

# BILL THOMPSON FOR MAYOR 2013

Hunger Action Network of NYS

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## 2013 NYC Mayoral Candidate Questionnaire on Food Policy

1. As Mayor, would you establish a NYC Department of Food?

☐ yes ☐ no ☒ undecided

2. Do you support the establishment of a NYC Food Policy Council composed of government officials and other stakeholders from the food system (e.g., business and nonprofits) to provide direction to food policy in NYC?

☒ yes ☐ no ☐ undecided

a. If yes, would you provide

i. staffing support ☒ yes ☐ no ☐ undecided

ii. funding ☒ yes ☐ no ☐ undecided

3. NYC presently provides \$7 million in food funding for emergency food programs through the EFAP program. How much food funding would you support?

☐ \$7 m ☐ \$10 M ☐ \$12.4 M ☐ \$15.4 M ☐ \$20 M

☒ \$7 - \$12 M (fill in amount)

4. Soda and other sugary drinks are a major cause of the obesity epidemic. What would you do as Mayor to address this problem (please check all that apply).

☐ Nothing.

☒ Support public education campaign about the dangers of soda consumption and promotion of healthy diets and physical activity.

☐ Continue city's effort to reduce the size of soda containers sold.

☐ Support an excise tax on those drinks, with the revenues used to support anti-hunger, food policy, health and agriculture programs.

☐ Pursue a federal waiver / change to restrict the purchase of sugary

beverages by SNAP participants.  
**X**        **Ban the sale of sugary beverage on city owned property.**

**5. Food and yard waste make up more than half of NYC's waste stream. As Mayor, which option best represents your position?**

- X**        a. Expand support to assist with voluntary food composting programs.
- X**        b. Establish a pilot program to have the city pick up food waste in targeted neighborhoods.
- c. Support a citywide mandatory municipal compost pick up program similar to Seattle and San Francisco.
- d. Other (specify)

**6. The lack of jobs is a major cause of hunger. NYC (HRA) presently provides a transitional jobs program for welfare participants, primarily in the parks and sanitation department. As Mayor, I would**

- a. scale back the jobs program.
- b. maintain the existing number of job placements in the program.
- c. slightly increase the number of jobs provided and city agencies participating.
- X**        d. **Greatly increase the number of jobs and require most city agencies to participate.**

**7. NYC presently ranks last among large cities in the US in terms of participation in the school breakfast program. NYC has a voluntary breakfast in the classroom program to increase participation. Which statement below best reflects your position as next Mayor:**

- a. End the breakfast in the classroom program.
- b. Maintain the present voluntary breakfast in the classroom program.
- c. Mandate the breakfast in the classroom program in all low-income public schools.
- X**        d. Mandate the breakfast in the classroom program in all public schools.
- e. Establish universal free breakfast in the classroom programs citywide.
- f. Other (please specify)
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**8. The School meals program is burdened by unnecessary paperwork and daily accountability procedures, costing the city millions of dollars. It would cost an additional \$10-20 million to transform the program and provide lunch free to all students. Similar investments in free breakfast have increased federal and state reimbursements. Would you support investing in a universal free lunch program?**

**X** ☒ **yes**    ☐ **no**    ☐ **undecided**

**9. As Mayor, would you support establishing a goal for the percentage of food the city purchases from local sources (including local processors) and if so, what percentage?**

☐ **a. No**

☒ **b. Yes**

☐ 10 percent    ☐ 20 percent    ☐ 25 percent    ☐ 30 percent    ☐ 40 percent

☐ other (specify) **15 percent, with the goal to keep costs in line with current measures**

**10. Should the City enact a law to restrict the number of fast-food restaurants in low-income neighborhoods?**

**X** ☒ **yes**    ☐ **no**    ☐ **undecided**

additional comments

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**11. Do you support the establishment of a Food literacy K-12 curriculum in city schools?**

**X** ☒ **yes**    ☐ **no**    ☐ **undecided**

**12. Do you support requiring companies receiving city subsidies to conform to city food and worker standards?**

**X** ☒ **yes**    ☐ **no**    ☐ **undecided**

comments

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**13. The City's FRESH program provides incentives for the development of grocery stores in low-income neighborhoods with poor food access. Do you support amending FRESH to:**

a. Require FRESH recipients to complete annual reports on job quality, local hiring and retention, and food quality? **X** ☒ **yes**    ☐ **no**    ☐ **undecided**

b. Require a wage floor for the employees of recipients of FRESH incentives?  
**X** yes    no    undecided

**Open Ended questions: 300 words**

**1. As Mayor, what steps would you take to address hunger?**

To address hunger we must address poverty. I will expand quality job training throughout our boroughs, increase access to affordable housing, expand tax credits to supermarkets that operate in neighborhoods considered food deserts, which effect over 750,000 New Yorkers, and promote universal breakfast and lunch in our public schools making it easier for New Yorkers to make ends meet.

**2. What initiatives would you take to increase access to healthy food?**

As Mayor I will continue to fight hunger and promote healthy living. I will Improve access to SNAP by ensuring that the practice of fingerprinting applicants never returns to NYC and revoking the policy of asking and verifying one's marital status. We must expand access to healthy food options, especially for the 750,000 New York residents who live in food deserts, and promote greater Food Literacy through our schools, gardens and green markets.

**3. How can food policy be used to promote economic growth and living wage jobs?**

We have the opportunity to promote economic growth and living wage jobs by supporting small businesses looking to operate in areas where healthy food options are scarce. We must look to providing incentives for companies that promote healthy living.

**4. What actions would you take to create more community gardens and urban farms?**

Urban farms and community gardens provide excellent opportunities for inter-neighborhood collaboration. Our green spaces thrive through knowledge sharing and shared education. Programs for food waste composting will connect our homes to the fruits and flowers of the city. Additionally, I will work to expand the NYCHA Gardening and Greening program to support the gardening efforts of residents.

Feel free to provide explanations to any of the answers to your questions. (100 words per question)

Return by May 15 to Hunger Action Network of NYS, 64 Fulton St., #801, NY, NY 10038 @phone 212 741-8192 @fax 212 741-7236 @www.hungeractionnys.org @info@hungeractionnys.org