

Hello. Before I begin, let me thank Voter Video Guide for this opportunity to speak directly to you, New York City voters. It's an honor and a privilege.

My name is Bill Thompson and in my brief time here today, I want to tell you why I'm running to be the next Mayor of New York City.

I'm running because in these difficult times, we need a leader who's on our side. In these difficult times, we need a leader who will move our City forward by ensuring that all New Yorkers, and not just the privileged few, prosper.

We all know that for the past eight years, our City has been focused almost exclusively on people at the top, the Wall Street crowd, the developers, the wealthy.

That approach hasn't gotten us very far. Unemployment is at a 16-year high. Water and sewer rates have skyrocketed over 77 percent since 2001. MTA fares have soared 50 percent since then. We're lacking desperately needed affordable housing. Homelessness has risen 9 percent since 2005.

As our City's chief financial officer, I've had a front row seat to watch how our City has been run over the past eight years. And you know what? I see exactly what you see every time a business closes in your neighborhood or another one of your friends loses a job: It's time for new leadership in City Hall. I'm running for Mayor because I know we can do better.

I'm the best person for this job because I know the real New York City and I know the problems real New Yorkers are facing. I grew up in Brooklyn. I attended our public schools. And I appreciate the

challenges New Yorkers face every day because I've faced them too.

As Mayor, I'm going to work on the issues that really matter to people across all five boroughs. I will put New Yorkers back to work by creating long-term, good-paying jobs. I will make the creation and preservation of affordable housing one of the top priorities of my administration. I will work to effectively address the challenges facing our education system. I will protect and grow our City's small businesses. And I will take the tax burden off the backs of our working families.

So please, take the first step today and sign up to join our campaign. No matter how much time you have there's a way for you to help. Visit my website at [www . thompson2009 . com](http://www.billthompson2009.com) to get more information.

Housing, jobs, taxes, schools, the high cost of living. There's a lot at stake in this election.

I ask for your vote as someone who not only understands the pressures working families face, but who knows how to address them.

New York has a choice. You have a choice.

It's time for new leadership in City Hall. My name is Bill Thompson and with your help, I will be a Mayor for all New Yorkers.

Thank you.

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