



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
INDEPENDENT BUDGET OFFICE

110 WILLIAM STREET, 14TH FLOOR
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10038
(212) 442-0632 • FAX (212) 442-0350 • EMAIL: iboenews@ibo.nyc.ny.us

April 5, 2018
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

99 Ways to Cut Spending or Raise Revenue

With today's release of our latest edition of [*Budget Options for New York City*](#), IBO looks at dozens of ways to reduce city spending or raise revenues through tax, fee, or fine increases. As in past editions, a basic description of each budget option is presented along with a side-by-side discussion of key arguments for and against each measure's implementation.

This 17th edition of [*Budget Options for New York City*](#) includes seven new options. In addition, many others have been revised to reflect legislative or programmatic changes or recalculations of their savings or revenue potential. Among the options presented for the first time, four would cut expenditures and three would increase revenue:

- Require landlords of rental buildings to obtain operating permits (\$17 million)
- Double incentive for city employees to take health insurance waiver: (\$3 million)
- Have city employees cover fees for commuter benefits plans (\$1 million)
- Use auto-loading garbage trucks in low-density neighborhoods (\$30 million)
- Tax single-use plastic bags (\$80 million)
- Increase docking rates at city-owned marinas to mirror market rates (\$1 million)
- Sell biogas produced as a byproduct of wastewater treatment (\$2 million).

"While it is always essential to ensure that public dollars are spent wisely and tax burdens distributed fairly, it may be especially crucial now as the city faces greater uncertainty in terms of aid from Albany and Washington," said IBO Director Ronnie Lowenstein. Additionally she noted, "Many of the measures we present also have the potential to do more than garner savings or revenue. Some of the options we examine could help meet other policy goals ranging from reducing greenhouse gases to helping to maintain the city's housing stock."

IBO neither endorses nor rejects any of the options presented in this latest volume. As in past years, our role is to examine budget options and make estimates of potential savings or revenues.

The new edition of *Budget Options for New York City* is available online [here](#). A free, printed copy can be obtained by calling 212-442-0632 or emailing iboenews@ibo.nyc.ny.us.

Press contact: Doug Turetsky, 212-442-0629/917-513-7488