



**Center for an Urban Future**  
SAFE SHARED NEW YORK

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**50+1: A FEDERAL AGENDA FOR NEW YORK CITY**

Cities may have a new ally in Washington, but just what should the new president and Congress do to support New York City? In this report, we outline 51 specific recommendations, in areas from economic development to energy policy.

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THE INAUGURATION OF A NEW PRESIDENT IS TYPICALLY A TIME of great hope, and this year is certainly no exception. But the advent of the Obama administration offers residents of New York and other city-dwellers special grounds for optimism: that the period of years, if not decades, when the federal government all but turned its back on the needs of urban communities is finally at an end. President-elect Obama's early pronouncements, from creating a White House Office of Urban Policy to promising bold new investments in infrastructure, education and alternative energy, suggest that the new president understands something that many of his recent predecessors clearly did not: what's good for cities is good for America. New York is the nation's biggest city by population, economic activity, and cultural importance; its success is inextricably linked to that of the country.

But if the Obama administration and the 111th Congress appear to present an exciting opportunity for cities, exactly how should policymakers in New York and other urban centers seek to capitalize on this?

In the pages that follow, we lay out 51 specific recommendations for what the federal government could do to help New York City. These ideas range from taking immediate steps to ensure that the 2010 Census does not undercount New York and providing anti-terror funds to localities based on risk rather than politics, to accelerating the rollout of new air traffic control technology to reduce flight delays and streamlining the visa process to make it easier for artists to enter the country. While our recommendations are squarely focused on New York, many if not most of them would bring great benefit to cities and metropolitan regions across the United States.

Report - January 2009

## 51 Things the Obama Administration Should do for New York City

The advent of the Obama administration offers great hope that the period of years, if not decades, when the federal government all but turned its back on the needs of urban communities is finally over. But what exactly should the new president do for New York City? Our new report, "50+1: A Federal Agenda for New York City," lays out 51 specific recommendations for what the Obama administration and the 111th Congress could do to help New York City. The ideas range from taking immediate steps to ensure that the 2010 Census does not undercount New York and providing anti-terror funds to localities based on risk to accelerating the rollout of new air traffic control technology to reduce flight delays.

by Jonathan Bowles, Tara Colton, David Jason Fischer, David Giles and Jim O'Grady

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