

June 23, 2009

LETTER

How to Trim City Deficits

To the Editor:

The Women's City Club applauds Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg and the City Council in reaching a timely agreement on the 2010 budget ("[Bloomberg and Council Agree on Budget Raising Sales Tax and Cutting 2,000 Jobs](#)," news article, June 16).

But as an organization that has always been concerned about long-term issues, we are sorry that no progress was made to address the major deficits expected beyond next year.

Relying primarily on a sales tax increase is an inadequate response and highly regressive. New York City's personal income tax formula should be revisited and made more progressive. Also, we aren't giving up on tolling the East and Harlem River bridges.

One of the fastest-growing expenses in the city's budget is the required contribution to employee benefit plans. The issue of pensions for government employees is being addressed all over the country. We should start dealing with it, too.

Last year, the mayor and the City Council showed great foresight in planning for this year's fiscal problems. We'd like to see evidence of similar vision now. Let's make a down payment toward resolving next year's \$5 billion budget gap.

Ruth Acker

Barbara Zucker

New York, June 16, 2009

The writers are, respectively, president and vice president of public policy for the Women's City Club of New York.

Copyright 2009 The New York Times Company

[Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of Service](#) | [Search](#) | [Corrections](#) | [RSS](#) | [First Look](#) | [Help](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Work for Us](#) | [Site Map](#)