

Hi. I'm Council Member Tony Avella. I have had the honor of representing Northeast Queens in the City Council for the past seven and half years. Prior to my election, I worked for Mayors Koch and Dinkins and started my public service career as a community activist.

Now I'm running for Mayor because I am fed up with the way City government treats us. I believe it is time for us to take back City government.

We are at a crucial time in our City's history. For the past eight years, decisions about development, education, small business, social services, and basic human rights have been made for us by the current administration with little consideration for the average New Yorker.

I believe that we are ready for change but I don't believe we are ready to go back to the old political machine.

Too many politicians care more about themselves than about the people they serve. As a member of the City Council, I have put your interests above my own. I refused the unethical 25% pay raise the Council voted itself.

I voluntarily surrendered my elected official parking permit because I believe that no politician should have special perks, and I should have to endure the same parking problems that you do.

I also fought against the end-run around term limits. This was an absolute disgrace since the people of New York City voted twice in a public referendum for term limits. Our message could not have been clearer.

Our campaign is about real reform, not only to reform the way City government operates, but to reform the very nature of politics as well.

Now let's talk about some of the issues.

New York City is made up of neighborhoods. As Mayor, I will work with every community to preserve the unique character and charm of our neighborhoods. No one knows their block better than the people who live there. It's about time we listened to you.

I want to give every New Yorker the power to plan for their community. As Mayor, I will implement a revolutionary community-based planning process. If you want to stop over-development, build a new school, park or senior center, construct new roads or build new sewers to address flooding, you will be able to develop and

fund a plan to implement your ideas under an Avella administration.

For too long, powerful special interests such as the real estate industry and Wall Street have called the shots in New York City. This election is our chance to change that.

As Mayor, I will improve our schools, end "teaching to the test," involve parents in their child's education and listen to our teachers who know the system best. And most importantly, fire School Chancellor Joel Klein on day one.

I want to keep libraries open seven days a week, work towards free tuition at CUNY, and balance the budget without taxing New Yorkers to death. We can do all of these things if we have the political willpower to do so.

As Mayor, I will strengthen tenant protections, get rid of the landlord-dominated Rent Guidelines Board, create real affordable housing, and protect union jobs. We also need to institute commercial rent control to save the small business community from extinction.

I am asking for your support and your vote. Let's bring a sense of ethics and principle back to City government. Let's change New York City government for the better. Change we can all be proud of.

Thank you.

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