



Queens Civic Congress

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October 9, 2009

RE: 2009 Queens Civic Congress Candidates Survey

Dear Candidate:

Queens Civic Congress, an umbrella organization for more than 110 community and neighborhood groups representing tenants, co-op and condo owners and homeowners living in every part of Queens, presents its 2009 Candidates Survey (found on the next page). Kindly submit it as soon as possible. Responses will be posted as soon as practicable after receipt. Starting October 23, Queens Civic Congress will also post a list of candidates and whether or not they responded to the survey and link the responses to each survey. The responses will also be shared with the News media and our member organization. Thank you for your participation.

Sincerely,
Corey Bearak
Corey B. Bearak, Esq.
President

Find Queens Civic Congress [Members](#) below or on the web at:
<http://queensciviccongress.org/organization/members.php>.

Queens Civic Congress Members

Addisleigh Park Civic Organization ♦ Association of Old Forest Hills ♦ Auburndale Improvement Association ♦ Bayside Civic Database ♦ Bayside Clear-Spring Council ♦ Bayside Hills Civic Association ♦ Bayswater Civic Association ♦ Bay Terrace Community Alliance, Inc. ♦ Bay Terrace Cooperative Section 1 ♦ Bellaire-BellVill Civic Association ♦ Belle Harbor Property Owners Association ♦ Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association ♦ Bellerose Hillside Civic Association ♦ Bell Park Manor Terrace Community Council ♦ Bowne Park Civic Association ♦ Briarwood Community Association ♦ Broadway-Flushing Homeowners Association ♦ Cambria Heights Civic Association ♦ Civic Association of Utopia Estates ♦ C.O.M.E.T. (Communities of Maspeth-Elmhurst Together) ♦ Concerned Citizens of Laurelton ♦ Cornucopia Society ♦ Creedmoor Civic Association ♦ Deerfield Area Association ♦ Doug-Bay Manor Civic Association ♦ Douglas Manor Association ♦ Douglaston Civic Association ♦ Dutch Kills Civic Association of Long Island City ♦ East Elmhurst Corona Civic Association ♦ East Flushing Civic Association ♦ Federated Block Associations of Laurelton ♦ Federation of Civic Associations of Southeast Queens ♦ Floral Park Community Council ♦ Flushing Heights Civic Association ♦ Flushing on the Hill Taxpayers Association ♦ Forest Hills Chamber of Commerce ♦ Forest Hills Crescents Association ♦ Forest Hills-Van Court Association ♦ Fresh Meadows Homeowners Association ♦ Georgetown Mews ♦ Glendale Civic Association of Queens ♦ Glen Oaks Village Owners, Inc. ♦ Greater Astoria Historical Society ♦ Greater Whitestone Taxpayers Civic Association ♦ Harding Heights Civic Association ♦ Hillcrest Estates Civic Association ♦ Hilltop Village Co-Op #1 ♦ Hilltop Village Co-Op #2 ♦ Hilltop Village Co-Op #3 ♦ Hilltop Village Co-Op #4 ♦ Hollis 11423 Block Association ♦ Hollis Hills Civic Association ♦ Holliswood Civic Association ♦ Hollis Park Gardens Association ♦ Holly Civic Association ♦ Hyde Park Gardens Cooperative ♦ Jackson Heights Beautification Group ♦ Jamaica Estates Association ♦ Jamaica Hill Community Association ♦ Juniper Park Civic Association ♦ Kew Gardens Civic Association ♦ Kew Gardens Hills Homeowners Association ♦ Kew Gardens Improvement Association ♦ Kissena Park Civic Association ♦ Little Neck Bay Civic Association ♦ Little Neck Pines ♦ Long Island City Alliance ♦ Malba Civic Association ♦ Meadowlark Gardens Owners ♦ Middle Village Property Owners Association ♦ Mitchell Linden Civic Association ♦ Neponsit Property Owners Association ♦ Newtown Civic Association ♦ Newtown Historical Society ♦ North Bellerose Civic Association ♦ North Flushing Civic Association ♦ North Hills Estates Civic Association ♦ Northwest Clearview Homeowners Association ♦ Norwood Neighborhood Association ♦ Oakland Terrace/ Gardens Community Council ♦ Off Broadway Homeowners Association ♦ Our Neighborhood Improvement Association ♦ Our Neighbors Civic Association of Ozone Park, Inc. ♦ Parkway Village Historical Society ♦ Queensboro Hill Neighborhood Association ♦ Queens Colony Civic Association ♦ Queens Community Civic Corp. ♦ Queens Village Civic Association ♦ Ramblersville-Hawtree Civic Association ♦ Richmond Hill Historical Society ♦ Ridgewood Property Owners and Civic Association ♦ Rockaway Park Homeowners/Residents ♦ Rocky Hill Civic Association ♦ Rosedale Civic Association ♦ Royal Ranch Association ♦ Southeast Queens Concerned Neighbors ♦ South Ozone Park West Association Civic ♦ Springfield/Rosedale Community Action Association ♦ Station Road Civic Assoc. of Auburndale ♦ Sunnyside Gardens/Harrison Place Homeowners ♦ Surrey Estates Civic Association ♦ Union Turnpike Merchants Association ♦ United Forties Civic Association ♦ United Mutual

Queens Civic Congress 2009 Candidates Survey

Land Use/ Zoning

Will you support retaining zoning regulations that subject development of big box stores to public land review in most NYC neighborhoods? Yes **X** No _____

Will you support legislation enabling the city to force violators to comply with Zoning Resolution and Building Code violations? Yes **X** No _____

Will you support legislation authorizing City Council review of BSA decisions? Yes _____ No **X** (See explanation in "Civic 2030" section below.)

How do you envision the role of community boards in planning for neighborhood growth, budgeting and quality of life issues.

Mayor Bloomberg recently sought to cut an average of \$35,000 from the budgets of our local Community Boards. I strongly opposed these cuts. Community Boards are the primary way most New Yorkers participate in and interact with our City government. They are also a vital source of information for millions of New Yorkers. It only makes sense that the people who know our communities best are the people who belong to community boards and actually live in the communities. Community Boards also play a vital role in planning for our communities. As Mayor, I will listen to our community groups and work much more closely with community boards in planning for neighborhood growth, budgeting, and quality of life issues.

Building and Code Enforcement

Will you sponsor legislation-called for by the Queens Civic Congress—to give the city authority to issue summons by DOB, FDNY and HPD to property owners who refuse access to their properties where a complaint of an illegal use exists. Yes **X** No _____

Would you rescind the Department of Building's Rules 105-03 and 105-04 which limit challenges by the public to new construction for a period of 45 days after the issuance of work permits? Yes **X** No _____

Water Rates

Will you sponsor legislation to abolish the NYC Water Board whose only function seems to be to raise revenue for whichever Mayor happens to occupy City Hall? Yes _____ No **X** (I have proposed an alternative solution to curb skyrocketing water rates. See: http://www.comptroller.nyc.gov/press/2009_releases/pr09-03-074.shtm)

In view of the exponentially rising property taxes and water use charges, will you support returning the cost of water supply and treatment facilities capital expenses to New York City's capital budget? Yes **X** No _____

New Yorkers are fed up with so called enforcement of quality of life violations. Will you support legislation to authorize traffic and other enforcement agents issue summonses for dumping, littering and similar offenses? Yes **X** No _____

Parks/ Concessions

Will you support calls by park advocates for changes in the rules for major concessions that will require public review of changes in the use, design and configuration of parks, playgrounds and major features therein? Yes **X** No _____

Will you support tightening rules for major concessions? Yes **X** No _____

Discretionary Funding

How will you decide which groups to support with City Council member funds?

Under the City Charter, the mayor does not play a role in determining which groups to support with City Council member funds. The Speaker and the Council are responsible for those decisions.

How will you respond to situations where a group seeking funding employs a person who is your relative or is a relative of a staff member?

I propose that—before City funds are disbursed to nonprofits or other non-governmental organizations

—the relevant elected official(s) and nonprofit/NGO administrator(s) be required to sign and publicly submit an attestation form. The form will stipulate that no relationship exists between the elected official disbursing the funds (or any family member, etc.) and the nonprofit or NGO.

The City Charter’s Conflict of Interest rules must also be enforced more stringently and consistently.

CIVIC 2030

Have you read the Queens Civic Congress Platform*, CIVIC 2030? Yes No

Do you support CIVIC 2030? Yes No

Yes, but with exceptions Please list: **I have limited objections. One is the QCC’s proposal to require legislative review and oversight by the City Council of Board of Standards and Appeals decisions to grant variances.**

The BSA is a necessary component in the regulation of development, land use, and construction in our City. The Board also allows community members to voice their opinions about development projects, and therefore provides an important function in City government.

To a large extent, however, the Board is simply a reflection of its members, who are appointed by the Mayor. I believe the current Board has been far too "pro development" focused, to the detriment of many of our neighborhoods and their distinctive characters. As Mayor, I will ensure that the Board is populated by a healthy mix of professionals—representing a wide variety of interests—including affordable housing, preservation and conservation, landmarking, and economic growth and development.

*CIVIC 2030 may be viewed or downloaded at

<http://queensciviccongress.org/platform/CIVIC2030.pdf>

Please return via email in either Word, OpenOffice or PDF format to Corey Bearak,
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