

## City Council Speaker Embraces Queens Civic Congress Revenue Proposal

Since January 2003 and in EVERY Queens Civic Congress testimony and statement on the City Budget since, our coalition advanced our proposal to increase city revenue by introducing progressivity missing in the City's Personal Income Tax (PIT) and eliminating any city PIT paid by filers earning under \$30,000 (in NYS adjusted gross income). Earlier today, I attended the Speaker's embracing of this key Civic revenue reform in her State of the City address. Though she credited other, no one can question where the proposal came from and who was its earliest advocate.

From the Queens Civic Congress [CIVIC2030](#) Platform, page 30:

*“Reform the City's personal income tax through a surcharge on (New York State Adjusted Gross) incomes over \$200,000 (nearly 90% of this gets raised from those who earn over \$1,000,000) and apply the revenue to reduce the real estate tax rates hikes.”*

This platform was adopted in the Spring of 2007. The preceding [2004/2005](#) platform adopted in 2004 also included QCC's PIT reform.

It is based on this January 28, 2003 Queens Civic Congress Revenue [Proposal](#). From that proposal: *“The current lack of progressivity indicates that very wealthy taxpayers received the greatest benefits when the prior administration cut the PIT. The current NYC top rate, 3.60, kicks in at \$90,000; this unfairly impacts middle and moderate income earners who the city currently taxes the same as very high income earners and millionaires.”* It also included eliminating personal income tax liability on all filers under \$30,000.

Now only if some electeds can embrace our real property tax [reform](#)...

-Corey Bearak, President Queens Civic Congress, 2009-02-12