



Queens Civic Congress, Inc.

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QUEENS CIVIC CONGRESS OPPOSE PROPERTY TAX HIKE; URGES CITY TO ADOPT REVENUES ADVOCATED IN QCC PLATFORM

Statement by Queens Civic Congress President Sean M. Walsh

Rather than the Mayor's across the board hike in the property tax that would exacerbate existing inequities in the system of assessing and taxing New York City commercial and residential real estate, the Queens Civic Congress, a borough-wide coalition of more than 100 civic, condo, cooperative and tenants associations, calls on the City of New York to adopt the measures approved last spring by the members of the Congress and contained in the Queens Civic Congress 2002-2003 Platform.

The Platform contains a specific section on City Fiscal Affairs and its economic development section supports proposals to raise billions in revenues.

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Queens Civic Congress Members

Assoc. of Old Forest Hills Bayside Hills Civic Assoc. Bayswater Civic Assoc. Bay Terrace Community Alliance Beachside Bungalow Preservation Assoc. Bellaire/Belvill Civic Assoc. Belle Harbor Property Owners Bellerose-Commonwealth Civic Assoc. Bellerose-Hillside Civic Assoc. Bell Park Manor-Terrace Community Council Bowne Park Civic Assoc. Briarwood Community Assoc. Cambria Heights Civic Assoc. Cedar Grove Civic Assoc. College Point Civic Taxpayers Assoc. COMET Creedmoor Civic Assoc. Doug-Bay Manor Civic Assoc. Douglaston Civic Assoc. Douglas Manor Assoc. East Flushing Civic Assoc. Floral Park Community Council Flushing on the Hill Civic Assoc. Flushing Heights Civic Assoc. Flushing Suburban Civic Assoc. Forest Hills Chamber of Commerce Forest Hills Community & Civic Assoc. Forest Hills Crescents Assoc. Forest Hills-Van Court Assoc. Fresh Meadows Homeowners Assoc. Georgetown Mews Glen Oaks Village Owners Greater Whitestone Taxpayers Civic Association Harding Heights Civic Assoc. Harrison Place/Sunnyside Gardens Hillcrest Estates Civic Assoc. Hilltop Village Co-op #4 Hollis Hills Civic Assoc. Holliswood Civic Assoc. Hollis Park Gardens Assoc. Holly Civic Assoc. Howard Beach Civic Forum Hunters Point Community Coalition Hyde Park Gardens Jackson Heights Beautification Group Jamaica Estates Assoc. Jamaica Hill Community Assoc. Joint Community Council College Point Juniper Park Civic Assoc. Kew Forest Neighborhood Civic Assoc. Kew Gardens Civic Assoc. Kew Gardens Hills Civic Assoc. Kissena Park Civic Assoc. Little Neck Bay Civic Assoc. Little Neck Community Assoc. Little Neck Pines Assoc. Locust Manor Neighborhood Civic Assoc. Lost Community Civic Assoc. Malba Civic Association Middle Village Property Owners Mitchell-Linden Civic Assoc. 97 Place Block Assoc. Newtown Civic Assoc. North Bellerose Civic Assoc. North Flushing Civic Assoc. North Hills Estates Civic Assoc. North Queens Homeowners Civic Assoc. North Star Civic Assoc. Oakland Terrace/Gardens Council Off Broadway Homeowners Ozone Tudor Civic Assoc. Parkway Village Coop. Queens Braddock Civic Assoc. Queens Colony Civic Assoc. Queens Community Civic Corp. Queens Village Civic Assoc. Ramblersville-Hawtree Civic Assoc. Richmond Hill Historic Assoc. Ridgewood Property Owners Assoc. Robinwood Property Owners Rockaway Action Committee Rockaway Beach Civic Assoc. Rocky Hill Civic Assoc. Rosedale Civic Assoc. Royal Ranch Assoc. Sagamore Douglaston Civic Assoc. Southeast Queens Coalition of Concerned Neighbors Southeast Queens Federation of Civic Associations South Ozone Park Coalition of Block Associations South Ozone Park West Civic Assoc. Springfield/Rosedale Community Assoc. Sunnyside Gardens Harrison Place Surrey Estates Civic Assoc. The Concerned Citizens of Laurelton The Property Civic Assoc. Union Turnpike Merchants Assoc. United Forties Civic Assoc. United Neighbors Civic Assoc. of Jamaica Utopia Estates Civic Assoc. Utopia Improvement Assoc. Village Mall at Hillcrest Waldheim Neighborhood Assoc. Wayanda Civic Assoc. West Cunningham Park Civic Assoc. Westmoreland Assoc. Woodside Community Council

Excerpt from Economic Development Section:

10. Capture upwards of one billion dollars in lost real estate tax revenue based on illegal uses and improper property classifications through a combination of fines and improvements in the classification of real property.

From the City Governance & City Budget/Fiscal Policy Section:

1. Implement a new fiscal strategic approach that uses budget surpluses to reduce existing debt and fund some capital projects on a pay-as-you-go basis.
2. Rather than mere across-the-board spending caps, a strategic review of each year's annual spending to be justified rather than base-lined.
3. Reshape New York City's Annual Executive Expense Budget to reflect the need to deliver services based on the varying needs of each of the five boroughs and the diverse needs of communities.
4. Set capital priorities by community needs and that support neighborhood development, including a borough-by-borough grid of capital spending by agency (This also includes schools, housing, court facilities, highways, sewers, water supply, etc.).
5. Develop longer-term city capital plan that makes sense by outlining a Strategic Capital Program that identifies the City's real debt needs based on its real ability to advance projects.
6. Develop a coalition to seek federal and state funding commitments based on the regional benefits of much of the City's proposed capital program.
7. Improve virtually non-existent legislative and executive oversight of the management of the City's capital plan and capital projects.
8. Pass a "Federal Brooks law" style professional contracting law barring bid fee cuts pending in the 1998-2001 City Council.

View the entire Queens Civic Congress Platform at: www.queensciviccongress.org