Mark-Viverito was a member of Manhattan Community Board 11, the President of Mujeres del Barrio, and an organizer with SEIU local 1199. She believes that housing is a top priority in her district; the 8th district has the highest percentage of NYCHA subsidized housing in the city. Mark-Viverito supports the majority of Citizens Union’s reform agenda. During her tenure on the City Council, the candidate has co-sponsored a number of bills that Citizens Union favors, including one that would increase compliance with New York City’s Pro-Voter law. Additionally, Mark-Viverito has utilized participatory budgeting in her district for distributing a portion of her capital funds. Owing to her track record of reform-minded advocacy, as well as impressive achievements in her district, Citizens Union prefers Melissa Mark-Viverito in the primary election.

GWEN GOODWIN - DEM

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 18

Age: 52 Occupation: Make-Up Artist

Education: College (Degree and degree-granting institution not reported)

Gwen Goodwin is a community activist in East Harlem. Goodwin stressed her community ties, having grown up and now currently living in the district she seeks to represent. She is running because she feels disillusioned with the current representation of their district. Goodwin has a history of local advocacy; she previously served as chair of the Coalition to Save P.S. 109 and as a member of the Business and Residents Alliance. Education and Housing are central to Goodwin’s campaign. She wants to end the New York City Housing Authority’s operating deficit through institutional reform and increased taxes on high-income earners. Further, Goodwin wants to increase the number of public schools in her district. She is in favor conceptually nearly all of Citizens Unions reform position, though she did not appear to have an in-depth understanding of the proposals or of the operations of the City Council. While Citizens Union believes that Gwen Goodwin is sincere in her desire to advocate for her community, her lack of familiarity with Council operations and with issues outside of her district raises questions as to her ability to legislate effectively.

RALINA CARDONA - DEM

Has not returned questionnaire

Candidate could not be scheduled for an interview



MANHATTAN RACES

SEAN GARDNER - DEM

Has not returned questionnaire

Candidate could not be scheduled for an interview

TAMIKA HUMPHREYS - DEM

Has not returned questionnaire

Candidate could not be scheduled for an interview

EDWARD SANTOS - DEM

Has not returned questionnaire

Candidate could not be scheduled for an interview

DISTRICT 9 – DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

NO PREFERENCE

INEZ DICKENS - DEM

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 18

Age: 63 Occupation: Member, NYC Council

Education: New York University (degree not reported); Howard University (degree not reported)

Inez Dickens is the current incumbent for Council District 9, having been first elected in 2005. Dickens is running because she would like to continue the progress she has made on projects in her district, in particular for capital improvements. Her top priorities include securing funding for health care facilities and parks within her district, specifically for Harlem Hospital, Marcus Garvey Park and Morningside Park. Regarding Citizens Union’s reform priorities, while she does not support all of our reforms, such as campaign finance reforms to address issues of pay-to-play, she supports increasing oversight of campaign finance filings to ensure that abuses of public funds do not occur. While Dickens supports the continuation of stop, question and frisk, she believes that its implementation has been flawed, and supports community policing as an additional means of improving relationships between communities and the police. Regarding budget reforms, Dickens believes that the contracting process is in need of reform, though she supports the current member item allocation system. While Citizens Union believes that Dickens would continue to be an effective representative for her district, her lack of support for many of our issues, including rules reforms and ensuring a more equitable needs-based approach to member item allocation prevents us from preferring her candidacy.

VINCENT MORGAN - DEM

Has not returned questionnaire

Candidate could not be scheduled for an interview



QUEENS RACES

QUEENS BOROUGH PRESIDENT - DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

Please note that Tony Avella is still on the ballot, but has since dropped out of the race.

★ PREFERRED CANDIDATE - MELINDA KATZ - DEM ★

Has returned questionnaire, responses available at www.citizensunion.org

Age: 47 Occupation: Attorney, Greenburg Traurig

Education: University of Massachusetts (BA); St. John's University School of Law (JD)

Melinda Katz currently is an attorney at Greenburg Traurig, and is seeking election as she wants to return to public service to serve the borough with which she has long been engaged. She previously served in the City Council and the State Assembly and was the director of community boards from 1999-2002 in the Queens Borough President's Office. During her tenure in the City Council, Katz was the chair of the Land Use Committee for 8 years. Katz is a supporter of reform, and she hopes to change the budget process, increase transparency in the office, and create a more uniform set of rules guiding the various community boards. More specifically, she wants to put capital and expense funding online to make the system more transparent, give the borough president office more independence in terms of budgeting, and utilize Section 197-a of the City Charter to give the citizens a greater voice in establishing plans for community development. Another priority of hers is to increase diversity on community boards by encouraging more people to apply for appointed positions. Reform issues aside, Katz would create a war-room to improve education by increasing the number of schools and reducing overcrowding. Additionally, Katz wants to create more jobs by converting Long Island City into a mini technology hub. Though Katz has sewed up the political establishment support, it is because of her ability to work effectively with many different interests and groups. Given her collaborative approach, wide experience in elected office, vision for the office, and support for CU's agenda, she has earned our support over another appealing candidate in the race.

PETER VALLONE JR. - DEM

Has returned questionnaire, responses available at www.citizensunion.org

Age: 52 Occupation: Member, NYC Council

Education: Fordham University (BA); Fordham University (JD)

Peter Vallone Jr. has been in the City Council representing District 22 for 12 years and is seeking election because he wants to extend the work he has done in Astoria to the larger Queens community. Claiming that working in public service is in his blood, Vallone believes he would be an effective advocate for the borough. Vallone knows that the office of borough president is what one makes of it; accordingly, he said he would "be an advocate for the borough similar to Marty Markowitz, be heavily involved in legislation like Ruben Diaz, and produce policy papers and studies similar to Scott Stringer." With experience in the private sector, Vallone believes he is different than his Democratic opponents. His top reform issues are reforming the discretionary funding system, prohibiting non-profits from receiving government funds unless they are proven and established, appointing independent



QUEENS RACES

community board leaders, and ensuring that borough commissioners of city agencies attend borough board meetings. Beyond reform issues, Vallone intends to increase the size of the police force, improve the economy by focusing on job development, and dedicate resources to the Hurricane Sandy rebuilding process. An independent voice, Vallone has proven he is a strong supporter of our issues, as he introduced a bill to the City Council to empower the borough president to require the appearance of borough commissioners of city agencies for monthly interagency meetings. He demonstrated his independence and had his discretionary funding slashed when he opposed the renaming of the Queensboro Bridge in honor of Ed Koch. Vallone has stood up for our issues; however, Citizens Union feels he needed to have a stronger and more appealing vision for the borough president's office.

EVERLY D. BROWN - DEM

Has not returned questionnaire

Candidate could not be scheduled for an interview

DISTRICT 19 - DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

★ PREFERRED CANDIDATE - AUSTIN SHAFRAN - DEM ★

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 18

Age: 33 Occupation: Full-time candidate

Education: Queens College, CUNY (BA)

Austin Shafran has significant experience working at all levels of government, as a staffer for a member of Congress, as a spokesperson for the New York State Senate Democratic conference, and as Vice President for the NYS Economic Development Corporation. Shafran is very well-versed on the issues facing the city and the district, and has put forth a detailed reform plan to enhance public confidence in the City Council. The plan calls for equal distribution of discretionary funding, banning Councilmembers from earning outside income and barring consultants from lobbying family members and other candidates they help elect. He further supports instant runoff voting for citywide offices and believes Councilmembers' staff allocations should be more equitable. Shafran is also concerned about overdevelopment in the district and overcrowding in area schools. Shafran believes he can leverage his experience in government to achieve reform. Citizens Union believes Shafran is thoughtful, knowledgeable, and has an in-depth understanding of good government issues and therefore prefers his candidacy.

JOHN F. DUANE - DEM

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 18

Age: 59 Occupation: Attorney-at-Law

Education: Colgate University (BA), Columbia Law School (JD)

John F. Duane, an attorney-at-law, believes that his run for the City Council is the culmination of his career in public service, pointing to his years of serving on community organizations and in the State Assembly from 1982-84. On reform issues, Duane is an



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advocate for non-partisan elections, specifically a “top-two” system in which all candidates and voters participate in the first round of voting. He also supports instant runoff voting. If elected, he plans to reform City Council discretionary funding by creating a discretionary spending oversight board to monitor how discretionary funds are allotted to various causes, making sure that funds are spent properly. He is further committed to serving as a full time Councilmember, and will not earn income from another job. Aside from reform, education is a priority for Duane. He believes that organizing parents is key to solving myriad issues within our education system, and that the city should step in to make up for the shortfall in state funding. Additionally, Duane wants to make it easier for veterans to identify and apply for government programs that can benefit them.

PAUL GRAZIANO - DEM

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 18

Age: 42 Occupation: Urban Planning/Historic Preservation Consultant

Education: University of Massachusetts at Amherst (BA), Hunter College (MS)

Paul Graziano is an urban planning consultant who once worked for Councilmember and now State Senator Tony Avella and has lived in the district for his entire life. Graziano is very knowledgeable about development issues and seeks to reform the city’s Department of Buildings which he called “a disaster.” He wants to abolish self-certification and “as-of-right” development and believes offices other than the mayoralty should make appointments to the Board of Standards and Appeals, which he believes has interpreted precedent to the benefit of developers. He opposes mayoral control of schools and wants to return to governance via the Board of Elections. He backs instant runoff voting and will not take a lulu if elected to the City Council. Citizens Union was impressed with Graziano’s intellect and knowledge of development issues, but believes other candidates in this competitive and qualified field have a greater breadth of support.

PAUL VALLONE - DEM

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 18

Age: 46 Occupation: Attorney, Vallone and Vallone LLP

Education: Queens College CUNY (BA)

Paul Vallone, the brother of Councilmember Peter Vallone and former Council Speaker Peter Vallone Sr., has extensive ties to the district where he has lived for twenty years. He has served on two community boards, coached sports teams, created scholarship programs, and been an active member of the local parish. On reform issues, Vallone laments that in the City Council, “whoever is in the ‘in’ club, gets” and wants to create greater equity in the distribution of discretionary funding. He also believes a majority committee vote should send a bill to the next meeting of the entire City Council. He committed to being a full-time Councilmember and stated that he would no longer handle clients at his firm if elected. Beyond reform, his top priorities include maintaining the quality of life and safety of the district that has attracted families to the area. He also wants to reduce school overcrowding



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and help small businesses through more public-private partnerships. Citizens Union admires Vallone’s connections to the community. While he has ideas for reform, he has not fleshed them out as much as other candidates in a very qualified and competitive field.

CHRIS VOSKERICHIAN - DEM

Has not returned questionnaire

Candidate could not be scheduled for an interview

DISTRICT 27 - DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

★ PREFERRED CANDIDATE - CLYDE VANEL - DEM ★

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 18

Age: 39 Occupation: Attorney, Vanel Law Firm, Trademarkready.com

Education: BS (name of degree-granting institution not provided); Boston University (JD)

Clyde Vanel, an attorney and an entrepreneur, has previously run for office in 2009, 2010, and 2012. With the Council passing legislation to increase term limits in 2008, Vanel decided to run against incumbent Leroy Comrie in City Council District 27. Although only receiving 38% of the vote, Vanel claims he learned a lot from this campaign and established a solid voting base in southeastern Queens. With a genuine interest in government reform and a focus on opening the democratic process, Vanel seemed to have a keen interest in supporting our agenda. His top reform issue is election reform including recruiting municipal workers to serve as poll workers, early voting, modernizing poll books and addressing long lines at the polls. He also supports participatory budgeting, and wants to create a new system for allocating discretionary funding. Aside from reform, Vanel wants to focus on jobs, education, and creating better community programs throughout southeastern Queens. Despite entering the race later than many of his opponents, Vanel has fared well in terms of fundraising so far and he claims to have a strong grassroots campaign that will be a vital factor in his campaign. Citizens Union feels that Vanel is thoughtful and committed to government reform. We therefore prefer him in this race.

JOAN FLOWERS - DEM

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 18

Age: 65 Occupation: Lawyer, Small Business Owner

Education: St. John’s University (BS); St. John’s University Law School (JD)

Joan Flowers, a lawyer and small business owner, has been an active community worker in southeastern Queens for many years and has worked for Representative Gregory Meeks. As a lawyer she represented community interests, and is seeking election as a voice for the underprivileged. Flowers demonstrates an understanding of reform issues, and campaign finance, discretionary funding, and bundling of contributions are three areas she would prioritize reforming. Flowers supports discretionary funding, but believes its allocation needs to be made more equitable and account for need, and that the attorney general’s office should provide additional oversight. She believes lobbyists should be prohibited from



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bundling contributions for candidates. Aside from reform issues, Flowers wants the city to acquire more education funding, increase health care clinics through Obamacare funds, and improvement the oversight and implementation of the stop, question, and frisk program. Although knowledgeable on the issues, too many questions have been raised about Flowers' role in connection to transgressions of elected officials for which she worked, which prevent us from preferring her candidacy.

GREG MAYS - DEM

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 18

Age: 50 Occupation: Non-Profit Executive, A Better Jamaica, Inc.

Education: Howard University (BBA); Harvard Business School (MBA)

Greg Mays is a community activist and the founder and executive for A Better Jamaica, Inc. He has been involved in the community for years through his non-profit organization. Mays is seeking election to advocate for the non-profit organizations in Southeastern Queens. He is largely unfamiliar with good government issues but would like to improve registration at city agencies. He wants to end racial profiling that is a result of what he calls "lazy policing" in the form of stop, question and frisk. Mays is largely focused on the improvement of non-profit organizations in southeastern Queens, and leveraging non-profit organizations to improve education and service delivery. For example, he wants to use high school students to tutor elementary school children. While Mays' work with his non-profit organization is admirable, he lacks knowledge of government reform and therefore we cannot back his candidacy.

I. DANEEK MILLER - DEM

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 18

Age: 52 Occupation: President, Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1056; Bus Driver, MTA NYC Transit Queens Bus Division; Co-Chair MTA Labor Coalition

Education: Research Institute at City College and the National Labor College

Daneek Miller is a community and labor activist and has lived and worked in southeastern Queens for more than 25 years. If elected, Miller believes he can provide a voice for labor and the working people of New York and navigate city government. On reform issues, Miller's priorities are participatory budgeting and decentralizing power in the City Council to rank-and-file members. He believes city agencies need to be more transparent particularly the contracts of the Department of Education. Beyond reform issues, Miller would seek more education funding and create jobs through leveraging the district's transportation hubs to attract business. Although Miller has strong backing from labor and a well-conceived campaign strategy, Citizens Union feels his positions on government reform need to be more developed to earn our support.



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SONDRA PEEDEN - DEM

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 18

Age: 42 Occupation: Currently on leave from the City Council

Education: Marymount Manhattan College (degree not reported)

Sondra Peeden has lived in her district in St. Albans, Queens all her life. She is very familiar with the community and, before she even graduated, became involved in public service. She has worked for several different Councilmembers and believes she would not have to learn on the job if elected. On reform issues, Peeden supports discretionary funding but believes in greater oversight of funds and is open to participatory budgeting. She thinks City Council committee chairs should be able to move forward legislation and hold hearings on bills without the speaker's consent. Beyond reform, Peeden is concerned about families displaced by the recent foreclosure crisis. She also wants to foster light manufacturing and green jobs through rezoning and retrofitting abandoned buildings. Peeden is opposed to mayoral control of schools believing it is worse than the former Board of Education. Despite Peeden's knowledge of reform issues, her campaign is just getting off the ground and its viability is questionable.

MANUEL CAUGHMAN - DEM

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 18

Candidate could not be scheduled for an interview

DISTRICT 31 - DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

★ PREFERRED CANDIDATE - DONOVAN RICHARDS - DEM ★

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 18

Age: 30 Occupation: Member, NYC Council

Education: Vaughn College (AS)

Donovan Richards is the incumbent in City Council District 31. After witnessing the murder of his friend, Richards met with then-Councilmember James Sanders Jr. to discuss gun violence. Richards joined Sanders' office and worked in almost every role before becoming chief of staff. When Sanders left the Council to join the New York State Senate, Richards filled his vacancy by winning a special election in February of 2013. Richards stated that his experience and proven record sets him apart from his opponents. With an interest in good government, Richards stated his top three reform issues were establishing equitable discretionary funding, rules reform in the City Council, and participatory budgeting. Richards claimed that as a member of the Progressive Caucus he would be able to achieve these reforms. Good governance aside, Richards top priorities are jobs, Hurricane Sandy relief, and the improvement of the quality of life in Southeastern Queens. Citizens Union feels that Richards is a highly viable candidate and in addition to being knowledgeable about our issues, he will have the ability to work towards reform in the City Council.



QUEENS RACES

RICARDO BROWN - DEM

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 18

Age: 46 Occupation: Self-employed accountant

Education: BS (name of degree-granting institution not provided)

Ricardo Brown is a certified public accountant. He is seeking election to address the many issues facing southeastern Queens and to provide an independent voice in the City Council. With his financial background, Brown believes that he brings a different perspective than his opponents. Brown is generally unfamiliar with issues of concern to Citizens Union but said he supports greater transparency and accountability in government, along with independent budgeting and term limits. Beyond good government issues, Brown wants to end the policy of stop, question and frisk and enhance programs at senior centers by integrating technology. He laments the dearth of supermarkets and believes more community input into development decision-making could address the issue. Citizens Union feels that Brown is an asset to his community; however, he did not demonstrate an understanding of good government issues.

MICHAEL R. DUNCAN - DEM

Has not returned questionnaire

Candidate could not be scheduled for an interview



STATEN ISLAND RACES

STATEN ISLAND CITY COUNCIL RACES

DISTRICT 50 - DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

★ PREFERRED CANDIDATE - JOHN M. MANCUSO - DEM ★

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 18

Age: 32 Occupation: Full-time candidate

Education: Urban Politics and Policy (degree and name of degree granting institution not provided) / Restaurant Management and Culinary Arts (degree and name of degree granting institution not provided)

John Mancuso, an auxiliary police officer and former small business owner, is running for City Council to ensure Staten Island gets its fair share in the city budget and to ensure the Island is prepared to weather another superstorm like Hurricane Sandy. He believes his private sector experience along with being a staffer for former State Senator Seymour Lachman and Councilmember Vincent Gentile make him the most well-rounded candidate in the race. On reform issues, Mancuso believes every district should receive the same amount of discretionary funding. He wants to get rid of lulus and believes all the positions should be made full time with lower salaries. Mancuso is open to reducing the number of committees in the City Council, noting that some do not even meet annually. He additionally supports nonpartisan elections. Beyond good government issues, Mancuso opposes mayoral control and calls for the return of school boards albeit with members appointed by borough presidents. He wants to expand transportation options for the island, including the disabled, and improve the quality of roads by purchasing equipment that can both pave and grade roads. Citizens Union believes Mancuso brings a thoughtful approach to all issues, and his genuine commitment to reform gives him the edge over his primary opponent. We prefer him in the Democratic primary.

MENDY MIROCZNIK - DEM

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 18

Age: 40 Occupation: Court Attorney, New York Civil Court

Education: Touro College (BA), CUNY School of Law (JD)

Mendy Mirocznik is a political newcomer who entered politics because of the inadequate response to Hurricane Sandy. He has been an attorney for the civil court for thirteen years, is a member of Staten Island Community Board 2, and brings a civic-minded perspective to politics. On reform issues, Mirocznik believes the City Council Speaker has too much power, and supports rotating chairmanships and an independent office for bill drafting. He believes voter-initiated referenda should only be changed by the voters rather than the City Council. He supports abolishing lulus and reforming discretionary funding. Beyond reform, Mirocznik wants to ensure Staten Island is not the “forgotten borough” and gets its fair share in the city budget. He opposes mayoral control of schools, and wants to restore critical thinking instead of test focused instruction. He believes retirees should be utilized to conduct teacher evaluations. Mirocznik wants to increase the number of express buses on the island. Citizens Union believes Mirocznik shows an impressive grasp



STATEN ISLAND RACES

of the issues for a first-time candidate, but we believe his opponent is more independently positioned to deliver much-needed reform in the City Council.

DISTRICT 50 - REPUBLICAN PRIMARY

★ PREFERRED CANDIDATE - STEVE MATTEO - REP ★

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 18

Age: 36 Occupation: Chief of Staff, City Council Minority Leader James Oddo

Education: St. Francis College (BA), Touro Law School (JD)

Steve Matteo is running for City Council because he believes Staten Island and New York City are headed in the wrong direction. With nine years' experience working in the City Council, Matteo believes he can navigate the Council and address the issues facing Staten Island. On good government issues, Matteo supports reducing the number of Council committees, noting the many committee meetings takes Staten Island members away from their districts for too long a period. He also supports instant runoff voting. Matteo is concerned that some of Citizens Union's reform agenda could result in changes inconsistent with Staten Island's priorities. For example, he notes that Staten Island has benefited from a good relationship with a strong Council Speaker by receiving ample discretionary funding and the opportunity to pass many bills, something unheard of for most minority parties in local legislatures. Outside of reform, Matteo's first priority is Hurricane Sandy recovery, specifically enrolling Island residents in programs to help them rebuild and get reimbursements. He supports overnight ferry service and expanded express bus service. He supports mayoral control believing the Council can provide better oversight of an agency as opposed to a board, but stresses the need for less teaching to the test and a more meaningful role in decision-making by parents. Matteo departs from Citizens Union's reform agenda in some instances, but he is well qualified to serve, thoughtful on the issues, and therefore earns our preference for the primary election.

LISA GIOVINAZZO - REP

Has not returned questionnaire

Candidate could not be scheduled for an interview by Citizens Union



VOTER REGISTRATION AND VOTING

REGISTERING TO VOTE IN THE PRIMARY

To be eligible to vote in the City of New York's 2013 Primary Election, you must be a citizen of the United States and 18 years of age by December 31 of the year in which you file a form. If you are not 18 by the day of the election, you will not be eligible to vote. You also must have lived at your present address for at least 30 days before an election and must not claim the right to vote elsewhere. The deadlines for voter registration have already passed for the Primary Election. Registration forms must have been postmarked by August 16th, and received by August 21st. Change of addresses notices must have been received by August 21st.

To obtain a registration form, you can go in person to your local board of elections office, call 1-866-VOTE-NYC or visit the Board of Elections website at <http://www.elections.ny.gov/VotingRegister.html>. The New York State DMV has created an online portal for voter registration, including new registrations and changes of address. It can be accessed at <http://my.dmv.ny.gov>.

CHANGING PARTY ENROLLMENT

Only voters registered with a party are eligible to nominate their party's candidate through the Primary Election. Voters currently registered in a party are no longer able to change their party enrollment for this year's primary elections. Changes in party enrollment received no later than 25 days before the general election will be deposited in a sealed enrollment box and opened first Tuesday following that general election and entered in the voter's registration record for the next election cycle.

APPLYING FOR AN ABSENTEE BALLOT FOR THE PRIMARY ELECTION

If you are unable to appear at the polls due to: (1) being absent from New York City on Election Day; (2) illness or disability; or (3) are detained in jail awaiting Grand Jury action or are confined in prison for an offense other than a felony, you may vote by absentee ballot. To obtain an application, call 1-866-VOTE-NYC or visit the Board of Elections website at <http://www.vote.nyc.ny.us/absentee.html>. The application must be completed in blue or black ink. The deadlines for submitting the application are below, as well as the deadlines for mailing back your ballot.

- **MAILING YOUR ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION:** The last day to postmark an application or letter of application by mail for an absentee ballot is Tuesday, September 3rd.
- **APPLYING FOR AN ABSENTEE BALLOT IN PERSON:** The last day to apply in person at your local county board of elections office for an absentee ballot is Monday, September 9th.
- **MAILING IN YOUR ABSENTEE BALLOT:** The last day to postmark your absentee ballot is Monday, September 9th. It must be received by the local board of elections no later than September 17th.
- **DROPPING OFF YOUR ABSENTEE BALLOT:** If you have a friend or relative who can drop off your absentee ballot for you, it must be delivered on Election Day, Tuesday, September 10th to your local board of elections office.

VOTING ON ELECTION DAY

The Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, September 10th. Polls will be open from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. If you have general questions regarding eligibility or the location of your polling place, please call 1-866-VOTE-NYC. You can also locate your polling place and districts, as well as see a sample ballot online at <http://vote.nyc.ny.us/html/voters/where.shtml>.

Under federal law, if you are disabled and choose to vote in person rather than by absentee ballot, you are entitled to assistance. You can rely on the election employees for help.

At the polls, if you are not on the voter registration list, it may be because your registration form was



VOTER REGISTRATION AND VOTING

not received in time or was filled out incorrectly. If you believe that you are eligible to vote, you can still vote by requesting an affidavit ballot. After the election, the Board of Elections will check its records and your vote will be counted if you are indeed eligible.

The Run-Off Primary, if necessary for citywide offices, is scheduled for Tuesday, October 1st, 2013.

AVM LEVER MACHINE

This Primary Election, voters will use the AVM lever machine, also known as the Shoup Lever Machine, which was replaced by the optical scan voting machines in 2010. Votes will be counted through the use of levers, placed above the name of candidates beginning in Column 1 at the left hand end of the machine.

The process works as follows:

- To close the curtain and unlock the machine, swing the curtain lever from the left hand side of the machine to the right as far as it will go and leave it there.
- Pull down the lever over the names of the candidate you wish to vote for in each race.
- To write-in a name, raise the diagonal slide at the top of the machine above the title of the office and write in the candidate whom you wish to vote for.
- Apply the same method for all columns, and leave the levers pulled down in that position.
- Leaving the levers down, swing the curtain lever to the left hand side as far as it will go. This will register your vote, return the levers to their original position, and open the curtain.

BALLOT MARKING DEVICE

Voters will have the option to use the Election Systems & Software (ES&S) AutoMARK ballot marking device (BMD), which is mandated to be available at each polling location. Any voter, including voters with disabilities, may use the BMD to view or listen to the ballot in any of the required languages for that poll site (English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean or Bengali). Voters may use the BMD to complete a paper ballot independently and privately on Election Day by using its ATM-style touch screen, Braille-enhanced keypad, sip and puff device or its rocker paddle. More information on the new process is available at the New York City Board of Elections website: <http://www.votethenewwayny.com/>.

RESOURCES FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

To Research Campaign Contributions

NYC Campaign Finance Board	(212) 306-7100	www.nycffb.info
NYS Board of Elections	(800) 458-3453	www.elections.state.ny.us

To Research Candidates and Issues

Citizens Union	(212) 227-0342	www.citizensunion.org
Gotham Gazette	(212) 227-0342	www.gothamvotes2013.com
Campaign Finance Board Voter Guide	(212) 306-7100	www.nycffb.info

To Research Incumbent Voting Records

New York City Council	311	www.council.nyc.gov
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Voter Assistance/Voter Hotlines

NYC Board of Elections	(212) VOTE-NYC	www.vote.nyc.ny.us
Election Protection	1-866-OUR-VOTE	www.866ourvote.org/state/ny