

# JULIE MENIN

## **1. What is your name?**

Julie Menin

## **2. What office are you running for?**

Manhattan Borough President

## **3. What is your plan for preserving and adding additional units of affordable housing in New York City?**

I have released a policy paper laying out my vision for a master plan. The plan seeks to make our planning/ULURP process more proactive by creating a comprehensive, proactive master plan for school seats, affordable housing, open space, healthcare facilities and other needs. The full proposal could be found here: <http://juliemenin.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Land-Use-Final-3.22.13.pdf>.

## **4. Do you support or oppose 421 tax abatements for development in buildings in already highly desirable neighborhoods?**

Oppose

## **5. As a Public Official, what actions would you take to promote the continuation and improvement of rent stabilization in New York City?**

We must continue to advocate for the repeal of the Urstadt Law to allow NYC to regain oversight for its rent-regulated housing. The composition of the RGB must also be revised to make all appointees subject to the advise and consent of the City Council to make those charged with determining the annual increases answerable to the public's representatives.

## **6. How would you provide housing and mental health services to the homeless?**

The loss of the Advantage program has resulted in record-high levels of homeless in the shelter system. If elected Borough President, I would lobby Albany to reinstate rent subsidies to help families move out of the shelters and into permanent homes. Additionally, we need to be building more public housing and give those in shelter programs priority for these programs. Lastly, I would focus on the economy and job creation. At the same time as the swell in homelessness, New York's unemployment rate increased substantially. I want to work with young people, especially those in disadvantaged communities, to connect them with jobs and internship opportunities and put them on a track toward success.

## **7. What is your position on the leasing of NYCHA property to private developers?**

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I oppose the infill proposal both on issues of the process undertaken by the Authority without room for input by the residents, community, CBs or elected officials and because of the radical change in density and negative effects on the area. The recent findings of lead contamination in the vicinity of the proposed Douglass Houses sites only accentuates the need to fight this land lease.

**8. What is your position on the leasing of open space that is currently occupied by public schools to private developers?**

While we must find new ways to build additional school capacity and rehabilitate aging facilities. we cannot do so at the expense of displacing schools from their communities or allow it to delay necessary PCB abatements or other safety and tech upgrades.

**9. Do you support the continuation of mayoral control of schools?**

**No Response**

**10. Do you support or oppose the Mayor appointing a majority of the members on the Public Education Panel?**

Oppose

**11. Do you support or oppose the reappointment of Dennis Walcott as Chancellor?**

Oppose

**12. Do you support ending tenure protection for teachers?**

No

**13. Do you support or oppose a moratorium on school closings?**

Support

**14. Do you support or oppose the co-location of charter schools in public school buildings?**

Oppose

**15. Do you support or oppose a moratorium on new charter schools?**

Support

**16. Do you support or oppose giving local Community Education Councils greater power in determining use of school space?**

Support

**17. How can you use your office to encourage the use of renewable energy?**

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As Borough President Stringer had done, I would utilize the resources of the office to conduct research and issue reports about innovative strategies to stimulate the use of renewable energy and lobby legislators to pass bills incentivizing and mandating such measures.

**18. Are you in favor of closing the Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant? If so, how will you use your office to support IP's closing?**

I support the closure of this plant whose continued operation is a danger to New Yorkers in the vicinity and would work would collaboratively with elected officials and state and local agencies to develop energy production potential to the point where the continued operation of IP would be unnecessary.

**19. Under what conditions, if any, would you support hydraulic fracturing in New York State?**

There would need to be strong scientific evidence that fracking poses no environmental or health risk. Currently, this is not the case. When I chaired Community Board 1, we testified at the hearings against fracking.

**20. Do you favor or oppose commercial rent control?**

Favor

**21. Do you support zoning regulations that discourage owners of commercial properties from renting to large banks and chain stores?**

Yes

**22. Do you support or oppose the leasing of public parks to raise revenue, such as private tennis courts in Central Park or private development of the Hudson River Park?**

Oppose

**23. Do you think the power of eminent domain has been abused within the city? If so, what examples would you cite?**

Particularly in the wake of Kelo, New York has become one of the worst abusers of eminent domain with Atlantic Yards, now home to Barclay Center, the Columbia University expansion and Willets Point.

**24. Do you support a bill mandating a living wage for anyone who works under a contract with New York City?**

Yes

**25. How do you define a living wage in dollars?**

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The calculation differs depending on family size. The recent City Council living wage bill, which I supported, defines a living wage as \$10/hour with supplemental health benefits and \$11.50/hour without benefits.

**26. Should the living wage be applied only to NYC contracts or should there be a City minimum wage tied to the cost of living in New York city?**

City Minimum Wage tied to Cost of Living

**27. Would you support the establishment of a City Department of Labor for complaints of violation of fair labor standards?**

Yes

**28. Do you believe there should be mandatory paid sick leave in New York City for all workers regardless of establishment size?**

Yes

**29. Under what circumstances, short of probable cause, should a police officer be able to stop and frisk someone?**

According to the Supreme Court decision in Terry v. Ohio, the police could stop and frisk in order to "protect the police officer and others nearby." I believe that it is important that this justification for stop and frisk be viewed narrowly, and only employed to prevent crime and preserve public safety. The officer's suspicion must always meet a standard of reasonableness before any stop takes place.

**30. Would you continue, change or end the stop and frisk policy of the police department?**

Change stop and Frisk

**31. Is there something you can do to keep people from getting arrested when, while being searched, they are found to have small amounts of marijuana that would not have been a crime if the marijuana was not in public view?**

Yes

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I support Governor Cuomo's efforts to decriminalize the possession of small quantities of marijuana.

**32. Who would you appoint or support as police commissioner?**

I think anyone appointed police commissioner must display a track record of community engagement, public safety and of adherence to civil rights principles.

**33. What would you do to improve city mental health services?**

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It is vital that we commit additional funding to making mental health services available in all communities in addition to committing resources to additional education to remove the stigmas that keep many from seeking treatment.

**34. Would you continue (support) Bloomberg's policy of increasing the number of bike lanes?**

Yes

**35. How would you protect transit fares?**

The municipal contribution to the MTA has plummeted over the past 2 decades and must be restored to a level commensurate with our historic commitment to remove the burden from the consumer. The commuter tax and introduction of congestion pricing will further contribute to closing the budget gap faced by our public transit system.

**36. Do you support congestion pricing?**

Yes

**37. What, if anything, do you think should be done to New York City's campaign finance law?**

I am fully supportive of New York City's matching funds program because I believe in a level playing field for the candidates. We spend far too much time on fundraising when we could be meeting with our constituency and focusing on the issues. I am fully supportive of the Clean Money Clean Elections programs, and would support New York's adoption of full public financing of campaigns.

**38. Do you favor an increase in City income taxes for residents making more than \$250,000 per year?**

Yes

**39. Do you favor or oppose an increase in the city sales tax?**

Oppose

**40. Would you support a transaction tax on Wall Street trades?**

Support

**41. Do you think non-profits, including religious institutions, should be taxed when such institutions sell their property or air rights?**

Yes

**42. What kind of a commuter tax, if any, would you support?**

I support reinstating the commuter tax at the rate of its 1999 repeal: .45% for most

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commuters.