

Councilman **Lew Fidler** **BUDGET SURVEY**



New York City Council, 250 Broadway, New York, NY 10007

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Spring brought something very welcome to the Fidler family, Lew's first great nephew, Jacob Seth Roberts, son of Ethan and Loni Roberts. Great Grandma Sylvia and the whole Fidler clan are beaming with joy. In the photo, Uncle Lew is holding Brooklyn's newest resident at his Bris (Ritual circumcision). Mom and child are both doing great!



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Lew Fidler

Assistant Majority Leader
of the City Council

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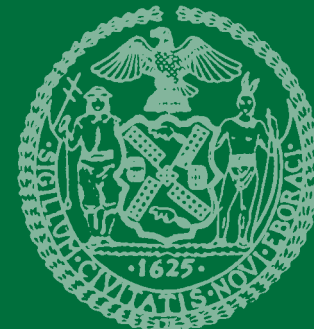
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District Office

1402 East 64th Street
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CITY BUDGET SURVEY

Spring 2010

Dear Neighbor,

I hope that you, your family and friends are all enjoying the Spring. After what seemed to be a harsh winter, we could all use a bit of nice weather.

At City Hall, we are entering another season that would appear to be “harsh” this year: budget season.

For the past several years, the City budget has actually taken advantage of a better economy by “rolling” billions of tax dollars forward and by creating a large “rainy day” fund. Those days are behind us, unfortunately, and the economic disaster that we recently experienced has increased our City deficit by over a billion dollars.

Up in Albany, where budget rules are less strict than they are here, the situation is much worse. By the time you receive this survey, the State may have passed a new budget. (It was due on April 1st.) It is increasingly likely that the deficits in Albany will be passed on to the City.

Even though we can count on our local state legislators to fight to insure that New York City does not bear an unfair share of state reductions in areas like education, health care, youth and senior services, one result is absolutely inevitable: the afore-mentioned City budget deficit will grow significantly larger.

We are faced with abysmal choices...so this budget survey will ask some pretty depressing questions. Each of the choices in the questions is something that has actually been mentioned as a final result of this budget process...and I think it is fair to say that one or more of these things may well happen.

I also know that many of us are financially stressed. That's why I voted against raising property taxes last year. The property tax, the only tax that the City Council has actual control over, affects everyone, owners and renters alike. Can we afford to raise this tax in this economic climate?

I look forward to hearing your opinion. **As I have in past years, I promise that I will read and respond to every survey that I receive...and we receive a lot of them.** Your opinion helps shape the priorities that I fight for at City Hall.

And I can make you one other promise. **I will be in there fighting to preserve critical City services, services that we need in our neighborhoods, and fighting to keep our City as affordable as possible.**

Please return your survey as soon as possible!

Sincerely,

Lew Fidler, Council Member

P.S. If you have an idea for City legislation, please fill out the “**There Ought To Be a Law**” section and send it back. In the past, I drafted some bills that may yet become law with the ideas I got from you!

Councilman Lew Fidler's NEW YORK CITY BUDGET SURVEY

QUESTIONS ON THE CITY BUDGET:

1. There are a number of severe cuts that have been proposed to City services.

Please check:

- A. The one that is most problematic ("worst") in your opinion
- B. The one that is least problematic ("least worst") in your opinion
- C. All those cuts that you think should be made

	The Worst <i>pick one</i>	Least Worst <i>pick one</i>	Make This Cut
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Closing one-third of the City senior citizen centers?	___	___	___
Closing one-quarter of the City's after school programs?	___	___	___
Increasing public school class sizes by as much as 6 students per class?	___	___	___
Reducing library service to 4 days-a-week?	___	___	___
Cutting the Youth Summer Jobs program by 75%?	___	___	___
Closing 20 fire houses and companies throughout the City?	___	___	___
Reducing the size of the police force to pre-9/11 levels?	___	___	___

2. Agree or Disagree: Rather than cut any one or more of the above services, I would cut them all significantly, but by a somewhat smaller amount.

___ Agree ___ Disagree ___ Don't know

3. Agree or Disagree: Rather than cut these services, I would rather see property taxes raised significantly.

___ Agree ___ Disagree ___ Don't know

___ I live in a home, co-op or condo that I [my family] own

___ I live in an apartment, co-op or condo that I rent

4. The State Legislature is considering a tax on sugary sodas and beverages. The proceeds of this tax would go to avert health care cuts. Do you support or oppose the sugary soda tax proposal?

___ Support ___ Oppose

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD:

It is most important that City Budget funds be spent in my community for:

We can save taxpayers' dollars by:

This specific problem in my community needs to be addressed:

One (not-for-profit) community organization that does a great job with City funds is:

THERE OUGHT TO BE A LAW:

How many times have you said, "There ought to be a law"? Here is your opportunity to write down your idea for a City law and send it to Councilman Lew Fidler. Many laws now helping to make our community and City a better place began as one person's idea - **why not with your idea?**

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Zip _____

Please complete and return the City Budget Survey and/or There Ought to be a Law to: **Councilman Lew Fidler**, 1402 East 64th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11234