



Thursday, May 13, 2021

Citizens Union 2021 Candidate Questionnaire - City Council

Dear Candidate,

Congratulations on your decision to run for New York City Council!

Citizens Union appreciates your commitment to serve the public.

In the following pages, you will find questions regarding your positions on various reform issues and your plans for office. The form includes five short sections: serving constituent, elections and voting, police accountability, council rules and procedures, and miscellaneous.

Responses to these questions will be one of several factors Citizens Union uses to evaluate candidates running for city offices, and to issue our preference for the June primary. Read more about the method, principles, and criteria of the candidate evaluation process [here](#).

**

If you wish to be considered, please submit the questionnaire by April 17 and no later than 48 before your interview.

If you seek our support, we will need to schedule an interview with you as part of the evaluation process. Given time constraints and the limited capacity of a member-based organization, we may not be able to evaluate all contests or candidates in this election cycle.

**

If you cannot complete the questionnaire in one sitting, you can click Save and Continue Later at the bottom of every page.

Once you submit the questionnaire, you will receive a confirmation email with your responses. Citizens Union will not be able to see your answers unless you submit the form. We plan to make responses to this questionnaire public on our website, printed voters directory, and other appropriate venues (your contact information will not be published).

For any questions, please email candidates@citizensunion.org

We thank you very much for your response.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Your Info

Name

Badrun Khan

Running for Council District number

26

In which primary

Democratic

If elected, which legislative conference will you join (e.g., Democrat, Republican, other)?

Democrat

Age

48

Education

Non profit

Occupation/Employer

Finance

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement

Community Board 2

Campaign Contact Information**Website**

badrunkhan.com

Twitter

@badrun_Khan

Facebook

facebook.com/electbadrunkhan

Affirmations**Have you completed the required campaign finance filings?**

Yes

Have you qualified to receive matching campaign finance funds from the CFB?

Yes

Are you willing to be interviewed by Citizens Union's Local Candidates Committee?

Yes

(Please note: interviews are prerequisites for Citizens Union's endorsements)

Signature



SERVING CONSTITUENTS

1. For most New Yorkers, the most important thing that their council members do is provide constituent services. How would you run your office to serve your community needs? Please give specific examples.

I would have my office staffed during business hours. I would also have someone available to chat via zoom if they cannot make it into the office. No question will go unanswered. We will keep resources on hand regarding, jobs, housing, unemployment, education, health, and aging services.

2. If you served as an elected official, what did you do to help your constituents during the Covid-19 pandemic? Please be specific.

Did not serve as elected official.

3. How long have you lived in the district in which you are running for office?

23 yrs

4. If elected, what is the first piece of legislation you would want to introduce?

Legislation relating to the protection and improvement of special education programs in the New York City public schools.

VOTING AND ELECTIONS

5. How would you describe the relationship between the City Council and the New York City Board of Elections? How will you use your power as a council member to improve the operations of the NYC BOE?

Most people want to reform the BOE. As a member of the City Council, I feel it is important to hold members of the BOE accountable. Legislation was passed mandating the BOE must post a notice when it moves a polling site – there is little consequence when rules are flouted. Essentially, the board ignores the city and the city has never enforced any of these laws. That's not right.

The City Council has the final say over the party-made appointments to the Board, but its members almost never object to nominees. Anyone on the City Council needs to take their time to make sure these appointees are qualified, I know I will.

6. Do you consider yourself a supporter of Ranked Choice Voting? How will you work to maintain this system and educate voters on how it works?

I am a huge supporter of Ranked Choice Voting! I also support any initiatives to educate voters on it, since it's not easy to understand at first. I would try to block any efforts to do away with Ranked Choice Voting.

7. The next City Council will appoint members to the city's redistricting commission and decide whether to approve or reject the commission's districting plans. In doing so, future council members will be responsible for shaping a fair political map for the coming decade. If elected, what would your approach be in proposing or voting to appoint commission members, and in considering proposed district maps?

Since there is no requirement for gender representation, I would make one. Possible redistricting reforms include:

Criteria-Driven Civil Servant Approach: This reform would have district maps drawn by a nonpartisan body of civil servants according to criteria set by statute.

Criteria-Driven Independent Commission Approach: This reform would have district maps drawn by a commission selected in a manner to maximize citizen participation and independence from legislative pressure.

Bipartisan Commission: This reform would have district maps drawn by a bipartisan commission with a public interest tiebreaker. That commission would then draw districts, according to criteria set by statute.

Personally, I think Criteria-Driven Independent Commission Approach would be best, but I am willing to work with any reform approach.

8. Now that New York City has implemented Ranked Choice Voting, do you support moving to an Open Primary system (eliminating party primaries and establishing a non-partisan election system)?

Yes

Comments

POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY

Citizens Union has been studying police accountability and performance in New York City for more than a decade. In our reports and advocacy efforts we have urged city government to strengthen the accountability of the New York Police Department to the public and create a more cohesive system of police oversight. Previous reports include: [2016 issue brief](#), [2013 position brief on Stop and Frisk](#), [2012 report on the CCRB](#), [2008 policy statement on police misconduct](#). Citizens Union's 2021 agenda for police reform, [published as a report](#) in March, calls for establishing a Deputy Mayor for Public Safety, allowing the CCRB to appeal the Police Commissioner's decisions, making the appointment of Police Commissioner subject to advice and consent of the City Council, consolidating agencies with oversight authority, ending qualified immunity, and more.

9. Do you support making the appointment of the Police Commissioner subject to the advice and consent of the City Council?

Yes

Comments

10. Who do you think should have the final say on discipline in the police department? How would you ensure penalties are imposed on police officers that commensurate with the gravity of their wrongdoing?

We could talk about the Civilian Complaint Review Board in NY and maybe try to give it broader authority. We could recommend that NYC sets up a DA office that is different from the regular DA, which will only handle police cases recommended to them by the CCRB. By taking these cases away from the DA and assigning them to a specialized team it would cut out any bias that prosecutors

might have with police, and not allow them to simply decide not to prosecute or take police to trial.

11. Do you support consolidating the three bodies that exercise oversight of the NYPD: the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB), the Inspector General for the Police Department, the Mayor’s Commission to Combat Police Corruption?

No

Comments

12. Do you support giving the CCRB prompt and full access to footage from body-worn cameras, police officers’ employment history and disciplinary records and all other document and materials in the possession of the NYPD relevant to its investigations?

Yes

Comments

13. Feel free to add any other policy proposals you support in regards to police accountability, misconduct, and oversight, or to effective policing including functions, training, and community relations.

We need to invest in police training and development. When there is a mental health situation, there is no need for a large police presence. Investing in housing, health and education will not only help out the people receiving these services but help the police do more of what they are trained to do- stop violent criminals.

HOW CITY COUNCIL WORKS

One of the first items on the next City Council’s agenda will be adopting its rules of proceedings. Those rules will have a substantial effect on the ability of lawmakers to advance their goals, and can send a signal to New Yorkers about elected officials’ commitment to making the Council more representative, deliberative, accountable, and efficient. In the last decade, the Council took important steps to reform its rules, including a 2014 overhaul by then-Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito and a 2018 administrative change by Speaker Corey Johnson. These reforms have made the body more democratic, given members a more meaningful role in the legislative process, ensured greater equity in the allocation of discretionary funding, and made drafting procedures more transparent. Still, more work is needed enable members to function more effectively and independently of the speaker, and to increase public participation.

14. Do you support allowing bills with strong support to go through the committee process and put to a vote on the floor without needing the permission of the speaker?

Yes

Comments

15. Do you support reducing the overall number of committees so members can participate more meaningfully in fewer issues?

No

Comments

16. Do you support making all actions designed to influence any City Council outcome, including the choice of speaker, reportable as a lobbying expense?

Yes

Comments

17. The Council Speaker controls the allocation of a large share of the Council's overall discretionary spending, and in 2020 it was reported that the Speaker used this power to "punish" council members who opposed the 2021 budget. How would you balance control and order in the council with reasonable dissent?

In this case, with the speaker being militant in this way, we have to form a coalition and attempt to work as a united block against the speaker. There is strength in numbers, and we need it to be clear that if City Council members are being punished for simply voting for what they believe in, then it could be any one of them next on the chopping block. They should join the coalition to protect themselves and everyone else.

18. The ability of citizens and advocates to make their voices heard in City Hall has been severely curtailed since the council and city government shifted to work remotely. How would you propose to improve community engagement and public participation while using

remote technology (in public hearings, meetings, etc.), particularly to ensure equity in participation?

In order to ensure equity, there should be options for both in-person as well we remote. Once everything is safe, we can open public hearings and meetings to the public. There should be a zoom component as well for people who cannot physically be there due to work obligations or physical limitations.

MISCELLANEOUS

19. New York City has suffered an immensurable loss from the pandemic and its effects and the city's economy, social life, and culture. What is your path to recovery from this crisis?

We must get folks vaccinated so we can have peace of mind while using public transportation and convening in small spaces. I want everyone in my district to prosper, in order to do so, we need to do the work that is necessary to build the foundation for gainful employment with a lens for people with disabilities and communities of color, since sometimes their needs are not taken into account when creating these programs.

We start with providing services to job seekers and those who face barriers to employment. I would also implement a task force for awareness in underserved communities. A strong, local networking system; access to professionals who can provide mentorship; and investment in apprenticeships and training programs, will help job seekers from all backgrounds join and thrive in the workforce.

20. What experience have you had, if any, with good government and reform issues? (e.g. voting and elections, campaign finance, ethics, police accountability, government transparency and oversight). If you've worked to advance these goals, we'd love to hear about it.

My daughter had dyslexia and was not getting the support she needed from the school she was attending. I had to take them on, she's now on the dean's list in college.

21. What are the top three campaign promises or goals, and what action will you take to achieve

them if elected? Feel free to reference an answer above rather than restate it.

First: UBI to help stimulate small businesses.

Second: Education Reform

Third: Police Reform

ADDITIONAL INFO

Please feel free to attach any additional information such as resume, campaign brochures, or issues statements.

What else would you like us to know about yourself?

If elected, I would be the first Muslim woman to serve on the NYC city council. I also speak 4 languages.

Please review your answers by clicking PREVIEW ANSWERS below. You can submit the questionnaire at the bottom of the preview page by clicking SUBMIT.

Once you click SUBMIT, you will receive a confirmation email with your responses. If you don't see the email, please check your spam box.

If you have any further questions, you may contact us at candidates@citizensunion.org.