



# 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 Veterans Housing, Inc. ◆ Waldheim Neighborhood Association ◆ Wayanda Civic Association ◆ West Cunningham Park Civic Association ◆ Westmoreland Association ◆ Woodside Community Council

### **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

Will you support legislation enabling the city to force violators to comply with Zoning Resolution and Building Code violations?

Yes

Will you support legislation authorizing City Council review of BSA decisions?

*I believe the BSA is in need of reform and would consider a number of approaches.*

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

*I will advance principles of development to engage all parties in the land use process (Community Boards, Borough Presidents, the City Council, neighborhood residents, developers, and City Planning) in an approach to development that is thoughtful, responsible and inclusive. For too long, New York City has approved land use changes for developments that end up having profound impacts on communities and doing little to further their needs. Development that reflects the needs of a neighborhood will help us to maintain the diverse cultural, social and environmental fabric of New York City. Through my appointee on the City Planning Commission, community organizing, and collaboration with elected officials, I will promote the following principles of development:*

*--Communities should expect developers to engage in open dialogue throughout the planning and construction stages of each project.*

*--Communities should ask for and developers should provide detailed information about how a project intends to further the social welfare of the community in areas such as affordable housing, creation of living wage jobs and commitments for local hiring, space for schools, increased child care capacity, opportunities for locally owned and minority/women owned businesses, and space for not-for-profit organizations.*

*--Broadening the reach of diversion programs to ensure that, whenever possible, youth stay out of detention and out of Family Court, but take responsibility for their actions and receive the services they need to stay out of trouble.*

*--Extending the availability of community based alternatives to detention to all youth who are involved in juvenile delinquency proceedings but who can continue to live in their communities without posing a risk to public safety.*

#### 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.

*I agree that the City should have an effective mechanism for gaining access to properties with complaints of an illegal use.*

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

#### 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?

*We cannot continue to automatically raise water rates every time the sewer and water system need more funds. We must seriously consider all options to reduce the strain on New Yorkers and bring costs down.*

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?

*I support considering this approach.*

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?

*We must improve quality of life issues for all New Yorkers and must employ a variety of strategies to do this, including those relating to enforcement.*

#### 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?

*I agree that we need greater public input and review for a wider range of proposals, such as major concessions.*

Will you support tightening rules for major concessions?

*I agree that we need greater public input and review for a wider range of proposals, such as major concessions, and should consider rule changes.*

#### Discretionary Funding

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

*The Public Advocate does not allocate such funds. However, I believe that while we have made improvements over the past several years, we need greater transparency in the City Council budget process. In order to be eligible to receive any City Council funding, an organization should be required to successfully complete an eligibility application process that would begin in the fall prior to the June budget. This eligibility application would consider elements such as an organization's funding history, the percentage of the organization's budget comprised of City Council funding, possible conflicts of interest between the organization and any member of the City Council, government inquiry or investigation history, and record of service provision.*

*These eligibility applications would be evaluated by an independent body, designated by the Council, using a formally established and publicly available set of criteria. Only organizations deemed eligible by this body would be able to receive Council funding for the coming fiscal year.*

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?

*The Public Advocate does not allocate such funds. However, all conflicts of interest, including the appearance of a conflict of interest, should be plainly disclosed. Eligibility applications would be made available in a publicly searchable database. All information contained in the applications, including conflicts of interest, would be included in the database.*

## CIVIC 2030

Have you read the Queens Civic Congress Platform\*, CIVIC 2030?  
Yes.

Do you support CIVIC 2030?  
*I am supportive of its goals and the quality of life improvements it seeks to achieve for residents.*

\*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](mailto:Bearak@aol.com)**