

Comptroller Candidate:

Melinda Katz

Website: <http://www.melindakatzforny.com/>

Positions on Addressing Critical AIDS Housing Issues

- Supports HASA for ALL (rental assistance for poor people with HIV regardless of health status).
- Supports proposed state legislation to cap rents of poor people with HIV in public housing at 30 percent of income.
- Would advocate to make HIV/AIDS Services Administration (HASA) rental assistance levels equal to Section 8 and index them for future increases.
- Pledges to address city's dependence on single-room occupancy (SRO) housing and will increase inspection and enforcement of standards for those SROs currently being used to house HASA clients.
- Will work to address housing needs for undocumented immigrants living with HIV/AIDS.

Positions on the Coordination and Monitoring of City AIDS Services

- Supports re-establishment of Mayoral Office of AIDS Policy.

Positions on Additional AIDS Services:

- Would push for audits of the Department of Corrections and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to ensure sufficient HIV care and testing at Rikers Island.
- Wants to increase the number of HIV counselors employed by the Department of Corrections.
- Supports the expansion of funding for syringe access programs.
- Supports increased testing in diagnostic settings and would initiate New York-specific analysis of written informed consent and its affect on testing rates.

Other:

- Would propose to expand Comptroller's Office audit staff so that city agencies can get more direct help with management and improvement of programs and service delivery, such as the Department of Corrections.

Notable quote: "The first thing that I would do to expand housing for New Yorkers with HIV/AIDS is fight to allow all New Yorkers living with HIV to be eligible for housing assistance, depending on income. It makes no sense for City government to wait until an individual is displaying symptoms to provide housing assistance. Individuals living with

HIV/AIDS who have adequate housing are not only more likely to live longer because they regularly seek medical visits, but they also are less likely to spread the disease by engaging in high risk behavior.”