

Hi, I'm Bill deBlasio, Democrat for Public Advocate. I believe New Yorkers need a Public Advocate who is independent and will fight for our neighborhoods and families.

My wife Chirlane and I live in Brooklyn, and our two children Chiara and Dante go to public schools. We love our city because this is a place where neighborhoods matter and communities can make an impact on how government works. But right now City Hall does not listen to people, neighborhoods do not get the support they need, and the influence of a powerful few drowns out the voices of everyone else.

I want to be your Public Advocate because I believe City Hall can do more to serve all New Yorkers.

For over 20 years I have worked in public service because I wanted to make my city and community better. I worked for

David Dinkins to fight for equality and underserved neighborhoods.

I worked for Andrew Cuomo at the Department of Housing and Urban Development to help create affordable housing in New York.

I was Hillary Clinton's campaign manager in the 2000 Senate race because I knew she would be a tremendous Senator for our city. After Hillary won, I chose to stay here in New York and I ran for and was elected to the school board because I wanted to improve the education system that serves my kids and over a million others.

In 2002, I was elected to the City Council. In the Council I serve as chair of the General Welfare Committee where I fought for crucial reforms after the Nixzmary Brown tragedy to prevent child abuse before it happens; helped to make food stamp applications more open and accessible to

those who needed them; demanded better results on humanely reducing homelessness; and supported job training programs that help lift people out of the vicious cycle of poverty.

As a member of the City Council, I have fought for education funding to keep teachers in the classroom; for affordable housing so New Yorkers aren't priced out of their neighborhoods; and effective services for all New Yorkers.

In this year's budget, I successfully took on the administration when they proposed shutting down 16 firehouses across the City and eliminating 125 child-care classrooms. I made sure that our budget kept New Yorkers safe and our City strong.

During these tough economic times there are three key things I want to do as Public Advocate. Make our education system more open and accountable, be a voice for New

Yorkers in need, and reform our government to make it more democratic.

As a public school parent, I understand the importance of a quality education. As Public Advocate, I will fight to make schools safer, bring the voice of parents back into public education, and prevent classroom-funding cuts.

In a time of economic crisis, we must help those who cannot help themselves. As Public Advocate, I will be an advocate for the City's children, the poor and vulnerable, and the underserved and unseen residents whose voices City Hall too often ignores.

New Yorkers who don't have a lobbyist or who are not a part of a special interest group can and should have a champion in the Public Advocate.

Last fall I led the fight against the administration's plan to overturn term limits without a referendum or a public debate.

Now more than ever I believe the role of the Public Advocate must be about protecting our democracy. In July, I experienced first hand how broken our City's democratic process is when I was temporarily kicked off the ballot because of a typo. While my candidacy was quickly restored, there have been too many others who were not as lucky.

As Public Advocate I will fight for meaningful democratic reform of New York's election laws to make elections more open and fair. We should not just guarantee the public's right to participate, we should encourage it. The best way to engage people in a democracy is to give them confidence that their voice will be heard. This is the voice I want to bring to City Hall, your

voice, the people's voice, which has been overlooked, ignored and pushed aside for far too long. That is what I will do as your next Public Advocate.

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