



Citizens Union of the City of New York is an independent, nonpartisan, civic organization of members who promote good government and advance political reform in the city and state of New York. For more than a century, Citizens Union has served as a watchdog for the public interest and an advocate for the common good. Citizens Union, which was recently described by the New York Times as “the influential government watchdog group”, works to ensure fair elections, clean campaigns, and open, effective government that is accountable to the citizens of New York.

Founded in 1897 to fight the corruption of Tammany Hall, Citizens Union helped elect the first reform mayor, Seth Low, in 1901. Over the years, Citizens Union has spearheaded efforts for improved voting procedures, home rule for New York City, campaign finance reform, historic preservation, city charter revisions that made important structural changes to city government, and state government reform. Without Citizens Union, reformers like Fiorello LaGuardia would never have been elected Mayor.

In pursuit of its mission, Citizens Union:

- Acts as a watchdog on the actions of city and state government to ensure that it values its citizens, addresses critical issues, and operates in a fair, open, and fiscally sound manner.
- Supports and advances legislation that reforms the election system, improves the functioning of government, and serves the broad public interest rather than narrow special interests.
- Evaluates and supports candidates for elected office and, through publication of its highly regarded voters directory, informs voters of those candidates who strongly embrace and effectively advance the interests of good government and political reform.

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