

What Makes New York City Run?

2011 Update of 2001 Edition

While the City Charter, the basis of this publication, has remained largely intact since 2001, amendments have been passed by the City Council and through voter referenda which have revised programs and responsibilities and reconfigured or renamed agencies. The purpose of this addendum is to highlight significant changes which have occurred since the book was last published.

P. 16, para.2: delete *Board of Education*. By law the Board of Education still exists. However, in 2002 its functions were transferred through State legislation to the control of the Mayor, who created the New York City Department of Education. The 13-member Board of Education was replaced by a 13-member Panel for Educational Policy, the majority of whose members would be appointed by the Mayor.

P. 25, line 2 and P. 38, para. 1: Despite approval of two voter referenda establishing limits of two terms for all city elected officials in 1993 and 1996, term limits remained a contentious issue in New York City. In 2002 the City Council passed legislation amending the charter to provide that one two-year term would not constitute a full term for the computation of term limits. A full term now includes two full four year terms or one four year and two (2) two-year terms, in those years affected by the census. In 2008 the City Council passed, and the Mayor signed into law, the extension of term limits from two terms to three. In 2010 at the recommendation of a mayoral appointed Charter Commission, voters approved a referendum prospectively restoring the two consecutive term limit, permitting all of the elected officials in office when the amendment became effective to seek election for three terms. The referendum includes a provision to limit the power of the City Council to change term limits for those then serving in the office of mayor, public advocate, comptroller, borough president or council member.

P. 31, para. 2: *Change last sentence to read:* A 2002 voter-approved charter referendum provided that in the case of a vacancy in the office of Mayor, the official next in line to serve as Mayor, shall call a special election to be held sixty days after the occurrence of the vacancy, to fill the office for the remainder of the term. Candidates for this office will file independent nominating petitions.

P. 31, para. 4: The 2002 charter amendment designated the Speaker as Presiding Officer of the Council of the Council, rather than the Public Advocate. While the Public Advocate may participate in Council debate, he or she may no longer vote to break a tie. In practice, the Speaker has often designated the Public Advocate to preside over the Council.

P. 35, para. 5 and P. 37, box: Each Borough President appoints one member to the Department of Education's Panel for Educational Policy and two persons to each Community District Education Council in the borough.

P. 37, The City Council: There are 51 Council districts in the City of New York with an average population of 157,025. (As determined after the 2000 census.)

P. 73, Fair Share Siting. In the 2010 referendum, the voters approved a provision adding transportation and waste management facilities operated by public entities or private entities pursuant to written agreements with public entities or other private entities to those facilities whose impact must be considered to assure that there is a fair distribution of burdens and benefits among communities.

P. 78, para. 2 and P. 89, para. 2: DoITT also operates **311**, the city's non-emergency call facility and www.nyc.gov, the city's interactive website.

P. 79, para. 2: The 2010 voter-approved referendum provided for the Voter Assistance Commission to be placed under the jurisdiction of the Campaign Finance Board and renamed the Voter Assistance Advisory Committee consisting of nine members.

P. 80, end of first para: Legislation was enacted providing for 'limited participating candidates' to take part in CFB regulated debates. Limited participating candidates are defined as candidates who self-finance their campaigns but agree to abide by contribution and spending limits.

The referendum voters approved in 2010 contained a provision requiring public disclosure of expenditures of \$1,000 or more made by individuals and entities, independent of a candidate, in order to influence the outcome of a city election or referendum. The Campaign Finance Board will issue rules on the disclosure requirements and is empowered to assess civil penalties for failure to comply with the requirements.

P. 88, para. 1: The Mayor's Action Center has been replaced by 311

P.88, para. 2: The Bureau of Personnel Development is now the **Division of Citywide Personnel Services** and includes the **Civil Service Administration** which administers civil service examinations and handles classification and compensation. Personnel development is also handled by this division, which operates a training center, administers the Mayor's Graduate Scholarship and Fellowship programs, a work experience Program and Public Service Corps. The **Office of Citywide Equal Employment Opportunity** is also under the jurisdiction of the Department of Citywide Services (DCAS)

P. 90, para 5: the Department of Small Business Services, formerly named the Department of Business Services, establishes policy to improve the city's business climate, particularly for small businesses. It helps them negotiate the regulatory system and cut bureaucratic red tape. The **Business Assistance Unit operates Business Solution Centers** in each borough. In January 2005 the Mayor created an **Office of Industrial and Manufacturing Businesses** to support the industrial sector and manage **Industrial Business Zones.**

The Department also administers a **Neighborhood Development Division, Workforce Investment Board** and **Workforce Career Centers** as well as the **New York Empowerment Zone,** a federal, state and city partnership in Upper Manhattan and the Bronx. DSBC oversees 63 **Business Improvement Districts (BIDs).**

P. 90, para. 1: The Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) was incorporated into the **Agency for Children's Services (ACS)** in 2010 and ACS has assumed all of the DJJ's responsibilities including administration of the city's juvenile detention facilities. The purpose of the merger was to expand programming to reduce recidivism among youth involved in the juvenile justice system.

P. 92, para. 3: In 2003, the Department of Employment was eliminated and many of its functions transferred to the **Department of Small Business Services,** whose Commissioner now has the responsibility to develop job training and employment services for the unemployed and economically disadvantaged that coincide with the labor needs of private industry. Other functions for training went to the Department of Youth and Community Development to carry out programs and activities for eligible youth.

P. 92, para. 4: In 2002 The Board of Education was replaced by **the Panel for Educational Policy.** The Mayor appoints 8 of the 13 members including the Chancellor and each Borough President appoints one member. The members serve at the pleasure of the officials who appoint them. The Borough Presidents also appoint two persons to each of the Community District Councils in the borough. There are 32 District Councils in the city. Each Council has nine parent members selected by PA/PTA officers in the district. There is also a High School District and a separate district, District 75, which covers special

education students. Members of the Councils serve for two years. These Community District Councils replaced Community School Boards.

Unlike other Mayoral agencies, the Department of Education is not described in the City Charter. While the Mayor has operational control, the New York City School District is subject to the regulations of the New York State Department of Education.

In 2009 the New York State Legislature extended mayoral control of elementary and secondary public education in New York City until 2015, adding provisions for greater audit authority to the city Comptroller, program evaluation to the Independent Budget Office and additional opportunity for parent and community input into proposals for school closings and conversions.

You can get more information on the Department of Education and the schedule of meetings of the Panel for Educational Policy on the Department's website. www.nyc.gov/does

P. 94, Elections: Since 2003, many city agencies have been required to implement voter registration programs for their clients and users.

The 2010 voter-approved referendum provided for a reduction in the number of signatures required for designating petitions from candidates running for city elected office. Candidates for citywide offices will need 3,750 signatures. Candidates for Borough President will need 2,000 and City Council candidates, 450 signatures.

P. 95, para. 4: The **Environmental Control Board** has been incorporated into the **Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings**.

P. 96, para. 4: The **Commission on the Status of Women** has been renamed the **Commission on Women's Issues** and provides a vehicle through which women and their families can connect to city services.

Page 98, paras. 2 and 4: The **Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOMH)** is a result of the 2001 merger of the Department of Health and the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Alcoholism Services.

P. 103, para 1: In addition to its other services, the **Department of Youth and Community Development** operates **Youth Connect**, a confidential information and referral hotline that connects youth to jobs, after-school programs and training opportunities. The **Youth Connect** number is **1-800-246-4646**.

P. 105, para. 2. In 2006, parking enforcement was added to the responsibilities of the **Police Department's Traffic Control Division**

P. 107, last para.: Since publication of *What Makes New York City Run?* in 2001, the city has expanded and enhanced the interactive nature of its website, www.nyc.gov. A wealth of information on city agencies and their programs is available to you on this website. You may even lodge complaints on line. Or you may call the city's hotline **311**.

P. 108: the League of Women Voters Telephone Information Service is staffed by volunteers from **10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday** to answer your questions about the government programs and elections and provide information on who represents you. Call **212-725-3541**. Check out our website: www.lwvny.org or follow us on **Facebook or Twitter**