



PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK CITY

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CANDIDATE SURVEY HELPS NYC VOTERS TO MAKE LIFE AND DEATH DECISIONS ON NOVEMBER 8TH

Whoever wins the NYC election on November 8 will make decisions that determine who in this city gets sick and who stays healthy in the next four years and beyond. To help voters make up their minds, the Public Health Association of New York City (PHANYC) today released its survey of those running for Mayor, City Council, Borough President and Public Advocate to show their positions on the *2005 Agenda for a Healthy New York*, health policy goals that aim to make the city a healthier place to live.

The next Mayor and City Council will face some tough problems: providing health insurance to the almost 2 million New Yorkers who lack coverage, reducing the gap in health between the city's poor and the better off, responding to an outbreak of avian flu or other infectious diseases, reversing the growing epidemics of obesity and diabetes that threaten to undermine recent progress in health, and improving high school graduation rates that leave too many New Yorkers without the education that protects health over a lifetime.

"New Yorkers should vote next Tuesday as if their lives depended on it," said Nicholas Freudenberg, President-elect of PHANYC and Distinguished Professor of Public Health at Hunter College. "PHANYC's *2005 Agenda for a Healthy New York* is our prescription for a healthier city."

In the Mayoral campaign, much of the debate has focused on health insurance and how to reduce the high rates of uninsured New Yorkers. The PHANYC *Agenda* focuses instead on the underlying causes of health and disease in New York City. It identifies five priorities to improve the well-being of New York City residents:

- (1) Establish comprehensive age-appropriate health programs in all city schools that include nutrition and physical activity, health education and sexuality education;
- (2) Reduce high school drop-out rates to improve lifetime prospects for health;
- (3) Increase access to healthy food and opportunities for physical activity;
- (4) Increase access to preventive reproductive and sexual health care;
- (5) Reduce barriers to getting timely and effective primary and preventive care by developing comprehensive city-wide programs for the management and control of asthma, hypertension and diabetes.

The candidate survey released today shows that of the five Mayoral candidates who responded to our survey, including both Republican Michael Bloomberg and Democrat Fernando Ferrer, all but Audrey Silk, of the Libertarian Party, supported all of these policy objectives. Most candidates for Public Advocate, Borough President and City Council also supported the full *2005 Agenda for a Healthy New York* (A full listing of responses is available at www.phanyc.org)

"We are pleased to see such widespread support for our plan for improving the health of the people of New York City," said PHANYC President Linda Landesman. "We look forward to working with the winners of the November election to achieve these aims."

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The *2005 Agenda for a Healthy New York* was developed by public health experts, service providers, and health advocates. It has been endorsed by 30 of the city's leading health agencies (See list below). "Our policy goals reflect public health science that shows the surest ways to improve health are to improve the living conditions of ordinary people and to increase access to preventive services," said Freudenberg. "Realizing our goals will protect the health of our city's children, shrink the city's inequities in health between rich and poor and Black, Latino and white, and reduce the high costs that illness imposes on New York's economy."

In 2006, the organization will develop an Agenda that focuses on state level policies that promote the city's health. In the last six months, as part of the *Agenda* project, PHANYC has convened researchers and advocates to produce reports on city policies on education and health, nutrition and physical activity, and reproductive and sexual health and to identify actions the city can take to improve health.

The *Agenda for a Healthy New York* is funded by The New York Community Trust. For more information about PHANYC, the *Agenda for a Healthy New York*, and to download *2005 Agenda for a Healthy New York* and other reports, visit www.phanyc.org.

End

As of October 31, the following organizations have endorsed PHANYC's Agenda for a Healthy NY. For an updated list, visit www.phanyc.org.

Allen School

American Academy of Pediatrics, New York Chapter 2

Barrier Free Living, Inc.

Center for the Independence of the Disabled in NY

Center for Urban Epidemiological Studies at the New York Academy of Medicine

The Children's Health Fund

City University of New York Urban Health Initiative

Clinical Directors Network, Inc. CDN

Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health

Community Healthcare Network

FoodChange

The Floating Hospital

Friends of Fort Tryon Park, Inc.

Greater New York Society for Public Health Education

Greater Southern Brooklyn Health Coalition, Inc.

Gynuity Health Projects

Health Policy and Development Associates

Hudson Guild

Hunter College Program in Urban Public Health

Medical and Health Research Association of NYC, Inc.

Metro New York Health Care for All Campaign

National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS, Inc.

National Development and Research Institutes, Inc

New York City Community Health Systems Group.

New York City Nutrition Education Network

New York State Center for Sudden Infant Death—New York City office

New York University Center for the Study of Asian American Health

Planned Parenthood of New York City

United Neighborhood Houses of New York

Urban Health Plan