

## **Mayor**

**Joseph G. Melaragno** (AT)

I am running for mayor because we as a city are not focused enough on the most important issue for my fellow New Yorkers — the affordability of living in the world's best city. Renting an apartment in the City is too expensive. Starting a business that will create jobs for City residents is too expensive. Paying taxes in the City is too expensive. Why are rents so high? It's simple supply and demand — too few apartments for the many New Yorkers. I will accelerate permitting and amend the zoning code to allow for construction of the housing this City desperately needs — especially near the subway. This will deliver shorter commutes and more affordable homes for all New Yorkers. Why aren't there more jobs for New Yorkers? The high administrative burden and high cost of housing discourages both large firms and entrepreneurs from creating jobs here. How can an entrepreneur risk quitting his job to start the next Google when rents are so expensive? I will reduce these burdens and costs to encourage large firms to bring new jobs to the City and entrepreneurs to create their businesses here. Why are taxes so burdensome and complicated? Residents pay taxes on property, retail purchases, income, and more. The median City resident even has to pay a \$7,500 tax just to refinance their mortgage. I will simplify our tax code to make the city friendlier to both residents and businesses and will lower the median household's taxes by nearly \$2,000 per year. Creating a more affordable New York is critical to the City's future, as other cities in this country and abroad compete to attract new jobs and new residents. My more affordable New York will benefit all New Yorkers, bringing new jobs for our workers, new customers for all our wonderful small businesses, and better quality of life for all.

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