

1. What is your name?

Noah Gotbaum

2. What office are you running for?

City Council - 6th District

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

1) Pass mandatory inclusionary zoning to ensure that new, as of right developments provide for affordable housing units as a matter of law, as well expanding the housing trust fund. 2) Significantly strengthen rent regulations and increase funding for housing courts and enforcement of current laws. Increase monetary penalties and establish criminal penalties for tenant harassment, unfair and incorrect billing, and deceitful policies. 3) Increase and expand subsidies for affordable housing but link these to deepened affordability criteria – below 50% of AMI – and expanded provision to emphasize and drive low and middle income housing. 4) Vigorously strengthen and enforce oversight of mortgage policy mismanagement. 5) Restructure NYCHA's board, management and systems to provide for transparency, accountability, real tenant and community input and efficiency to immediately make available thousands of units remaining vacant waiting for repairs, or via administrative tie ups.

4. Do you support or oppose 421 tax abatements for development in all 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?

We need a concerted fight for the repeal of the Urstadt law – including pressure on our NYC local state legislators to work to restore home rule. Additionally, the Rent Guidelines Board membership should be expanded and the City Council should have legislated majority control over those appointments.

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

Currently the City essentially incentivizes homelessness and the destruction of permanent affordable housing by paying providers \$3000-\$4000 per month for the

provision of temporary shelters, rather than \$1000+ a month for rent subsidies. This move to permanent subsidized housing rather than focusing on homeless shelters will have the multiplier effect of saving millions for the City in other areas including education, health care, and public safety. We must eliminate "means testing" for shelters. Absurd! We must lobby Albany increase rent subsidies for permanent affordable housing and move families out of shelters into solid long term options. The Advantage program was flawed due to its automatic 2 year sunset provision, but it is far worse to have had it cut completely. Additionally, a significant portion of the 6000 vacant NYCHA units should be prioritized for families coming out of shelters. Mental health programs should be provided by long-term trusted long-term providers like Goddard and others, rather than left to corruption and cronyism of new providers under the guise of efficiency. Our entire mental health system requires much stronger oversight, increased funding and destigmatization.

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

The infill projects are an affront and an outrage and must be stopped. First off, NYCHA is sitting on over a billion dollars that it could be using for repairs – but has not done so. NYCHA should open its books, get its house in order and spend what it has, not permanently sell off our public assets. Second, if I were to use any of NYCHA's land, it would be solely and exclusively to meet the need for additional public and community services and goods including more for affordable housing, additional public schools and hospitals, and other community facilities. Third, NYCHA should under no circumstances be allowed to do anything "As-of-right," without significant community input BEFORE any project is defined or RFP developed. These assets belong to the public and community, and as such any change in their use should be determined with REAL community input. ULURP is not sufficient - the community must have input as to whether a project even moves to the ULURP process and if so, what that RFP looks like.

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

As the first and still the only candidate unequivocally against the sale, demolition and replacement of PS 199 and PS 191 in favor of luxury high rises, I am leading the fight with the Lincoln Towers, PS 191 and Amsterdam Houses communities. Meanwhile, the other candidates waffle or say one thing in these questionnaires, but something entirely different when speaking to other constituencies. Seeking a

“different process” or “monitoring” of the situation, or asking for “public input” via ULURP or telling our residents to “keep an open mind” is NOT the same as rejecting these projects. And once a project gets to ULURP it is essentially a done deal. These proposals have nothing to do with benefiting our communities and schools and everything to do with providing 11th hour giveaways to Bloomberg’s friends. For anyone to pretend otherwise, or that our community will have anything other than a token say into yet another luxury high rise, simply doesn’t understand the DOE, this Mayor and the power of money. As a community we should be prioritizing the funding of public education and affordable housing on their own, not brokering the sale of our public assets in last minute, back room deals which will create increased congestion, overdevelopment and years of displacement for our students, families and communities.

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 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

I drafted legislation put forward in the assembly and senate to change the composition of the PEP to end the Mayoral rubber stamp. Further, I am, and have always been, against the co-location of charter schools in public school buildings. A moratorium is not sufficient. And since charters have far more resources and much more powerful political support than the 96% of students that attend public schools, co-locations always become a factor of haves and have nots. See clip from my interview from last night at the most recent charter hearing.

<http://www.ny1.com/content/education/182427/students-at-adult-learning-center-worry-about-proposed-co-location-with-charter-high-school>

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 determining use of school space?

Support

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

The Council should lead the way in providing credits, subsidies and technical assistance, and regulatory changes to make New York City a leader in renewal energy technology. Mayor Bloomberg has done an excellent job in nurturing the broader tech industry via a variety of supports – we need to expand these to make New York a leader in green tech as well. Additionally, the Council should lead by example and follow renewable energy targets of its own, gradually increasing the level of renewable useage.

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

I fully support Governor Cuomo's efforts to close Indian Point, and in the Council would make them a priority. IP is a disaster waiting to happen – it's past its shelf life, and sits within 50 miles of a population base of 17 million people. We need immediately to move to close it while shifting its energy production burden to renewable non-fossil resources.

19. Under what conditions, if any, would you support hydraulic fracturing in New Y

I am against fracking, and will continue to be so, unless it can be unequivocally and scientifically determined to be safe for ALL of our residents – which it has not. The current assessed damage to our watershed and atmosphere from the fracking process, as currently practiced, is enormous and irreversible.

20. Do you favor or oppose commercial rent control?

Oppose

21. Do you support zoning regulations that discourage owners of commercial prop

renting to large banks and chain stores?

Yes

22. Do you support or oppose the leasing of public parks to raise revenue, such as 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? Is there any examples would you cite?

Yes, and a classic example is the Columbia expansion. The tenants and businesses in the area were not informed properly of their rights and Columbia and the City ran rough shod over them in the interest of a development that likely will provide little if any benefit to the local community. Atlantic Yards and Willets Point are further examples of projects where the benefits of eminent domain accrued largely to the private – rather than the public – good. If we are using eminent domain on behalf of private projects, then the stated public benefits – affordable housing units, services, infrastructure, hiring and job training – must be clearly established and balanced, and strictly monitored and delivered in the initial project stages rather than at a later date.

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?

It depends on the family size and circumstances but for our neighborhood, a living wage should be in the range of \$15.00/hour (\$30,000 Year) and ensure that the breadwinner and their families are able to exist without requiring much if any public assistance, and also won't require them to take on additional employment

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

There must be a living wage across the board.

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

Yes

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

Yes

Absolutely. It should be a similar responsibility for employers as Workman's Comp. It is an incredibly wise investment and needs to be a standard for an ethical society. Thanks to Gale Brewer for making it happen.

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

Must be much more narrowly defined: only probable cause or if an officer believes him or herself to face "an imminent threat of danger."

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

Change stop and Frisk

I would fight for more transparency in the department, ensure a much more narrowly demonstration of probable cause, and would end the pervasive quota system. Following on the past few years' public uproar against Stop and Frisk – of which I was a part – the Police Department in Q1 2013 significantly reduced its instances of Stop and Frisk, and yet the crime rate as reported by the City went down. I

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

Yes

I support Governor Cuomo's plan to decriminalize marijuana. Public vs private view possessions should be eliminated.

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

Someone steeped in community policing, not a part of the current administration, possibly from another City. Someone who respects civil rights and can build bridges between the business elite and the community. A strong leader

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

We have to make mental health services a priority, provide increased funding and

education in order to de-stigmatize, and recognize mental health issues as on par with physical health ailments. Investments in mental health programs will be returned many times over in reduced public safety costs, job retention, and so many other areas of reduced public service requirements.

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

No

35. How would you protect transit fares?

I am an avid cyclist, and support ultimately increasing the number of bike lanes but I think the implementation has been mediocre at best. Before we expand the program, we must ensure safer and clearer crossing structures for seniors and children, and improved access to local businesses.

36. Do you support congestion pricing?

Yes

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

The system is a good one, but still rewards the wealthiest by far. I would expand it that candidates receive increased amounts of funding for receiving larger numbers of small donations. I would also prohibit those who do business with the City from bundling donations.

38. Do you favor an increase in City income taxes for residents making more than \$ 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 institutions sell their property or air rights?

Yes

Religious institutions should be taxed when such institutions make a profit from

selling their property or air rights unless they can show that the proceeds are going for social services and the like.

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

I would seek to reinstate the previous .45% for those working but not living in the City