

GAIL BREWER

1. What is your name?

Gale Brewer

2. What office are you running for?

Manhattan Borough President

3. What is your plan for preserving and adding additional units of affordable housing in New York City?

I support altering how subsidies are calculated, so there is more incentive for developers to build housing for families making less than 50% of the area median income. Working with Telesis Corporation, I have seen that private corporations can build affordable housing and make a profit. I believe we should not only alter but increase subsidies for affordable housing. The affordable housing trust fund is in great need of expansion and we must ensure that adequate housing is available for those in need. Many homeowners were deceived through many mortgage companies and received higher interest rates than initially reported. Further, minority homeowners often receive higher rates on mortgages even when they have the same rate of credit as a white homeowner. As Borough President I will make sure these practices end. I support all possible remedies to reduce underwater mortgages principle. Mortgage companies drove up the property bubbles, only to see it burst. The people of NYC should not have to pay the price for the mortgage company's mismanagement.

4. Do you support or oppose 421 tax abatements for development in buildings in already highly desirable neighborhoods?

Oppose

5. As a Public Official, what actions would you take to promote the continuation and improvement of rent stabilization In New York City?

I would call on Albany to repeal the Urstadt law. New York City should have the ability to manage directly its rent pricing and laws.

6. How would you provide housing and mental health services to the homeless?

Many of the city's homeless do not know what options they have to help them deal with being homeless or how to get help with finding temporary housing. Since many of the homeless do go to shelters, that gives us the opportunity to reach the homeless and inform them of their options to help them with their situation. Again, we have information, they need it, we should run an open and accessible

government.

7. What is your position on the leasing of NYCHA property to private developers?

I am opposed to the leasing of public property to private developers. It increases costs and puts the residents in a burdensome situation.

8. What is your position on the leasing of open space that is currently occupied by public schools to private developers?

I am strongly opposed to this. Our public schools should not be leased out to the highest bidder. We need to make sure there is a common bond between the community and the school. I have led the effort to stop P.S. 191 and P.S. 199 to developers.

9. Do you support the continuation of mayoral control of schools?

No

10. Do you support or oppose the Mayor appointing a majority of the members on the Public Education Panel?

Oppose

11. Do you support or oppose the reappointment of Dennis Walcott as Chancellor?

Oppose

12. Do you support ending tenure protection for teachers?

No

13. Do you support or oppose a moratorium on school closings?

Support

14. Do you support or oppose the co-location of charter schools in public school buildings?

Oppose

15. Do you support or oppose a moratorium on new charter schools?

Support

16. Do you support or oppose giving local Community Education Councils greater power in determining use of school space?

Support

17. How can you use your office to encourage the use of renewable energy?

My office will encourage the use of renewable energy through subsidies, grants, and

tax credits for businesses and individuals who use renewable energy resources. We also seek to encourage development of new businesses that create renewable energy in the Manhattan Borough.

18. Are you in favor of closing the Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant? If so, how will you use your office to support IP's closing?

I support the closing of the Nuclear Power Plant. The risks are too high. We have seen the studies that show the dangers of the plant. I will work with state and federal officials to find a way to close the plant.

19. Under what conditions, if any, would you support hydraulic fracturing in New York State?

I would not support unless it can be scientifically determined that the process is safe for the residents of New York State and the workers using the process

20. Do you favor or oppose commercial rent control?

Favor

21. Do you support zoning regulations that discourage owners of commercial properties from renting to large banks and chain stores?

Yes

22. Do you support or oppose the leasing of public parks to raise revenue, such as private tennis courts in Central Park or private development of the Hudson River Park?

Oppose

23. Do you think the power of eminent domain has been abused within the city? If so, what examples would you cite?

Yes, large developers often come and buy up housing or other real estate and increase prices for the residents of the community, which causes them to move.

24. Do you support a bill mandating a living wage for anyone who works under a contract with New York City?

Yes

25. How do you define a living wage in dollars?

Between 15.00 and 16.00 dollars per hour.

26. Should the living wage be applied only to NYC contracts or should there be a City minimum wage tied to the cost of living in New York city?

City Minimum Wage tied to Cost of Living

27. Would you support the establishment of a City Department of Labor for complaints of violation of fair labor standards?

Yes

28. Do you believe there should be mandatory paid sick leave in New York City for all workers regardless of establishment size?

Yes

29. Under what circumstances, short of probable cause, should a police officer be able to stop and frisk someone?

Only probable cause or an imminent threat of danger to the officer or civilians. I have introduced a bill into the City Council called the Community Safety Act, the legislation would require officers to obtain consent before frisking suspects without probable cause and to identify themselves as part of the NYPD while carrying out "law-enforcement activity." It would also create an inspector-general for the NYPD. I have often said that people have the right to assemble and protest. The government should never limit our ability to do so. Finally, I have spoken out against the Police's continued attitude of belligerence towards citizens. These actions must end.

30. Would you continue, change or end the stop and frisk policy of the police department?

Change stop and Frisk

31. Is there something you can do to keep people from getting arrested when, while being searched, they are found to have small amounts of marijuana that would not have been a crime if the marijuana was not in public view?

Yes

We need to change this policy so that people are not arrested for small amounts of marijuana, whether in public view or out of public view.

32. Who would you appoint or support as police commissioner?

I would support a police commissioner who protects citizens constitutional rights but maintains a strong program to target criminals.

33. What would you do to improve city mental health services?

I believe that the most important help we can give to those who are mentally ill is access. We need to invest in technology that provides mental health services at reduced rates and residential centers for those in need of mental healthcare.

34. Would you continue (support) Bloomberg's policy of increasing the number of bike lanes?

Yes

35. How would you protect transit fares?

I would increase the number of people using the reduced fare system and increase the discount on Pay Per Ride cards back to 7 percent. We must also make sure that any increase in transit fares is not more than inflation.

36. Do you support congestion pricing?

Yes

37. What, if anything, do you think should be done to New York City's campaign finance law?

I support the movement towards public financing of campaigns. I helped write many of the laws that effect public funding in New York City and would want to see public funding continue on a local, state and federal level.

38. Do you favor an increase in City income taxes for residents making more than \$250,000 per year?

Yes

39. Do you favor or oppose an increase in the city sales tax?

Oppose

40. Would you support a transaction tax on Wall Street trades?

Support

41. Do you think non-profits, including religious institutions, should be taxed when such institutions sell their property or air rights?

If it can be shown the institutions are not using the money to invest in the public good then I would support a tax on those institutions.

42. What kind of a commuter tax, if any, would you support?

I was against the repeal of the commuter tax and would support it's reinstatement at .45 percent on income for commuters who work in the city but do not live in the city.