

Queens Civic Congress 2009 Candidates Survey

Candidate – Mark S. Weprin

Office Sought – New York City Council, 23rd District

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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

How do you envision the role of community boards in planning for neighborhood growth, budgeting and quality of life issues? Community boards are the most local level of municipal government, so they are particularly responsive to the concerns of local residents. Community boards have a special role to play with regard to issues related to zoning, land use, and liquor license applications. Their input in the City budget process is also significant.

Building and Code Enforcement

Would you rescind the DOB's rules which limit challenges by the public to new construction for a period of forty-five days after the issuance of work permits? I believe this issue requires further study.

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? I would support such an effort.

In view of the exponentially rising property taxes and water use charges, will you support returning the cost of water supply and treatment facilities to NYC's capital budget? Yes

Will you support legislation to authorize traffic and other enforcement agents to issue summonses for dumping, littering, and other similar offenses? Yes

Parks / Concessions

Will you support 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

Will you support tightening rules for major concessions? Yes

Discretionary Funding

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

As I have done as a member of the New York State Assembly, I will direct funding to senior centers, little leagues, Catholic Youth Organizations, public schools, art and music programs, and other community organizations.

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

I will continue to make funding decisions based solely on the merit of the group or organization and its eligibility for government funding. Every allocation must be vetted by an independent body to ensure the appropriateness of each member item and track how it is spent.

CIVIC 2030

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

Do you support CIVIC 2030? Yes