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## **2001 New York City Elections**

### **Kids First New York™ Voter Guide**

The implementation of term limits and campaign finance reform in New York City this year has contributed to a record number of open seats for elected office and an unprecedented field of candidates for City Council, Borough President, Public Advocate, Comptroller and Mayor. To make it easier for New Yorkers to learn about candidates' priorities for children, youth and families, Citizens' Committee for Children of New York, Inc. (CCC) asked all candidates in New York City to answer ten questions. The responses of candidates for citywide offices - Mayor, Public Advocate and Comptroller - have been reproduced here in a non-partisan guide to help voters become more informed about the candidates' views on issues that are important to families who live, work and raise their children in New York City.

These responses are also available on CCC's website, [www.kfny.org](http://www.kfny.org), along with the responses of candidates for Borough President and for City Council. The information presented here and on the website neither endorses or opposes any candidate, political party or point of view.

CCC sent out over 400 surveys to all candidates registered with the New York City Board of Elections. Of 11 candidates for mayor, CCC received 6 completed surveys; of 9 candidates for Public Advocate, CCC received 4 completed surveys; and of 3 candidates for Comptroller, CCC received 2 completed surveys. Candidate responses within each office are listed in alphabetical order. Certain survey questions asked candidates to rank their priorities or to limit responses to 75 words or less. The choices in the first 5 questions are listed in the order indicated by the candidate; if no order was indicated, the first three choices made by the candidate are listed in the order they appear on the survey. If a candidate's responses exceeded the 75 word limit, only the first 75 words of the response are reprinted here followed by \*\*. Within the 75 word limit, all candidates' written responses are reprinted exactly as the candidate submitted them. To see the questions and options in full as received by the candidates, please refer to the Candidate Questionnaire on page 26.

Citizens' Committee for Children of New York, Inc. encourages all New Yorkers who care about children to review this material before going to the polls on September 11, 2001 for the Primary and on November 6, 2001 for the General Election. We also urge all New Yorkers to register to vote. Your vote will make a difference for children. To register to vote or to obtain an absentee ballot, call the New York City Board of Elections toll-free at 1-866-VOTE-NYC (1-866-868-3692) or visit their website at <http://vote.nyc.ny.us/>. You must register at least 25 days before a primary or general election to be eligible to vote in that election.

# ABOUT CCC

For more than 50 years, Citizens' Committee for Children of New York, Inc. (CCC) has been providing a voice for children who have no voice, especially low-income children and children with special needs. CCC's programs combine the best features of public policy advocacy with a long tradition of citizen activism. As New York's only locally-based multi-issue child advocacy organization, CCC stands up for children because we know that our future depends on them. A healthy, vibrant and productive tomorrow hinges on ensuring that every child is healthy, housed, educated and safe today.

## 2001 CITY ELECTIONS TASK FORCE

We would like to thank members of the CCC 2001 City Elections Task Force for assistance with all aspects of the candidate survey and the Task Force Chair and Co-Chairs for their leadership and dedication.

Sally Mendel, Chair  
Amy Bernstein, Co-Chair  
Maryann Marston, Co-Chair  
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Leslie Yoo  
Donna Tiburzi, Director of Community and Government Relations  
Candace Winkler, Student Intern  
Suzette Louis-Jacques, Student Intern

# CANDIDATES FOR MAYOR

## HERMAN BADILLO

Did not respond

## MICHAEL R. BLOOMBERG

**Q1. What three types of publicly supported programs, if any, do you favor to help working families in New York City?**

- b. Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit
- j. Head Start and Pre-Kindergarten
- k. Child Health Plus and Family Health Plus

I believe that early childhood care programs are among the most effective publicly supported programs. While their value is evident in terms of providing safe care while parents work and early socialization and learning skills, child care programs can also leverage critical linkages with needed health care. Trained personnel in programs such as Head Start have been able to provide parents with access to Medicaid and health networks. Child care facilities offer ideal settings\*\*

**Q2. What is the best way to improve New York City Schools and increase student achievement?**

- a. Abolish the Board of Education and make a Department of Education accountable to the Mayor
- n. Expand teacher training and require certification for all teachers
- r. Increase parental involvement

Public education is in a state of emergency. Students must work hard to learn the basics and parental involvement should be facilitated. But schools have to be accountable as well. Teachers should be re-qualified every two years. Any additional funding for the Board has to be justified. We need to institute a customer service mentality and accountability to make sure our children are getting the services they deserve. And responsibility should rest with the\*\*

**Q3. What three methods, if any, do you favor for making communities safe for children, youth and families?**

- g. Expand drug education and treatment programs
- h. Expand mental health services
- l. Expand summer jobs for youth

Mental health and substance abuse programs must be expanded particularly for adolescents and the uninsured population. The ravages of substance abuse too often lead to crime and always to distress in families. Partnering with the private sector for the creation of more youth jobs and on the job training programs, during the summer, but also during the school year, can build self-esteem, certainly a deterrent to crime.

**Q4. Which three areas of public health services for children and youth are in the greatest need of expansion in New York City?**

- b. Community based primary care services
- e. Mental health services
- o. Medicaid, Child Health Plus and Family Health Plus insurance programs

Primary care should be the foundation of health care and there is a need to protect and expand the child health clinics which are under threat due to HHC deficits. These clinics provide immunizations, asthma care, lead poisoning, vision and hearing testing through Child/Teen Health Plan services. However, 60% of the patients they serve have no health coverage so the cost of this program further threatens their demise. Expansion of health care to provide\*\*

# CANDIDATES FOR MAYOR

**Q5. What three publicly subsidized programs and initiatives, if any, do you think most help families find and keep safe affordable housing?**

- b. Rent Subsidies with case management services
- c. Home ownership programs
- e. Section 8 vouchers

Safe, affordable housing is a premise for healthy children and a foundation for educational achievement. I am emphasizing the need for both rental and home ownership programs in my affordable housing platform. Homeownership is just now being examined as possibly having a positive impact on educational performance and it certainly instills a sense of community. Not everyone is capable of managing the responsibilities of home ownership. There is a need for rental subsidies, some\*\*

**Q6. What do you consider to be the single biggest issue facing families in New York City today?**

The strides made in the past eight years in terms of economic turnaround, safety of our streets and general quality of life have not permeated into all segments of our daily lives. Education priorities have got to catch up to the priorities we have placed on other segments of City life. Many families are faced with the dilemma of leaving the City in search of better educational opportunities. Many more do not have this\*\*

**Q7. What do you feel is the single biggest issue facing children in New York City today?**

Children everywhere want to be stimulated and want to learn. Many children in this City come from families where a love of learning is engendered. Most parents want their children to excel. But children are not being given a public educational system which has been successful in teaching. The success or continued failure of our schools is the biggest issue facing our City's children. And these kids do not have time to wait for another\*\*

**Q8. What do you consider to be the single biggest issue facing teenagers in New York City today?**

Our City's teenagers are not being prepared for the job market. I have talked to many business and labor leaders in this City, and it has been my own experience, that high school graduates have to be re-educated by employers before they can even be trained for the jobs they are hired to perform. While there are positions which can lead to high paying jobs in construction, the utilities and technology fields, high school\*\*

**Q9. If elected, would you maintain the Administration for Children's Services (ACS) as a separate charter agency providing child welfare, child care, Head Start and child support enforcement services?**

Yes. Since 1996, ACS has achieved high levels of performance in adoption services, day care and Head Start programs, and has begun a continuum of neighborhood based services for children and families. For the first time, services for children have been focused by one entity whose sole mission is to care for our City's children. This entity should be established as a charter entity and I support efforts to establish ACS as a permanent agency through Charter Revision or through enactment of a Local Law. If either should fail, I will continue the Executive Order establishing this agency.

**Q10. How would you coordinate the various City agencies, departments, services and programs for children?**

The Administration for Children's Services should be the lead agency to coordinate all children's services with contract agencies, the state, health care providers, the courts, the educational system and advocacy groups. This agency has already developed a plan for future development; benchmarks and quantitative indicators have and will be successfully used to measure performance. As a cabinet level position, ACS will be given the political backing and independence to succeed in this coordinated effort.

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## CHRISTOPHER X. BRODEUR

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**Q1. What three types of publicly supported programs, if any, do you favor to help working families in New York City?**

- c. Personal income tax cuts
- e. Minimum wage increase
- l. Other: FREE child care

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# CANDIDATES FOR MAYOR

The minimum wage is too low and it should be illegal to work 40 hours a week and still live in poverty. Society likes to believe poor people are simply lazy but that's nonsense. NYC's 8.25% sales tax is another target on my hit list b/c it's outrageous (though I may only lower it for ALL purchases below, say, \$200, b/c rich people can still pay it. Child care is a NECESSITY and should therefore\*\*

## **Q2. What is the best way to improve New York City Schools and increase student achievement?**

- k. Reduce class size in grades K-3
- r. Increase parental involvement
- s. Other: All students from 14 - on will go out for internships for most of the year

Studies show that BOTH the private and public schools are terrible and I do not believe a classroom is the best place to educate a young person. It stifles their attention span and discourages learning. I'd consider eliminating standard tests too because I think they're dubious. NYC is not the problem. The schools all over America are failing due to their design.

## **Q3. What three methods, if any, do you favor for making communities safe for children, youth and families?**

- g. Expand drug education and treatment programs
- l. Expand summer jobs for youth
- m. Other: End the war on drugs

Peer pressure is our biggest problem - it fosters graffiti, crime and so on & I - unlike every other candidate - have comprehensive plans to eliminate peer pressure and get young people to be more independent, etc. Half the crime in America is caused by boredom, and society could fix this for teens in a minute but we don't care and ignore the problem until its too late.

## **Q4. Which three areas of public health services for children and youth are in the greatest need of expansion in New York City?**

- a. School based health services
- b. Community based primary care services
- p. Other: Getting teens to NEVER START smoking cigarettes

Getting teens to NEVER START smoking cigarettes is one of my main priorities b/c that's one of the greatest issues in society. I've got many other plans like feeding healthier food in schools (ex: soy hot dogs taste exactly like real ones but are a thousand times healthier;) (ex: rgBH in the milk kids drink is bad and I'll stop it.) Primary care is key, and obviously I'd fight to socialize all health care in \*\*

## **Q5. What three publicly subsidized programs and initiatives, if any, do you think most help families find and keep safe affordable housing?**

- c. Home ownership programs
- f. Affordable housing development
- i. Other: see below

Housing is one of my top 4 priorities, and I don't mean the mild plans that the Republicrats intend. Our system is COMPLETELY broken and I could list hundreds of innovations I plan on every level, from changing the RGB and housing court, and HPD, etc, to building very efficient - but very tiny - \$50/mo units. Please go to my website to see some of the list.

## **Q6. What do you consider to be the single biggest issue facing families in New York City today?**

Housing is probably the most urgent disaster and that's why I'm challenging the Republicrats, who will do very little to change the situation, as ALL of them get tons of campaign money from the real estate lobby. And, none of them have to worry about housing b/c they are all WEALTHY, and can't relate to poor or middle-class families. The high price of housing hurts our economy b/c we're spending all our incomes just trying\*\*

# CANDIDATES FOR MAYOR

**Q7. What do you feel is the single biggest issue facing children in New York City today?**

I think we treat children like garbage in many ways and I have too many innovations to list here. In America, most parents neglect their kids (often because everyone has to work so much just to pay the bills) and we need a comprehensive strategy to change it ALL, as it's all tied together. Even the curriculum in our schools is largely useless to them in real life. Go to my website for specific plans\*\*

**Q8. What do you consider to be the single biggest issue facing teenagers in New York City today?**

Teenagers have it the worst, I think, due to peer pressure and sexuality and I've got thousands of specific plans to combat all the problems (ex: I'd love schools to discuss sociology and relationships, b/c when a teenager has their first romance collapse, they think the world is OVER, and we need to prepare them more for the ridiculousness of life, etc. we have too many social problems, which we do not plan for b/c\*\*

**Q9. If elected, would you maintain the Administration for Children's Services (ACS) as a separate charter agency providing child welfare, child care, Head Start and child support enforcement services?**

Not sure. It seems like ACS is doing good, but that's only based on Giuliani's information, and he has been caught repeatedly fudging statistics, lying, and falsely portraying his every p.r. stunt as a great success. I'd bet money that if I investigate ACS we'll find it is largely bogus.

**Q10. How would you coordinate the various City agencies, departments, services and programs for children?**

I can only give you a loose answer in this context, so ask me for greater details. Simply put, there is not one agency in our gov't that does its job intelligently or efficiently and most of our problems are interconnected. (Ex: police park their private cars illegally all over my neighborhood b/c I live near a precinct. Not only are they abusing their authority, but this proves we need a residency law for cops\*\*

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## FERNANDO FERRER

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**Q1. What three types of publicly supported programs, if any, do you favor to help working families in New York City?**

- e. Minimum wage increase
- i. Subsidized child care
- k. Child Health Plus and Family Health Plus

The minimum wage must be increased to pay a living wage. Subsidized child care is vital so that when families get jobs, they can afford to have their children cared for in a safe, nurturing environment. One cannot be a productive worker while concerned about one's children during the day. One out of four New Yorkers does not have access to affordable, quality health insurance. That is why CHP and FHP are essential.

**Q2. What is the best way to improve New York City Schools and increase student achievement?**

- p. Increase teacher salaries across the board
- q. Reduce overcrowding and build new schools
- r. Increase parental involvement

My education plan is truly revolutionary in that it calls for teachers to work during July to obtain desperately needed professional training they cannot get during the school year. In return, I will increase salaries 30%. Raises are also important so our teachers' salaries are competitive with suburban schools. My education plan also calls for schools to give parents report cards on how they are doing to encourage more parental involvement.

# CANDIDATES FOR MAYOR

## **Q3. What three methods, if any, do you favor for making communities safe for children, youth and families?**

- g. Expand drug education and treatment programs
- j. Expand violence prevention programs in schools
- k. Expand after-school activities

Effective drug abuse prevention and treatment programs, safe schools and expanded after school programs offer the most effective means to make our communities safer for our children. Drugs remain the major factor in violence, gang activity and family instability. After school activities, including weekends, provide children with safe in-school experiences and safe havens and supervised activities to keep them out of harms way. Substance abuse treatment and prevention programs help reduce the demand for drugs.

## **Q4. Which three areas of public health services for children and youth are in the greatest need of expansion in New York City?**

- b. Community based primary care services
- e. Mental health services
- i. Asthma detection and treatment

Children need greater access to community-based primary care, asthma detection and treatment, and mental health services. With increased enrollment efforts and expanding CHP, Medicaid and FHP, there is no reason why children should not be provided with these vital services. Primary care is essential to ensuring that children receive appropriate immunizations and access to preventive screenings. There is a significant gap in New York City's mental health delivery system for children.

## **Q5. What three publicly subsidized programs and initiatives, if any, do you think most help families find and keep safe affordable housing?**

- d. Eviction prevention services
- f. Affordable housing development
- i. Social services (i.e. substance abuse case management)

Developing affordable housing spurs additional housing, strengthens neighborhoods, and creates jobs. The Ferrer plan develops and maintains affordable housing through subsidized construction, extending benefits to owners in return for accepting and/or maintaining regulated rents, and assisting existing affordable housing with capital repairs. Eviction prevention services and social services assist families from abuses in the market and makes sure that people receive benefits like SCHE, SCRIE and Section 8 that keep housing affordable.

## **Q6. What do you consider to be the single biggest issue facing families in New York City today?**

Education. Education. Education. If this City is to compete in the twenty-first century, we must have a first-class public school system. Without access to educational opportunity, I would not be where I am today. That is why I am prepared to lead our schools in a bold, creative and intelligent direction by:

- Creating a world-class and accountable teaching force.
- Creating safe places for our children.
- Encouraging parental involvement in children's education.

## **Q7. What do you feel is the single biggest issue facing children in New York City today?**

We have too many unqualified teachers and too many overcrowded and outmoded schools. To be competitive, we must do better. My plan is to have teachers receive professional education in July in return for a 30% wage increase that will also make their salaries competitive. Principals will be given the power to fire incompetent teachers quickly and fairly. I will make sure that we build schools that are equipped for the twenty-first century.

## **Q8. What do you consider to be the single biggest issue facing teenagers in New York City today?**

Our teens need a place to be safe during the after-school hours. Young people who are unsupervised after school are at a greater risk of dropping out, using drugs, becoming pregnant, or being arrested. As Mayor, I want to keep all of our public middle schools open until 6pm each day and on Saturdays and Sundays. We can pay for the program by rolling back the Giuliani/Vallone 4-cents-a-day tax cut.

# CANDIDATES FOR MAYOR

**Q9. If elected, would you maintain the Administration for Children's Services (ACS) as a separate charter agency providing child welfare, child care, Head Start and child support enforcement services?**

Yes. It is critical to maintain the Administration for Children's Service as a separate agency with responsibility over all City programs dealing with children's services so those services will be a priority. With 1.9 million children in the City, we need a single agency, with a single head, to be responsible for these issues. Children's needs can only be met if there is a single agency whose mission and constituency is clear and unambiguous.

**Q10. How would you coordinate the various City agencies, departments, services and programs for children?**

As Mayor, I would appoint a high-level member of my staff to ensure that all city agencies work together to make New York City more child and family friendly. New York City government needs the leadership of a Mayor who will address the needs of working families and children, as well as those who need public assistance to sustain them. We must be both a business friendly and family friendly city.

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## TERRANCE M. GRAY

Did not respond

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## MARK GREEN

**Q1. What three types of publicly supported programs, if any, do you favor to help working families in New York City?**

- k. Child Health Plus and Family Health Plus
- i. Subsidized child care
- a. Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)

As Public Advocate, I've been an active partner in HEALTH\*STAT, a program that seeks to enroll New Yorkers in health insurance programs for which they are already eligible. In addition, safe childcare is crucial to child development and income support, and I will work with State, Federal, and community-based groups to provide quality childcare.

**Q2. What is the best way to improve New York City Schools and increase student achievement?**

- k. Reduce class size in grades K-3
- p. Increase teacher salaries across the board
- a. Abolish the Board of Education and make a Department of Education accountable to the Mayor

As Mayor, educating children will be my highest priority. I'll shrink class sizes for young children, and incorporate technology to create 21st Century schools. I'll enter into a "big deal" with teachers that offers higher pay and greater support for greater productivity and performance. And I'll end the Board of Education as we know it, and provide accountability for education.

**Q3. What three methods, if any, do you favor for making communities safe for children, youth and families?**

- m. Other: Neighborhood Policing
- e. Enact stricter gun control laws
- k. Expand after-school activities

Most juvenile crime occurs between 3 and 8 PM - after school, but before adults are home. I'll expand after school programs, like BEACON schools, to keep kids off the streets and in safe, supportive environments. I'll combat the scourge of gun violence by launching a special initiative to intercept and confiscate illegal guns. And I want to expand neighborhood policing so that communities work together with police to fight crime.

# CANDIDATES FOR MAYOR

**Q4. Which three areas of public health services for children and youth are in the greatest need of expansion in New York City?**

- o. Medicaid, Child Health Plus and Family Health Plus insurance programs
- b. Community based primary care services
- a. School based health services

As Public Advocate, I've conducted twenty investigations into HMOs to uncover abuses. I believe that we should expand our community and primary care systems to ease the burden on the public hospital system. I also want to promote preventive care, like school based clinics, so that families can seek treatment before problems become worse. I will devote resources to fight HIV/AIDS, teen tobacco use, asthma and lead paint exposure.

**Q5. What three publicly subsidized programs and initiatives, if any, do you think most help families find and keep safe affordable housing?**

- f. Affordable housing development
- c. Home ownership programs
- e. Section 8 vouchers

Developing affordable housing must be a priority. My goal is 50,000 new units over the next five years. I'll convene a housing summit to recommend an action plan for reaching that goal. I'll press the State to make a real commitment to new housing. I'll work to streamline the process for getting Section 8 vouchers. And I'll fight to better utilize Federal funds from the HUD Section 108 program that provides low-cost loans for housing programs.

**Q6. What do you consider to be the single biggest issue facing families in New York City today?**

I've made "educating families" and "protecting families" the twin towers of my candidacy, and they reflect what my priorities will be as Mayor. I will fight to give children the education they deserve, and the education they will need to compete in the 21st Century. I'll reduce class sizes for young children, integrate technology into education, enter into a "big deal" with teachers, and end the Board of Education as we know it.

**Q7. What do you feel is the single biggest issue facing children in New York City today?**

Education is the greatest issue facing children today. However, I also believe that the lack of after school programs remains a major issue. I want to expand the BEACON program to 100 schools, so that young people have a safe place to go after school to study, receive tutoring, or just to play basketball. That will keep young people off the streets and out of the criminal justice system.

**Q8. What do you consider to be the single biggest issue facing teenagers in New York City today?**

A major issue facing today's teens is juvenile crime. I support expanding "youth courts" - an innovative program where teens judge and punish other teens accused of minor offenses. There is currently a youth court operating in Red Hook, Brooklyn, and it has made encouraging strides in reducing juvenile crime. I will work to expand this creative and promising program throughout the City.

**Q9. If elected, would you maintain the Administration for Children's Services (ACS) as a separate charter agency providing child welfare, child care, Head Start and child support enforcement services?**

Yes. I support establishment of the Administration for Children's Services as a separate agency. While ACS has made admirable strides recently, there is much to be done. I will expand community-based foster care placement, improve the way that ACS deals with adolescents, and expand one-on-one contact with social workers. The City needs a central agency responsible for all early childhood services such as childcare and Head Start, and I will evaluate appropriate possibilities in this regard.

**Q10. How would you coordinate the various City agencies, departments, services and programs for children?**

I am a longtime proponent of cutting government waste and streamlining bureaucracy. For example, I've proposed the creation of an Office of Crime Prevention Initiatives (OPCI) to replace the Departments of Probation and Juvenile Justice. To better coordinate efforts to prevent juvenile crime, the OPCI will work together with ACS and the NYPD to prevent and punish juvenile crime and to deal with offenders once they enter the system.

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# CANDIDATES FOR MAYOR

## ALAN G. HEVESI

**Q1. What three types of publicly supported programs, if any, do you favor to help working families in New York City?**

- i. Subsidized child care
- j. Head Start and Pre-Kindergarten
- k. Child Health Plus and Family Health Plus

I believe that ensuring an early and high quality education for all our city's children will help 2 or 3 income families, with both parents working one or two jobs each. Programs such as Head Start and universal pre-kindergarten not only provide such learning, but also allow for working parents to have an active and purposeful environment for their children to be while they are at work. I strongly support programs such as Child Health\*\*

**Q2. What is the best way to improve New York City Schools and increase student achievement?**

- k. Reduce class size in grades K-3
- n. Expand teacher training and require certification for all teachers
- p. Increase teacher salaries across the board

Education is the top priority of my campaign for Mayor. In order to guarantee that every child in the public school system has access to a quality education, we must ensure that a qualified, certified teacher will be in every classroom. To recruit and retain certified teachers, we must pay teachers what they are worth and then demand accountability for that salary. As Mayor, I will fight for smaller class sizes, more and better after-school \*\*

**Q3. What three methods, if any, do you favor for making communities safe for children, youth and families?**

- g. Expand drug education and treatment programs
- i. Keep schools open evenings and weekends
- k. Expand after-school activities

When focusing on young people, I prefer to accentuate the positive benefits of activity and programs that give young people direction, motivation and purpose. We need to keep schools open nights and weekends to make each school building the center of the community and to provide opportunities for both children and adults to utilize these city buildings for learning and community-based activity. I will expand after-school activities and am a strong supporter of summer jobs\*\*

**Q4. Which three areas of public health services for children and youth are in the greatest need of expansion in New York City?**

- a. School based health services
- b. Community based primary care services
- i. Asthma detection and treatment

There is alarmingly low access to community-based primary care in NYC. There is also a lack of in-depth health care at our school based health services as well as a lack of a true system of coordination between the Board of Education and the Department of Health. Throughout my long career in public service, I have been an advocate for comprehensive health care. Access to adequate health care is an invaluable service for any family,\*\*

**Q5. What three publicly subsidized programs and initiatives, if any, do you think most help families find and keep safe affordable housing?**

- d. Eviction prevention services
- f. Affordable housing developments
- j. Other: Rent stabilization and rent control

**Q6. What do you consider to be the single biggest issue facing families in New York City today?**

I believe that the single biggest issue facing families in NYC today has to be adequate access to quality public education. Fixing our public schools is the most important thing we can do for our children, and in turn, for their futures and the futures of their families. That's why, as Mayor, I will make improving education my number one priority.

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# CANDIDATES FOR MAYOR

**Q7. What do you feel is the single biggest issue facing children in New York City today?**

Again, I believe that education is the top issue facing children. Our children's education and welfare must be our top priority for generations to come. Beyond school reform, my policy agenda for this city's children will focus on three tenets: early child care and education, consistent provision of quality services throughout the life of a child, and collaborative policy making across all policy and service agencies in the city.

**Q8. What do you consider to be the single biggest issue facing teenagers in New York City today?**

I don't think that there is one, single issue that faces teens alone. However, my focus on education as a priority for our city's children is a K-12 focus, one that clearly includes the educational attainment of our city's teenagers. In particular, I think that there needs to be an increased focus and preparedness for the world beyond high school, whether that is college or vocational or technical job opportunities. Preparing students for the world\*\*

**Q9. If elected, would you maintain the Administration for Children's Services (ACS) as a separate charter agency providing child welfare, child care, Head Start and child support enforcement services?**

Yes, I would maintain ACS as a separate charter agency. I think the creation of ACS helped to highlight and then attack some of the previous weaknesses in child welfare servicing in the past. Maintaining this focus on the welfare of children can only be a good thing. The agency has done tremendously for children, and now we need to take it to the next level.

**Q10. How would you coordinate the various City agencies, departments, services and programs for children?**

I will appoint a Deputy Mayor for Children and Families to develop a comprehensive children's policy for New York. He or she will coordinate the work of all public agencies that are presently involved in early care, education, and children's services across the city. I will also employ the latest in technology to increase parental access, improve educational performance, streamline the contracting process with outside agencies, and strengthen families and communities throughout the city.

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## KENNETH D. SCHAEFFER

Did not respond

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## GEORGE N. SPITZ

Did not respond

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## PETER F. VALLONE

**Q1. What three types of publicly supported programs, if any, do you favor to help working families in New York City?**

- a. Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)
- b. Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit
- k. Child Health Plus and Family Health Plus

For two years, I have included an Earned Income Tax Credit and a Childcare Tax Credit in the City's budget. The State Legislature, who must approve most tax changes, has not allowed implementation of these tax reductions. Both will provide needed and deserved tax relief to working families. Health coverage is vitally important for all people, and we have an obligation to ensure that all eligible New Yorkers are enrolled in Child or Family Health\*\*

# CANDIDATES FOR MAYOR

## **Q2. What is the best way to improve New York City Schools and increase student achievement?**

- a. Abolish the Board of Education and make a Department of Education accountable to the Mayor
- j. Provide Universal Pre-Kindergarten for all 4 year olds
- q. Reduce overcrowding and build new schools

I have a plan called Smart Kids/Smart City, which will create a Department of Education accountable to the Mayor, and direct at least \$1.5 billion in State and City funds to our schools. In the plan, \$225 million will extend Pre-K to a five-hour day and over \$700 million will go to reduce class size, lease space and modernize buildings. All of these reforms will lead to significant improvements in student performance and learning.

## **Q3. What three methods, if any, do you favor for making communities safe for children, youth and families?**

- b. Better train police officers
- k. Expand after-school activities
- l. Expand summer jobs for youth

Better-trained police officers can interact with residents in positive ways, simultaneously deterring crime while building bridges with the community. After-school programs, which as Speaker, I have funded for years, provide children with productive, safe activities that challenge their minds and bodies. Youth jobs, which I've also fought to expand, teach youth responsibility and skills they will need to succeed in life. Both provide youth with activities to keep them busy, and an alternative to crime.

## **Q4. Which three areas of public health services for children and youth are in the greatest need of expansion in New York City?**

- a. School based health services
- l. Substance abuse prevention and treatment
- o. Medicaid, Child Health Plus and Family Health Plus insurance programs

Everyone deserves quality healthcare. If you have healthcare, other services including prenatal care, immunizations, and asthma treatment become readily accessible. We need to make sure that nurses are in every school regularly for health services and education. Finally, nothing rips a family apart and has longer lasting debilitating consequences for children than growing up around substance abuse. Therefore, we must provide substance abuse prevention and treatment services.

## **Q5. What three publicly subsidized programs and initiatives, if any, do you think most help families find and keep safe affordable housing?**

- b. Rent Subsidies with case management services
- c. Home Ownership programs
- f. Affordable housing development

The crisis in affordable housing can only be resolved by investing funds in development. My plan will use the revenue generated by the sale of the World Trade Center to leverage funds to construct tens of thousands of units of affordable housing. I started the City's Temporary Rent Subsidy Program and as Mayor will expand it. Finally, I am committed to keeping homeownership a dream affordable to low- and middle income New Yorkers.

## **Q6. What do you consider to be the single biggest issue facing families in New York City today?**

We are facing a housing crisis that is producing homelessness and driving families out of our City. Affordable housing is not a privilege or luxury - it is a basic right. I will ensure that Battery Park City Authority revenue is dedicated to housing. And I have a plan to dedicate the earnings from the sale of the World Trade Center to finance housing. This money could be used to produce tens of thousands of\*\*

## **Q7. What do you feel is the single biggest issue facing children in New York City today?**

We must overhaul and improve our educational system. Investments in early childhood education, reducing class size and overcrowding, and creating a safe learning environment are desperately needed. My plan, Smart Kids/Smart City, will abolish the Board of Education, dedicate NYC residential property taxes to education and get the educational funding from Albany our kids are owed. With this additional \$1.5 billion in funding we can significantly improve education and learning outcomes.

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# CANDIDATES FOR MAYOR

**Q8. What do you consider to be the single biggest issue facing teenagers in New York City today?**

Moving from adolescence to adulthood has never been easy. Today poor public schools, drug availability, limited extra-curricular programs and a lack of jobs for youth make the transition even harder. We need to prepare our teenagers for adulthood by educating them, whether for college or a career. And we need to fund after-school programs, drug prevention and education and summer jobs, to benefit our youth now and in the future.

**Q9. If elected, would you maintain the Administration for Children's Services (ACS) as a separate charter agency providing child welfare, child care, Head Start and child support enforcement services?**

Over the past five years there have been major reforms and improvements within ACS. I am considering making ACS a charter agency, but there are many details that must be worked out before such a change can be made, including staffing issues and reporting requirements. Regardless, I am committed to ensuring that the City provides high quality child welfare, childcare, Head Start and child support services.

**Q10. How would you coordinate the various City agencies, departments, services and programs for children?**

I would appoint a Deputy Mayor for Children's Services to coordinate all the City's efforts related to children. Children's services are important to most every family and New Yorker, yet the City has not directed a coordinated effort on to this issue. Under my leadership as Mayor, this will change.

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## JULIA WILLEBRAND

Did not respond

# CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC ADVOCATE

## WILLIE COLON

Did not respond

## STEPHEN DiBRIENZA

**Q1. What three types of publicly supported programs, if any, do you favor to help working families in New York City?**

- a. Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)
- d. Housing subsidies
- i. Subsidized child care

It is difficult to choose just three programs since there really is no "one-size-fits-all" solution to hardships faced by working families in NYC. However, there is clearly a critical shortage of affordable housing for low and middle income New Yorkers; the waiting list for licensed, regulated day care makes it very difficult for public assistance recipients to move from welfare to work; and finally, the EITC gives working families much needed tax relief.

**Q2. What is the best way to improve New York City Schools and increase student achievement?**

- i. Ensure availability of textbooks and materials
- q. Reduce overcrowding and build new schools
- n. Expand teacher training and require certification for all teachers

As a parent of two children in the public school system, I have fought for real reform in our public schools. First and foremost, this means bringing resources into the classroom to improve teaching and learning, such as computers, textbooks, and lab equipment. Class size reduction, particularly in the middle grades, is critical to retaining our students. I won funding for the NYC Teacher Education Assistance Program to help more teachers win training and certification.

**Q3. What three methods, if any, do you favor for making communities safe for children, youth and families?**

- b. Better train police officers
- l. Expand summer jobs for youth
- k. Expand after-school activities

Police officers who better understand our diverse neighborhoods will be much more likely to improve their relations with all of our communities. The summer jobs program enables our youth to learn job skills while earning money for books and supplies. I have funded after-school activities throughout my district to help give children and youth as much opportunity as possible to gain new skills in varying areas.

**Q4. Which three areas of public health services for children and youth are in the greatest need of expansion in New York City?**

- o. Medicaid, Child Health Plus and Family Health Plus insurance programs
- a. School based health services
- k. Adolescent health programs

Again, there could be many areas which need expansion, depending on each individual child. Access to Medicaid and the other insurance programs is critical if we want all of this city's children and youth to obtain the best preventive care. I have funded adolescent health programs, and I recognize their importance, particularly for teens at risk. School based health services should be expanded to better help the 1.1 million children in our public schools.

# CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC ADVOCATE

**Q5. What three publicly subsidized programs and initiatives, if any, do you think most help families find and keep safe affordable housing?**

- b. Rent subsidies with case management services
- d. Eviction prevention services
- f. Affordable housing development

I have led the fight for \$3.2 million in Council funding for rental assistance for homeless families and adults. I have helped restore millions of dollars to eviction prevention services throughout the city, which keep thousands of tenants in their own apartments. I endorse the proposal put forth by Housing First! which calls for the creation of 100,000 new units of affordable housing for low and middle income New Yorkers.

**Q6. What do you consider to be the single biggest issue facing families in New York City today?**

Housing.

The lack of affordable housing is a major crisis. A major investment in the creation of affordable housing must be made, particularly by redirecting our tax incentive programs towards housing and away from "corporate welfare". The city should also increase funding streams that are modeled on successful programs such as the Section-202 housing program, which creates senior housing. An expanded Rental Assistance Program would move thousands of adults and families from shelters to self-sufficiency.

**Q7. What do you feel is the single biggest issue facing children in New York City today?**

Education.

I believe that we can reform and reduce the bureaucracy - a key component of improving the operation of the system -without engaging in the governance battles that take place between the Mayor and Board of Education. As Public Advocate, I would work on an ongoing basis with a coalition of educators, advocates, parents, teachers, administrators, and other elected officials to examine what works in our system and to develop a comprehensive blueprint for reform.

**Q8. What do you consider to be the single biggest issue facing teenagers in New York City today?**

Economic opportunity.

Teenagers must be given every opportunity to prepare themselves for the job market of the 21st Century. A sound education, with access to modern computers, will allow them to compete for decent paying jobs. The continued funding of the summer jobs program will allow teens to both earn extra money for books and supplies and provide real job experience. We simply cannot afford to shortchange teenagers and then expect them to succeed.

**Q9. If elected, would you maintain the Administration for Children's Services (ACS) as a separate charter agency providing child welfare, child care, Head Start and child support enforcement services?**

From the outset of this work, it has been clear that protective services for our most vulnerable children are too important to return to HRA. Discussions remain regarding the final details of legislation to make ACS a permanent agency, but I believe that a separate agency should, and will, be established by law. Certainly, I would like to see reporting requirements which would give the Council greater oversight of the agency.

**Q10. How would you coordinate the various City agencies, departments, services and programs for children?**

As Chair of the General Welfare Committee, I continue to monitor the Administration for Children's Services, fighting aggressively to ensure that the agency fulfills its mission to protect this most vulnerable population. As Public Advocate, I would continue to hold hearings and introduce legislation that reflects the concerns of advocates, experts, children and families.

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**JOSEPH DUBOWSKI**

Did not respond

# CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC ADVOCATE

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## KEVIN A. FINNEGAN

Did not respond

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## SHEILA FLAXMAN

Did not respond

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## KATHRYN E. FREED

Did not respond

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## BETSY F. GOTBAUM

***Q1. What three types of publicly supported programs, if any, do you favor to help working families in New York City?***

- k. Child Health Plus and Family Health Plus
- i. Subsidized child care
- d. Housing subsidies

I believe that the provision of necessary healthcare, quality child care and affordable housing to working families can go a long way towards helping them attain the quality of life, that every family in New York deserves. As Public Advocate, I pledge to work with all relevant City agencies and community based organizations to increase the enrollment to existing programs like CHP and new ones starting up soon, such as FHP.

***Q2. What is the best way to improve New York City Schools and increase student achievement?***

- q. Reduce overcrowding and build new schools
- i. Ensure availability of textbooks and materials
- m. Increase teacher recruitment efforts

I believe that students cannot achieve their full potential when they are crammed into overcrowded classes inside buildings in dire need of major renovations, lacking the necessary educational materials. As Public Advocate, I will regularly attend School Construction Authority trustees meetings to promote specific agenda such as priority school repair lists. I will also monitor the SCA to make sure that they are building new schools on time, on budget and follow safety rules and\*\*

***Q3. What three methods, if any, do you favor for making communities safe for children, youth and families?***

- e. Enact stricter gun control laws
- b. Better train police officers
- g. Expand drug education and treatment programs

New York City has made excellent strides in making our communities safer. However, there is still a great deal of work left to be done. It is my belief that stricter gun control laws must be implemented. Our police officers also need training that will enable them to identify with the communities they serve. Only through collaborative efforts, can we ensure safety for our communities. As Public Advocate, I will endeavor to do just that.

# CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC ADVOCATE

**Q4. Which three areas of public health services for children and youth are in the greatest need of expansion in New York City?**

- o. Medicaid, Child Health Plus and Family Health Plus insurance programs
- b. Community based primary care services
- a. School based health services

As the number of the uninsured rises in New York City, a greater burden is placed on our city's public hospitals. We must make every effort to expand and increase enrollment of children and youth into health insurance programs. Having insurance alone will not guarantee access to needed services. Programs have to be easily available within the community in order to maximize utilization.

**Q5. What three publicly subsidized programs and initiatives, if any, do you think most help families find and keep safe affordable housing?**

- f. Affordable housing development
- c. Home ownership programs
- e. Section 8 vouchers

Increasing the number of affordable housing developments will help alleviate the heavy burden families face. However, at the same time, there needs to be a greater emphasis on expanding home ownership programs.

**Q6. What do you consider to be the single biggest issue facing families in New York City today?**

New York City's shortage of affordable housing is the biggest issue facing families today. As Public Advocate, I will establish the Office of Housing Coordination to trouble shoot between developers and the city housing & building agencies and expedite affordable housing proposals and cut through the bureaucratic red tape.

**Q7. What do you feel is the single biggest issue facing children in New York City today?**

The lack of affordable child care has reached a crisis point in this city. The need far exceeds the supply. As Public Advocate, I will closely monitor ACD and HRA to ensure that they are in fact utilizing all resources at their disposal to provide affordable and quality child care to the children of New York City.

**Q8. What do you consider to be the single biggest issue facing teenagers in New York City today?**

I believe that New York City's inability to provide adequate educational opportunities is the single biggest issue facing teenagers today. Just as standards are raised higher in New York State, comparable efforts must be made to ensure that all students are equipped with the necessary tools required.

**Q9. If elected, would you maintain the Administration for Children's Services (ACS) as a separate charter agency providing child welfare, child care, Head Start and child support enforcement services?**

Yes, I would absolutely maintain ACS as a separate charter agency. Being established as a separate entity has enabled ACS to improve the provision of necessary services. However, there is still much to be done. As Public Advocate, I will work closely with the Commissioner, to make sure that programs already in place are effectively implemented.

**Q10. How would you coordinate the various City agencies, departments, services and programs for children?**

As Public Advocate, I will act as a conduit, bringing together all the relevant city agencies that administer programs for children to establish a management infrastructure.

# CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC ADVOCATE

## NORMAN SIEGEL

***Q1. What three types of publicly supported programs, if any, do you favor to help working families in New York City?***

- i. Subsidized child care
- j. Head Start and Pre-Kindergarten
- k. Child Health Plus and Family Health Plus

Health insurance programs are important because children's health must come first if they are to learn and thrive. Subsidized child care is necessary to support working families. It supports the child and the family and the infant/parent relationship which is crucial for healthy growth and development. Head Start/Pre-K prepare children who lack opportunities afforded to many other students of early preparation for school and in particular literacy. Without it these children may fall behind.

***Q2. What is the best way to improve New York City Schools and increase student achievement?***

- k. Reduce class size in grades K-3
- n. Expand teacher training and require certification for all teachers
- r. Increase parental involvement

Small class size is essential to meet the individual needs of all the children. Highly trained teachers can better meet the needs and learning styles of each student they teach. Parental involvement is crucial to encouraging a child to take an interest in and to value school and has an impact on the child's self esteem around school. We should combine parental involvement with parent training to help parents to help their children.

***Q3. What three methods, if any, do you favor for making communities safe for children, youth and families?***

- b. Better train police officers
- h. Expand mental health services
- k. Expand after-school activities

Mental health services help children to cope with unsafe communities in healthy ways, so that they don't become part of the problem. Expanding after-school activities acknowledges the reality of working families, and extends the arm of the school into the community with structured activities that cannot otherwise be provided. Police-community hostility is a serious problem facing young people in some of our neighborhoods today. We must improve training at all levels of the NYPD.

***Q4. Which three areas of public health services for children and youth are in the greatest need of expansion in New York City?***

- i. Asthma detection and treatment
- j. Lead paint abatement
- o. Medicaid, Child Health Plus and Family Health Plus insurance programs

Asthma and lead paint are issues that disproportionately affect communities of color and high poverty neighborhoods. We must address these issues, and work to reduce the factors that may cause asthma, including triggers that exist at the schools, by a variety of measures including a genuine commitment to environmental justice. Health insurance is an essential component to access to health care. We need to increase accessibility and retention of health insurance for all families.

***Q5. What three publicly subsidized programs and initiatives, if any, do you think most help families find and keep safe affordable housing?***

- b. Rent subsidies with case management services
- d. Eviction prevention services
- f. Affordable housing development

Rent subsidies with case management services help insure that people won't fall behind and be evicted, and help them make the most of their subsidized housing and income. NYC needs a substantial comprehensive housing development plan to remedy the critical shortage of adequate affordable housing. Eviction prevention services help people retain safe affordable housing. I support a right to counsel in landlord-tenant cases: people should not lose their homes through lack of adequate representation.

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# CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC ADVOCATE

**Q6. What do you consider to be the single biggest issue facing families in New York City today?**

The biggest issue facing families is striking a balance between providing for their children and meeting their social and emotional needs. We need to provide counselling, rent subsidies and child care options to help families to cope. We also need to reconsider welfare to work policies that are forcing parents into an either/or situation with respect to spending time with their children or feeding and housing them.

**Q7. What do you feel is the single biggest issue facing children in New York City today?**

The biggest issue facing children is education. We must provide all of New York's children with the sound basic education to which they are entitled. Education creates a bridge between the haves and the have-nots, and it is the means whereby each child can realize his or her potential. We must provide all our children with a quality education, including small class sizes, qualified teachers, the materials they need in a safe learning environment.

**Q8. What do you consider to be the single biggest issue facing teenagers in New York City today?**

I see from the public high school class I teach that teenagers are increasingly alienated, cynical and disconnected. This culture contributes in part to the disturbingly high truancy and drop out rates in the City. We must give teens a place where their voices can be heard, listen to their concerns and try to involve them again in their communities. I would try to engage teens, perhaps through a Task Force on teen issues.

**Q9. If elected, would you maintain the Administration for Children's Services (ACS) as a separate charter agency providing child welfare, child care, Head Start and child support enforcement services?**

Yes. I believe that ACS should operate as an independent agency. As such it is more accountable. It is also easier for families to deal with a smaller agency charged with protective and preventative services for children and families, rather than the larger HRA.

**Q10. How would you coordinate the various City agencies, departments, services and programs for children?**

I would circulate a memo asking each agency to consider and summarize services it provides and could provide for children. We would evaluate whether services are adequate and where there is overlap or a need for multi-agency coordination. Coordination among agencies can address systemic problems and even yield cost savings so more services can be provided. I would propose an annual conference on children's issues to promote cooperation and innovative thinking and planning.

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## SCOTT M. STRINGER

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**Q1. What three types of publicly supported programs, if any, do you favor to help working families in New York City?**

- e. Minimum wage increase
- j. Head Start and Pre-Kindergarten
- k. Child Health Plus and Family Health Plus

Working families in New York City face a host of challenges in raising safe and healthy children. Government can help by supporting programs that strengthen families. My priorities include: paying working parents a living wage, providing increased support for early childhood learning such as Head Start and Universal Pre-K, and providing health insurance coverage such as Child Health Plus and Family Health Plus for working families that earn too much for Medicaid.

**Q2. What is the best way to improve New York City Schools and increase student achievement?**

- f. Create libraries in every classroom (K-8 grade)
- k. Reduce class size in grades K-3
- q. Reduce overcrowding and build new schools

Providing a quality education to city children is one of the most important functions of our government. To help fix the schools that are failing, we must: create libraries in every K-8 classroom to increase reading skills and foster a lifelong love of reading; create a successful educational beginning by lowering class size in early grades; and meet the demands of a growing school population by building 21st Century schools wired to the internet.

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# CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC ADVOCATE

## **Q3. What three methods, if any, do you favor for making communities safe for children, youth and families?**

- i. Keep schools open evenings and weekends
- l. Expand summer jobs for youth
- m. Other: Substance abuse/domestic violence prevention programs

There are far too many threats to the health and safety of NYC children. To address these threats I support: keeping schools open nights and weekends to give children and families a safe place to engage in recreational activities and learning; expand summer jobs for youth; and enhance substance abuse and domestic violence programs to give parents the skills and resources they need to heal their families and begin new lives.

## **Q4. Which three areas of public health services for children and youth are in the greatest need of expansion in New York City?**

- a. School based health services
- b. Community based primary care services
- o. Medicaid, Child Health Plus and Family Health Plus insurance programs

Expanding access to primary care services is a beneficial and cost effective way to improve the health of the city's children. Primary care is an important tool to treat and manage widespread chronic conditions such as asthma, and helps prevent visits to the emergency room. Therefore I strongly support school based health services, community based primary care facilities and coverage such as Medicaid and the Child Health and Family Health Plus insurance programs.

## **Q5. What three publicly subsidized programs and initiatives, if any, do you think most help families find and keep safe affordable housing?**

- c. Home ownership programs
- d. Eviction prevention services
- f. Affordable housing development

Many families deteriorate and become at risk when they lose their homes. To keep families together, the city must intensify its commitment to providing safe and affordable housing. My foremost priority is the construction of 100,000 units of affordable housing. In addition, we must give New York families the opportunity to own their own homes by increasing support for home ownership programs and by committing to eviction intervention services that keep families from becoming homeless.

## **Q6. What do you consider to be the single biggest issue facing families in New York City today?**

We are in the midst of a housing crisis and many working New York families can not find an affordable place to live. The booming economy has only created luxury housing, putting the squeeze on middle class and vulnerable low-income families. In this tight housing market, government must take the lead to help working New Yorkers remain in the city by embarking on an ambitious plan to build at least 100,000 units of affordable housing.

## **Q7. What do you feel is the single biggest issue facing children in New York City today?**

For the sake of the city's children, we have to fix our schools now - reduce class size, boost after-school tutoring and increase parental involvement. The city and state must fund schools at a level that adequately supports learning and teaching needs. Teacher salaries must be increased and overcrowding addressed by constructing up to date school buildings. Today, city schools are a shadow of what they were - it's up to us to fix them.

## **Q8. What do you consider to be the single biggest issue facing teenagers in New York City today?**

One of the biggest challenges facing New York City teens is finding a job. This summer, as a result of program cuts and a slowdown in the economy many teens can not find work. Summer jobs are important because they teach job skills and help teens earn money. The lack of available summer jobs is even more troubling in light of recent statements from employers that city teens are ill-equipped to enter the workforce.

# CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC ADVOCATE

***Q9. If elected, would you maintain the Administration for Children's Services (ACS) as a separate charter agency providing child welfare, child care, Head Start and child support enforcement services?***

Yes. I strongly support maintaining ACS as a separate charter agency. As Public Advocate I will actively work to make it a permanent city agency.

***Q10. How would you coordinate the various City agencies, departments, services and programs for children?***

My agenda for services to children is an integrated approach that includes comprehensive services in schools, communities, and at home for both parents and children. By improving the city's administration of child welfare services we can ensure that no child or family falls through the cracks but receives the services they need. I also believe we must improve Family Court by paying lawyers a decent wage, lessening their caseloads and insuring continuity of representation.

# CANDIDATES FOR COMPTROLLER

## HERBERT E. BERMAN

**Q1. What three types of publicly supported programs, if any, do you favor to help working families in New York City?**

- a. Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)
- i. Subsidized child care
- k. Child Health Plus and Family Health Plus

As Council Finance Chair, I lobbied and voted to bring the Earned Income Tax Credit to NYC. I fought to allocate \$25 million over five years (in conjunction with CCC) to increase the number of daycare slots. I partnered with Coney Island Hospital to host two "Child Health Awareness Days" in my District to help more families learn about their entitlements under Child Health Plus and reduce the number of uninsured children in NYC.

**Q2. What is the best way to improve New York City Schools and increase student achievement?**

- a. Abolish the Board of Education and make a Department of Education accountable to the Mayor
- k. Reduce class size in grades K-3
- p. Increase teacher salaries across the board

As Finance Chair, I appropriated \$28 million to help limit 25 students to a classroom in grades one, two and three, and \$13 million for the "Two Teachers in a Classroom" program, placing a second certified teacher in over-crowded middle school classrooms. Public education will not flourish until we 1) Abolish the Board, shifting accountability to the Mayor and Council; and 2) Pay teachers' salaries that are worthy of professionals and capable of retaining talent.

**Q3. What three methods, if any, do you favor for making communities safe for children, youth and families?**

- h. Expand mental health services
- k. Expand after-school activities
- m. Other: Community-Based Policing

I was an architect of the "Safe Streets/Safe City" program, which used the "PIT" surcharge to put more police officers on community beats when we desperately needed it. I repealed the tax when the program became self-sustaining. I fund progressive police training programs to help officers better serve their neighborhoods. For 2001/02, I appropriated \$10.5M for after-school programs serving 35,000 youth. As Comptroller, I would fight to give mental health programs the attention they deserve.

**Q4. Which three areas of public health services for children and youth are in the greatest need of expansion in New York City?**

- e. Mental health services
- i. Asthma detection and treatment
- o. Medicaid, Child Health Plus and Family Health Plus insurance programs

One challenge for Medicaid and Child/Family Health Plus is that many families are unaware of eligibility, or uncertain of how to register for benefits. The City must dedicate more resources to awareness campaigns, and benefits must be extended to children in or leaving foster care. I helped address our asthma crisis by appropriating funds to launch the Citywide Asthma Initiative. I would use the Comptroller's bully pulpit to increase mental health funding, especially outpatient reimbursements.

**Q5. What three publicly subsidized programs and initiatives, if any, do you think most help families find and keep safe affordable housing?**

- b. Rent subsidies with case management services
- f. Affordable housing development
- i. Social services (i.e. substance abuse case management)

There is not merely an affordable housing *shortage* in the City - there is a *crisis*. As Comptroller, I would look for additional avenues for safely investing a portion of pension funds to create more affordable housing. But affordable housing and rent subsidies are not enough. We must provide more support services for additional assisted living environments so that families have a fighting chance at the independence and healthy relationships that lead to stronger children.

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# CANDIDATES FOR COMPTROLLER

**Q6. What do you consider to be the single biggest issue facing families in New York City today?**

I believe that poverty is the biggest issue facing New York City's families. The number of children born into poverty is escalating, crushing our minority families disproportionately. One of our most urgent needs is to increase housing opportunities - including housing support services - so that more families are empowered to provide stable, secure living environments for their children. As Comptroller, more funding for affordable housing would be among my top three priorities.

**Q7. What do you feel is the single biggest issue facing children in New York City today?**

In addition to poverty, our children's biggest crisis is that of public education. Kids are slipping away from us, with under half performing at their grade level or graduating from high school within four years. I do not believe that our children - or their teachers - are satisfied with failure, but we have not empowered them for success. Our first step: abolish the Board of Education and bring accountability back to our school system.

**Q8. What do you consider to be the single biggest issue facing teenagers in New York City today?**

We must focus more intently on preparing and empowering our teens to enter the workforce. With regard to nationwide population, NYC ranks first for youth under the age of 18 - and first for adult unemployment. 1) We must lobby the State to supplement SYEP funding; 2) We must expand after-school programs that promote dropout prevention; 3) We must protect CUNY funding so that a college education is accessible to all New Yorkers.

**Q9. If elected, would you maintain the Administration for Children's Services (ACS) as a separate charter agency providing child welfare, child care, Head Start and child support enforcement services?**

I support maintaining ACS as a separate entity, if certain priority provisions are met. First, I would insist that any bill fully respects labor concerns by including acceptable worker protection provisions. I also want to see appropriate emphasis on reporting requirements. I will continue to monitor this issue and take the opinions of our child welfare professionals under advisement as we work toward a progressive, responsible piece of legislation.

**Q10. How would you coordinate the various City agencies, departments, services and programs for children?**

There is a lot the Comptroller can do to serve children and families, from refusing to register foster care contracts that do not promise the highest standards for placement and care, to expanding the Comptroller's community outreach division to offer more assistance on child welfare issues. I would conduct frequent audits to help agencies better serve children. My years of budget experience will provide continuity at a time of historic changes in NYC government.

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## JOHN J. D'EMIC

Did not respond

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## WILLIAM C. THOMPSON, JR.

**Q1. What three types of publicly supported programs, if any, do you favor to help working families in New York City?**

- l. Other: Housing investment
- e. Minimum wage increase
- k. Child Health Plus and Family Health Plus

Stagnant wages and the rising cost of housing and health insurance have trapped millions of New York families in poverty. The eroded value of the minimum wage and the removal of the welfare safety net leave parents working long hours, at multiple jobs, to make ends meet. We can help New York's working families by increasing the minimum wage, investing in affordable housing and ensuring that our 300,000 uninsured children receive vital medical services.

# CANDIDATES FOR COMPTROLLER

## **Q2. What is the best way to improve New York City Schools and increase student achievement?**

- p. Increase teacher salaries across the board
- q. Reduce overcrowding and build new schools
- e. Make school days, weeks and/or year longer

Our ability to recruit and retain teachers is dependent on our ability to competitively compensate them. The increased salaries have to come with increased responsibilities - a longer day or a longer year. Research has proven time and again that smaller is better. Children cannot be expected to learn in buildings that are falling down and classrooms that are overflowing. More time on task for students will enable them to hone their skills and focus\*\*

## **Q3. What three methods, if any, do you favor for making communities safe for children, youth and families?**

- k. Expand after-school activities
- j. Expand violence prevention programs in schools

Making our communities safer benefits everyone, especially children, youth and families. Offering expanded after-school activities and programs, keeps children in safe, nurturing, educational environments. Experience has proven that violence prevention programs give young people the tools to resolve their conflicts peacefully, with respect and understanding for one another.

## **Q4. Which three areas of public health services for children and youth are in the greatest need of expansion in New York City?**

- a. School based health services
- j. Lead paint abatement
- o. Medicaid, Child Health Plus and Family Health Plus insurance programs

School-based health services, which I expanded during my tenure at the Board Of Education, combines two indispensable resources -educational and medical services. Children, therefore, can be assured easy access to quality health resources. Lead paint abatement must be expanded so children can enjoy an environment free of the deadly hazards that lead paint needlessly poses. Expanding healthcare programs for families and children is an essential component in ensuring the well being of all New Yorkers.

## **Q5. What three publicly subsidized programs and initiatives, if any, do you think most help families find and keep safe affordable housing?**

- f. Affordable housing development
- d. Eviction prevention services
- i. Social services (i.e. substance abuse case management)

Safe affordable housing is essential for comfortable family living. Affordable housing development will create access to more housing in the City's intensely competitive and costly housing market. Eviction prevention services and social services help families to keep their housing while also assuring that their children are living in a safe environment.

## **Q6. What do you consider to be the single biggest issue facing families in New York City today?**

New York City has one of the highest rates of personal income and one of the highest concentrations of poverty of any major City. We can no longer ignore the impact of poverty on families and children. As I said earlier, stagnant wages and the rising cost of housing and health insurance have trapped millions of New York families in poverty. The eroded value of the minimum wage and the removal of the welfare safety\*\*

## **Q7. What do you feel is the single biggest issue facing children in New York City today?**

The effects of poverty are felt the most by the children of our city. Sadly, twenty-four percent of New York City's children live in poverty and many of these children live in shelters. A recent study found that 38% of homeless children in the City's shelter system suffer from asthma (a rate four times that of all New York City children and the highest prevalence rate of any child population in the United States).

# CANDIDATES FOR COMPTROLLER

**Q8. What do you consider to be the single biggest issue facing teenagers in New York City today?**

Teenagers need better opportunities and choices for their free time. The City must expand after school programs and community services to the City's youth. More internships and entry-level jobs are needed as well so that teens can gain the knowledge and life skills that only experience can provide. Currently, only one in five teenagers in New York City has a job, compared with the national teenage employment rate of 45.1%.

**Q9. If elected, would you maintain the Administration for Children's Services (ACS) as a separate charter agency providing child welfare, child care, Head Start and child support enforcement services?**

Yes. The ACS currently provides important *child-focused* services like no other agency. Incorporating this agency into a larger bureaucracy would strip it of the independence and focus it requires to provide its services successfully.

**Q10. How would you coordinate the various City agencies, departments, services and programs for children?**

As comptroller, I will audit services to children to ensure that agencies provide programs for children, efficiently and effectively in every neighborhood. Also, the education system is an important government link to children. I would also call upon non-profits like C.C.C. to help monitor the effectiveness of service delivery and work with my office to make recommendations for improvements.

# CCC CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Citizens' Committee for Children of New York, Inc. (CCC) is a 57-year-old, non-partisan, independent, non-profit, multi-issue advocacy organization dedicated to ensuring that every child in New York City is healthy, housed, educated and safe. CCC educates New Yorkers about children's issues, publishes reports and papers, collects and disseminates data, provides technical assistance and support to policy makers, service providers, parent and civic groups and monitors the implementation of federal, state and local policies.

We are conducting a survey of all candidates for citywide elected office about their views on quality of life issues affecting families and children in New York City. We will distribute all responses to New Yorkers on our website ([www.kfny.org](http://www.kfny.org)) and through a direct mailing for public education purposes only. Due to space constraints as well as to ensure fairness to all respondents, we will only report the first 3 priorities you choose (in the order that you list them) and the first 75 words describing your views. The information collected will not be used as and is not intended to reflect an endorsement for, or opposition to, any candidate or political party. Citizens' Committee for Children of New York, Inc. thanks you in advance for your participation.

If you prefer to respond to this questionnaire via email, please call Donna Tiburzi at (212) 673-1800 x 18, or email [info@kfny.org](mailto:info@kfny.org).

1. What three types of publicly supported programs, if any, do you favor to help working families in New York City? While you may favor more than 3 programs, please choose only 3 (or fewer); if you choose more than 3, only the first three will be reported.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>a. Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)</b>     | <b>g. Food stamps</b>                              |
| <b>b. Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit</b> | <b>h. Welfare/Public Assistance</b>                |
| <b>c. Personal income tax cuts</b>            | <b>i. Subsidized child care</b>                    |
| <b>d. Housing subsidies</b>                   | <b>j. Head Start and Pre-Kindergarten</b>          |
| <b>e. Minimum wage increase</b>               | <b>k. Child Health Plus and Family Health Plus</b> |
| <b>f. Child Support enforcement</b>           | <b>l. Other (please list): _____</b>               |

Please explain your choices in 75 words or less:

2. What is the best way to improve New York City schools and increase student achievement? While you may favor more than 3 approaches, please choose only 3 (or fewer); if you choose more than 3, only the first three will be reported.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>a. Abolish the Board of Education and make a Department of Education accountable to the Mayor</b> | <b>j. Provide Universal Pre-Kindergarten for all 4 year olds</b>             |
| <b>b. Create charter schools</b>   | <b>k. Reduce class size in grades K-3</b>                                    |
| <b>c. Provide school vouchers</b>  | <b>l. Offer teachers and principals merit pay increases</b>                  |
| <b>d. Expand summer school</b>   | <b>m. Increase teacher recruitment efforts</b>                               |
| <b>e. Make school days, weeks and/or year longer</b>   | <b>n. Expand teacher training and require certification for all teachers</b> |
| <b>f. Create libraries in every classroom (K-8 grade)</b>  | <b>o. Eliminate teacher tenure</b>   |
| <b>g. Provide on-site/linked health and mental health services</b>                                   | <b>p. Increase teacher salaries across the board</b>                         |
| <b>h. Eliminate social promotion</b>   | <b>q. Reduce overcrowding and build new schools</b>                          |
| <b>i. Ensure availability of textbooks and materials</b>   | <b>r. Increase parental involvement</b>                                      |
|  | <b>s. Other (please list): _____</b>   |

Please explain your choices in 75 words or less:

3. What three methods, if any, do you favor for making communities safe for children, youth and families? While you may favor more than 3, please choose only 3 (or fewer) priorities; if you choose more than 3, only the first three will be reported.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>a. Hire more police officers</b>   | <b>h. Expand mental health services</b>                  |
| <b>b. Better train police officers</b>  | <b>i. Keep schools open evenings and weekends</b>        |
| <b>c. Increase juvenile beds at detention facilities</b>                      | <b>j. Expand violence prevention programs in schools</b> |
| <b>d. Mandate a citywide curfew for youth</b>                                 | <b>k. Expand after-school activities</b>                 |
| <b>e. Enact stricter gun control laws</b>                                     | <b>l. Expand summer jobs for youth</b>                   |
| <b>f. Establish a Youth/Civilian Review Board to monitor police practices</b> | <b>m. Other (please list): _____</b>                     |
| <b>g. Expand drug education and treatment programs</b>                        |  |

Please explain your choices in 75 words or less :

4. Which three areas of public health services for children and youth are in the greatest need of expansion in New York City? While you may favor more than 3, please choose only 3 (or fewer) priorities; if you choose more than 3, only the first three will be reported.

- a. School based health services
- b. Community based primary care services
- c. Inpatient hospital services
- d. Dental health services
- e. Mental health services
- f. Prenatal care
- g. Well-child care
- h. Immunizations

- i. Asthma detection and treatment
- j. Lead paint abatement
- k. Adolescent health programs
- l. Substance abuse prevention and treatment
- m. Abstinence Education
- n. Reproductive health services
- o. Medicaid, Child Health Plus and Family Health Plus insurance programs
- p. Other (please list): \_\_\_\_\_

Please explain your choices in 75 words or less :

5. What three publicly subsidized programs and initiatives, if any, do you think most help families find and keep safe affordable housing? While you may favor more than 3, please choose only 3 (or fewer) priorities; if you choose more than 3, only the first three will be reported.

- a. Rent Subsidies
- b. Rent Subsidies with case management services
- c. Home ownership programs
- d. Eviction prevention services
- e. Section 8 vouchers

- f. Affordable housing development
- g. More shelters
- h. Stricter shelter eligibility rules
- i. Social services (i.e. substance abuse case management)
- j. Other (please list): \_\_\_\_\_

Please explain your choices in 75 words or less:

6. What do you consider to be the single biggest issue facing families in New York City today? (in 75 words or less):

7. What do you feel is the single biggest issue facing children in New York City today? (in 75 words or less):

8. What do you consider to be the single biggest issue facing teenagers in New York City today? (in 75 words or less):

9. If elected, would you maintain the Administration for Children's Services (ACS) as a separate charter agency providing child welfare, child care, Head Start and child support enforcement services? Yes or No  
Please explain:

10. How would you coordinate the various City agencies, departments, services and programs for children? (in 75 words or less):

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# VOTER INFORMATION