



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 31, 2018

**Unanimous: Lowenstein Reappointed Director of IBO
By Stringer, James, Brewer, and Johnson**

The Advisory Board of the New York City Independent Budget Office is pleased to announce that Ronnie Lowenstein has been reappointed as director of IBO. She first became director in 2000, completing the term of the agency's first director. This is her fifth consecutive four-year term.

The New York City Charter authorizes four elected officials to appoint the IBO director: the Comptroller, the Public Advocate, the Speaker of the City Council and a Borough President (representing the five Borough Presidents). The four appointing officials cast their votes following the nomination of Lowenstein by the IBO's advisory board. The advisory board's primary role under the City Charter is to nominate a candidate for director. Nancy Wackstein, director of community engagement and partnerships at the Fordham University Graduate School of Social Work, chaired the advisory board during the nomination process.

"At a time when objective analysis is missing from so many discussions of public policy, it is especially gratifying to continue leading an agency created to embody these standards," said Lowenstein. "It is also a privilege to be granted four more years to work with such a talented staff that is so committed to transparency and public service."

Comptroller Scott M. Stringer said: "Under Ronnie Lowenstein's leadership, the Independent Budget Office has provided taxpayers and policymakers with unbiased budget assessments that are indispensable in ensuring New York City's financial future. Over the last 18 years, Ronnie has displayed great skill and the utmost professionalism as an independent reporter of city finances. I congratulate her on reappointment as director and look forward to more of IBO's thoughtful and informative analysis."

Public Advocate Letitia James noted: "In recent years, the IBO has only grown more impactful and more groundbreaking under Ronnie Lowenstein's leadership. Ronnie has done this city an immense service by consistently pushing the IBO to provide credible and critical information in relation to the city's complex budget and overall financial interests. I look forward to continue working with Ronnie to better address the needs of all New Yorkers."

Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer stated: "The Independent Budget Office is one of city government's most overlooked yet indispensable agencies, a vital source of unbiased, factual answers and analysis on municipal finance and how taxpayer money is being used. Ronnie Lowenstein has been reappointed to lead the IBO again and again because she exemplifies what the IBO is all about:

professionalism, transparency, and a commitment to making sure government decisions are based on sound information.”

Speaker Corey Johnson commented: “The Independent Budget Office plays an integral role in the oversight of New York City’s economy and government. I am pleased Ronnie Lowenstein has been reappointed as IBO’s director and look forward to working with her as we continue serving the residents of our city.”

Advisory Board Chair Wackstein added: “Ronnie has provided thoughtful and productive leadership to the IBO over the last 18 years and has assembled a splendid staff of professionals. She is a true public servant.”

Lowenstein joined IBO at its inception in May 1996, first serving as deputy director and chief economist. She became IBO’s second director in 2000. Prior to joining IBO, she was an economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and taught economics at Barnard College. She earned a Ph.D. in economics from Columbia University and a B.A. from Guilford College. Lowenstein lives in Manhattan with her husband Ken, an attorney. They have two sons and three grandchildren.

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