



THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
INDEPENDENT BUDGET OFFICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The city's Independent Budget Office today issued the 14<sup>th</sup> annual edition of *Budget Options for New York City*. This latest edition examines more than 90 ways the city can save money or raise revenue. The report takes an impartial approach, presenting the pros and cons of each measure considered along with estimates of their effect on the city budget. The report is available online: <http://bit.ly/1yttBBH>

“While the primary focus of the volume is to offer policymakers and the public an objective review of ideas that could cut spending or increase revenue, a number of the budget options we present could actually have effects beyond budget balance, including more efficient city spending or more equitable city tax policy,” said IBO Director Ronnie Lowenstein.

The 14<sup>th</sup> edition includes seven new options. The new options and their first-year budget effect are:

- Make Real Estate Sales Between Nonprofits & For-Profits Subject to the City's Property Transfer Tax (\$18 million)
- Extend Sales Tax to Digital Goods, Including Music, E-Books, and Video (\$12 million)
- Legalize and Extend Sales Tax to Marijuana (\$25 million)
- Establish a Franchise System for Commercial Waste (\$59 million)
- Establish a User Fee for Some Child support Cases (\$5 million)
- Institute a Tourist Fare on the Staten Island Ferry (\$3 million)
- Require the Economic Development Corporation & Affiliated Entities to Remit Net Operating Income to the City (\$95 million)

All of the budget options that are repeated from prior volumes in this new edition have had their savings or revenue estimates updated. Some of these updates are substantial. For example, IBO now estimates that eliminating the property tax exemption for Madison Square Garden would net \$44 million next year—more than double the current value of the exemption. Some budget options from past volumes have also been substantially reformulated, such as the measures to broaden the base and raise the rate on the alcohol excise tax.

In all cases, IBO does not recommend any of the budget options presented—our role is to analyze, not endorse.

Ideas for the budget options come from many sources. Some originated as requests from elected officials, advocates, and others for an objective estimate of an idea's cost-cutting or revenue-raising potential. Other budget options presented in the report have been publicly discussed for years, while others have been generated by our staff. IBO encourages members of the public to submit ideas for future editions of this report to our [Facebook](#) page or by [email](#).

*Budget Options for New York City* is available on our website at <http://bit.ly/1yttBBH>. A free, printed copy of the report can be obtained by calling 212-442-0623.

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