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QUEENS CIVIC FORUM ON NON-PARTISAN ELECTIONS, 10/20, 7:30 PM

The Queens Civic Congress hosts a "Queens Civic Forum" on "Non-Partisan Elections" and other proposed amendments to the City Charter, Monday, October 20 at 7:30 p.m., features "A Report on the Pending Community Facilities Zoning Resolution Text Change," September 15, 7:30 p.m. at the Flushing Main Branch of the Queens Borough Public Library on Main Street at Kissena Boulevard in Flushing, announced QCC President Sean M. Walsh. Co-sponsored by the Citizens' Union Foundation and the Northeast Queens Chapter of the NAACP, the Queens Civic Forum features presentations by Thomas J. Manton, chairman of the Queens County Democratic Committee, Steven Newman, vice-chairman of the Charter Revision Commission appointed by the Mayor. Calvin Lawrence, a member of the Newsday editorial board, will moderate this debate on the merits of the three questions that will appear on the November 4 ballot.

"The major clash will be over the Charter question that proposes non-partisan elections for Mayor, Public Advocate, Comptroller, Borough President and members of the City Council," said Executive Vice President for Land Use and Development Patricia Dolan who testified this summer on recommendations for Charter reform -- which the Mayor's commission did not embrace -- supported by the Congress in this platform. "The new non-partisan system would require that candidates run in an open primary with the winners of the two top spots facing off in the general election in November. Mayor Bloomberg is the major proponent of non-partisan elections; the major parties are opposed."

"A second question deals with the city's purchasing policies and the third question authorizes changes in the city's administrative tribunals," said Corey B. Bearak, Executive Vice President for Legislative and Public Affairs who notes that the Queens Civic Congress represents 100 civic, community, condo, co-operative, homeowner and tenant organizations. "Our membership represents almost every community in the borough," stated Mr. Walsh.

"A new electoral system for the city's major public officials could have as far reaching effects as did the abolition of the Board of Estimate in 1989," said Queens Civic Congress President Sean Walsh. For information, call 718 263-1760.

The entire Queens Civic Congress Platform may be viewed on the internet at <http://www.queensciviccongress.org/Platform/02platform.htm>

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