

### **1. What is your name?**

Mark Levine

### **2. What office are you running for?**

City Council, 7th District

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

I advocate for a multi-pronged response to the affordable housing crisis: 1) elimination of vacancy decontrol; 2) repeal of the Urstadt Law to return authority over rent laws to New York City; 3) mandatory inclusionary zoning to ensure that all new projects include a substantial number of affordable units; 4) increase in funding for legal aid to tenants in housing court; and 5) additional resources for HPD to carry out enforcement actions against negligent or abusive landlords.

### **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?**

In addition to those measures mentioned above, I will push for reform of the Rent Guidelines Board so that the City Council can appoint pro-tenant members.

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

We need a multi-pronged approach to tackle this complex problem: 1) additional affordable housing for families with income below 50% AMI; 2) restoration of the "Advantage" rent subsidy program for families transitioning out of shelters; and 3) additional mental health and addiction services.

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

I strongly oppose the NYCHA in-fill plan, because it would deprive residents of Douglass Houses of light, air, open space, and greenery, and would further overcrowding of local buses, subways, and parks. It also sets a dangerous precedent for the use of public open space for private development.

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

See above.

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

Yes

**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?**

Support

**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?**

Buildings are the primary source of greenhouse gases in New York City. We need to quickly accelerate the retrofitting of older buildings, including transitioning from dirty #4 or #6 oil clearer-burning #2. Green retrofits should also be undertaken at all public buildings, and stricter environmental standards should be applied to new private construction.

**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?**

Yes, I am in favor of closing IP. To have an aging nuclear facility located a mere 20 miles from Manhattan endangers millions of residents. The City Council does not have authority over this matter, but I would support a resolution calling for the closure.

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

I favor a complete ban on fracking in New York State.

**20. Do you favor or oppose commercial rent control?**

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Oppose

**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. I oppose the use of eminent domain for the benefit of private projects, and was outspoken on this matter during Columbia University's Manhattanville expansion.

**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?**

\$15/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?**

None

**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

I support the decriminalization of possession of small amounts of marijuana.

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

**No Response**

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

I support increase funding for mental health services.

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

Yes

**35. How would you protect transit fares?**

We need an additional dedicated funding stream for the MTA, such as from congestion pricing on tolling of East River bridges.

**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 am a strong supporter of New York City's current campaign finance system.

**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?**

**No Response**

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

**No Response**

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

Non-residents who work in New York City should pay for the many services (fire, police, transite, etc.) they benefit from.