

GOTBAUM: My name is Betsy Gotbaum. I'm your Public Advocate and I'm running for a second term.

First of all, I would like to thank you for taking the time to learn more about the candidates for City office this year.

Let me tell you why I want to be Public Advocate for another four years. I want to be Public Advocate because I want to help the people of New York. That's what this office is all about; helping people solve their problems with City government.

I've helped thousands of New Yorkers since I first took office. I do it every day. The people on my staff have the experience and the know-how to navigate City government, and if you've ever tried dealing with the City yourself, you know it takes experience and know-how to get things done.

That's what I bring to the office, and when my office can't work with the administration to get your landlord to fix that broken elevator or to get your child that school transfer, I'm the first person to stand up to the powers that be and fight for you.

Let me tell you about some of the things I've done as Public Advocate. I forced the Department of

Education to admit major problems in the special education system and to set aside more money so that thousands of students get the services they need to learn.

I stopped the administration from cutting the Meals-on-Wheels program citywide. Our seniors deserve a hot meal every day and I won't stop fighting until full service is restored in the Bronx, too.

I got the City to make it easier to enroll for food stamps. Since then, over 100,000 New Yorkers have enrolled and are getting help putting food on their family's tables.

I'm working hard to change the administration's emergency housing policy, so that survivors of domestic violence have a safe place to live and raise their children.

In my first term, I've gotten results and helped thousands of people. And that's just the beginning.

I have a vision for my second term as Public Advocate. I'm going to build on the record of helping children, seniors and working families. I'm going to keep investigating government agencies like the Department of Education and the MTA and I'm going to fight for changes that make life better in all five boroughs.

I'm going to fight for an independent budget for this office, so I can be even more effective at solving problems and fixing government. I'm going to make my ombuds unit a 24/7 operation, so you'll always have someplace to turn when government isn't working for you.

Because that's what being Public Advocate is all about; not just on taking on the Mayor and winning, but also doing all the little things to help New Yorkers get the services they need and deserve.

That's why I'm running for Public Advocate as a second term and that's why I'm asking for your support.

Thank you.