

Hello, fellow New Yorkers. My name is Joshua Goldberg, and I am running for the City Council representing the Upper West Side and part of Hell's Kitchen.

I have lived in Manhattan all of my 42 years and this is my first run for office. I have chosen to run now because this City is on the edge of a fiscal precipice.

The City Council has the last word on the budget and that is where the most important changes are made. New York's fiscal problems are structural and have roots that run old and deep, and unfortunately, strong new branches are growing because of the way the City Council does business.

Newspapers are full of stories about bogus non-profit charities that work as fronts where Council members park our tax money to buy favors and votes. It's an indication of arrogance.

The root of the City's financial problem is not the diminishing tax base at the moment. Tax revenue ebbs and flows. No legislation can control revenues. What can be controlled is spending.

This City is being crushed by labor costs and overly generous policies towards contractors and entitlements.

Extravagant benefits for public employees such as unfunded pensions and medical insurance, ludicrous work rules, numerous holidays, generous overtime, et cetera, have gone beyond unreasonable.

For example, the Fire and Police Departments are very close to the tipping point where they will soon be paying more in pension costs than for payroll. Other departments are in similar situations. This is unsustainable.

While the City Council is a legislative body, it is hard to call it a deliberative body when 94% of the Council is from the same party.

I cannot remember when there was a tie-breaking vote in the City Council.

I might be a Republican, but I am running as a New Yorker, and New Yorkers need to say enough is enough.

To put my money where my mouth is, I will not be accepting campaign matching funds. Six-to-one matching is obscene and is another example of runaway spending.

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