



Queens Civic Congress

P.O. Box 238, Flushing, NY 11363 (718) 343-6779 fax: (718) 225-3366
www.queensciviccongress.org queensciviccongr@aol.com

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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 _____ No _____

I think all large construction projects should be subject to public land review. The public land review process must not be allowed to become a political tool for those factions that favor or oppose Big Box Stores. The political issue of big box stores must be determined on the merits.

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

Violators must be made to comply or face serious penalties, especially when significant violations that put people at risk are in question.

Will you support legislation authorizing City Council review of BSA decisions? Yes _____ No _____

In order to prevent a logjam, I would support council review of BSA decisions when a request is formally made by the local Community Board. This would give Community Boards some real power.

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

See my response above. As a former member of Community Board 13, I feel Community Boards are the eyes and ears of the community. For the most part they get it right, but on occasions I have seen decisions made based on emotions and not fact. The local community boards are a KEY COMPONENT IN PROTECTING A COMMUNITY'S QUALITY OF LIFE.

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 _____ No _____

Of course, provided constitutional protections of access have been followed.

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 _____ No _____

Yes, I would rescind this or work with local CB's to come up with a time frame that all can agree with.

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 _____

NYC Council has no jurisdiction and cannot abolish the Water Board without state consent. My proposal is better and well within the jurisdiction of the City Council. To protect families from annual double-digit water rate increases I would allow co-op and other residential homeowners to deduct any water rate increase above inflation from their property taxes. This would cap water rate increases to the rate of inflation.

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 _____ No _____

I need more clarity on this question in order to give a more complete answer. As an accountant, I certainly agree that capital expenditures should be part of the capital budget of the city.

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 _____ No _____

We have a lot of complaints by small business owners that they have received unfair violations in the past and still other complaints of unfair meter violations by traffic enforcement officers. I am concerned that over time, giving other enforcement agencies the ability to issue summons's will be used as a means to generate revenue instead of improving the quality of life of our neighborhoods.

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 _____ No _____

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

I would support Community Board review in the rules for concessions, use and configuration of parks. In addition, Concession revenue must go back to the park from which it was earned. By doing this we can begin to provide a sustaining stream of revenue for parks that are woefully underfunded.

Discretionary Funding

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

My plan is revolutionary. Most if not all elected officials have used their member item funds as a way to buy votes. This has been clearly documented in numerous press reports. I would have quarterly roundtable discussions with civic presidents and present them with the pool of available funds. We would discuss the best use of these funds and reach a consensus to maximize the benefits to the community. By doing it this way, we take the power brokering out of the equation and eliminate the vote buying scenario that all too often sees discretionary funds channeled to family or politically connected organizations. By putting the power into the hands of Civic Leaders who are fully engaged in the community as Volunteers, we will best serve the needs of the community.

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?

This is an outrageous scenario and truly a conflict of interest that should not be permitted. My plan as outlined above would eliminate situations like this from happening.

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: _____

As an active and fully engaged member of the QCC and the community, I have participated in the formulation of Civic 2030.

*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,
Bearak@aol.com**