

Bill Thompson Citizens Union Mayoral Candidate Questionnaire

1. What is your position with respect to allowing voters who are registered as an independent to vote in party primaries?

Oppose

2. What is your position on the passage of state legislation that would allow referenda initiated by the City Council and/or by citizens to appear on the ballot at the same time as when there is a charter reform proposal initiated by a charter commission appointed by the Mayor?

Support

3. What is your position on implementing “war chest” restrictions that would prohibit a candidate from transferring funds raised in a previous election cycle into a current campaign committee for a different office?

Oppose

4. What is your position on allowing campaign financing for ballot proposals?

Support

5. What is your position with respect to increasing the limit on the number of charter schools permissible under state law?

Support

6. What is your position on changing the current land use process under ULURP to limit the role of community-based planning?

Oppose

7. Knowing that the police department and commissioner retain ultimate authority for determining whether an officer is guilty and the penalty, what is your position on transferring power to the Civilian Complaint Review Board to prosecute cases of police misconduct, such as force, abuse of authority, discourtesy, and offensive language?

Support

8. What is your position on restructuring New York's election administration structure to eliminate most aspects of the two-party system, including the appointment of local and State boards of elections, which currently controls the existing operational structure?

Oppose

9. What is your position on having an election administration system where there is a local elections executive director appointed by the mayor upon recommendation by a new board that is chosen by the mayor and the city council?

Oppose

10. What is your position regarding the creation of a Charter Revision Commission to review the roles of the various offices of government to evaluate how best to effectively deliver government services?

Support

11. What is your position on term limits for elected officials?

Support

12. What is your position on modifying the City Charter to require that changes to term limits may only be approved by the voters?

Support

13. What is your position on the recent extension of term limits for the city's elected officials to three consecutive four-year terms? Please explain your answer.

Oppose

I was one of our City's most vocal opponents of reversing the term limits law. I strongly supported legislation to put the issue back before the voters so their voice could be heard.

The Mayor's successful bid to overturn term limits—without going back to the people who voted for them twice in 1993 and 1996—was an affront to New Yorkers. It said that their votes and their voice do not matter, that bullying and heavy-handed threats are more powerful than democratic ideals.

14. What is your position with respect to the State Legislature establishing a state constitutional convention in advance of the next regularly scheduled state constitutional convention?

Support

- a. If support, what are the three most important areas that need improvement?

Campaign finance reform, spending and property tax caps, and local government reform.

15. How do taxes paid by New Yorkers compare to the value that is received in services? Do you believe that taxes should be raised or lowered? To the extent you believe taxes should be changed, please provide specific proposals about what taxes you would raise and what services you would cut, listed in order of greatest magnitude.

New York City sends far more money to our State and federal governments than we receive in return. In fact, according to the Center for Governmental Research, our City pays \$11 billion more in state taxes than we receive in funding, and the latest FISC Report shows we send about \$16 billion more to the federal government than we get in return.

Mayor Bloomberg's solution to raising City revenues—hiking our sales tax—is regressive and disproportionately impacts the very New Yorkers struggling to make ends meet in the current downturn.

I have proposed an alternative tax on individuals making \$500,000 and above.

Specifically, I recommend a 4.3 percent tax rate on taxpayers with taxable income of \$500,000 and a 4.8 percent tax on taxpayers with taxable income of \$1 million or more, compared to the current rate of roughly 3.65 percent.

As with the State income tax, these rates would be flat rates rather than applying only to the margin of income. Based on estimates by my office, this would yield nearly \$1 billion in 2009.

Amid this recession, I believe it's fair to ask people who make more to pay their fair share. Such an increase could sunset in better times.

As Comptroller, I have also identified taxes, fines, and fees that unfairly hamper the growth of businesses. I have proposed changing tax regulations that unduly burden small firms, such as the unincorporated business tax, or UBT, and the double taxation on sub-chapter S corporations.

16. Many policy advocates champion the creation of a more diversified economy, and one that is less reliant on Wall Street. Do you support such a plan? If so, how would you adjust spending in New York City to accommodate the reduction in tax revenue as the tax base

shifts to lower paying jobs?

I absolutely support the concept of diversifying our economy. As our City struggles to recover from Wall Street's collapse, we must come to terms with the fact that our financial services sector may never again—and *should* never again—account for as much as 30 percent of non-property City tax revenue, as it did in the boom years. It is clear we can no longer rely on those revenues, nor should we want to. Finding ways to diversify our City's economy and lessen our over-dependence on Wall Street is crucial to our long-term fiscal stability.

I will focus my economic diversification efforts on two key areas: First, I will protect our City's struggling small businesses and work to encourage new small businesses to open. Second, I will support and nurture independent workers and the self-employed in New York City.

Our City is home to over 200,000 small businesses, employing less than 50 people. These businesses account for roughly two-thirds of our private sector jobs and are without a doubt the backbone of our economy. Yet instead of embracing small businesses, the current administration—with its top down approach—has largely ignored them.

That is why, as Mayor, I will:

- **Create a citywide Local Retail Retention Taskforce where employers, workers, and the City collaboratively develop new mechanisms to better support small, retail sector employers.**
- **Create new zoning tools, such as Retail Retention Zones, that restrict the type and size of retail establishments in targeted areas in order to prevent large, national chains from putting locally-owned retail establishments out of business.**
- **Incentivize property owners to keep rents low by using financial tools like Real Estate Tax Abatements and Commercial Rent Tax Special Reductions developed by the Downtown Alliance and approved by the NYC Department of Finance.**
- **Reform the Department of Small Business Services so it provides real, customized assistance that helps small businesses open and stay afloat, including one-on-one counseling to connect business owners with government programs such as low cost financing, tax incentives and the City's Industrial Business Parks, such as the Brooklyn Navy Yard, which provides reduced cost space.**
- **Streamline the permitting and inspections process for new small businesses trying to get off the ground. Applicants should be assigned a Department of Small**

Business Services point of contact who they can work with to complete permit applications and schedule onsite inspections.

- **Ensure that developers who receive City financing for commercial developments over 50,000 square feet are required to reserve retail space for locally-owned businesses.**
- **Develop a centralized, online, searchable database of all available commercial space under 5,000 square feet to connect vacant space with tenants looking for new commercial space.**

I will also make independent workers and the self-employed a key component of my vision for the future of New York City's economy.

There is clearly a new economy developing in New York City, and independent workers—as contributors to two-thirds of our City's job growth since 1970 and approximately 20 percent of our workforce today—are playing a key role in this new economy. As Mayor, I will work to develop the resources, benefits, and incentives necessary to support and nurture self-employment—for the good of our City and for the good of our City's independent workers.

By developing new and innovative ways to ensure that our social safety net and economic environment work for all New York workers, we can not only create jobs but also ensure that those jobs provide security and a livable income. This will mean forging partnerships with organizations like Freelancers Union and other professional organizations, government agencies, and private providers to find creative solutions to challenges like health insurance coverage, unemployment insurance, and childcare.

17. **What is your position on reforming the current pension funding structure to create multiple tiers for future city government employees?**

New York City clearly has a number of long term financial concerns. It would be unfair, however, to suggest that pension costs are the sole cause of this concern. It is also unfair to misrepresent the average municipal worker's modest pension benefit.

The emphasis on Tier 5 is misplaced—we instead need a broader approach that recognizes there are different pensions for different workers, that methods for reaching an effective solution require compromise, and that efforts must take place through forthright dialogue.

I pledge to work collaboratively with union leaders to jointly identify fair approaches that distribute cost containment initiatives responsibly. By working together, we can

address our City's long-term fiscal needs.

18. In FY 2008-09, New York City spent \$12 billion on pensions and fringe benefits for City employees out of a total budget of \$62 billion, of which \$39 billion was derived from New York City tax revenues. Are the pension obligations of the City of New York appropriately balanced with what is owed to retired workers, and to New York City tax payers?

The balance between our pension obligations and what is owed to retired workers is better when financial markets are strong and worse when financial markets are struggling—as they are today during the worst economic recession since the 1930s.

Employees who forego higher salaries to enter public service do so in the knowledge that they will be rewarded in retirement with a secure pension. If we give up on our commitment to that principle, we will be unable to entice our best and brightest to enter a career in the public sector.

I will continue to support, as I always have, defined benefit plans for City employees. Defined contribution plans, in which benefits rise and fall with the stock market, are considerably riskier than the current defined benefit plans. After watching the devastating results of the financial crisis on defined contribution plans, a shift to private accounts is simply not responsible.

19. Given the current fiscal climate and its effect on economic development in the City, what measures would you propose to restore to New York's vitality as an economic engine for New York and the country?

In order to spur economic development during these tough economic times, our City must do everything in its power to create jobs, and creating jobs will be one of my top priorities as Mayor. By coordinating all City agencies, tools, and programs around an economic development and job creation strategy, I will work to ensure that *all* New Yorkers have access to career ladders that lead to stable, middle class incomes.

Creating new “Green jobs” will be one of my top priorities. The federal government is providing New York City with \$140 million in an Energy Conservation Block Grant under the stimulus legislation, and this an invaluable opportunity to reduce our carbon footprint while at the same time creating much-needed jobs in a growing field.

We must also look toward creative solutions to spur our economy and create jobs, such as a modification to our City's film tax-credit. In May, the City introduced legislation in Albany to extend the credit, but the legislation will still sunset in 2011, and the tax credit will actually be reduced. When choosing locations, film and television shows look at five-plus year time horizons, so eliminating this sunset date—and providing increased tax incentives—could very well double our film and television industry and help us become the film capital of the nation.

In addition, under my administration, every large economic development proposal seeking City funds must, as a start, include a mechanism to create City jobs. This is not just basic fairness—it also make economic sense.

It is also absolutely imperative that our City begins to refocus its priorities, and start fighting for our middle and working class families. As mentioned above, diversifying our economy by working to better support our small businesses and independent workers will be a crucial element of my plan to spur economic growth.

Given the large number of economic development agencies impacting our City—from the IDA to the EDC to Small Business Services and others—I believe we must also begin a thorough examination of the effectiveness of these entities, looking for opportunities for efficiencies and consolidation.

Such scrutiny would suggest ways in which these entities can streamline their operations, create consolidations, and move projects more swiftly through the pipeline.

In this period of new austerity, I also believe we should consider exploring the wider use of public-private partnerships in meeting our infrastructure goals. When handled with proper oversight and transparency, such partnerships could lead to more efficient construction and cost savings over strictly public projects. These partnerships spread risk, pool expertise, increase innovation through competition, and tap entrepreneurial drive.

- 20. How would you implement budget cuts that are spread as equally as possible across all agencies while balancing that with the need to ensure city agencies can still deliver services to New Yorkers?**

Implementing budget cuts while ensuring that City agencies have the resources they need to deliver services will first and foremost require a thorough, top-to-bottom review of all City programs and agencies to root out fraud, waste, and inefficiencies.

As Comptroller, my audits of City agencies have identified over a quarter of a billion dollars in waste and, as Mayor, I will continue my commitment to streamlining City government. The savings we gain from discovered waste can then be put toward necessary City services like health, safety, and security.

Budget cuts should also be distributed proportionally, across all neighborhoods and boroughs, so certain areas are not more adversely impacted than others.

- 21. What would you propose the Department of Education do to increase the ability for parents and teachers to become involved in meaningful ways in the education system? What other**

positive changes can be made to the New York City public school system?

For years, I have been advocating for greater parental involvement under mayoral control. Parents should be equal stakeholders in their children's education, and must have a place to go when they have questions or concerns.

As Mayor, I will streamline options to encourage parental involvement, expand the number of District Family Advocates, and no longer ignore existing mechanisms for parental input.

I will also start telling the truth about school graduation rates and performance. There must be an honest accounting of performance, both inside and outside the classroom. The schools should undergo an accreditation type review every two years so that we can restore and maintain credibility in our school system. The findings of the review must be made public.

Next, we need to get back to basics. We need to fix the curriculum so that we are not just teaching to the test but teaching the whole child. Students have become expert test takers, but cannot retain or apply what they know in a context other than the test environment. We must teach math, reading, and writing—but we must also teach science, civics, history, arts, music, geography, and physical education.

We must end the privatization and the deregulation of our public school system. The lack of oversight and supervision over the last seven years—with little accountability—has put the school system at serious risk. It has allowed for the proliferation of no-bid contracts, the hiring of private firms to perform the tasks of public employees, and it has meant the closing of the neighborhood public school. I will ensure that a system of checks and balances is in place.

Finally, we must design public school choices that work. Rather than working to fix our City's ailing public schools, the Chancellor has dismantled many of our large high schools and replaced them with small high schools and charter schools. These schools provide a solid option for many students, but they don't work for all students—and charter schools often exclude poor and special needs children. Had the DOE worked to reduce class size, mandated a research-based curriculum, provided intensive professional development, and supplied prompt technical assistance, the issues in our public schools might have been corrected.

22. How would you propose the city deal with affordable housing?

Housing in New York City today is simply not affordable for the average New Yorker. At a time when almost 30 percent of all renter households in New York City pay over half their incomes on shelter, there is perhaps no more crucial issue before us.

As Mayor here are some of the actions I would take to create and preserve moderate and middle class housing in New York.

First, I will use all of our City's tools—including inclusionary zoning, financing, tax incentives, and City-owned land—to expand affordable housing.

I also will work to create a 21st Century Mitchell-Lama Program.

I will work in partnership with our City's labor unions to develop workforce-specific housing so working New Yorkers can afford to live in our City.

And I will work to repeal both the State Urstadt Law—and return control of our City's rent laws to New York City residents—and Vacancy Decontrol, which allows landlords to charge market rate rents after an apartment's rent reaches \$2,000 a month and becomes vacant.

And, as Mayor, I will instruct my Rent Guidelines Board appointees to always consider—first and foremost—the tenant's perspective.

- 23.** What would you propose to increase the transparency of the Board of Elections in the City of New York's operations and accountability to the city?

The Board should be required to publish, in writing, all its decisions, determinations, and rationales for easy reference. This would go a long way toward increasing both transparency and accountability at the Board, and would also provide consistency from year to year.

- 24.** What would you propose to further enhance transparency regarding the relationships between elected officials, their families, and nonprofits that receive funding from New York City?

First, the City Charter's Conflict of Interest rules must be enforced more stringently and consistently.

I also propose that—before City funds are disbursed to nonprofits—the relevant elected official(s) and nonprofit administrator(s) be required to sign and publicly submit an attestation form. The form will stipulate that no relationship exists between the elected official disbursing the funds (or any family member, etc.) and the nonprofit.

- 25.** Taking into consideration the lessons learned from the debates surrounding congestion pricing and the Ravitch Commission's recommendations to provide the MTA with long-term funding, what do you think should be done to address the MTA's fiscal solvency issues and ensure that the burden for funding the MTA are equitably distributed amongst all

stakeholders?

I am well-aware of statistics compiled by the New York Public Interest Research Group showing that New York riders already have the highest fare box burden in the nation, paying 55 percent of New York City Transit's costs. That's compared to an average of 40 percent for the country's large transit systems.

This is unacceptable. As Mayor, I will certainly work to ensure that the burden for funding the MTA is more equitably distributed.

Before raising fares, we must ensure that we have exhausted all other funding options. As Comptroller, I have been one of our City's most vocal advocates for ensuring that New York City gets its fair share of transit dollars. My report—*Putting the Brakes on Bus and Subway Fares*—identified more than \$725 million which could have been used to eliminate the 2008 and 2009 fare hikes.

In addition—in lieu of new fare hikes or increased tolls—I have proposed a weight-based, transit-dedicated registration fee for new vehicles that would raise \$350 million dollars from the City and \$1 billion from the 12-county MTA region to finance the MTA budget shortfall and fund future capital improvements, with added benefits of encouraging smaller, more fuel-efficient cars, lower carbon emissions, and less air pollution.

Finally, as Comptroller, I have urged President Obama to take immediate steps to provide funding relief for mass transit riders. As Mayor, I will continue these efforts, and work to ensure that Washington, D.C. provides our city with the operating capital we desperately need to shore up a 2010-2014 MTA capital program that is \$10 billion short.

- 26. Do you believe that greater home rule should be granted to the City of New York? If so, in what areas should further sovereignty be given?**

Yes. A City with eight million plus residents must break free from State governance in certain areas.

For example, our City must be granted greater autonomy over our rent laws—such as the State Urstadt Law and vacancy decontrol—and our ability to raise revenues. I am in favor, however, of modifying the State Municipal Home Rule Law, so that any change in term limits would have to be put before the voters.

Additional Comments:

As an elected official who currently holds an office other than the one for which you are running,

a) what were the top five promises you made to your constituents when you ran for your current position and what progress have you made to keep those promises, and why or why have you not fulfilled those promises?

1. Provide an independent voice on the City's finances

As Comptroller, I have published:

Quarterly Cash Reports; Annual Fiscal Year Annual Reports on Capital Debt and Obligations; Annual Comprehensive Financial Reports; Annual Comments on the FY Executive Budget; Annual State of the City's Economy and Finances Analyses; Over 25 editions of my office's "*Economic Notes*"; Annual Comments on the Adopted Budget and Fiscal Plan; Annual Comments on the Preliminary Budget and Fiscal Plan; and over 40 analyses of the New York City job and employment market.

I have also published many topical reports, including:

Fiscal analyses of federal aid granted to our City after 9/11; The effects of 9/11 on commercial insurance rates and availability in New York City; The fiscal impact of 9/11 on New York City; Insurance rates in New York City; and the 2005 transit strike, among many others.

2. Prudently invest 1 percent of the pension funds in affordable housing—low, moderate and middle income housing and another 1 percent invested in sound economic development projects in all five boroughs for a return.

As Comptroller, I have established a number of programs that use the pension funds to create affordable housing. Overall, these initiatives have earned a return on their original investment, earning money for retirees while finding ways to address the housing crisis that threatens to force the middle class—and especially low- and moderate-income residents—out of our city.

I have:

- **Dramatically increased the role of the Economically Targeted Investments program in housing programs Citywide, investing more money through the program than had been invested in the twenty years prior to my tenure. The impact of this activity is unprecedented, with more than 26,000 affordable housing units being created or rehabilitated.**
- **Called on the Rent Guidelines Board—for the past two years—to implement a rent-freeze for New Yorkers living in rent regulated apartments.**
- **Demanded that the State repeal the Urstadt Law and Vacancy Decontrol, and return control over City rent laws to New York City residents and elected officials.**

3. Fight for the City's fair share

New York City sends far more money to our State and federal governments than we receive in return. In fact, according to the Center for Governmental Research, our City pays \$11 billion more in state taxes than we receive in funding, and the latest FISC Report shows we send about \$16 billion more to the federal government than we get in return.

That is why, as Comptroller, I:

- Released a report identifying \$728 million in revenue to help the Metropolitan Transportation Authority reduce the need for subway and bus fare hikes.
- Released a report finding that rising flight delays diminish New York City's international and domestic competitiveness while increasing local pollution. I subsequently demanded that the Federal Aviation Administration give our city priority in a \$1.8 billion air traffic control upgrade and insisted that the General Aviation industry pay its fair share toward modernizing our airports.
- Rebuked the Bush Administration for proposing steep cuts in New York City's anti-terrorism grants.

4. Investigate the rising cost of claims against the City.

As Comptroller, I have implemented many new early settlement initiatives, including the use of Internet technology to settle claims and the creation a number of pre-litigation settlement units that have resulted in estimated settlement savings of approximately \$100 million.

One of my most successful claims-related initiatives has been Cybersettle, an online program designed to help settle lawsuits against the City. My office began using Cybersettle in 2004, making New York the first city in the nation to implement this type of high-tech, innovative system.

- The average settlement cost using Cybersettle has been reduced by more than \$18,000 per claim, compared to average post-litigation settlements for the same claim types. This represents an estimated savings of more than \$57 million for New York City over the four years that Cybersettle has been in use.
- I also re-established a Claim Fraud Division to identify, investigate, and deter the filing of fraudulent claims against the City. As part of the fraud program, a Comptroller's claim fraud hotline was established and public service announcements have been made on a regular basis. Since the Division's creation

in fiscal year 2003, over 74 fraudulent claims have been identified, saving our City over \$2 million.

- In addition, a new technology initiative has provided geographic overlays of claims data, allowing my office to identify claims activity by locality. The new technology allows sidewalk claim investigators to map the location of each claim filed, saving valuable investigative resources. As a result, only about two thirds of sidewalk claims filed actually needed to be investigated.

5. Enforce prevailing wage laws

As Comptroller, I have made the enforcement of prevailing wage and living wage laws one of my Administration's top priorities. These laws are critical to workers who want to make a decent living and work in safe conditions, and important to honest contractors who want to compete fairly for jobs.

Under my watch, the Comptroller's Bureau of Labor Law has initiated more cases and penalized more contractors than ever before. It has consistently deployed investigators into the field to inspect job sites, review records and interview workers. Prior to my tenure, the Comptroller's Office rarely did field inspections.

Since taking office in 2002, 26 unlawful contractors have been debarred and I have collected more than \$12 million for workers who were illegally underpaid by New York City contractors.

Examples of settlements include:

- Admiral Construction Services Corp. and Admiral Environmental LLC paid \$1.5 million in restitution—the largest monetary recovery by Bill's Bureau of Labor Law—for underpaying 32 workers contracted to install new windows in New York City public schools.
- Netexit, Inc. agreed to pay nearly \$1.5 million to 16 employees who were underpaid for work at Human Resources Administration sites throughout the City.
- JC Mandel Security paid \$750,000 for 720 security guards who were shortchanged for work at City buildings. Measured in workers impacted, this is the largest prevailing wage case settlement ever reached by the Comptroller's Office.

b) what are your top five campaign promises you are making to voters during your campaign for this new position?

1. **Grow the economy and put New Yorkers back to work;**

2. Improve our schools, empower our parents, and support educators so our children get the education they deserve;
3. Expand access to affordable housing;
4. Improve our healthcare system and access to our healthcare system, while working to reduce income-based health disparities;
5. Protect and enhance our environment, and work to spur a revolution in green construction, responsible waste management, and the wise use of natural resources.

TOP FIVE CAMPAIGN PROMISES FROM 2005 AND ACTION ON THEM

I ran largely on my record in 2005, with minimal opposition. I vowed to continue the work I was already doing at the Comptroller's Office, and promised voters I would:

1. **Continue to root out fraud and waste**
 - To date, my audits have identified over \$248 million in potential and actual savings for New York City and exposed countless instances of fraud, unsafe conditions, waste, and incompetence.
 - Since 2002, my office has conducted over 640 audits, averaging more than 90 a year.
2. **Work creatively to expand the traditional scope of Comptroller's office to protect our City's most vulnerable residents**

As Comptroller, I have used every resource at my disposal to protect and defend our City's most vulnerable.

For example, I:

- Launched a citywide "Save Our Homes" initiative to address the Subprime crisis in New York City. Through this initiative, the Comptroller's Office worked with labor, clergy, and neighborhood organizations to highlight the crisis, distribute thousands of the Foreclosure Prevention Guides, and offer assistance to New Yorkers.
- Established a Foreclosure Prevention Helpline which has to date helped thousands of individuals and families take the first step toward keeping their homes.
- Lead efforts to defeat the City's proposal to fundamentally revise and consolidate service delivery to New York City seniors. The proposal could have led to the closing or restructuring of more than 89 of our city's 329 senior centers. In response to the pressure, City Hall first delayed the proposal, then eventually

scrapped it completely.

3. Fight for greater transparency at the Department of Education

I have consistently spoken out and used the tools of my office to work to improve the Department of Education's persistent lack of transparency. Time and time again, I have strongly criticized improprieties and the use of no-bid contracts at the DOE, which currently total a staggering \$300 million since Mayor Bloomberg took office.

In addition, since taking office in 2002, I have released audits or reports finding that the DOE:

- Improperly selected Snapple to be the exclusive beverage provider to 1,200 City schools through a non-competitive bidding process.
- Imprudently followed Alvarez & Marsal's recommendation to alter student bus routes in the middle of the school year. The bus route changes led to widespread confusion, inconveniencing and potentially imperiling thousands of school children and their parents.
- Lacked proper controls of its travel expenses and failed to adhere to its own written procedures and City regulations.

4. Make New York City more affordable

- I have taken on the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA)—over and over again—to protest rising fare hikes.
- I have consistently challenged the New York City Water Board to slow the annual ascent of skyrocketing water rates.
- I have spoken out frequently in opposition to damaging new taxes.
- And I have created more units of affordable housing than any Comptroller in New York City's history through direct investments and investment with partners.

5. Work to protect the environment and promote the sustainable development of resources

As Comptroller, I have worked to promote environmentally sensitive policies on a variety of issues. Among my efforts, I have:

- Worked to stop the issuance of natural gas drilling permits within or near the New York City watershed, which could risk exposing our City's drinking supply to toxic

chemicals and waste and require the construction of a new \$10 billion water filtration plant.

- **Produced a report documenting the impact of airport congestion at New York City's three major airports on local ozone levels and the rise in airport runoff—in particular the flow from JFK International Airport into the vulnerable salt marshes of Jamaica Bay.**
- **Called on firms in the City's investment portfolio to issue "sustainability reports" that detail the impact of their businesses on the environment, including the production of greenhouse gases and other harmful emissions.**

TOP FIVE 2009 CAMPAIGN PROMISES

See answer to "b" above.