



# Queens Civic Congress

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
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## **QUEENS CIVIC CONGRESS “CIVIC2030” PLATFORM ALTERNATIVE TO PlaNYC & CONGESTION TAX**

### **Statement by Queens Civic Congress President Sean M. Walsh**

This year, the Queens Civic Congress will issue our platform, CIVIC 2030, in direct response to the mayor’s 2030 PlaNYC, which includes as its centerpiece, the plan to impose the Congestion Tax. The Queens Civic Congress, an umbrella organization of over one hundred civic and community associations from across the entire borough of the two million plus residents of Queens county, strongly opposes this regressive tax. City government has too often created grandiose plans with little regard to the affect on the people living or working in our great city. Every administration wants to take our eye off of the current state of the city’s problems, because they lack the will or imagination to remedy current issues. No different here with the 2030 Congestion Tax scheme.

Planning for the future is important, but it must be grounded in reality and on resolving current problems as the bedrock for future endeavors. After a year of review and circulation among our membership for comments as part of our approval process, our newest platform revision was approved by our membership unanimously last month. Throughout CIVIC 2030, the Queens Civic Congress speaks to the need to first correct the city’s historic failures. Rather than rely on the faulty Congestion Tax, the state legislature – and the City Council – should look at alternatives that make sense and deserve consideration ahead of the tax scheme.

Alternative measures proposed by the Queens Civic Congress would address air pollution and asthma impacts in those communities and the entire city. And this, frankly goes to the heart of the matter: Why not get all buses to operate on natural gas rather than diesel fumes? Why not offer one seat rides to the airports which could reduce taxi, fleet vehicle and car trips to the City’s two airports which happen to lie in Queens?

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CIVIC2030 calls for the purchase and use of "Clean Air" school buses, taxis, all MTA and private buses, emergency and heavy duty (i.e. Sanitation) vehicles. And with great foresight, we want similar programs to apply to fleet vehicles and freight haulers that travel local NYC streets. It would do more good if someone with billions to spend would press for these Civic initiatives which can make a difference throughout our city

Tax proponents spending on their scheme now appears likely to reach, if not exceed, four million dollars by the middle of this month. That is why the Queens Civic Congress and our allies continue our grassroots efforts urging our member organizations and their members to emails, write and call their public officials to can help counter this largesse. You can not buy Queens votes!

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### **Queens Civic Congress Members**

Association of Old Forest Hills ♦ Auburndale Improvement Association ♦ Bayside Civic Database ♦ Bayside Clear-Spring Council ♦ Bayside Hills Civic Association ♦ Bayswater Civic Association ♦ Bay Terrace Community Alliance, Inc. ♦ Bellaire-BellVill Civic Association ♦ Belle Harbor Property Owners Association ♦ Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association ♦ Bellerose Hillside Civic Association ♦ Bell Park Manor Terrace Community Council ♦ Bowne Park Civic Association ♦ Briarwood Community Association ♦ Cambria Heights Civic Association ♦ Cherry Robinson Homeowners ♦ C.O.M.E.T. (Communities of Maspeth-Elmhurst Together) ♦ Concerned Citizens of Laurelton ♦ Cornucopia Society ♦ Creedmoor Civic Association ♦ Deerfield Area Association ♦ Doug-Bay Manor Civic Association ♦ Douglas Manor Association ♦ Douglaston Civic Association ♦ Dutch Kills Civic Assn. of Long Island City ♦ East Flushing Civic Association ♦ Federated Block Associations of Laurelton ♦ Federation of Civic Associations of Southeast Queens ♦ Floral Park Community Council ♦ Flushing Heights Civic Association ♦ Flushing on the Hill Taxpayers Association ♦ Forest Hills Chamber of Commerce ♦ Forest Hills Crescents Association ♦ Forest Hills-Van Court Association ♦ Fresh Meadows Homeowners Association ♦ Georgetown Mews ♦ Glendale Civic Association of Queens ♦ Glen Oaks Village Owners, Inc. ♦ Greater Astoria Historical Society ♦ Greater Whitestone Taxpayers Civic Association ♦ Harding Heights Civic Association ♦ Hillcrest Estates Civic Association ♦ Hilltop Village Co-Op #1 ♦ Hilltop Village Co-Op #2 ♦ Hilltop Village Co-Op #3 ♦ Hilltop Village Co-Op #4 ♦ Hollis Hills Civic Association ♦ Holliswood Civic Association ♦ Hollis Park Gardens Civic Association ♦ Holly Civic Association ♦ Hunters Point Community Coalition ♦ Hyde Park Gardens Cooperative ♦ Jackson Heights Beautification Group ♦ Jamaica Estates Association ♦ Jamaica Hill Community Association ♦ Juniper Park Civic Association ♦ Kew Forest Neighborhood Association ♦ Kew Gardens Civic Association ♦ Kew Gardens Hills Homeowners Association ♦ Kissena Park Civic Association ♦ Little Neck Bay Civic Association ♦ Little Neck Pines ♦ Malba Civic Association ♦ Meadowlark Gardens Owners ♦ Middle Village Maspeth Civic Association ♦ Middle Village Property Owners Association ♦ Mitchell Linden Civic Association ♦ Neponsit Property Owners Association ♦ Newtown Civic Association ♦ North Bellerose Civic Association ♦ North Flushing Civic Association ♦ North Hills Estates Civic Association ♦ Northwest Clearview Homeowners Association ♦ Norwood Civic Association ♦ Oakland Terrace/ Gardens Community Council ♦ Off Broadway Homeowners Association ♦ Our Neighborhood Improvement Association ♦ Parkway Village Historical Society ♦ Queensboro Hill Neighborhood Association ♦ Queens Colony Civic Association ♦ Queens Community Civic Corp. ♦ Queens Village Civic Association ♦ Ramblersville-Hawtree Civic Association ♦ Richmond Hill Historical Society ♦ Ridgewood Property Owners and Civic Association ♦ Rockaway Park Homeowners/ Residents ♦ Rocky Hill Civic Association ♦ Rosedale Civic Association ♦ Royal Ranch Association. ♦ Southeast Queens Concerned Neighbors ♦ South Ozone Park West Civic Association ♦ Springfield/Rosedale Community Action Association ♦ Station Road Civic Assoc. of Auburndale ♦ Sunnyside Gardens/Harrison Place Homeowners ♦ Surrey Estates Civic Association ♦ Union Turnpike Merchants Association ♦ United Forties Civic Association ♦ United Neighbors Civic Association ♦ Utopia Estates Civic Association ♦ Waldheim Neighborhood Association ♦ Wayanda Civic Association ♦ West Cunningham Park Civic Association ♦ Westmoreland Association ♦ Woodside Community Council