



**CITIZENS UNION CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE
NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
ELECTION 2009**

Citizens Union would appreciate your responses to the following questions related to policy issues facing the City of New York that are of concern to Citizens Union and the citizens of the City. We plan to make public your responses to this questionnaire in our Voters Directory, on our website, and in other appropriate venues. Responses to these questions will be one of several factors Citizens Union will use to evaluate candidates who are running for office in order to determine our “Preferred Candidates” for the primary election and “Endorsed Candidates” for the general election. In order to receive Citizens Union’s “preferred” or “endorsed” status, in addition to completing the questionnaire, candidates must participate in an interview with Citizens Union’s Local Candidates Committee.

We thank you very much for your response.

Candidate Name: **Deborah (“Debi”) L. Rose** Age: **58**
Office to Which You Seek (Re) Election: Council District #: **49**

Campaign Address: **552 Richmond Road Staten Island, NY 10304**
P.O. Box 30117 Mariners Harbor Station Staten Island, NY 10303

Campaign Telephone Number: (917) 697-7742 Fax: () _____

Party Affiliation(s): **Democrat**
Campaign Adviser Name: David Jones
Website & Email: votedebirose2009.com

Education: **Hofstra University BA in History and Secondary Education. Courses towards a Masters in Counseling @ SUNY**

Occupation/Employer (or years in currently held elected office): **Executive Director Liberty Partnership College of Staten Island, a state-funded program drop-out that uses s counseling, tutoring, and mentoring to prevent at risk high school students from dropping out. Under her guidance, over 4,500 at risk high school students have achieved a 92% graduation rate.**

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement: **2009 Democratic Primary winner for this seat. Narrowly lost special election for this seat in February. I came within 170 votes of winning the Democratic primary for this seat in 2001. Elected Bradley Delegate. Elected Obama Delegate. Currently elected Community Board 1 Secretary. (I have been a board member for 28 years). Elected community School Board member. Leadership roles with the Staten Island Mental Health Society, NY Urban League, National Council of Negro Women, Staten Island African-American Political Association, and American Cancer Society.**

Are you willing to be interviewed by CU's Local Candidates Committee? YES **X** NO
Have you completed requisite campaign finance filings? YES X
NO

(Please note: Citizens Union can grant its "Preferred Candidate" and "Endorsed Candidate" rating only to candidates we have interviewed. We will make every effort to interview candidates in each race for City Council.)

Signature of Candidate: *Deborah Rose* Date: _____

I. CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

Please state your position on the following issues by indicating whether you support or oppose each. You may elaborate in the space provided at the end or on additional paper.

VOTING AND ELECTIONS REFORM

1. What is your position with respect to allowing voters who are registered as independents to vote in party primaries? **Support** Oppose

Many political districts are rendered non-competitive in the general election because they are drawn in favor of one party or the other. In these districts, primaries become the de facto real election. Those who can't vote in primaries are thus disenfranchised.

2. What is your position on passage of state legislation that would allow referenda initiated by the City Council and/or the public to appear on the ballot at the same time as a referendum initiated by a charter commission appointed by the Mayor? **Support** Oppose

The legislative branch acts as a check against the executive branch usurping too much power and should be able to present to voters alternatives to referendums drafted by the Mayor's proxies.

3. What is your position on increasing the pay of Election Day poll workers above the current \$200 they are allotted per election event? **Support** Oppose

I support this as a move to attract poll workers as long as the cost isn't prohibitive and there are finances currently earmarked for this.



4. What is your position on restructuring New York’s current board of elections model to eliminate political party responsibility for overall election administration and replace it with a system that narrows political party involvement to certification of candidate petitions and the actual counting of votes?
- Support** **Oppose**

This should be a non-partisan process. However, eliminating direct party involvement may not prevent the appointment of highly partisan individuals.

5. What is your position on having an election administration system where there is a local elections executive director appointed by the mayor upon recommendation by a new board that is chosen by the mayor and the city council?
- Support** **Oppose**

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

6. What is your position on implementing “war chest” restrictions that would prohibit a candidate from transferring funds raised in a previous election cycle into a current campaign committee for a different office?
- Support** **Oppose**

It’s worth looking into to prevent candidates, particularly incumbents, from stockpiling matching funds from one non-competitive election to the next. However, I think it’s reasonable to allow candidates to use money left over from a primary battle in a general election or funds from a February special election in a November defense of that seat.

7. What is your position on allowing campaign financing for ballot proposals?	Support	Oppose
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CITY COUNCIL REFORM

8. What is your position on allowing Council committees to function more independently of the speaker than is presently the case?	Support	Oppose
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a. Should committee staff be hired by and report to committee chairs?	Support	Oppose
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b. Should committee hearings and votes be scheduled at the direction of the chairs?	Support	Oppose
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c. Should committees be able to issue subpoenas by a vote of their members?	Support	Oppose
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The office of Council Speaker wields too much power over the rest of the council and potentially can use extortion as a means to influence voting and other behavior. Redistributing some of the office's powers to committee chairs (even if the chairs are appointed by the Speaker) reduces to some degree the potential for abuse.

9. What is your position on:		
a. limiting councilmember's ability to earn outside income?	Support	Oppose

b. Making the job of councilmember a full-time position?	Support	Oppose
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c. Eliminating or limiting stipends for committee chairs and leadership positions?	Support	Oppose
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I support making the job officially full time with commensurate compensation.

10. What is your position on requiring that any future increase in councilmember compensation not affect those serving in the current term of the council and only be applied prospectively to the following term?	Support	Oppose
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	Support	Oppose
<p>11. What is your position on consolidating the current City Council committee structure and reducing the number of overall committees?</p> <p>I support committee streamlining in concept, but would have to see which individual committees are earmarked for elimination. I am also concerned about things slipping through the cracks from committees with portfolios that are too broad.</p>		
<p>12. What is your position on term limits for elected officials?</p>	Support	Oppose
<p>13. What is your position on modifying the City Charter to require that changes to term limits may only be approved by the voters?</p>	Support	Oppose
<p>14. What is your position on the recent extension of term limits for the city's elected officials to three consecutive four-year terms? Please explain your answer.</p> <p>The voters approved term limits via referendum. Therefore, term limits should only be modified or repealed by referendum.</p>	Support	Oppose

POLICY ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE

Please state your position on the following issues by indicating whether you support or oppose each, where applicable. Please also use the space provided below each question or on a separate sheet of paper to elaborate on your positions on the questions which require a detailed answer. You may also provide additional information on any actions that you have taken or plan to take to advance your positions on these issues.

15. Knowing that the police department and commissioner retain ultimate authority for determining whether an officer is guilty and penalty, what is your position on transferring power to the Civilian Complaint Review Board to prosecute cases of police misconduct, such as force, abuse of authority, discourtesy, and offensive language?
- Support** Oppose

Police misconduct is a serious problem that often results in innocent people being harmed. Fellow police are not always objective in evaluating misconduct, frequently inappropriately siding with guilty peers. Civilian review is the only way to guarantee that serious misconduct does not go unpunished and future acts are deterred.

16. What is your position on changing the current land use process under ULURP to increase the role of community-based planning?
- Support** Oppose

I oppose limiting Community Based Planning. Circumventing the Uniform land use process resulted in inappropriately developed projects such as Atlantic Yards.

17. What is your position regarding the creation of a Charter Revision Commission to review specifically the roles of the various offices of government and how well government has functioned since the 1988 and 1989 charter review commissions?
- Support** Oppose

18. What is your position on reforming the current pension funding structure to create multiple tiers for future city government employees? Support **Oppose**
- a. In FY 2008-09, New York City spent \$12 billion on pensions and fringe benefits for City employees out of a total budget of \$62 billion. What would you do to address the growing pension costs borne by the city and New York City tax payers?

Should be negotiated between labor and City management

19. What is your position with respect to the City Council passing a resolution calling upon the State Legislature to establish a State Constitutional Convention? Support **Oppose**

Setting up a State Commission to consider issues that may need to be dealt with by Constitutional Amendment is preferable to a Constitutional Convention which can be taken over by ideologues.

- a. If support, what are the three most important areas that need improvement?
- b. Do you believe that greater home rule should be granted to the City of New York? If so, in what areas should further sovereignty be given?

This is another area that deserves comprehensive consideration because it impact's other municipalities throughout the State. Housing is an issue where home rule would benefit renters.

20. Taking into consideration the lessons learned from the debates surrounding congestion pricing and the Ravitch Commission's recommendations to provide the MTA with long-term funding, what would you propose to address the MTA's fiscal solvency issues and ensure that the burden for funding the MTA is equitably distributed among all stakeholders? **There needs to be toll fairness that distributes the burden throughout the City of new York in a fairer fashion and that generates revenue that is less reliant on taxes that fluctuate with the economy creating huge deficits for the MTA**

21. What would you propose in terms of creating a greater role for the city council in determining and deciding the city budget?

The Council needs to have more authority to set revenue projections so that they are not solely dependant on the Mayor.

22. What is your position regarding the City's past practice of using surplus tax revenues to pay down future health cost and pension obligations, and the decision not to do so this year?

Whenever possible the City should pay down future obligations so as to reduce Debt service _

23. What is your view of how the taxes paid by New Yorkers compare to the value that is received in City services? Do you believe that taxes should be raised or lowered? To the extent you believe taxes should be changed, please provide specific proposals about what taxes you would raise and what services you would cut, if you didn't raise taxes, listed in order of greatest magnitude.

Service delivery can always be improved. I will never allow myself to be drawn into simplistic argument over whether taxes should be higher or lower, but rather I believe in tax equity and fairness based upon income and assets.

24. Many policy advocates champion the creation of a more diversified economy, and one that is less reliant on Wall Street. What is your position on such a plan? If you support it, what would you do to diversify the city's economy? How would you adjust spending in New York City to accommodate the anticipated reduction in tax revenue as the tax base shifts to lower paying jobs?

Economic Diversification doesn't mean getting rid of well paying financial sector jobs. NY can become a manufacturing hub again and produce green technology. More Manhattan type jobs in financial services, advertising and media need to be created in the outer boroughs, particularly Staten Island.

25. What would you propose the Department of Education do to increase the ability for parents and teachers to become more meaningfully involved in the education system? What other positive changes can be made to the New York City public school system?

Increased participation in discussions re: proposed policy changes by developing a public process to insure public/parental/CEC input. Parents and teachers through School leadership teams need to be included in educational decisions as granted by law to fully participate in the development and implementation of the Comprehensive Education Plans of the schools they represent.

Mayoral and Borough President appointees should be comprised of a mandated number of parents, to insure that the majority of PEP members would be parents and representative of the schools demographic.

26. What would you propose to increase the transparency of the Board of Elections in the City of New York's operations and accountability to the city and its voters?

There are several alternatives to the current structure that would establish a more professional operation and I would be willing to consider the reforms suggested.

27. What would you propose to further enhance transparency regarding the relationships between council members, their families, and nonprofits that receive funding from New York City?

I am always in favor of greater transparency and specific accounting of relationships between any public official and the entities to which they have the power to direct funds.

CANDIDATE ACCOUNTABILITY QUESTIONNAIRE

Citizens Union is adding a new element to its evaluation of candidates running for office. As a candidate who presently does not hold elected office, CU is interested in knowing your top five campaign promises you are making to the voters during this campaign for this position.

If elected, Citizens Union will use these promises to evaluate your performance while in office, as well as, to evaluate your candidacy in the future.

We thank you very much for your response. Please feel free to use additional paper if the space provided is not sufficient.

TOP FIVE 2009 CAMPAIGN PROMISES

- 1. Work to secure for Staten Island a larger share of city healthcare spending.**
- 2. To fight for Staten Island to receive more transit dollars from the MTA.**
- 3. To fight to create more affordable housing and maintain current affordable housing stock.**
- 4. To work to get a new High School in the district.**
- 5. To fight to develop the Waterfront and Staten Island North shore business districts**