

Bill de Blasio

Key Issues Facing the District

1. Climate Change.

Plans and Solutions

- a. I have the vision and the track record to take on our country's most existential threat, climate change. I am a passionate supporter of a Green New Deal and the Build Back Better Act. In lower Manhattan, 37% of the area is vulnerable to storm surges. In 2019, my Administration unveiled plans to extend lower Manhattan into the East River, pushing out the east edge of the downtown coastline as much as two city blocks as part of a \$10 billion plan to prevent storm surges and rising sea levels.
- b. During my tenure as Mayor, I signed into law the historic Local Law 97, which is now on track to create tens-of-thousands of jobs while slashing pollution from large buildings. I also set in place 100% renewable energy purchasing for city government, divested the city's pension funds from fossil fuels and signed an Executive Order committing New York City to the principles of the Paris Climate Agreement. Thanks to our work, New York City is now a global climate leader. There is no time left to waste on climate action: only radical positive change, now, can prevent worldwide catastrophe.

2. Protecting Civil Rights and Preventing Hate Crimes

Plans and Solutions

- a. The increase in hate crimes against our most vulnerable communities is unacceptable. The Department of Justice and FBI must beef up their resources, investigations, penalties and enforcement of hate crimes. In 2019, I launched the NYC Office to Prevent Hate Crimes (OPHC). OPHC takes a holistic approach to prevent and respond to hate crimes, develop and coordinate community-driven prevention strategies to address biases fueling such crimes, and foster healing for victims and their communities. OPHC partners with more than 80 community-based organizations that serve communities most vulnerable to bias-motivated incidents. OPHC also offers Hate Crime Prevention Innovation Grants up to \$20,000 to encourage New Yorkers to develop creative projects aimed at reducing hate violence and promoting community respect. OPHC coordinates the City's efforts through its Interagency Committee on Hate Crimes (IAC) consisting of over 20 city agencies and all five District Attorney Hate Crime Units. It works with partners to develop approaches to prevent hate violence, resources to promote reporting of incidents, and responses for when hate crimes occur.
- b. During my time as Mayor, I also dramatically increased the budget for the NYC Human Rights Commission, allowing the agency to nearly triple the number of staff. The Commission focused on initiatives benefiting communities most vulnerable to discrimination and harassment. We set out to combat anti-Semitic, anti-immigrant, anti-Black, anti-Muslim, and anti-Asian racism, fought housing discrimination, and strengthened the NYC Human Rights Law to protect even more New Yorkers, including the LGBTQ+ community. We championed novel restorative justice approaches in law enforcement and community healing. We

sought to create a venue where people with less resources were not relegated to discounted justice; over my tenure, victims of discrimination and harassment have received nearly \$30 million in damages.

3. Affordable Housing

Plans and Solutions

- a. I have called for 100% affordability at the WTC 5 Tower, with priority for 9/11 survivors (see @billdeblasio tweet on 5/27/22). Housing advocate Tom Goodkind and other local residents have advocated for the last remaining World Trade Center lot to be fully affordable and include housing opportunities for 9/11 survivors and their families, first responders, and seniors. I will call on the State, the Empire State Development Corp and other stakeholders to push to make this tower 100% affordable.
- b. I'm proud that my Administration crafted the Mandatory Inclusionary Housing (MIH) policy, passed in 2016, an historic law that requires that all new housing—where a density bonus is awarded or in rezoned areas—include 20-30% of units at certain affordability thresholds where occupants would pay no more than 30% of their income in rent. MIH dramatically changed the rules for development and affordable housing in the city for good and is a key strategy for leveraging the private market to add to the city's affordable housing stock without the use of city subsidies. At the end of my tenure, we announced that our Administration had financed the preservation or new construction of 200,000 affordable homes, the most of any administration in New York City history. The plan remains on pace to reach the ambitious goal of creating or preserving 300,000 affordable homes by 2026.

4. Healthcare

Plans and Solutions

- a. I will aggressively advocate for Medicare for All. COVID has truly shown us that healthcare is a right, not a privilege. In 2019, my Administration launched the largest, most comprehensive plan in the nation to guarantee health care for every New Yorker. The plan strengthened NYC's public health insurance option, MetroPlus, and guaranteed that anyone ineligible for insurance – including undocumented New Yorkers – had direct access to NYC Health + Hospitals' physicians, pharmacies and mental health and substance abuse services through a new program called NYC Care. I will work to expand this program on a national level while also advocating for Medicare for All. We must stop putting profits over people.

5. Education

Plans and Solutions

- a. Many public school parents and teachers are concerned about losing programs and teachers due to the most recent NYC budget cuts. I'm committed to working with them to get these funds restored.
- b. I want to build on NYC's success and make universal Pre-K and 3-K a national model. Early education is key to reducing inequality and creating a more level

playing field. Shortly after being elected Mayor of NYC, my Administration implemented an entirely new government program: Pre-K for All. Today, nearly 70,000 NYC children enjoy free Pre-K as a universal right, and 40,000 more take part in 3-K, putting money back into the pockets of parents who need it.