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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** ____

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

Will you support legislation authorizing City Council review of BSA decisions?
Yes ✓ **No** ____

I believe the BSA needs to be completely reformed to allow the community to have more of a voice and that means changes the structure of the BSA and reforming the way it is run.

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

Most planning in the city, from ideas on zoning and traffic to improving our schools and parks, should start on the most local level. I support expanding the role Community Boards play in government. As Public Advocate, I would work closely with all 59 Community Boards, as released in my plan for the office at www.alex2009.com/plan.

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** ____

The way inspections are carried out now (or non-inspection) is not working. For instance, complaints made to the DOB regarding basement apartments or violations of occupancy are not being investigated by the department. The Department should be getting access to buildings and they are not because owners to not comply to notices left. The law needs more “teeth” to make it work.

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 ____

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 ____

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 ____

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 ____

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 ____

Discretionary Funding

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

As Public Advocate, I will not have any say over discretionary money (City Council member funds) and my office would not be able to allocate these funds. I have called for a plan that would pre-screen all organizations that are seeking money from a City Council member as well as making the process more transparent, from the time the money is requested to the time it is allocated.

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?

As Public Advocate, I wouldn't be in this situation, but as stated above, the process has to be more open and transparent. As a watchdog over the Mayor and City Council, and an independent leader and fighter in government, I would look to create a system that would end any funding to organizations connected to relatives or staff members.

[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:

CIVIC 2030 is a wonderful, thought-out plan on reforms to make government work better, for the people.

I would also propose the following:

- 1. Requiring increased parking for Community Use Facilities, in certain districts and ending the parking waiver in some districts**
- 2. The NYPD must build a new police precinct or satellite precinct in Northeast Queens**
- 3. End the pocket veto City Planning has when it comes to certifying land use (ULURP) applications, by allowing the City Council to certify applications after a set period has past and an application is considered complete.**
- 4. Create a “One City One Toll” plan, similar to the one city, one fare program MetroCard uses. This would allow residents to travel around New York City and not pay more than one toll if they use multiple toll bridges/tunnels.**
- 5. Use school roofs for green roofs (planting) to save energy, help clean the air and provide a unique educational environment for students. Also, use school roofs and other government buildings/structures for solar panels, which would improve the health of our environment, provide alternative energy and create jobs.**
- 6. Target the uninsured, especially low income residents, with programs like Health Plus, Child Health Plus and HealthyNY to provide them access to low costs and/or free health insurance.**
- 7. Make all data from 311, Community Boards and the Public Advocate’s office open to all residents, in real time.**
- 8. Decentralize the office of Public Advocate, to bring government closer to the people, opening a satellite office in every borough.**

*CIVIC 2030 may be viewed or downloaded at
<http://queensciviccongress.org/platform/CIVIC2030.pdf>