Mike Bloomberg’s Plan for an All-In Economy

America’s low unemployment rate masks deeper issues. People worry that their jobs won’t be around in 20 years, that there won’t be any good jobs for their children. Too many people are struggling to get by in low-paying jobs, lack the skills that employers demand or are stuck in places where there’s no opportunity. Mike addressed these issues head on as mayor of New York City, and he’ll do the same as president – acting decisively to generate the good jobs of the future, raise living standards and ensure that nobody is left behind.

1. U.S. growth is concentrated in a few cities where rents and congestion are getting out of control, while much of the rest of the country yearns for good jobs. At the same time, public investment in basic science is at less than half the level of the 1960s, even as countries such as China ramp up. Mike will address both issues by launching a major public R&D program to create as many as 30 new growth hubs in America’s heartland.

Mike is uniquely qualified to make such an ambitious plan work. As an entrepreneur and mayor, he created hundreds of thousands of jobs, diversified the city’s economy and maintained its technological leadership.

- He spearheaded the creation of Cornell Tech, a graduate school and innovation hub that has helped diversify the city’s economy and spawned more than 70 startups.¹

- He set up the Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation, with a focus on creating good jobs in industry and advanced manufacturing. The yard now hosts more than 400 businesses, including startups specializing in prototyping, robotics and computer machining services.

- He founded a financial technology company that provides about 20,000 people with challenging, rewarding jobs.

- During his tenure as mayor, New York City added 470,000 jobs, a 13% increase. The gains came mostly outside Manhattan, and despite two major recessions and the aftermath of the 9/11 terror attacks.²

- As of the third quarter of 2013, just before Mike left office, nearly 7,000 high-tech companies provided more than 100,000 jobs in the city, approaching the industry’s record level of employment prior to the dot-com crash of 2000-2001.

Mike’s plan – modeled on the federal investments that brought us the internet and the biotech industry – will re-establish America as a technological leader, attract private investment to distressed regions and create millions of good jobs.

- He will create an independent commission to hold competitions among communities to become new growth hubs – focused on positive criteria rather than tax breaks.
  - Illustrative criteria:
    - High-quality universities

² https://nypost.com/2013/07/12/bklyn-tops-outer-boro-jobs-boom/
● Capacity for growth

● Infrastructure, including transportation and “place making”

● Workforce development plans to ensure that all residents, including women and minorities, can share in the benefits

● Community development plans including affordable housing and intelligent zoning – to ensure inclusive growth

• Investments will be allocated in several key areas, including:
  o Direct research grants, aimed at generating scientific breakthroughs in areas such as public health, hydrogen power, green technology and sustainable agriculture.
  o Physical infrastructure, such as high-speed internet, business parks and transportation to improve neighborhood connectivity
  o Education, including university facilities, faculty, and enhancing relevant skills at primary, secondary and post-secondary levels
  o Programs to promote the inclusion of underrepresented residents and address wealth disparities
  o Manufacturing facilities, for prototyping and early-stage production – and to support U.S. leadership in advanced manufacturing
  o Financing for promising applications, including early-stage support along the lines of the Small Business Innovation Research program and possibly matching funds to attract private venture capital.

• He will ensure that all Americans share in the rewards.
  o The federal government will have a stake in the hubs – through ownership of real estate, sharing of increases in property-tax revenues or some equivalent mechanism.
  o The proceeds will go into a national endowment fund, which will pay equal dividends to all Americans.

• The plan will be coordinated with a broader investment in upgrading America’s infrastructure, and with Mike’s plan to quadruple R&D aimed at catalyzing the transition to a 100% clean-energy economy. A fuller infrastructure policy is forthcoming.

2. **Mike will ensure that all levels of government act much more effectively to ensure that all Americans can gain valuable skills and obtain good jobs.**

   **As mayor and philanthropist, Mike launched innovative programs to connect people with training, good jobs and careers – programs that became models for other cities and the whole country.**

   ● The City University of New York’s Accelerated Study in Associate Programs, a program of financial support and intensive advising, nearly doubled the three-year graduation rate for low-income students, and has been replicated in California, Ohio and Tennessee.

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3 https://pubs.aeaweb.org/doi/pdfplus/10.1257/app.20170430  
4 http://www1.cuny.edu/sites/asap/replication/
● New York City’s Center for Economic Opportunity, a precursor to the federal Social Innovation Fund, focuses on funding and evaluating anti-poverty programs – many of which connect people with training and employment – and expanding those that work.5

● New York City pioneered the WorkAdvance program, which demonstrably6 boosted earnings for low-income workers by providing training and skills tailored to identifiable jobs and career pathways.

● His Workforce1 career centers, part of the Department of Small Business Services, prepared and connected tens of thousands of people with jobs each year.

● He funds Coalfield Development, a program that connects former coal workers in West Virginia with local green jobs such as reclaiming wood and rehabbing buildings.

● Bloomberg Philanthropies has led a coalition of funders to target private investment in high-quality apprenticeship programs across the country.

As president, Mike will expand on what worked in New York City, with a special focus on providing the best possible service and advancing people’s careers.

● Streamline the government’s 43 employment and training programs,7 pool their resources and pay for performance, rewarding models and providers that demonstrably improve outcomes for participants.

● Expand and improve the existing Trade Adjustment Assistance program, widening eligibility to cover workers affected by changes such as automation and the transition to a green economy, not just foreign competition.8

● Revive the Social Innovation Fund, which combines public financing with rigorous evaluation. Focus on expanding career navigation programs that help people without strong networks – disadvantaged kids, returning citizens, the long-term unemployed – connect with meaningful training, work experience and jobs.

● Expand and promote innovative partnerships between the private sector and educational providers.

● Boost investment in community college partnerships, which work with high schools, employers and four-year colleges to prepare people for high-demand jobs. Funding will be designed to ensure programs are affordable and provide the necessary advising support. To improve accountability, funding will be tied to labor market outcomes, rather than to student headcount.

5 https://www1.nyc.gov/site/opportunity/reports/evaluations.page
8 Third Way
● Set a goal of 1 million students annually enrolling in apprenticeship degrees and quality credentials. Learners will get pay and academic credit for on-the-job learning linked to classroom learning, culminating in employer-valued skills.

● To that end, expand the government’s efforts to promote apprenticeships and get companies more involved, increasing the capacity of state and local hubs that forge links among employers, industry associations and technical and community colleges. Provide incentives to states and educational institutions to develop new “Apprenticeship Degrees” that give students the skills and credentials needed for in-demand jobs. Devote more resources to community and technical colleges, training programs and other providers who design affordable programs to meet the specific needs of working, adult learners.

● Pilot providing federal student aid to quality short-term certificate programs that show strong outcomes (including earnings gains, return on investment, completion and in-field hiring rates), that offer at least some credit toward a degree, and that have low debt to earnings ratios for graduates.

● Enable more people in training programs to access extended benefits through unemployment insurance.

He will remove obstacles for those who want to move to opportunity.

● Work with states to make benefits – such as housing vouchers and income support – more portable.

● Lead efforts to ease excessive occupational licensing rules and make credentials easier to transfer from state to state.

● Provide moving assistance to those who face financial or other obstacles.

He will provide better opportunities to those who want to stay where they are.

● Provide an added incentive for businesses to locate and employ people in distressed communities, through a placed-based Earned Income Tax Credit that lowers costs for employers.

● Empower a single authority to coordinate the various federal programs providing assistance to distressed communities and offer community leaders a single point of contact.9

● Improve rural America’s connection to growth centers – for example, by investing in rural broadband access.

● Launch initiatives to provide dignified employment for displaced workers – for example, in environmental cleanup, caring for elders and maintaining infrastructure.

3. Mike believes in hard work. He also believes hard work should be rewarded. People who work full time shouldn’t live in poverty.
As mayor, Mike looked out for the interests of low-income workers. Aside from the programs already mentioned, he took added steps to ensure that people who worked full time could make ends meet.

- He piloted an expanded Earned Income Tax Credit that demonstrably reduced poverty and increased employment.10
- He launched a program to ensure that eligible New Yorkers filed their taxes and received the EITC.11
- During Mike’s time as mayor, income inequality – as measured by the Gini coefficient – declined in all of New York City’s boroughs except Staten Island, at a time when inequality increased in the country as a whole.12

As president, Mike will expand support for working people. He will:

- Support increasing the minimum wage to $15 an hour, indexed to inflation.
- Introduce an enhanced Earned Income Tax Credit to raise incomes at the bottom and lower middle, and pay it monthly to provide people with a stable source of cash.
- Ensure that states and cities are making maximum use of the EITC by helping people fill out their tax returns.
- Increase the Child Tax Credit for the poorest families.
- Provide affordable health-insurance coverage for all through a public option, and provide federal subsidies for those who need them.
- Support saving for retirement with auto-enrollment in 401k-style plans, and matching federal contributions for those with lower incomes.

4. Mike recognizes that all Americans must be able to realize their full potential. That’s difficult if they face obstacles based on characteristics such as race or gender. It’s also hard if they have too little power to negotiate better pay or working conditions.

As an employer, mayor and philanthropist, Mike looked out for everyone’s interests and sought to address disparities.

- Mike launched – and helped fund – the Young Men’s Initiative13, which aims to improve, among other things, education and employment outcomes for young men of color, and became the model for the national My Brother’s Keeper program.
Mike has a long record of hiring, mentoring and promoting women – with equal pay – into senior roles in both government and business. When he was mayor, his top deputy was a woman.

His company, Bloomberg LP, offers 26 weeks of paid parental leave, and has never required that employees take sexual-harassment claims to arbitration rather than to court.

As president, Mike will fight for fairness in the workplace. He will:

- Support legislation to limit mandatory arbitration agreements, so employees have the power to take employers to court for discrimination and harassment.
- Institute a federal standard for paid family leave.
- Support legislation to expand access to quality, affordable child care, so women – who still do most of the work at home – don’t have to choose between their kids and their careers.
- **Mike will also be presenting a separate policy on economic empowerment. It will include proposals to increase investment in disadvantaged communities, address employment disparities, counter systematic bias and reverse the effects of historical discrimination.**

Mike will restore the balance of power between employers and employees. He will:

- Oppose the spread of anti-union “right-to-work” laws.
- Support legislation to:
  - grant all workers – including gig, contract and franchise employees – the right to organize and bargain collectively;
  - extend traditional protections, including the minimum wage, to domestic workers and farm workers;
  - outlaw “no-poaching” agreements, in which franchisees agree not to hire each others’ workers;
  - limit noncompete clauses for low- and middle-income workers.

Mike will lean against industry concentration where it is harming competition and giving large companies too much power over wages and prices. He will:

- Ensure that the government keeps workers’ interests in mind when considering the effect of mergers and acquisitions and setting antitrust policy.
- Require the Justice Department to subject mergers and acquisitions in the agriculture industry to greater scrutiny, taking into account the effect not only on consumers, but also on small farmers and workers.
- Review the competitive impact of recent mergers in the agriculture industry, such as the Dow-DuPont and Bayer-Monsanto combinations.

14 Center for American Progress
- Revive USDA rules aimed at protecting small farmers from unfair contracting practices and empowering them to negotiate collectively for better terms.

5. Mike recognizes the crucial contribution that small businesses make to job creation. He also knows from experience that entrepreneurs face far too many obstacles to getting started.

As mayor, Mike made it a priority to clear away bureaucratic impediments, encourage business formation and connect entrepreneurs with resources.

- He created New York City’s Department of Small Business Services, which set up one-stop shops in all the city’s five boroughs to help entrepreneurs identify opportunities, craft business plans, get access to capital, navigate government bureaucracy and even find employees.
- The Department of Small Business Services also focused on getting minority and women-owned businesses certified to compete for city contracts, an effort that resulted in the awarding of more than $3.4 billion in contracts to certified firms.
- His Economic Development Corporation established incubators to provide entrepreneurs with inexpensive space and concentrate access to advice and funding. As of 2013, the incubators hosted more than 600 startups that had raised more than $100 million in venture funding.

As president, Mike will do for entrepreneurs across the country what he did for them in New York City: Provide the best possible customer service, so they can easily access the resources they need to get started and create jobs.

- Help communities across the country set up the most effective possible one-stop shops for entrepreneurs, along the lines of New York City’s Department of Small Business Services.
- Make federal funding flexible, so cities can innovate to meet local needs – for example, by creating pop-up one-stop shops in high-need communities, or developing mobile apps that allow entrepreneurs to set up businesses quickly from anywhere.
- Invest in local ideas that work, by focusing funding on programs that deliver real, measurable results – particularly for underrepresented groups such as minorities, women and veterans. Elevate the best local models nationally, providing pilot funding to help more cities roll them out.
- Create a national corps of business mentors, building on the SBA’s SCORE model. Emphasize connecting people from underrepresented groups with mentors nationally who can help them start and expand their businesses.
- Offer targeted matching funds to create or expand small-business incubators and affordable shared workspaces in local industries such as clean technology, advanced manufacturing and food production.

15 Center for American Progress
16 https://www.everycrsreport.com/files/20160107_R41673_e1d67b445c928f46a6b23a04c38d116fd819c93.pdf
17 NY Daily News
18 Mayor’s Office of Contract Services
19 ICIC
20 NYCEDC
● Encourage local one-stop shops to certify underrepresented businesses – such as those owned by minorities, women and veterans – to bid for government contracts. Ensure fair access, providing capacity-building support to help businesses compete for larger contracts.
● Consolidate and streamline support for small business in the Small Business Administration, and increase staffing and funding accordingly.
● Increase the SBA’s budget for the Small Business Investment Company program, which licenses private providers of capital and guarantees some of their debts.
● Through the SBIC, provide incentives for private investors to focus on underrepresented groups and underserved communities. For example, partner with university incubator programs, offering added SBIC support for startups in nearby distressed neighborhoods.
● Incentivize SBICs to support investments in advanced industries, which have a particularly beneficial impact in terms of jobs and economic growth.21