

General Election

Visit [www.CitizensUnion.org](http://www.CitizensUnion.org) for additional information.



# 2017 Voters Directory

A NONPARTISAN GUIDE  
TO INFORMED VOTING

Vote Tuesday, November 7

# Citizens Union Endorsed Candidates — 2017 General Election

## New York City

### **Mayor**

No Endorsement

### **Public Advocate**

Letitia James (D)

### **City Comptroller**

Scott Stringer (D)

### **Bronx**

*Council District 15*

Ritchie Torres (D)

### **Brooklyn**

*Council District 43*

Justin Brannan (D)

*Council District 44*

No Endorsement

### **Manhattan**

*Council District 4*

Rebecca Harary (R)

---

Need help locating your polling site and information on the candidates? Visit the websites [www.whosontheballot.org](http://www.whosontheballot.org) or [www.GothamGazette.com](http://www.GothamGazette.com) for complete information about all contests on the ballot.

You may also visit [nyc.pollsitere locator.com](http://nyc.pollsitere locator.com) to enter your address and find your site and ballot information, or call the Board of Elections at **1-866-VOTE-NYC**.

The Citizens Union Voter Directory Online has all this information and more. Browse the online directory, candidates' questionnaires, and CU position statements at [www.CitizensUnion.org](http://www.CitizensUnion.org).

Stay up to date with the latest happenings of the CU team and our work by liking our Facebook Page ([facebook.com/citizensunion](https://facebook.com/citizensunion)) and following us on Twitter ([@citizensunionny](https://twitter.com/citizensunionny)).



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

About Citizens Union .....	2
Mission .....	2
2017 Year in Review .....	2
About the Voters Directory .....	5
Purpose .....	5
Acknowledgements .....	5
Voting and Registration Information.....	7
General Election Snapshot.....	9
Citywide Elections.....	10
Boroughwide Offices.....	10
Judicial Positions.....	12
New York City Council.....	12
New York State Senate .....	15
New York State Assembly .....	15
Ballot Questions and Citizens Union Recommendations .....	16
Index of Uncontested Races.....	18
Open Seats in the New York City Council .....	19
Candidate Evaluations 2017.....	20
Evaluation Principles and Process.....	20
Questionnaire: City Council Candidates .....	21
Citizens Union Endorsed Candidates.....	25
Questionnaire Responses .....	26
Municipal Candidate Evaluations .....	30
Citywide .....	30
Bronx.....	38
Brooklyn .....	39
Manhattan .....	40



# About Citizens Union

## MISSION

Citizens Union (CU) is a nonpartisan good government group dedicated to making democracy work for all New Yorkers. Citizens Union serves as a civic watchdog, combating corruption and fighting for political reform. We work to ensure fair and open elections, honest and efficient government, and a civically-engaged public.

We are New Yorkers from diverse backgrounds and political beliefs, connected to our communities and united in our commitment to put the city's long-term interest ahead of all special interests. Principled and pragmatic, Citizens Union is an independent force for constructive reform, driving policy and educating the public to achieve accountable government in the City and State of New York.

In keeping with our mission, CU aims to promote a competitive and diverse political culture, a fair and open political process, and accountable and responsible governance.

## 2017 YEAR IN REVIEW

Over the past year, Citizens Union has made notable progress in making our city and state government more open and accountable, our politics cleaner, and our elections fairer. Highlights of our successful efforts to “Make Democracy Work for All New Yorkers” include:

**Constitutional Convention** | This fall, all New Yorkers will vote on a ballot question that occurs every 20 years about whether or not to convene a state constitutional convention. The once-in-a-generation chance to reform our state government and strengthen our democracy is a historic moment. Amending our constitution could reduce rampant corruption found throughout state government, boost voter turnout with a slate of reforms, increase competition for elected offices by holding fairer elections and removing the stain of big money in our campaigns, and make justice more accessible for all by streamlining our state's byzantine court system. We won't have another chance until 2037, so we must win a YES vote this year. We are running a rigorous campaign of public education, grassroots organizing, earned and social media, and paid advertising, urging New Yorkers to vote YES. When our elected leaders don't act, New Yorkers must. A convention is the best way to amend the constitution and create a democracy that values every voice and engages every voter. On November 7th, please go to the polls, turn over your ballot and vote YES on question 1.

**Gotham Gazette** | An autonomous publication of Citizens Union Foundation, Gotham Gazette serves the public as an important source of news and investigative reporting. Its focus on holding government officials accountable and reporting on the main issues often



overlooked elsewhere is sharper than ever, and it has been recognized more and more as a powerful force for meaningful, insightful, and investigative reporting on substantive city and state political issues. As city elections approach in November, Gotham Gazette is a trusted, sought-after resource for information on candidates and races. Gotham Gazette's reach has grown significantly this year, including through two new podcasts, one of which is produced in partnership with Citizens Budget Commission. Readership is now up 10% over last year and builds on a 20% increase in 2016.

**Voting Reform** | Citizens Union engaged in an aggressive lobbying campaign to push forward key bills in Albany in 2017, aimed at making voting more accessible and improving voter turnout. Staff met with leadership in both the Senate and Assembly, as well as with the election committee chairs in both houses, to aggressively promote our voting reform agenda. Citizens Union participated in a statewide voting reform lobby day with partner organizations and engaged our members through action alerts asking them to push their representatives for these important policy changes. In the end, our efforts resulted in the passage of eight bills—the first in many years to clear both houses.

**Spending in the Shadows** | We released another Spending in the Shadows report, our twice-yearly analysis of nonspecific lump sum spending in New York State's Executive Budget and Enacted Budgets. The report examines numerous pots of money under state government control for FY 2018 showing that state budgets increasingly have few spending criteria, few constraints, and little public accountability. Citizens Union identified nearly \$13 billion in opaque funds that lack criteria for spending and do not specify any official as having authority.

**Mayoral Control of City Schools** | We worked with the Mayor's office to successfully secure two more years of mayoral control of city schools, advancing Citizens Union's interest in local control over such matters. We worked in partnership with the Mayor's office and engaged the Citizens Union membership to contact their state senators via an action alert.

**Debates** | We co-sponsored debates for candidates running in all three citywide offices in the General Election – Mayor, Public Advocate, and Comptroller – as well as the Democratic mayoral primary debate. In addition, we will be hosting a forum of the likely candidates for Speaker of the New York City Council, to be held November 20th at New York Law School.

**Campaign Finance** | Citizens Union testified at a spring City Council hearing about a bill that would raise the cap on matching funds from the Campaign Finance Board (CFB) from 55% to a 100% match. Citizens Union was the lone organization to take a neutral position on the legislation, urging the Council to wait until the upcoming election and subsequent quadrennial report from the CFB to ensure that the most responsible and necessary reforms are adopted.

**Police Oversight and Accountability** | We co-sponsored a community forum at Baruch College entitled "Safety and Justice: How Should Communities Reduce



Violence?” where Citizens Union members and other New Yorkers were invited to participate in an open discussion about policing policy and its impact on NYC communities. We also held an educational forum in partnership with the Civic Engagement Collaborative on the subject of voting reform and its impact on immigrant and new American communities in New York City, training attendees how to press lawmakers to enact reform through phone and social media campaigning. In addition, Citizens Union staff and engaged members met with Judge Ariel Belen, who oversees the response to *Floyd v. City of New York* and the practice of “stop and frisk.” In a candid discussion, Citizens Union presented our policy positions on police oversight and accountability. We anticipate these positions to inform Judge Belen’s final report.

**Clean Contracting** | In partnership with other good government groups, CU pushed the state legislature and executive branch for significant reform measures related to public procurement and clean contracting. We held a press conference in Albany urging legislative leaders and the Governor to enact the Comptroller’s Clean Contracting Bill, which includes many reforms we have been championing. The bill passed the Senate but did not receive a vote in the Assembly.

**Annual Members Meeting** | Citizens Union hosted the Annual Members Meeting on May 3 at the CUNY Graduate Center with close to 100 people in attendance. The civic conversation featured Assembly Member Rodneyse Bichotte, Senator Michael Gianaris, City Council Member Cory Johnson, and Assembly Member Nicole Malliotakis. We live-streamed the event for the first time.

# About the Voters Directory

## PURPOSE

On Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, New Yorkers will vote in the General Election to elect candidates for New York City Mayor, Public Advocate, and Comptroller, as well as Borough President, New York City Council, Judicial positions, and Manhattan and Brooklyn District Attorney. The 27<sup>th</sup> (Queens) and the 71<sup>st</sup> Assembly District (Manhattan) seats will also be on the ballot with single candidates, chosen in a special election, each running unopposed; and there will be a New York State Senate election in Senate District 26 (Manhattan and Brooklyn), in which both candidates have been nominated by party leadership – not an electorate – in special elections.

To help our supportive Citizens Union members prepare to vote in the upcoming primary election, we bring you our 2017 General Election Voters Directory. The Voters Directory provides:

- An overview of the 2017 elections, including voting and registration information and listings of every contest for all races that will be on the ballot in New York City on November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017.
- A roster of Citizens Union's endorsed candidates in several key districts, and information about the rigorous evaluation process and assessments of candidates.
- We caution voters that there may be last minute elimination or reinstatement of candidates on the ballot, so the list contained in this directory may have changed since this document was printed.

For more information, visit the NYC Board of Elections website at <http://vote.nyc.ny.us> or call (866) VOTE-NYC.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This Voters Directory would not be possible without the hard work of members of the Citizens Union Board, Local Candidates Committee (LCC), staff and our fall interns.

34 Volunteer LCC members, 4 interns, and staff members formed nonpartisan interview teams and evaluated 18 candidates in 7 races for Mayor, Public Advocate, Comptroller, and New York City Council. We thank them for contributing their time, energy, expertise and commitment this fall to interviewing and evaluating candidates.

We thank you for your support, and hope you enjoy the latest edition of the Voters Directory.



# Voting and Registration Information

## REGISTERING TO VOTE

You are eligible to vote in municipal, federal and state elections if you are:

- 18 years of age (on the date of the election. You can register at 17 if you will be 18 before the election – Send your voter registration card in the year you turn 18 and it will be filed on your 18th birthday);
- United States citizen; AND
- Registered to vote 25 days before the election.

To vote in a party primary:

- You must be a registered member of that party.
- You cannot change your party registration to vote in a primary during that same year.
- Party registration changes must be filed 25 days before the previous year's General Election.

## APPLYING FOR AN ABSENTEE BALLOT FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION

You may vote by absentee ballot if you are:

- absent from New York City (or your county, if you live outside of New York City) on Election Day;
- ill or disabled, or serve as primary caregiver for an ill or disabled individual;
- a patient or inmate in a Veterans' Administration Hospital; OR
- detained in jail awaiting Grand Jury action or are confined in prison for an offense other than a felony.

Deadlines for absentee ballot applications and submissions are as follows:

- Mail your Absentee Ballot Application or Letter of Application by Tuesday, October 31st.
- Apply for an Absentee Ballot in Person at your local county board of elections office by Monday, November 6th.
- Mail in your Absentee Ballot with a postmark by Monday, November 6th – it also must be received by the local board of elections no later than November 14th. Military Voter Ballots must be received no later than November 20th.

- Drop off your Absentee Ballot in person by Tuesday, November 7th to your local board of elections office – a friend or relative can drop it off.

## **TO OBTAIN A VOTER REGISTRATION FORM OR ABSENTEE BALLOT:**

---

- Go in person to your local county Board of Elections office;
- Call the Board of Elections at 1.866.VOTE-NYC; OR
- Visit the Board of Elections website at <http://www.vote.nyc.ny.us/html/voters/voters.shtml>

## **VOTING AND REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

---

### **VOTING ON ELECTION DAY**

The General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 7th. 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 online, including handicap entrances, at <https://nyc.pollsitelocator.com/search>

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 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.

### **CASTING YOUR BALLOT**

Paper ballots will be used for casting votes, which can be marked using either a pen or a ballot marking device (BMD) as described below. Ballots are counted after they are inserted into an electronic scanner. The scanner will then be used to count the votes after the polling place has closed at the end of Election Day. A bin attached to the scanner will capture and keep the paper ballots as a record of all votes. This new process began in 2010 with New York's adoption of a new voting system to meet federal accessibility requirements.

The process works as follows:

- Enter the poll site, sign in, and receive your paper ballot from the poll worker.
- Mark your ballot through one of two means:
  - Go to a privacy booth and fill out your ballot with a pen by marking the appropriate ovals; or

- Use a Ballot Marking Device (BMD), which is available for those who are in need of assistance (see below for more information).
- Once done, place your ballot in the privacy sleeve, proceed to the scanner area, and insert the marked ballot into the scanner to cast your vote. Your ballot can be inserted in any direction.

If you make a mistake you can request a new ballot. If you mark your ballot incorrectly by marking more choices for one contest than you are supposed to, the scanner will notify you of an “overvote.” To have your vote count, you must obtain a new ballot and mark your choices correctly before submitting your ballot.

## **BALLOT MARKING DEVICE**

Voters will be able 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 (which may include English, Spanish, Chinese - Mandarin, Chinese – Cantonese or Korean). 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://vote.nyc.ny.us/html/voters/voters.shtml>

## **RESOURCES FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

### To Research Campaign Contributions

NYS Board of Elections	(800) 458-3453	<a href="http://www.elections.ny.gov">www.elections.ny.gov</a>
------------------------	----------------	--

### To Research Candidates and Issues

Citizens Union	(212) 227-0342	<a href="http://www.citizensunion.org">www.citizensunion.org</a>
Gotham Gazette	(212) 227-0342	<a href="http://www.gothamgazette.com">www.gothamgazette.com</a>
NYPIRG	(212) 349-6460	<a href="http://www.nypirg.org">www.nypirg.org</a>
League of Women Voters of NYS	(518) 465-4162	<a href="http://www.lwvny.org">www.lwvny.org</a>
Project Vote Smart	(888) VOTE-SMART	<a href="http://www.votesmart.org">www.votesmart.org</a>

### To Research Incumbent Records

New York State Assembly	(518) 455-4218	<a href="http://www.assembly.state.ny.us">www.assembly.state.ny.us</a>
New York State Senate	(518) 455-2800	<a href="http://www.nysenate.gov">www.nysenate.gov</a>



# General Election Snapshot

This section lists races in the General Election, which will take place on November 7th, including elections where candidates running for municipal office are unopposed.

In the 2017 General Election for New York City Council, 8 candidates for New York City Council are running unopposed, 5 of whom faced no competition in the primaries either.

This section also lists candidates running for New York City Mayor, Public Advocate, Comptroller, Manhattan and Brooklyn District Attorney, Borough President, and Judicial positions.

For information about the races in which incumbents face no General Election opposition, please turn to page 18.

† Incumbent

^ Denotes that the candidate submitted the Citizens Union questionnaire. Responses from City Council candidates can be found on pages 26 to 29. Questionnaire responses for candidates running in other municipal races can be found at [www.CitizensUnion.org](http://www.CitizensUnion.org).

**Bold** denotes the candidate is endorsed by Citizens Union in the General Election.

\* Denotes that the district overlaps boroughs. Note: These races are repeated in each borough that they fall into.

KEY:

---

AR - Animal Rights	ON - Our Neighborhood
C - Conservative	PA- Progress for All
D - Democrat	R- Republican
DI - Dive In	RI2DH - Rent Is 2 Damn High
DM - Dump the Mayor	Ref. - Reform
EJ - Eco Justice	S - Socialist
ES - Empower Society	SB - Stop de Blasio
G - Green	SC - Smart Cities
HM - Harlem Matters	Sch. - School Choice
HNYCHA - Homeowners NYCHA	Sol. - Solutions
I - Independence	SUT - Stand Up Together
L - Libertarian	TF - True Freedom
Lib. - Liberal	WE - Women's Equality
NB - New Bronx	WF - Working Families
NR4E - No Rezoning 4 Ever	

## CITYWIDE OFFICES

### Mayor

*Term of Office: 4 years (2-term limit)*

*Salary: \$225,000*

Bill de Blasio<sup>†</sup> (D, WF)  
Nicole Malliotakis (R, C, SB)  
Akeem Browder (G)  
Sal F. Albanese (Ref.)  
Bo Dietl (DM)  
Aaron Commey (L)  
Michael Tolkin<sup>^</sup> (SC)

### Public Advocate

*Term of Office: 4 years (3-term limit)*

*Salary: \$151,500*

Letitia James<sup>†</sup> (D, WF)  
Juan Carlos Polanco (R, Ref., SB)  
Michael A. O'Reilly (C)  
James C. Lane (G)  
Devin Balkind<sup>^</sup> (L)

### City Comptroller

*Term of Office: 4 years (2-term limit)*

*Salary: \$165,000*

Scott M. Stringer<sup>†</sup> (D, WF)  
Michael J. Faulkner (R, C, Ref., SB)  
Julia A. Willebrand<sup>^</sup> (G)  
Alex Merced (L)

## BOROUGHWISE OFFICES

### District Attorney

#### Manhattan

*Term of Office: 4 years (No term limit)*

*Salary: \$198,000*

Cyrus Vance Jr. <sup>†</sup> (D)

#### Brooklyn

*Term of Office: 4 years (No term limit)*

*Salary: \$198,000*

Eric Gonzalez<sup>†</sup> (D)  
Vincent J. Gentile<sup>^</sup> (Ref.)

### Borough President

#### Manhattan

*Term of Office: 4 years (3-term limit)*

*Salary: \$179,200*

Gale A. Brewert<sup>†</sup> (D, WF)  
Frank Scala (R)  
Daniel Vila Rivera (G)  
Brian Waddell<sup>^</sup> (Ref., L)

#### Bronx

*Term of Office: 4 years (3-term limit)*

*Salary: \$179,200*

Ruben Diaz Jr. <sup>†</sup> (D, WF)  
Steven DeMartis (R)  
Antonio Vitiello (C)  
Camella D. Price<sup>^</sup> (Ref.)

#### Brooklyn

*Term of Office: 4 years (3-term limit)*

*Salary: \$179,200*

Eric L. Adamst<sup>†</sup> (D, WF)  
Vito J. Bruno (R, C)  
Benjamin G. Kissel (Ref.)

## Queens

*Term of Office: 4 years (3-term limit)*

*Salary: \$179,200*

Melinda Katz<sup>^</sup> (D, WF)

William K. Kregler (R, C)

Everly D. Brown (HNYCHA)

## Staten Island

*Term of Office: 4 years (3-term limit)*

*Salary: \$179,200*

Thomas E. Shcherbenko (D, WF)

James S. Oddo<sup>^</sup> (R, C, I, Ref.)

Henry J. Bardel (G)

## Justice of the Supreme Court

*Term of Office: 14 years (mandatory retirement at 70 years old)*

*Salary: \$193,000*

### 1st Judicial District, New York County

*Vote for 6*

Lori Sattler† (D)

William Franc Perry III† (D)

Nancy M. Bannont† (D)

Anthony Cannataro† (D)

Adam Silverat† (D)

Verna L. Saunders (D)

### 12th Judicial District, Bronx County

*Vote for 4*

Douglas Edwin Mckeont† (D)

Joseph E. Capella (D)

Aliso Y. Tuitt (D)

Armando Montano (D)

### 2nd Judicial District, Kings County

*Vote for 2*

Bruce M. Balter (D, R, C)

Andrew S. Borrok (D)

John J. Bruno (R, C)

### 11th Judicial District, Queens County

*Vote for 6*

Richard G. Latin (D)

Joseph F. Kasper (R, C)

Jodi Orlow-Mackoff (D, C)

James J. Kevins Jr. (R)

Ulysses B. Leverett (D)

Woodruff L. Carrol (R)

David Elliot (D, R, C)

Gregory L. Lasak (D, R, C)

Michael B. Aloise (D, R, C)

## Civil Court Judges

*Term of Office: 4 years (mandatory retirement at 70 years old)*

*Salary: \$179,500*

### New York County

*Vote for 2*

Richard A. Tsai (D)

Phaedra Perry (D)

### Kings County

*Vote for 6*

Robin K. Sheares (D)

Vincent F. Martusciello (C)

John K. O'Hara (Ref.)

Carolyn E. Wade† (D)

Sandra Elena Roper (D, Ref.)

Connie M. Melendez (D)

Thomas J. Kennedy (Ref.)

Ellen E. Edwards (D)

Isiris Isela Isaac (Ref.)

Patria Frias-Colon (D)

Patrick J. Hayes (Ref.)

## Manhattan Municipal Court Districts

### 5th Municipal Court District

Leslie A. Stroth (D)

### 9th Municipal Court District

*Vote for 2*

James G. Clynes (D, WF)

Suzanne J. Adams (D, WF)

### 10th Municipal Court District

Geoffrey Wright† (D)

## Bronx Municipal Court Districts

### 1st Municipal Court District

Fidel Gomez (D)

## Brooklyn Municipal Court Districts

### 6th Municipal Court District

Elena Baron (D)

## Queens Municipal Court Districts

### 1st Municipal Court District

John C. Katsanos (D)

### 3rd Municipal Court District

Tracy A. Catapano-Fox (D)

### 4th Municipal Court District

Maurice E. Muir (D)

### 6th Municipal Court District

Philip Horn (D)

## Staten Island unicipal Court Districts

### 2nd Municipal Court District

Teresa R. Nuccio (D)

Lisa Grey (R, C, I)

## New York City Council

*Terms of Service: 4 years (2 Terms)*

*Salary: \$148,500*

### Bronx

*District 8\**

Diana Ayala^ (D, WF)

Daby B. Carreras (R, Ref., SB, NR4E)

Linda Ortiz (C)

*District 11*

Andrew Cohent (D, WF)

Judah David Powers (R, C)

Roxanne F. Delgado (AR)

*District 12*

Andy L. King† (D)

Adrienne Erwin (C)

*District 13*

Mark Gjonaj^ (D)

John Cerini (R, C, Ref.)

Marjorie Velazquez^ (WF)

John C. Doyle^ (Lib.)

Alex A. Gomez (NB)

*District 14*

Fernando Cabrerat† (D)

Alan H. Reed (R, C)

Randy D. Abreu^ (WF)

Justin Sanchez^ (Lib.)

*District 15*

**Ritchie Torres**†^ (D, WF)

Jayson Cancel^ (R, C)

*District 16*

Vanessa L. Gibson† (D, WF)  
Benjamin Eggleston (R, C)

*District 17*

Rafael Salamanca Jr. † (D, WF)  
Patrick Delices^ (R)  
Oswald Denis (C)  
Elvis Santana^ (ES)

*District 18*

Ruben Diaz Sr. (D)  
Eduardo Ramirez (C)  
Carl Lundgren (G)  
William Russell Moore (Ref.)  
Michael Beltzer^ (Lib.)

*District 22\**

Costa G. Constantinides† (D, WF)  
Kathleen K. Springer (DI)

**Brooklyn**

*District 33*

Stephen T. Levint (D)  
Victoria Cambranes (PA)

*District 34\**

Antonio Reynosot^ (D, WF)

*District 35*

Laurie A. Cumbot^ (D)  
Christine Parker (R)  
Jabari Brisport^ (G, S)

*District 36*

Robert E. Cornegy Jr. † (D)

*District 37*

Rafael L. Espinal Jr. † (D)  
Persephone Sarah Jane Smith (G)

*District 38*

Carlos Menchacat (D, WF)  
Allan E. Romaguera (C)  
Carmen V. Hulbert (G)  
Delvis Valdes (Ref.)

*District 39*

Bradford S. Landert^ (D, WF)

*District 40*

Mathieu Eugenet (D)  
Brian W. Kelly (C)  
Brian-Christopher A. Cunningham^ (Ref.)

*District 41*

Alicka Ampry-Samuel^ (D, WF)  
Berneda W. Jackson (R, C)  
Christopher Carew (Sol.)

*District 42*

Inez D. Barront (D)  
Ernest Johnson (C)  
Mawuli K. Hormeku^ (Ref.)

*District 43*

**Justin L. Brannan^** (D, WF)  
John F. Quaglione^ (R, C, I)  
Angel Medina (WE)  
Bob Capano^ (Ref.)

*District 44*

Kalman Yeger^ (D, C)  
Yoni Hikind (ON)  
Harold Tischler (Sch.)

*District 45*

Jumaane D. Williamst^ (D, WF)  
Anthony Beckford (TF)

*District 46*

Alan N. Maiselt (D)  
Jeffrey J. Ferretti (C)

*District 47*

Mark Treygert^ (D, WF)  
Raimondo Denaro (R, C)

*District 48*

Chaim M. Deutscht (D)  
Steven Saperstein (R, C, Ref.)

## Manhattan

### *District 1*

Margaret S. Chint<sup>^</sup> (D, WF)  
Bryan Jung (R)  
Christopher Marte<sup>^</sup> (I)  
Aaron Foldenauer (Lib.)

### *District 2*

Carlina Rivera<sup>^</sup> (D, WF)  
Jimmy McMillian (R, RI2DH)  
Manny Cavaco (G)  
Jasmin Sanchez (Lib.)  
Don Garrity (L)

### *District 3*

Corey D. Johnson<sup>^</sup> (D, WF)  
Marni Halasa (EJ)

### *District 4*

Keith Powers<sup>^</sup> (D)  
**Rebecca Harary<sup>^</sup>** (R, WE, Ref., SB)  
Rachel Honig<sup>^</sup> (Lib.)

### *District 5*

Ben Kallost<sup>^</sup> (D, WF)  
Frank Spotorno (R)

### *District 6*

Helen K. Rosenthal<sup>^</sup> (D, WF)  
Hyman Drusin (R)  
William H. Raudenbush<sup>^</sup> (SUT)

### *District 7*

Mark D. Levinet<sup>^</sup> (D, WF)  
Florindo J. Troncelliti (G)

### *District 8\**

Diana Ayala<sup>^</sup> (D, WF)  
Daby B. Carreras (R, Ref., SB, NR4E)  
Linda Ortiz (C)

### *District 9*

Bill Perkins<sup>^</sup> (D, WF)  
Jack Royster (R)  
Pierre A. Gooding<sup>^</sup> (Ref.)  
Tyson-Lord Gray<sup>^</sup> (G)  
Dianne L. Mack

### *District 10*

Ydanis Rodriguez<sup>^</sup> (D, WF)  
Ronny Goodman (R)

## Queens

### *District 19*

Paul A. Vallonet<sup>^</sup> (D, WF)  
Konstantinos Poulidis (R)  
Paul D. Graziano<sup>^</sup> (Ref.)

### *District 20*

Peter A. Koot<sup>^</sup> (D)

### *District 21*

Francisco P. Moya<sup>^</sup> (D, WF)

### *District 22\**

Costa G. Constantinides<sup>^</sup> (D, WF)  
Kathleen K. Springer (DI)

### *District 23*

Barry S. Grodenchikt (D, WF)  
Joseph R. Concannon (R, C, SB)  
John Y. Lim

### *District 24*

Rory I. Lancmant (D, WF)  
Mohammad T. Rahman (Ref.)

### *District 25*

Daniel Drommt (D, WF)

### *District 26*

James G. Van Bramert (D, WF)  
Marvin R. Jeffcoat (R, C)

### *District 27*

I. Daneek Millert<sup>^</sup> (D)  
Rupert Green (R)

Frank Francois (G)

*District 28*

Adrienne E. Adams (D)

Ivan D. Mossop Jr. (R)

Hettie V. Powell (WF)

*District 29*

Karen Koslowitz† (D)

*District 30*

Elizabeth S. Crowley†^ (D, WF, WE)

Robert F. Holden^ (R, C, Ref., DB)

*District 31*

Donovan J. Richardst (D, WF)

*District 32*

Michael G. Scala^ (D)

Eric A. Ulrich† (R, C, I, Ref.)

*District 34\**

Antonio Reynosot^ (D, WF)

**Staten Island**

*District 49*

Deborah L. Rose† (D, WF)

Michael J. Penrose (R, C)

Kamillah Hanks^ (Ref.)

*District 50*

Richard A. Florentino (D)

Steven Matteot† (R, C, I, Ref.)

*District 51*

Dylan M. Schwartz^ (D, WF)

Joseph C. Borellit† (R, C, I, Ref.)

**New York State Senate**

*Term of Office: 2 Years (No Limit)*

*Salary: \$79,500*

**Brooklyn**

*26th Senatorial District\**

Brian P. Kavanagh (D, WF)

Analicia Alexander (R)

**Manhattan**

*26th Senatorial District\**

Brian P. Kavanagh (D, WF)

Analicia Alexander (R)

**New York State Assembly**

*Term of Office: 2 Years (No Limit)*

*Salary: \$79,500*

**Manhattan**

*71st Assembly District*

Alfred Taylor (D, WF)

**Queens**

*27th Assembly District*

Daniel A. Rosenthal (D)

# Ballot Questions and Citizens Union Recommendations

The language provided below is the text of three ballot referenda, which will appear on the ballot. All ballot initiatives will appear on the back of your paper ballot.

For more information about the ballot questions, including arguments in favor and against, see the Campaign Finance Board Voter Guide, available at [www.nycctfb.info](http://www.nycctfb.info). The full text of the proposals can be found on the New York State Board of Elections website at [www.elections.ny.gov](http://www.elections.ny.gov).

## **PROPOSAL NUMBER 1, A QUESTION: CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION - CITYWIDE**

**Shall there be a convention to revise the Constitution and amend the same?**

*CITIZENS UNION SUPPORTS THIS PROPOSAL.*

### STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

Citizens Union strongly supports the call for a constitutional convention as a once-in-a-generation opportunity to make fundamental reforms to the structure of our state's democracy which are either barred by the current constitution or blocked by intransigence of the currently established political powers. Potential reforms supported by Citizens Union include the adoption of reasonable term limits for all elected officials, providing for early voting and more accessible registration, reducing the influence of money in elections, strengthening local government, reorganizing our byzantine court system, and the establishment of stronger ethics standards and enforcement to reduce corruption. Many other positive reforms could be adopted to open the political process in the dramatic fashion to meet the needs of future generations.

Unfortunately, our current political leaders, in both parties, have proven unable to make the kind of fundamental reforms required. Too many legislators have had to leave office due to corruption and too many billions of state tax dollars are spent without accountability to give New Yorkers confidence that the government is run in the public interest. Voter participation in New York thus remains among the lowest in the nation, as cynicism and distrust, rather than participation, characterizes current elections. Virtually uncontrolled expenditures of money dominate politics and over 98% of legislators are routinely re-elected due to the established advantages of incumbency. It is time to make a change.

The constitutional convention will provide just such an opportunity. While the process for selection of delegates is far from perfect (and still could be improved by the legislature if it were to act prior to the elections in 2018), the election of three delegates for entirely "open seats" in each state Senate district will afford opportunity for a new class of candidates. Current indications are that a large number of qualified citizens are interested in running for office and will seek the opportunity to become delegates. 2018 will also be a banner year for voter turnout.

The opposition to the convention is largely based upon fears that the convention will be dominated by billionaires and special interests, thus threatening existing protections in the



New York constitution for education, public pensions, labor rights, and the protection of the environment. Citizens Union does not share those fears. All polling shows no significant support for the “roll-back” of any constitutional protections, while it does show strong public support for democratic reforms which our legislature has simply failed to pursue. Any proposals adopted by the convention will further be subject to approval by the voters in yet another referendum.

Simply put, there is no reason to fear a new future for New York’s government. There is every reason, in contrast, to fear a continuation of the current, very broken status quo. Let us embrace the opportunity for change.

## **PROPOSAL NUMBER 2, AN AMENDMENT: ALLOWING THE COMPLETE OR PARTIAL FORFEITURE OF A PUBLIC OFFICER’S PENSION IF HE OR SHE IS CONVICTED OF A CERTAIN TYPE OF FELONY – CITYWIDE**

The proposed amendment to section 7 of Article 2 of the State Constitution would allow a court to reduce or revoke the public pension of a public officer who is convicted of a felony that has a direct and actual relationship to the performance of the public officer’s existing duties. Shall the proposed amendment be approved?

*CITIZENS UNION SUPPORTS THIS POSITION*

### STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

Citizens Union urges a “yes” vote to allow a court to reduce or revoke the pension of a public official convicted of corruption in public office. Under this provision, in making its decision, the court must take certain factors into account, including the severity of the crime and the proportionality of the pension forfeiture to the crime. It also would have to consider whether the forfeiture creates an undue hardship on the official’s spouse or dependents. Public employees hold positions of public trust, and thus should be held to a high standard when they use their positions to commit crimes that involve public funds or the exercise of undue influence. It is unseemly to allow officials who abuse the public trust to receive a public pension which is funded by the taxpayers. This proposed amendment creates a fair procedure for a court to follow in determining whether and to what extent the pension should be forfeited, sending a strong message to public officials that their service is to the people, not themselves, and that any knowing corruption will simply not be tolerated.

## **PROPOSAL NUMBER 3, AN AMENDMENT: AUTHORIZING THE USE OF FOREST PRESERVE LAND FOR SPECIFIED PURPOSES – CITYWIDE**

The proposed amend will create a land account with up to 250 acres of forest preserve land eligible for use by towns, villages, and counties that have no viable alternative to using forest preserve land to address specific public health and safety concerns; as a substitute for the land removed from the forest preserve, another 250 acres of land, will be added to the forest preserve, subject to legislative approval. The proposed amendment also will allow bicycle trails and certain public utility lines to be located within the width of specified highways that cross the forest preserve while minimizing removal of trees and vegetation. Shall the proposed amendment be approved?

*CITIZENS UNION HAS NOT EVALUATED THIS PROPOSAL REGARDING THE STATE’S FOREST PRESERVE.*

# Index of Uncontested Candidates

Of the 51 seats in the New York City Council, 8 candidates are uncontested in the General Election. While there are fewer uncontested races in the General Election than in the primaries, which saw over a third of incumbent council members running unopposed, many of the current contested races are only nominally competitive. Of those 8 Council seats, 5 candidates faced no primary election competition either, meaning that those five incumbents will serve another term without having been meaningfully chosen by their constituents. There are also two seats in the New York State Assembly, filled by special election, in which the candidates are running unopposed in the General Election. Because nominees in New York's special elections are chosen by party leadership, these two Assembly seats will be filled, again, without any input from the constituents they will represent in the state legislature.

In Manhattan, District Attorney Cyrus Vance, Jr. has also sought reelection without any primary or General Election competition. Since controversy has arisen around his campaign fundraising, however, there have been press reports of efforts to organize a write-in vote for Manhattan District Attorney and there may be more press coverage on that as Election Day nears.

The following candidates are running uncontested in the General Election for New York City Council, Manhattan District Attorney, and New York State Assembly:

## Brooklyn

*Council District 34*  
Antonio Reynoso (D)‡

*Council District 36*  
Robert E. Cornegy, Jr. (D)‡

*Council District 39*  
Brad S. Lander (D)‡

## Manhattan

*District Attorney*  
Cyrus Vance, Jr. (D)‡

*Assembly District 71*  
Alfred Tylor (D)‡

## Queens

*Council District 20*  
Peter A. Koo (D)

*Council District 21*  
Francisco P. Moya (D)

*Council District 25*  
Daniel Dromm (D)‡

*Council District 29*  
Karen Koslowitz (D)‡

*Council District 31*  
Donovan J. Richards (D)‡

*Assembly District 27*  
Daniel A. Rosenthal (D)‡

‡ Denotes that the candidate also faced no competition in their primary election.

# Open Seats in the New York City Council

This year marks the first municipal elections where the two-term limit, enacted in a 2010 referendum, is resulting in the vacancies of 7 of the 10 open seats in the New York City Council. Because of the political dynamics of the city and state, incumbents face significantly less competition in elections than competitors for vacant seats; this year the 7 vacancies due to term limits have yielded more competitive elections in terms of the number of challengers than contests in which incumbents were challenged. While there are only 7 council members reaching term limits this year, in the municipal elections of 2021 a majority of Council seats will be vacated as a result.

In addition to the 7 term-limited vacancies, there are 3 other open seats where no incumbent is running due to either personal reasons or, in the case of Council Member Ruben Wills (District 28), criminal conviction related to the misuse of public funds. Notably, one open seat – that of Council Member David Greenfield (District 44), who announced plans not to seek reelection after the petition-filing deadline for candidates to get on the ballot had passed – has a Democratic Party primary candidate with no other challengers. This year over both primary and General elections, Citizens Union evaluated candidates in races for 8 of the 10 open seats.

## **Bronx**

### *Council District 8*

Melissa Mark-Viverito (D) – Term Limit

### *Council District 13*

James Vacca (D) – Term Limit

### *Council District 18*

Anabel Palma (D) – Term Limit

## **Brooklyn**

### *Council District 41*

Darlene Mealy (D) – Term Limit

### *Council District 43*

Vincent Gentile (D) – Term Limit

### *Council District 44*

David Greenfield (D) – Personal Reasons

## **Manhattan**

### *Council District 2*

Rosie Mendez (D) – Term Limit

### *Council District 4*

Dan Garodnick (D) – Term Limit

## **Queens**

### *Council District 21*

Julissa Ferreras-Copeland (D) – Personal Reasons

### *Council District 28*

Ruben W. Wills (D) – Convicted of fraud and grand larceny related to the misuse of public funds

# Citizens Union Candidate Evaluations

## EVALUATION PRINCIPLES AND PROCESS

In this packed election cycle, Citizens Union has evaluated 7 races and 18 candidates for office in the New York City Mayor, Public Advocate, Comptroller and Council races to determine who strongly supports our issues, can advance a reform agenda, and can best fulfill the obligations of the position.

Interview teams of the Local Candidates Committee volunteers assess the candidates based on their responses to the following: CU's questionnaire (a pre-requisite for interviews), research, first-hand knowledge of the candidates, and interviews with the candidates, which are approximately 30 minutes each. The interview teams then make advisory recommendations to the full Local Candidates Committee, which deliberates and makes recommendations to the Citizens Union Board, which makes the final decision.

An "Endorsed" rating reflects a candidate that Citizens Union deems not only qualified for the office with a viable candidacy, but also committed to an agenda of positive reform. Please note that candidates not endorsed may nevertheless be highly regarded, which is generally reflected in the commentary. Citizens Union issues a "Preferred" rating during the Primary Election, and an "Endorsed" rating applies only to General Election contests. A "No Preference" rating may result when there is insufficient information available, it is believed that the candidates are of equal merit, or if no candidate interviewed by Citizens Union is believed to be effective or capable of representing the district.

### **Our Criteria**

The following guidelines are used by the Local Candidates Committee and Citizens Union Board of Directors in the evaluation of candidates:

- Support for Citizens Union's reform agenda shall be the primary criteria used in deciding its support for a candidate.
- Evidence of ability to wage an effective and competitive campaign shall be considered, but not be determinative.
- Ability to advance CU's goals, if elected, shall be considered, but not determinative. Incumbents will be held accountable for their record of reform in office and shall be judged accordingly on the basis of their demonstrated support for CU's issues.
- State, local, or community issues specific to the race's jurisdiction shall be considered as will candidates' ability to grasp these issues and propose thoughtful solutions to represent their constituents' interests.
- Evaluation of the candidates and the decision to support a particular candidate shall be made without regard to political party and in a nonpartisan manner.

# QUESTIONNAIRE: CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES

Below each question, please find a tabulation of answers from all 48 General Election candidates who responded to the questionnaire – and not only from those candidates whom Citizens Union interviewed. Questionnaires for Mayor, Public Advocate, Comptroller, District Attorney, and Borough President can be found at [www.citizensunion.org](http://www.citizensunion.org).

## Voting and Elections Reform

1. What is your position with respect to eliminating party primaries and establishing a non-partisan election system in which all candidates and all voters participate in the first round and the top two candidates advance to the second round?  
*Support: 30 Conditionally Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 2 Oppose: 17 Conditionally Oppose: 0*
2. What is your position on instituting Instant Runoff Voting for all citywide offices and for all special elections for city offices?  
*Support: 42 Conditionally Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 1 Oppose: 5 Conditionally Oppose: 0*
3. What is your position on creating a voluntary municipal poll worker program to supplement poll worker recruitment by district leaders?  
*Support: 46 Conditionally Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 1 Oppose: 1 Conditionally Oppose: 0*
4. What is your position on requiring the Board of Elections to report performance metrics to the City Council that conform to the Mayor's Management Report?  
*Support: 45 Conditionally Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 2 Oppose: 1 Conditionally Oppose: 0*
5. What is your position on modifying the City Charter to require that laws enacted by referendum only be changed through approval by the voters?  
*Support: 39 Conditionally Support: 2 Undecided or No Answer: 3 Oppose: 5 Conditionally Oppose: 0*

## Campaign Finance Reform

6. What is your position on prohibiting participants in the city's campaign finance program from using public matching funds to purchase strategic campaign consulting services from firms that also provide lobbying services?  
*Support: 39 Conditionally Support: 1 Undecided or No Answer: 3 Oppose: 5 Conditionally Oppose: 0*
7. What is your position on increasing the Campaign Finance Board's public matching grants from a partial match of 55% to a full match of funds raised (Int. 1130-A)?  
*Support: 36 Conditionally Support: 1 Undecided or No Answer: 5 Oppose: 6 Conditionally Oppose: 0*

## City Council Reform

- 8.** How do you feel the reformed bill drafting process is going under the enacted 2014 Council Rules Reforms and do you think we need a more independent process similar to New York State Legislature's bill drafting commission?  
*Responses available online at [www.citizensunion.org](http://www.citizensunion.org)*
- 9.** What is your position on the following proposals enabling Council committees to function more effectively and independently of the speaker:
- a.** Should committee chairs have the ability to hire at least one committee staffer?  
*Support: 46 Conditionally Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 0 Oppose: 2 Conditionally Oppose: 0*
  - b.** Should committee hearings and votes be scheduled at the direction of the chairs?  
*Support: 46 Conditionally Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 0 Oppose: 1 Conditionally Oppose: 0*
  - c.** Should committees be able to issue subpoenas by a vote of their members?  
*Support: 48 Conditionally Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 0 Oppose: 0 Conditionally Oppose: 0*
  - d.** Now that committee chair stipends have been eliminated what is your position on reducing the overall number of committees so members can participate more meaningfully in fewer issues?  
*Support: 37 Conditionally Support: 1 Undecided or No Answer: 3 Oppose: 7 Conditionally Oppose: 0*
- 10.** What is your position on greater disclosure of councilmembers' outside income?  
*Support: 45 Conditionally Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 2 Oppose: 1 Conditionally Oppose: 0*
- 11.** When the Quadrennial Compensation Commission is reconvened, what is your position on requiring that any future increase in councilmember compensation only apply prospectively to the following term?  
*Support: 46 Conditionally Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 2 Oppose: 0 Conditionally Oppose: 0*
- 12.** What is your position on ensuring a more equitable and needs-based distribution of discretionary funding?  
*Support: 44 Conditionally Support: 2 Undecided or No Answer: 2 Oppose: 0 Conditionally Oppose: 0*
- 13.** What is your position on increasing transparency of discretionary funding by requiring the list of capital and expense funds and their sponsors be provided to Councilmembers and the public three days in advance of any vote, and expanding the online searchable database of expense funds to include all capital fund recipients and applicants?  
*Support: 47 Conditionally Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 1 Oppose: 0 Conditionally Oppose: 0*
- 14.** What is your position on extending term limits from two four-year terms to three four-year terms?  
*Support: 15 Conditionally Support: 1 Undecided or No Answer: 1 Oppose: 29 Conditionally Oppose: 2*

- 15.** What is your position on making all actions designed to influence any City Council outcome, including the choice of Speaker, reportable as a lobbying expense?  
*Support: 39 Conditionally Support: 3 Undecided or No Answer: 4 Oppose: 2 Conditionally Oppose: 0*

### **Public Safety and Oversight of Police Misconduct**

- 16.** What is your position on establishing the Commission to Combat Police Corruption (CCPC) as a permanent commission in the City Charter while empowering the CCPC to issue subpoenas?  
*Support: 38 Conditionally Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 3 Oppose: 7 Conditionally Oppose: 1*
- 17.** What is your position on enhancing the Civilian Complaint Review Board's (CCRB) authority to initiate an investigation into reported or known incidents of police misconduct without receipt of a formal complaint?  
*Support: 40 Conditionally Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 0 Oppose: 8 Conditionally Oppose: 0*
- 18.** What is your position on granting the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) with the authority to prosecute officers found guilty of lying during CCRB investigations?  
*Support: 42 Conditionally Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 2 Oppose: 4 Conditionally Oppose: 0*
- 19.** What is your position on reinstating the zero tolerance penalty for false official statements by public officers?  
*Support: 47 Conditionally Support: 1 Undecided or No Answer: 0 Oppose: 0 Conditionally Oppose: 0*
- 20.** What is your position on requiring the Police Commissioner to explain divergence from NYPD trial judge and CCRB disciplinary recommendations and to make the explanation public?  
*Support: 44 Conditionally Support: 1 Undecided or No Answer: 0 Oppose: 3 Conditionally Oppose: 0*
- 21.** What is your position on requiring the NYPD to publish a regular report of use of force incidents with data disaggregated by race?  
*Support: 40 Conditionally Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 1 Oppose: 7 Conditionally Oppose: 0*

### **Budget Reform**

- 22.** What is your position on establishing independent budgeting for:
- a.** the borough presidents?  
*Support: 45 Conditionally Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 1 Oppose: 2 Conditionally Oppose: 0*
  - b.** Conflicts of Interest Board?  
*Support: 44 Conditionally Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 1 Oppose: 3 Conditionally Oppose: 0*

c. the public advocate?

*Support: 44 Conditionally Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 1 Oppose: 3  
Conditionally Oppose: 0*

d. community boards?

*Support: 44 Conditionally Support: 1 Undecided or No Answer: 1 Oppose: 2  
Conditionally Oppose: 0*

- 23.** What is your position on making the budget process more transparent by clearly defining and limiting units of appropriation?  
*Support: 48 Conditionally Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 0 Oppose: 0  
Conditionally Oppose: 0*
- 24.** What is your position on release of revenue projections (other than property taxes) prior to Council hearings on the Executive budget?  
*Support: 48 Conditionally Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 0 Oppose: 0  
Conditionally Oppose: 0*

### **Land Use and Community Board Reform**

- 25.** What is your position on designating urban planners for use by community boards and requiring borough president's report to the Council the manner in which they advertise and make community board appointments?  
*Support: 43 Conditionally Support: 2 Undecided or No Answer: 1 Oppose: 2  
Conditionally Oppose: 1*
- 26.** What is your position on establishing a formal standardized and transparent process for community board appointments including written applications, interviews of candidates, and filling vacancies within 30 days?  
*Support: 45 Conditionally Support: 1 Undecided or No Answer: 1 Oppose: 1  
Conditionally Oppose: 0*

### **Constitutional Convention**

- 27.** In November, voters in New York will be asked whether they wish to hold a constitutional convention to amend the New York State Constitution. What is your position on holding such a convention?  
*Support: 13 Conditionally Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 5 Oppose: 30  
Conditionally Oppose: 0*
- 28.** If you support the constitutional convention, what actions, if any, will you take to ensure that it takes place? If you oppose the convention, what will you do to defeat it?  
*Responses available online at [www.citizensunion.org](http://www.citizensunion.org)*



# Citizens Union Endorsed Candidates — 2017 General Election

## New York City

### **Mayor**

No Endorsement

### **Public Advocate**

Letitia James (D)

### **City Comptroller**

Scott Stringer (D)

### **Bronx**

*Council District 15*

Ritchie Torres (D)

### **Brooklyn**

*Council District 43*

Justin Brannan (D)

*Council District 44*

No Endorsement

### **Manhattan**

*Council District 4*

Rebecca Harary (R)

# QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES

District/Name	Major Party Affiliation	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9A	Q9B	Q9C	Q9D	Q10	Q11	Q12	Q13	Q14	Q15	Q16	Q17	Q18	Q19	Q20	Q21	Q22A	Q22B	Q22C	Q22D	Q23	Q24	Q25	Q26	Q27	
<b>Bronx</b>																																			
CD8/Ayala*	D, WF	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	O
CD13/Doyle	Lib.	O	S	S	S	S	S	S		S	S	S	S	S	S	NA	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O
CD13/Gjonaj	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	O		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	O
CD13/Velázquez	WF	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	O
CD14/Abreu	WF	O	S	S	S	O	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	O
CD14/Sanchez	Lib.	S	S	S	S	S	S	S		S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O
CD15/Torres†	D, WF	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	O
CD15/Cancel	R, C	S	S	S	S	S	S	S		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
CD17/Santana	ES	O	O	S	S	O	O	S		S	S	S	O	NA	S	S	S	O	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O
CD17/Delices	R	O	O	S	S	S	O	S		S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	O	O	O	S	S	S	S	S	
CD18/Beltzer	Lib.	S	S	S	S	S	S	NA		S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	NA	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	
<b>Brooklyn</b>																																			
CD34/Reynos†	D, WF	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	O	
CD35/Brisport	G, S	O	S	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	NA	NA	S
CD35/Cumbo†	D	O	S	S	S	S	NA	S		S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	
CD39/Landert	D, WF	O	S	S	S	O	S	S		S	S	S	S	S	NA	S	S*	S*	O*	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	NA	
CD40/Cunningham	Ref.	S	S	S	S	S	S	S		S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	O	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	
CD41/Samuel	D, WF	S	S	S	S	S	S	S		S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	
CD42/Hormeku	Ref.	O	S	S	S	S	O	S		S	S	S	S	S	S	NA	O	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
CD43/Capano	Ref.	S	S	S	S	S	S	O		S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	O	O	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
CD43/Quaglione	R, C, I	S	S	S	S	S	S	O		S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	O	O	S	S	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	S	S	S	S	O
CD43/Brannan	D, WF	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	O	
CD44/Yeger	D, C	O	O	S	S	S	S*	O		S	S	S	S*	S	S	S*	S	O	S	O	O	O	S	S*	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S*	O	NA	
CD45/Williams†	D, WF	S	S	S	S	NA	NA	NA		S	S	S	S	S	NA	S	S	S	NA	S	S	S	NA	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	NA	
CD47/Treyger†	D, WF	O	S	S	S	S	S	S		S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	O	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O		

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

# QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES

District/Name	Major Party Affiliation	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9A	Q9B	Q9C	Q9D	Q10	Q11	Q12	Q13	Q14	Q15	Q16	Q17	Q18	Q19	Q20	Q21	Q22A	Q22B	Q22C	Q22D	Q23	Q24	Q25	Q26	Q27			
<b>Manhattan</b>																																					
CD1/Chin†	D, WF	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	O	
CD1/Marte	I	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	O	
CD2/Rivera	D, WF	S	S	S	S	S	S	S		S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O
CD3/Johnson†	D, WF	O	S	S	S	S	S	S		S	S	S	S	S	NA	S*	S	S	S*	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	
CD4/Harary	R, WE, Ref., SB	S	S	S	S	S*	S	O		S	S*	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S*	NA	O	O	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O*	S	S	
CD4/Powers	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	O	
CD4/Honig	Lib.	S	S	S	S	S	S	NA		S	S	S	NA	NA	S	S	S	NA	NA	S	S	S	S	S	NA	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S		
CD5/Kallos†	D, WF	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	
CD6/Rosenthal†	D, WF	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	O	
CD6/Raudenbush	SUT	S	S	S	S	S	S	NA		S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
CD7/Levine†	D, WF	S	S	S	S	S	S	S		S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	NA	NA	S	NA	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	
CD9/Gooding	Ref.	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	
CD9/Perkins†	D, WF	O	O	S	NA	S	S	S		S	S	S	NA	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	
CD9/Gray	G	S	S	S	S	NA	S	S		S	S	S	NA	O	S	S	S	O	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	NA	NA	NA	NA	S	S	S	S	S	S		
<b>Queens</b>																																					
CD19/Graziano	REF	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		
CD19/Vallone†	D, WF	S	S	S	S	S	S	S		S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	O	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	NA		
CD20/Koo†	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S*		O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	O	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S*	S	O		
CD21/Moya	D, WF	O	S	S	S	O	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	O	
CD27/Miller†	D	NA		S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O							
CD30/Crowley†	D, WF, WE	O	S	O	S	O	O	O		S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	
CD30/Holden	R, C, Ref., DB	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	
CD32/Scala	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	O		
<b>Staten Island</b>																																					
CD49/Hanks	Ref.	O	O	S	O	S	O	S		S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	O	S	NA	O	NA	S*	O	O	S	S	O	S*	S	S	O	S*	NA			
CD51/Schwartz	D, WF	S	S	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	O	

## KEY

Citizens Union preferred candidates in bold.

^ Incumbent legislator

S Support

O Oppose

N/A No answer or undecided

\* Nuanced answer

# Legislative Candidate Evaluations

## New York City Mayor

NO ENDORSEMENT

### **BILL DE BLASIO** – DEMOCRAT

*Has returned a statement, which is available online at [www.CitizensUnion.org](http://www.CitizensUnion.org)*

*Age: 56 Occupation: Mayor of New York City*

*Education: New York University, B.A.; Columbia University, M.I.A.*

Mayor de Blasio touts his achievements during his first term: further crime reductions, establishment of citywide pre-K, substantial job growth, and standing up to divisive Trump policies, including maintaining New York City as a sanctuary for immigrants. The Mayor also claims his affordable housing plan is ahead of schedule, that police-community relations are improving, and that the police force is now more diverse. On the other hand, income inequality – a key focus of his 2013 campaign – is still a major issue (although he claims to be making strides to address it), the homelessness crisis has worsened, and relations between Albany and City Hall are severely strained.

However, particularly concerning to Citizens Union is that the Mayor's conduct has raised many troubling ethical issues. For example, a nonprofit organization he formed, the Campaign for One New York, was a means of attracting contributions to enhance the Mayor's political agenda from many individuals and entities seeking to do business with the city. These donors were able to give far more to this entity than they could to his mayoral campaign, given the city's campaign contribution limits. A 2015 report showed over 60% of donors in one six-month period either had business or labor contacts with City Hall or were pursuing approval for a project when they contributed. In addition, the Mayor maintained connections with his campaign consultants after taking office, at one point claiming them to be "agents" of the city (even though they were not on the city's payroll) to try to shield their communications from Freedom of Information Law disclosure. And his effort to support certain Democratic candidates for the State Senate in 2014 led to an investigation by the Manhattan District Attorney, who, while ultimately deciding not to prosecute, took the extraordinary step of issuing a public statement saying that the Mayor's fundraising in that regard "appear[ed] contrary to the intent and spirit of the law." Also concerning is recent sworn testimony of a witness cooperating with federal prosecutors regarding "pay-to-play" allegations involving City Hall. We hope that in the future whoever is elected Mayor will address the perception of a "pay-to-play" culture at City Hall and support ethics reform legislation for the benefit of all New Yorkers, like the legislation enacted late last year at Citizens Union's urging to curb nonprofits such as the Campaign for One New York.

Besides the incumbent, the only other major party candidate, Nicole Malliotakis, is earnest, has a promising future, but would benefit from more experience in order to run a government of the size and complexity of New York City. The other candidates, while also evaluated, did not demonstrate the range of leadership skills or public support to receive preference consideration.

Hence, for all of these reasons, for the first time in more than 50 years, Citizens Union, by unanimous vote of its governing board, chooses not to express a preference and cannot support any of the candidates on the ballot for Mayor of New York City.

## **SAL F. ALBANESE – REFORM**

*Has returned questionnaire, responses available online at [www.CitizensUnion.org](http://www.CitizensUnion.org)*

*Age: 67 Occupation: Attorney at Allegaert Berger & Vogel LLP*

*Education: CUNY York College, B.A.; New York University, M.A.; Brooklyn Law School, J.D.*

Sal Albanese is an attorney who represented southwest Brooklyn on the City Council for fifteen years during the 1980's and 1990's, followed by campaigns to win the Democratic Party nomination for Mayor in 1997, 2001, 2013, and 2017. He was known to be an independent Council Member, voting against the party leadership's positions and pressing for reform issues like public campaign finance. Albanese stresses the need for a major overhaul of the political system, which he sees as broken. He also supports revamping campaign finance laws by establishing a voucher program (voter donations through public funding), reducing the donation cap, and forbidding the bundling of campaign contributions. On Mayor-Council relations, Albanese wants to enact an advise and consent procedure over agency commissioner appointments in the Council. On voting reform, Albanese advocates for a nonpartisan election system and instant runoff elections. He is in line with most of the Citizens Union questionnaire items, except on issue of police oversight – he opposes enhancing the Civilian Complaint Review Board's (CCRB) capabilities or establishing Commission to Combat Police Corruption (CCPC) as a permanent commission – and opposes independent budgeting for certain local boards and offices. Among Albanese's other priorities are improving the mass transit system through greater MTA funding and tolling system changes, building more affordable housing by taxing non-primary-residence properties and building on available city-owned lots, and passing the Small Business Jobs Survival Act.

## **NICOLE MALLIOTAKIS – REPUBLICAN**

*Has returned questionnaire, responses available online at [www.CitizensUnion.org](http://www.CitizensUnion.org)*

*Age: 36 Occupation: New York State Assembly Member, District 64*

*Education: Seton Hall University, B.A.; Wagner College, M.B.A.*

Nicole Malliotakis was first elected to the New York State Assembly in 2010 to represent eastern Staten Island and parts of Bay Ridge in Brooklyn, defeating a two-term incumbent Democrat. She is a member of the Banking, Corporations, Transportation, and Ways and Means Committees, and has touted her work on Superstorm Sandy recovery, restoring Staten Island bus service, and increasing transparency in the MTA. Malliotakis has been a vocal critic of the current administration for increasing city spending while showing what she sees as

little results, especially in the quality of infrastructure, education, public safety, and homeless services. To improve what she sees as bad city management, she would implement a system of metrics to identify which programs are achieving results and which should be eliminated or reformed, and would also freeze property tax levies and implement a spending cap on the city's expenses. To address the homelessness crisis, Malliotakis seeks to build supportive units for individuals with mental health conditions, provide rent subsidies contingent on job training, and prohibit the use of hotels as shelters, among other proposals. On reform issues, Malliotakis is aligned with Citizens Union's agenda regarding the city's "pay-to-play" culture and transparency, as she supports more disclosure of lobbying activities and council members' outside income, and greater independence and transparency in budgeting; however, she opposes the city's campaign finance public matching program (though she said she is using it for her mayoral race to be able to compete against the Mayor's substantial campaign fund). Malliotakis is at odds with Citizens Union's position on police oversight: she opposes the release of police officers' disciplinary records to the public (Section 50-a), enhancing the CCRB's capabilities, and establishing CCPC as a permanent commission, among other things. Malliotakis does not see any problems with current Mayor-Council relations or the legislative process, but believes a Republican Mayor would bring needed balance to the Democratic-controlled Council. On state-city relations, she is supportive of greater home rule for control over city schools, but not for levying taxes. In the Assembly, Malliotakis voted against same-sex marriage (a vote she said she now regrets) and has worked for various legislative reforms, including having bills provided to legislators electronically.

## **MICHAEL (MIKE) TOLKIN – SMART CITIES**

*Has returned questionnaire, responses available online at [www.CitizensUnion.org](http://www.CitizensUnion.org)*

*Age: 32 Occupation: Full-time Candidate*

*Education: University of Pennsylvania, B.S.A.*

Mike Tolkin is a tech entrepreneur who, in the private sector, founded initiatives related to virtual reality products and consumer benefits, as well as a proposed project to develop a city park in NoMad, Manhattan. Tolkin presents a vision for a "smarter city" and a "new economy" that includes immense investments in infrastructure (a \$25 billion capital plan), healthcare (a universal single-payer mental health system), social safety nets (a universal basic income program), and housing (affordable campuses to be built on city-owned parcels). To fund these ambitious plans, Tolkin proposes to use the profits from a network of for-profit corporations he would establish, owned by the city but competing in the free market, in areas like e-commerce, research and development, or any other business that has a potential revenue of at least a billion dollars. He also seeks to increase collaboration with the private sector through private-public partnerships. Tolkin did not answer many of Citizens Union reform questionnaire items, partly because his plans include a radical restructuring of city government. He does support greater home rule, especially in terms of public transit and mayoral control of schools, as well as increasing transparency and accountability through technological innovations. Tolkin has also proposed community-elected police officers, and a "Board of Taxpayers" that reviews budgets.

## **AKEEM BROWDER – GREEN**

*Has not returned questionnaire*

## **AARON COMMEY – LIBERTARIAN**

*Has not returned questionnaire*

## **BO DIETL – DUMP THE MAYOR**

*Has not returned questionnaire*

## **New York City Public Advocate**

### **★ Endorsed Candidate LETITIA JAMES - DEMOCRAT ★**

*Has returned questionnaire, responses available online at [www.CitizensUnion.org](http://www.CitizensUnion.org)*

*Age: 59 Occupation: New York City Public Advocate*

*Education: CUNY Lehman College, B.A.; Howard University School of Law, J.D.*

Letitia James has served as the Public Advocate of New York City since 2014, the first woman of color to hold citywide office. She had served in the Council since 2003, where she chaired the Sanitation and the Economic Development Committees. James began her career as a public defender for The Legal Aid Society and went on to be the Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Brooklyn Regional Office. As Public Advocate, James has had multiple accomplishments. She has litigated to address issues on a wide range of topics, such as sexual assault, housing rights, police reform and education policies, and advocates for an increase in the scope and powers of the Public Advocate's litigation capabilities to approach and resolve issues. In her role as Public Advocate, James has published various policy reports, which detail specific issues relating to New Yorkers' daily lives, from the gender wage gap and education to affordable housing and criminal justice reform. James publishes the Worst Landlords List, which has been integral to her success helping New York City tenants advocate for their housing rights. In addition to her litigation and advocacy work, James has proposed legislation passed by the Council, including the Equal Pay Legislation that banned employers from requesting information about wage and salary history. In her second term James would like to improve the way the city deals with FOIL requests, believing that more FOIL officers are needed in each agency to ensure timely responses. James believes the Public Advocate should have an appointment to the Panel for Educational Policy, and stands for greater parental voice in the schools. In addition to the power to litigate, which she has been exercising, James believes that to remain a strong independent arm of city government the Public Advocate should have a budget independent of the Mayor and Council, and subpoena power. Although supportive of many Citizens Union positions, she opposes holding a constitutional convention. James has an excellent command of the issues facing the city and has used the office of Public Advocate effectively to advocate for change. Citizens Union believes she merits reelection.

### **DEVIN BALKIND - LIBERTARIAN**

*Has returned questionnaire, responses available online at [www.CitizensUnion.org](http://www.CitizensUnion.org)*

*Age: 31 Occupation: President, Sahana Software Foundation*

*Education: Northwestern University, B.S.*

Devin Balkind has significant experience using innovative technology to promote the spread of information. He is currently the president of the Sahana Software Foundation,



a nonprofit organization that produces open source information management systems for disaster relief and humanitarian aid. He is also the executive director of Sarapis, a nonprofit that assists other nonprofit organizations to use open source tools and techniques to their advantage. The campaign for Public Advocate is his first venture into politics. In line with his background, he focuses on the information-related aspects of the office. Balkind believes that the Public Advocate is in a prime position to fight against the problems that asymmetrical information can present to a city. As Public Advocate he would fight for New York City residents to have the right and ability to access information regarding the actions and political relationships of their council members and other city officials. Balkind would also take advantage of the Public Advocate's role in certifying the capital budget to leverage greater transparency in how money is spent in New York City. Balkind is a strong proponent of instituting a "211" program that would provide New Yorkers with greater access to various services and assistance from both the public and private sector in the city. On criminal justice reform, he cites the war on drugs as a key policy failure that has led to a breakdown in the relationship between the NYPD and the communities they police. Balkind has made the push for a constitutional convention a component of his campaign, believing that it provides the best chance to broadly democratize the political process in New York City. Citizens Union encourages his further involvement in politics but believes he needs to take a broader perspective on the role of the Public Advocate and the skills needed to do the job effectively.

## **JUAN CARLOS (J.C.) POLANCO - REPUBLICAN**

*Has returned questionnaire, responses available online at [www.CitizensUnion.org](http://www.CitizensUnion.org)*

*Age: 40 Occupation: New York State Assembly; New York City Regional Director; Polanco Law, PLLC*

*Education: SUNY Albany, B.A.; Fordham University, J.D. and M.B.A.*

J.C. Polanco is the current NYC Regional Director for the Assembly Minority Conference, is on the faculty at Borough of Manhattan Community College, and practices law at Polanco Law, PLLC. Previously he served as the Commissioner of Elections from the Bronx. He ran unsuccessfully for the New York State Assembly in 2002. Polanco has a broad agenda for change, and is committed to weeding out financial corruption and "pay-to-play" politics in New York City. He would like to see the expansion of charter school programs and increased options for parents' school choice. Polanco plans to improve community-police relationships by recruiting more officers from within the city, providing more multicultural training, and increasing youth programs with the police so children learn to trust and have positive interactions with police. He would provide first responders and police officers with information regarding mental health patients in their communities to avoid fatal confrontations. Polanco would like to expand services for homeless individuals such as mental health care and job training, and wants to see supportive housing built in communities across the five boroughs. Polanco would like to expand the power of the Public Advocate, and if elected would seek to place the Administration for Children's Services (ACS) and the Department of Homeless Services under his purview to ensure better services. He also supports subpoena power for the Public Advocate and is a strong supporter of the constitutional convention. Polanco is a knowledgeable candidate but Citizens Union does not believe he would match the effectiveness of the incumbent.



**JAMES C. LANE - GREEN**

*Has not returned questionnaire*

**MICHAEL A. O'REILLY – CONSERVATIVE**

*Has not returned questionnaire*

## **New York City Comptroller**

★ **Endorsed Candidate SCOTT STRINGER - DEMOCRAT** ★

*Has returned questionnaire, responses available online at [www.CitizensUnion.org](http://www.CitizensUnion.org)*

*Age: 57 Occupation: New York City Comptroller*

*Education: John Jay College of Criminal Justice*

Scott Stringer is the current New York City Comptroller and has been a member of the New York political landscape for decades. He first held office as a State Assembly Member from 1993 to 2005, and then was Borough President of Manhattan from 2006 to 2013. In 2013, he was elected to the position of New York City Comptroller and is now seeking re-election. His current priorities include addressing issues of affordability, homelessness, NYCHA housing conditions, and making the Department of Education more transparent. He urges the development of new affordable housing options by leveraging his audit and investigation power to find solutions to creating new units and maintaining the existing stock. Other priorities include putting the MTA's finances on a more sustainable footing and protecting the environment. Lastly, Stringer promises to build an inclusive economy by increasing Women- and Minority-owned Business Enterprise (WMBE) procurement. Stringer aligns with Citizens Union on most issues, except that he opposes holding a constitutional convention, and opposes eliminating party primaries and establishing a nonpartisan election system. Citizens Union believes Stringer has been an effective Comptroller, providing sound stewardship of the city's finances and, notably, the city's pension funds, where he has sought to achieve more coordination among the various funds that have been set up by law. He also has counter-balanced the Mayor on a number of issues, an appropriate role for the city's financial watchdog. Stringer warrants another term as Comptroller; neither of his opponents can match his command of the issues or experience in handling this important position.

**MICHEL FAULKNER – REPUBLICAN**

*Has returned questionnaire, responses available online at [www.CitizensUnion.org](http://www.CitizensUnion.org)*

*Age: 60 Occupation: Pastor, New Horizon Church of New York*

*Education: Virginia Tech, B.A. and M.A.*

Michel Faulkner is a former professional football player and has been a social worker and religious leader for nearly 30 years. He was the founder and is now the leading pastor at New Horizon Church of New York. In 2005, he founded the nonprofit Institute for Leadership, which develops leadership programs for a range of industry professionals. In the 1990s, Faulkner worked on the mayoral campaign of Rudolph Giuliani and was later

appointed to the Task Force on Police Community Relations. In 2010, he ran for Congress against U.S. Rep. Charles Rangel and lost. His priorities include fixing NYCHA's aging housing stock by improving maintenance and providing capital infusion. He believes the Comptroller should push back against the Mayor and Council to reduce spending, which he feels has gotten out of control under the current administration. Faulkner also prioritizes the expansion of charter schools. He bemoans what he calls the "balance of payments" deficit, with too much city taxpayer money flowing to Washington and Albany relative to what the city receives. He also believes the city's pension funds should be placed in lower cost investments, and that the assumptions regarding the expected investment returns on pension funds are too high. Faulkner deviates from a number of Citizens Union's reform positions, most notably on the issue of holding a constitutional convention, which he opposes. Faulkner also opposes establishing independent budgeting for the borough presidents, the Conflicts of Interest Board, the Public Advocate, and community boards.

## **JULIA WILLEBRAND – GREEN**

*Has returned questionnaire, responses available online at [www.CitizensUnion.org](http://www.CitizensUnion.org)*

*Age: 84 Occupation: Retired*

*Education: CUNY, B.A.; Teachers College, Columbia University, M.A. and Ed.D.*

Julia Willebrand is a former public school teacher and professor, and has been active in local government for many years. In the 1990s, she was chair of the Manhattan Citizens' Solid Waste Advisory Board and had a similar role at the New York City Sierra Club. She has also served as chair of the Green Party's International Working Group. In 2001, she ran for Mayor of New York and in 2006 she ran for New York State Comptroller. Willebrand explained that two of her top priorities are to establish a municipal bank, and change pension investment policies to incorporate social justice principles. She also wants to end tax abatements, which she sees as corporate subsidies. Among Willebrand's other priorities are to divest the city's retirement plans from fossil fuels, revitalize the city's education system by ending support for charter schools, and monitor the Criminal Justice Reform Act to ensure reduction of misdemeanor cases. Willebrand supports Citizens Union's position on holding a constitutional convention. She differs from Citizens Union's positions on eliminating party primaries and establishing a nonpartisan election system.

## **ALEX MERCED – LIBERTARIAN**

*Has not returned questionnaire*

## **NYC Council District 4**

### **★ Endorsed Candidate REBECCA HARARY – REPUBLICAN ★**

*Has returned questionnaire, response p. 28*

*Age: 54 Occupation: Full-time candidate*

*Education: The Fashion Institute of Technology, B.A.; Columbia University, M.A.*

Rebecca Harary is a cofounder and board member of the Propel Network, a women's career support organization, and a founder of a number of other community and educational nonprofits. In 2016, she ran for a seat in the New York State Assembly (District 72) but lost to incumbent Dan Quart in the General Election. Harary's priorities

include easing rent burdens on seniors, middle class residents, and small businesses (largely through raising the commercial rent tax ceiling and gradually eliminating it); making subway stations ADA compliant and improving public transportation for the growing senior population; and addressing homelessness with vocational training. She is also concerned with managing overcrowded pre-K classrooms, improving pedestrian safety and deploying more police officers in her district. Harary expressed support for many reform issues, including implementing new restrictions on lobbyist activity, introducing nonpartisan top-two election system and, most notably, holding a constitutional convention. However, she opposes a few reform issues important to Citizens Union. She wants to decrease campaign public funding (although supports lowering contribution limits), objects to enhancing certain powers of the CCRB, and opposes requiring the NYPD to disaggregate use-of-force reporting by race. Citizens Union believes Harary would be an energetic, committed representative who would add a fresh perspective to the Council.

## **KEITH POWERS – DEMOCRAT**

*Has returned questionnaire, response p. 28*

*Age: 33 Occupation: Full-time candidate*

*Education: University of Dayton, B.A.; CUNY Graduate Center, M.A.*

Keith Powers is a former Vice President at Constantinople & Vallone Consulting L.L.C., a lobbying firm in New York City and State. He has worked as a campaign manager for state Senator Liz Krueger and a chief of staff for Assembly Member Jonathan Bing. Powers's top priorities are protecting and creating affordable housing; improving public education in terms of funding, diversity, and quality; and fixing public transportation's functionality and affordability. Powers's platform includes a detailed plan of good government reform for the city. His "Sunlight in the City" agenda includes reforms to campaign finance, budget allocations, Council operations, voting and elections, and new restrictions on lobbyist activity. In addressing his own work as a lobbyist, and in response to criticisms that he accepted contributions from former clients, he has pledged to disclose his former client list, refrain from contact with former clients of the firm, and seek an advisory opinion on the matter from the Conflict of Interest Board, which he will make public.

## **RACHEL HONIG – LIBERAL**

*Has returned questionnaire, response p.28*

*Age: 45 Occupation: Public Relations and Communications Consultant*

*Education: Smith College, B.A.*

Rachel Honig has been working in marketing and public relations for the past twenty years in various capacities. A self-defined "socially liberal and fiscally responsible" candidate, she is running for office to bring "non-partisan competency" to City Hall, and points to the city's shortcomings in supporting small businesses as her top priority issue. Honig is also concerned with preserving waterways and parks, pressuring Albany to create significant transportation improvements, addressing overdevelopment in the district, and lead-contaminated drinking water. She supports holding a constitutional convention. Honig is seeking election because she feels that City Hall has failed to represent the public interest in several key areas and wishes to elevate public dialogue about government ethics.

## NYC Council District 15

### ★ Endorsed Candidate **RITCHIE TORRES** – DEMOCRAT★

*Has returned questionnaire, response p. 26*

*Age: 29 Occupation: New York City Council Member, District 15*

*Education: High School*

Ritchie Torres was elected to the New York City Council to represent District 15 in 2013 as the youngest member of the Council, and is currently seeking reelection. He is the Chair of the Committee on Public Housing and a likely candidate for speaker. Noting his own history as a NYCHA resident, Torres emphasized the importance of improving public housing stock and seeking more accountability from landlords. He also wants to increase diversity in public schools by enacting controlled choice; provide addiction treatment services; and increase funding to services for immigrant and LGBTQ communities. Torres is supportive of much of Citizens Union's reform agenda. He is a strong supporter of greater police accountability, and has sponsored legislation in the area during his first term. Torres supports Citizens Union's voting and elections, campaign finance and budget reform agenda. He is not in favor, however, of holding a constitutional convention. Citizens Union endorses Council Member Torres because of his legislative aptitude, especially on matters related to housing and police accountability, and his sensitivity to the issues facing his constituents.

### **JAYSON CANCEL** – REPUBLICAN

*Has returned questionnaire, response p. 26*

*Age: 26 Occupation: Fire Safety Director*

*Education: Bronx Community College, A.A.*

Jayson Cancel is a fire safety director with experience in security. His priorities are community oriented, but relatively unspecific. His primary goals are to improve the economic health of the district by reducing income inequality, improve funding for public health services, and promote cleaner subways and public spaces. Cancel opposes new homeless shelters in District 15 because of the economic hardships it faces. On reform issues, Cancel supports law enforcement reform through increased communication and improved relations between communities and the police. He supports almost all of Citizens Union's questionnaire items, including holding a constitutional convention, but opposes allowing committee chairs to hire a staffer and giving chairs the power to schedule committee hearings and votes. While Citizens Union believes Cancel has a genuine desire to improve his district, his platform lacks specificity and his background does not indicate that he would be an effective lawmaker.

## NYC Council District 43

### ★ Endorsed Candidate **JUSTIN BRANNAN** – DEMOCRAT ★

*Has returned questionnaire, response p. 26*

*Age: 38 Occupation: Full-time Candidate*

*Education: Fordham University and College of Staten Island, B.A.*

Justin Brannan is currently a full-time candidate. He previously served as Chief of Staff for Council Member Vincent Gentile and is the founder of Bay Ridge Cares, a nonprofit organization that addresses quality of life issues in Bay Ridge. Brannan's top priorities in the district are to improve public transportation options, address overcrowding in classrooms, support small businesses, increase funding for senior services, and increase community-police interaction. He supports almost all of Citizens Union's reform priorities and is especially supportive of Council rules reforms to make the process of policymaking more fair, efficient, and external to the political dynamics of the Council. Brannan splits notably with Citizens Union's agenda on the subject of holding a constitutional convention, which he opposes. Citizens Union endorses Brannan because, in addition to his knowledge of the issues facing his district, he is the candidate most versed in reform issues and presents as the candidate with the greatest ability to successfully negotiate the dynamics of the Council.

### **JOHN QUAGLIONE** - REPUBLICAN

*Has returned questionnaire, response p. 26*

*Age: 38 Occupation: Deputy Chief of Staff and Press Secretary for Senator Martin Golden*

*Education: American University, B.A.*

John Quaglione is currently the Deputy Chief of Staff and Press Secretary for State Senator Martin Golden and serves as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Saint Anselm Catholic Academy. Quaglione's top priorities are creating a city-wide database of cell phone videos and pictures taken by civilians to assist NYPD investigations, increasing the presence of police in District 43, introducing participatory budgeting, improving public transportation, and increasing funding for senior services like the Senior Citizens Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) and the Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage (EPIC) programs. Quaglione supports a number of Citizens Union's reform goals, but differs on the subject of police accountability, holding a constitutional convention, and independent budgeting for certain public offices and boards. He does, however, believe that the CCRB should be empowered to prosecute officers found lying during their investigations. Quaglione demonstrates experience and knowledge of his district's concerns, but Citizens Union was troubled by remarks he recently made that showed an insensitivity to women's rights.

### **BOB CAPANO** – REFORM

*Has returned questionnaire, response p. 26*

*Candidate could not be scheduled for an interview.*

### **ANGEL MEDINA** – WOMEN'S EQUALITY

*Has not returned questionnaire*

## NYC Council District 44

NO ENDORSEMENT

### **KALMAN YEGER** – DEMOCRAT

*Has returned questionnaire, response p. 26*

*Age: 43 Occupation: Attorney*

*Education: Touro College, B.A.; New York Law School, J.D.*

Kalman Yeger is a counsel and executive director of the Bronx Borough President's election committee, and since 2010 has served as a senior advisor and counsel to the current incumbent, Council Member David Greenfield. He stresses that his priorities are related to local issues: securing funding to improve the F express train line, funding the district's parks, maintaining participatory budgeting, and being a voice for his community in the Council. With regard to Citizens Union's reform agenda, Yeger supports stronger reform of the Council's bill drafting process than the one enacted in 2014, which will increase transparency and reduce the speaker's ability to abuse her or his power and council members' ability to "freeze" issues or bills from being considered further. He also supports Citizens Union's goal of preventing an emerging "pay-to-play" culture in NYC. However, Yeger opposed many of Citizens Union's questionnaire items, including proposals to establish a nonpartisan election system, institute instant runoff voting, increase campaign public matching funding, enhance the power of the CCRB and CCPC, and others. He remains undecided on holding a constitutional convention. He also suggests treating expenditures by "issue" nonprofits as campaign expenditures subject to the limitations of the Campaign Finance Act as a mechanism for addressing the "pay-to-play" issue. Yeger was running for City Council in District 48 until Council Member Greenfield announced that he would no longer seek re-election—after the petition filing deadline for candidates had passed—and selected Yeger as his successor as the Democratic candidate for District 44, a move that was criticized by Citizens Union as disenfranchising constituents and fueling the cynicism of New York voters. In his interview, Yeger himself was also critical of the process that led him to this seat, but claimed both council districts have overlapping communities and neighborhoods.

### **YONI HIKIND** – OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

*Has not returned questionnaire*

### **HAROLD TISCHLER** – SCHOOL CHOICE

*Has not returned questionnaire*

## **Citizens Union Board of Directors**

Randy Mastro, *Chair*  
Luis Garden Acosta, *Vice Chair*  
Lorna B. Goodman, *Vice Chair*  
Nancy Bowe, *Treasurer*  
Christina R. Davis, *Secretary*  
John Avlon  
Eddie Bautista  
Tony Perez Cassino  
Penelope Christophorou  
Curtis Cole  
Allan H. Dobrin  
Ester R. Fuchs, Ph.D.  
John R. Horan  
Robert M. Kaufman  
Eric S. Lee  
Gena Lovett  
Malcolm MacKay  
Antonio Magliocco, Jr.  
Anthony S. Mattia  
Gary P. Naftalis  
Tom Osterman  
Alan Rothstein  
Ken Seplow  
Peter J.W. Sherwin  
Gregory Silbert  
Jason Stewart  
Edward C. Swenson  
David Wang

## **Local Candidates Committee**

Anthony S. Mattia, *Chair*  
Tim Abraham  
Omair Ahmed  
Scott Avidon  
Tony Perez Cassino  
Gail Erickson  
Joseph Gapper  
Ross Graham  
Robert Grant  
Sung-ah Han  
William Herrlich  
Mary Hines  
Tracie Holder  
John Horan  
Raymond Knowles  
Sandra Lespinasse  
David Brauner  
Matthew Levison  
Mark Lieberman  
Alan Lubliner  
Grace Lyu Volckhausen  
Corinne Marcus  
Evan Mastronardi  
Bill Meehan  
John Moran  
Richard Ropiak  
Kenneth Seplow  
Anthony R. Smith  
Triada Stampas  
Judy Stanton  
Ed Strauss  
Caroline Udelhofen  
David Weiss  
Jesse Wiess

## **Staff**

Alan Rothstein, *Interim  
Executive Director of  
Citizens Union*  
Rachel Bloom, *Director  
of Public Policy and  
Programs*  
Ethan Geringer-Sameth,  
*Public Policy and  
Program Manager*  
Priscilla Grim,  
*Communications and  
Marketing Manager*  
Rosa Loza, *Development  
Associate*  
Nelson Mallory,  
*Executive Assistant*  
Sally McCullough, *Office  
and Finance Director*  
W. JaVon Rice, *Technical  
Manager and Web  
Producer*

## **Interns and Volunteers**

Lauren Mauro  
Nazmus Saquib  
Matthew Sweeney  
Ben Weinberg