

Hi. My name is Melinda Katz, and I'm running for the office of New York City Comptroller, also known as the chief financial officer of the City.

What does this mean? It means that this is the person charged with protecting your tax dollars. And never has this role been more important.

Right now, amid economic uncertainty we are all facing, New Yorkers need a Comptroller who will be a tough fighter for middle-class families and stand up to Wall Street interests that got us into this mess.

And that's exactly why I'm running.

I'm a pretty no-nonsense New Yorker. And, at a time when many people have lost trust in government, we need leaders who understand the challenges faced by everyday New Yorkers and can earn their respect. For

the past 16 years, that's the kind of elected official I have been.

I have always gone to bat for the City's hardworking, middle-class families, and in the course of my career, I've accomplished things my opponents have not.

I was born and raised in Queens by a single father. He raised me and my three brothers on his own after my mom died, and he taught us to work hard and to fight for what we believed in. Today, I still live in the same house I grew up in. And as the single mother of a one-year-old, I'm no stranger to the challenges faced by families throughout the City, and especially amid difficult economic times.

I went to New York City public schools my entire life. And, after college, I went straight to law school at St. John's. I then spent several years working for one of the City's biggest law firms to pay off my

loans, but I felt myself drawn to public service.

So in 1994, at the age of 28, I went to Albany after winning a special election for the State Assembly - and I defied critics who said I had no chance. It was as much of a mess back then as it is now, and as soon as I arrived I took on the special interests to pass important legislation such as the first law in the country forcing HMOs to provide women access to OB/GYN care without a referral. A lobbyist told me women didn't know when they needed that type of doctor. I showed him the door.

In 2001, I won election to the City Council where I became chair of the City Council's Land Use Committee. Following 9/11, our task was to get this City building again and to create jobs. We rezoned parts of the City to allow for smart growth and for prevailing wage jobs.

When it was clear developers were being greedy, I sat across the table from them and I negotiated for higher levels of affordable housing. My background as a mergers and acquisitions lawyer enabled me to look at their balance sheets and prevent them from pulling the wool over my eyes and taking advantage of taxpayers. As a result, since 2001, we have built nearly 90,000 units of affordable housing.

My passion for protecting neighborhoods from overdevelopment has resulted in the preservation of more than 6,000 City blocks, ensuring they retain the character that has made them such cherished communities.

At the same time, I pushed for new schools in all five boroughs to reduce classroom size. A child should never be told that they can't attend a school down the street because there isn't enough room.

When the Department of Education wasn't listening to parents, I sued them, insisting that 3rd graders who failed the test preventing them from advancing be given a second chance.

As Comptroller, I'll exert this same signature toughness to protect your tax dollars.

For more information on my plans for this office, please check out my website [www . melindakatzforny . com](http://www.melindakatzforny.com).

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