

BLUEPRINT TO RECLAIM CITY HALL

“Corruption isn’t just a failure of governance—it’s a betrayal of the people. I’ve fought for reforms my entire career because corruption steals from every family struggling to afford a home, every child stuck in an overcrowded school, and every neighborhood left behind. It’s why rents are skyrocketing, the subways are broken, and streets feel unsafe—because City Hall has been working for the few, not the many. When I’m Mayor, together we will reclaim the city.” - Scott Stringer

STRINGER

DEMOCRAT FOR MAYOR

INTRODUCTION: A CITY AT A CROSSROADS

The corruption at City Hall is a betrayal of the people and the values that built this city. New Yorkers are rightfully furious. Federal investigations have exposed illegal foreign donations, bribery schemes, and kickbacks in public contracts—all while the urgent needs of everyday New Yorkers are ignored. When City Hall prioritizes big donors, lobbyists, and their own self-interest, families can't afford their homes, our educational and childcare systems cannot meet the needs of our children, and public safety and quality of life deteriorate.

Every backroom deal siphons resources away from building affordable housing, improving public safety, upgrading public schools, providing childcare, caring for the most vulnerable, and delivering public services. When City Hall works for a powerful few, the many are left behind.

Scott Stringer has built his career on fighting corruption and ensuring accountability at every level of government. As Manhattan Borough President, he replaced patronage with a merit-based system, empowering communities with a genuine voice. As Comptroller, he not only exposed fraud and audited wasteful contracts but also grew \$147 billion in pension funds into \$240 billion—demonstrating that transparent, ethical leadership delivers tangible results for New Yorkers.

Unlike the current administration, which operates behind closed doors and without any regard to norms or ethics, Scott has built his career on transparency. While City Hall has become a revolving door for lobbyists and scandals, Scott offers something rare: accountability that's proven, not promised. He's ready to clean up the mess and put New Yorkers back at the center of city government.

FROM SCANDALS TO SOLUTIONS

Scott will take New Yorkers' justifiable anger at the culture of corruption at City Hall and make it the foundation for real change. By banning pay-to-play politics, enforcing full transparency, and holding leaders accountable, Scott will rebuild trust in government while delivering the progress New Yorkers deserve: affordable housing, safer streets, and better public services. This is the moment to act, to replace scandal with integrity, and to reclaim City Hall for the people.

1. END PAY-TO-PLAY POLITICS

The Problem

For decades, lobbyists, contractors, and others seeking access and favors have exploited campaign finance loopholes to buy influence at City Hall—a system that prioritizes profits and special interests over the needs of the city and New Yorkers.

Politically connected firms secure lucrative contracts but fail to deliver, leaving essential services and programs under-resourced and underperforming.

Scott's Fix

- **Ban Contributions and Bundling:** Fully prohibit contributions and bundling by individuals or entities doing business with the city.
- **Post-Business Restrictions:** Extend restrictions on contributions from contractors and lobbyists for one year after their business with the city ends to prevent “thank you” donations.
- **Penalties for Violators:** Impose strict penalties on contractors and lobbyists who breach campaign finance laws, barring them from future city business or lobbying activities.

Scott's Record

As Comptroller, Scott exposed corruption in public housing contracts—he held developers and contractors accountable, redirecting funds toward fixing systemic failures in housing. His ethics reforms in Albany, like eliminating “empty seat voting,” show that he knows how to tackle entrenched corruption. As Manhattan Borough President, Scott replaced a patronage-driven system with merit-based community board appointments, empowering neighborhoods to shape their own future. His leadership has set a gold standard for transparency and accountability in New York City government.

The Difference You'll See

Rooting out pay-to-play politics will free up public resources to be invested where they're needed most—building affordable housing, improving schools, and ensuring safer streets for every New Yorker. Scott's leadership in ending vacancy decontrol—a policy that let rent-stabilized apartments become market-rate once vacant—and championing the NYC Land Bank demonstrate how leadership on ethical reforms creates opportunities and better results for New Yorkers on affordable housing.

2. TACKLE BIG MONEY AND INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES

The Problem

Unlimited election spending by corporations and wealthy individuals drowns out the voices of ordinary New Yorkers. Independent expenditures have turned city elections into high-stakes games for the powerful, amplifying special interests at the expense of voters. These practices distort city priorities, diverting attention from essential issues like affordable housing and safe streets to serve the interests of big donors.

Scott's Fix

- **Prohibit Independent Expenditures by City Contractors:** Ban any business entity or individuals doing business with the city from funding independent expenditures in city elections, closing a major loophole.
- **Restrict Foreign Influence:** Prevent corporations with 1% or more foreign ownership from contributing to political spending in city elections, following the successful model used by Seattle.

Scott's Record

Scott has consistently fought big-money influence throughout his career. As Comptroller, Scott increased city spending with MWBEs, ensuring that city contracts benefit diverse communities instead of elite interests.

In Albany, he stood up to powerful real estate developers, championing tenant protections and affordable housing policies. His audits of campaign finance practices exposed how corporate money undermined city priorities, setting the stage for reform.

The Difference You'll See

Scott's reforms will ensure elections reflect the interests of everyday New Yorkers—not just special interests and the well-connected.

3. BRING FULL TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY TO GOVERNMENT

The Problem

New York City's budget and procurement processes are deliberately opaque, allowing waste and fraud to thrive. Funds meant for critical projects like infrastructure, public safety, and education are too often mismanaged, often benefiting politically connected firms instead of the public—squandering public money and undermining public trust.

Scott's Fix

- **Transparent Budgets:** Create distinct budget lines for every capital project, enabling the public to track spending in real time.
- **Open Procurement Process:** Building on his 2021 Comprehensive Procurement Reform Plan, Scott will require vendors bidding for city contracts to submit redacted proposals for public review, modeled after Chicago's reforms but tailored to New York City's unique needs. By making vendor proposals publicly accessible, Scott's plan will:
 - **Enhance Transparency:** Public review ensures that contracts are awarded based on merit and need, not political connections.
 - **Encourage Fair Competition:** When all bidders understand the process and evaluation criteria, it levels the playing field and reduces favoritism.
 - **Build Public Trust:** A transparent process reassures taxpayers that their money is being used responsibly and effectively.

- Expanded Procurement Reform: Scott will implement the Comprehensive Reform Plan he published as Comptroller to overhaul the City's procurement by:
 - Streamlining processes to eliminate delays in contract execution.
 - Prioritizing timely payment for human services providers, ensuring vulnerable populations are supported without interruptions and nonprofits can thrive.
 - Mandating reporting on vendor performance to ensure accountability and quality service delivery.

Scott's Record

Scott's 2021 Comprehensive Procurement Reform Plan called for faster contract execution, performance reporting, and timely payments for service providers. As Comptroller, he created tools like Claimstat, and expanded others, like Checkbook, to increase transparency in government spending and operations. His audits of public housing and shelters held bad actors accountable, ensuring resources reached the people who needed them most. As Comptroller, he increased office spending with minority- and women-owned businesses from 13% to 50%, and established the city's first Chief Diversity Officer.

The Difference You'll See

With Scott's reform agenda, transparency and accountability will become the cornerstones of New York City's procurement system. Transparency means you'll know where your tax dollars are going—whether it's keeping the city safe, cleaning up our streets, building affordable housing, or upgrading your local school. By holding City Hall accountable, we'll rebuild trust and deliver better results for every New Yorker.

As Comptroller, Scott laid out clear steps to fix this broken system: faster contract execution, stronger performance reporting, and timely payments for human service providers.

4. CLOSE THE REVOLVING DOOR BETWEEN LOBBYISTS AND GOVERNMENT

The Problem

The revolving door between lobbying firms and government agencies has allowed insiders to shape policy for personal gain, eroding the public trust. Decisions made by City Hall increasingly reflect the needs of lobbyists rather than the people of New York.

Scott's Fix

- First-in-the-Nation Restriction on Lobbyists: Prohibit city agencies from hiring individuals who have lobbied them in the past year, breaking the cycle of insider influence.
- Expand Restrictions on Former Officials: Prevent former city officials from lobbying their agencies for two years after leaving office.

Scott's Record

Scott's leadership has consistently focused on making government ethical, and accountable. Scott's "School Overcrowding War Room" initiative forced the Department of Education to address systemic issues, showing how ethical leadership directly improves public services.

The Difference You'll See

By closing the revolving door between lobbyists and government, we will break the cycle of insider influence that puts special interests ahead of public needs. These reforms will ensure that decisions at City Hall are made with transparency and integrity, prioritizing affordable housing, public safety, and better schools—not backroom deals. New Yorkers will finally have a government that works for them, not for lobbyists or political insiders.

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CONCLUSION: A MAYOR FOR THIS MOMENT

Corruption, inefficiency, and mismanagement at City Hall have left families priced out of their homes, made neighborhoods unsafe, and failed our children. If we refuse to hold City Hall accountable, New Yorkers will continue to suffer, and the very foundation of our city—its great promise of opportunity and fairness—will further erode. But if we seize this moment, we can reclaim New York as a place where families thrive, communities are safe, and the government serves the people, not the powerful few.

From defending tenants' rights to tackling entrenched corruption, Scott's record proves his ability to lead with integrity and vision. As Mayor, he will continue fighting for affordable housing, a fairer economy, and a government that works for all New Yorkers.

Scott will fight to restore faith in government by rooting out corruption, holding leaders accountable, and ensuring your tax dollars are invested in everyday priorities like building affordable housing, improving education, and keeping our streets safe. This is our moment to take back our city and reclaim its promise.

Let's rebuild trust, empower communities, and deliver the progress New Yorkers deserve.

Let's get to work!

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