ISSUE: PUBLIC EDUCATION

So I'm sure all of you have heard about Bloomberg's proposed education cuts right? Where are those cuts going to come from?

- In the past several years the schools have already suffered millions in cuts.
- Now he's talking about **laying off 4,100 teachers** as well as eliminating 2,000 positions through attrition.
- Do you know that's the **most significant teacher layoff** since the crisis in the 1970s?
- It also means **losing a lot of other programs** like afterschool, arts, tutoring, sports counseling.

Can we afford these cuts?

- Already 77% of students who graduate from high school are **not ready for college**
- With fewer teachers, classes will be even larger.
- In the past two years the average number of kids in a NYC elementary classroom increased from 21.8 to 23.7.
- So our kids are going to be even less prepared and someone will blame teachers for not doing their job.

For example:

- Community member Evelyn Torres reports that her child's school **lost nearly \$250,000** from budget cuts last year.
- They had no computers, no library, no resources, period.
- And guess what? The school ended up on the school-closing list.

And who is to blame for the budget cuts?

- Well in his press release last week, Bloomberg just kept saying it's the state and federal governments' fault, because they cut their contributions to the city.
- But what about all **the banks and the millionaires** who aren't paying their fair share?

What can we do about it?

- Well how about renewing the millionaire's tax? That would **keep an addition \$1.1 billion** dollars in the state budget of which \$461 million could go to New York City schools.
- That \$461 million would cover nearly the entire amount Bloomberg wants to take from our children's education.

Call Mayor Bloomberg at 212-772-1081 and tell him:

Our kids are too important to shortchange! **RENEW THE MILLIONAIRE'S TAX** instead of laying off hard-working teachers.

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