



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
INDEPENDENT BUDGET OFFICE

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**Lowenstein Reappointed Director of IBO;
Unanimous Choice of Thompson, Gotbaum, Miller, and Fields**

The New York City Independent Budget Office announced today that Ronnie Lowenstein has been reappointed as the director of the agency. Her reappointment was approved unanimously by Comptroller William C. Thompson, Jr., Public Advocate Betsy Gotbaum, City Council Speaker Gifford Miller, and Manhattan Borough President C. Virginia Fields (on behalf of the five Borough Presidents), under guidelines set in the City Charter. Their decision followed the unanimous recommendation of Lowenstein by IBO's Advisory Board.

"The decision made by the Advisory Board and the appointing officials is of course personally gratifying. But it really comes as a recognition of the extraordinary work that has been done by IBO's entire staff," said Lowenstein. Looking to the future she added, "Now we face our newest and biggest challenge: to help the city confront its most serious fiscal problems in decades."

Comptroller Thompson commented upon Lowenstein's reappointment: "During Ronnie's tenure at IBO, she has helped to carry out its mission of keeping an independent watch over the city's budgetary process. Her energy and leadership have been vital to IBO successfully fulfilling its mission."

Public Advocate Gotbaum said: "Ronnie Lowenstein has done a great job at the helm of the Independent Budget Office, and as Public Advocate I was glad to cast my vote in favor of her reappointment. Under Ronnie's tenure IBO has proved the importance of an independent office to look over the city's budget. I know IBO will do even better and more innovative analysis under her continuing leadership."

Council Speaker Miller said: "Under Ronnie's leadership, IBO has done some good analysis and contributed to a number of debates around various budget issues."

Borough President Fields added: "Throughout her tenure at IBO, and most especially since becoming director in 2000, Ronnie has consistently shown herself to be a very capable and astute individual. Her knowledge of the complex and varied budgetary issues facing New York City, as well as her ability to communicate this information to others, made her the perfect person to continue to lead IBO."

Under Lowenstein's direction, IBO increased the frequency and range of its reports. While continuing to regularly produce reports on city spending and revenue, IBO also published a volume of budget savings options for the city, a report on how the Mayor's Management Report could be improved, and a layperson's guide to understanding and participating in the city's budget processes.

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Lowenstein became director of IBO in August 2000, when she was selected to complete the term of the agency's former director. Lowenstein's new, four-year term runs through July 2006.

Before becoming director, Lowenstein was IBO's deputy director and chief economist. Prior to joining IBO at its inception in 1996, she was an economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and taught at Barnard College. A Manhattan resident, she is married to Ken Lowenstein, an attorney, and has two children, Jeff and Marc.