

Hi, I'm Mike Bloomberg.

We all know that our nation is struggling through a national recession. That's as true of New York as anywhere. People are having a hard time. I hear it on the subways. I hear it in neighborhood diners.

But leadership doesn't mean pointing out the problems. It means doing something about them. And we are.

We've launched the Five Borough Economic Opportunity plan to create or save 400,000 jobs across the City over the next six years. That means more people will be able to find jobs, and more people will be able to stay in their jobs.

Our plan provides loans to small businesses to help them keep their doors open. It provides more job training and education for those who are struggling to

find work. It helps middle class families facing the threat of foreclosure to stay in their homes. And it invests in economic development projects in all five boroughs so we can put more New Yorkers to work right now.

I know we can bring our City back stronger than ever because we've done it before. Remember after 9/11 when all the experts said that businesses would flee and crime would go up? Well, it didn't happen because we didn't let it happen.

We brought our City roaring back, not as Democrats or Republicans or Independents, but as New Yorkers. We created good middle class jobs, made our streets cleaner, our parks greener and our city government more accessible with 311. We drove crime down to record lows and transformed a broken school system.

Remember how bad the old Board of Education was? It was bureaucratic and inept and full of patronage and waste, and nobody did anything about it. Well, we did something. We invested in our schools and teachers. We raised standards and ended social promotion. We lengthened the school day. We opened more charter schools to give parents more choices.

And we began holding everyone, everyone - including the Mayor - accountable for success. Today, graduation rates are up by 15 percentage points. Test scores are up dramatically. School violence is way down. And we're taking money out of the bureaucracy and putting it into the classroom.

We've come a long way, but we know we still have a lot of work to do, not just in our schools, but in so many other areas.

Take affordable housing, for example. Four years ago, we launched the nation's largest affordable housing program. Our program is creating affordable housing for a half-million New Yorkers, and strengthening our middle class. And we're going to continue building and protecting tenants, and making our city more affordable.

Building a strong middle class also means improving mass transit. And that's why we've developed a plan called "Moving NYC." It's designed to expand City Ticket discounts, so commuters pay less. It will expand Bus Rapid Transit lines to new parts of the City. It will help speed Staten Island commuters home with express lanes and high-speed tolling, and it will bring express subway service to the F line.

We're making it clear to the MTA: No more delays, no more excuses. Give us the subways and buses we deserve.

By now, you know that I've never made decisions based on what the party bosses and special interests want.

I work for a dollar a year and I work for you, and only you. But if we're going to keep putting pragmatism and problem-solving ahead of party politics, I need your help and I need your vote.

So on November 3rd, please come out and vote and vote to keep moving our City forward.

Thank you.

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