



THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
INDEPENDENT BUDGET OFFICE

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The New York City Independent Budget Office today released the 16<sup>th</sup> edition of its *Budget Options for New York City*. This newest version presents more than 90 ways to cut costs or raise revenues, and as in past versions, each option is accompanied by side-by-side arguments for and against implementation. In addition to their effect on the city's budget, many of the options have the potential to improve efficiency and equity in city spending and revenue collection.

This [new edition](#) of IBO's budget options includes nine measures not previously discussed. Five would reduce city spending, while four would raise revenue. The new options along with their first year budget effect are:

- Replace selected MTA Bus Company service with green taxis (\$20 million)
- Divert an additional 10 percent of paratransit trips to taxis (\$13 million)
- Co-locate new charter schools in education department buildings (\$14 million)
- Use e-learning when high school teachers are absent for just a few days (\$9 million)
- Consolidate federal and state elections (\$10 million)
- Repeal city's sales tax exemption on interior decorating and design services (\$20 million)
- Increase fines on drivers for repeated speed and red-light camera violations (\$5 million)
- Increase license fees and regulations for sightseeing buses (\$2 million)
- Start fining drivers for idling violations without first providing a warning (\$1 million)

"We are releasing this new edition of *Budget Options for New York City* at a time when the city faces an unusual degree of fiscal uncertainty. The new administration in Washington is proposing substantial cuts in federal aid to New York at the same time local economic growth has slowed, and along with it tax collections," said IBO Director Ronnie Lowenstein. "Given these challenges, our compendium of budget options can help New Yorkers and their elected officials consider a wide range of measures for addressing the budget shortfalls that may arise."

With this latest edition, we are transforming our regular volume of budget options to a web-based publication. This allows us to update options in real time due to fiscal, political, or other changes—rather than on an annual basis—and also makes it easier to navigate among the many budget options. For those who still want a printed, report-style copy, a link on our web site provides a [pdf version](#) of the publication.

The change in platform does not alter a central tenet of the options volume: *IBO neither supports nor rejects the budget options presented here*. Our role is to examine options and make estimates of potential savings or revenues—not to make recommendations.

A free, printed copy of the report can be obtained by calling 212-442-0623.

View the 2017 edition [here](#).

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