



**The
Business
Council**

Fall 2008 Members Survey Results

Listening to our members

October 31, 2008

Listening to our members

In 2006 and 2008 the Business Council asked our members via e-mail four basic economic questions

The members surveyed were chosen from the same database

In both years we received a 10 percent approximate response rate

1. Please rank each of the following cost-of-doing-business issues in terms of its importance to you and your business

- 2008
 1. Health insurance for employees
 2. Energy costs
 3. NYS taxes on businesses
 4. Local property taxes on Businesses
 5. NYS taxes on Individuals
- 2006
 1. Health insurance for employees
 2. The workers' compensation system
 3. Local property taxes on businesses
 4. Energy costs
 5. Liability insurance and lawsuits

2. Please rank each of the following economic development issues in terms of its importance to you and your business

■ 2008

1. Economic development programs and incentives
2. Workforce development
3. Innovation, science and technology

■ 2006

1. Economic development programs and incentives
2. Workforce development
3. Innovation, science and technology

3. The way government operates in New York has at times proven to be an obstacle to reducing the cost of doing business, and to promoting economic development.

- 2008

1. Consolidation of local government or of local government services
2. Governmental debt and public authorities

- 2006

1. Consolidation of local government or of local government services
2. Governmental debt and public authorities

4. Now please rank each of the three issue areas in terms of its importance to you and your business.

■ 2008

1. Cost of doing business
2. Economic development
3. Government reform

■ 2006

1. Cost of doing business
2. Economic development
3. Governmental reform

2008 Survey Highlights

Cost-of-doing-business

- two-thirds said this was the most important area for The Business Council to concentrate
- 80 percent said it was one of the top two.

2008 Survey Highlights

Economic development programs and incentives:

- One in four listed economic development programs and incentives as their top economic development priority.
- Nearly half ranked economic-development programs within their top four priorities in this category.

2008 Survey Highlights

Government reform

- **Governmental debt and public authority reform:** More than 60 percent said this was one of their top two reform issues.
- **Consolidation of local government or local government services:** More than 41 percent selected consolidation of local governments or local government services as their top reform priority.

Listening to Our Members

Fall 2008 Issues

1. Health insurance for employees
2. Energy costs
3. NYS taxes on businesses
4. Local property taxes on Business
5. NYS taxes on Individuals
6. Economic development programs and incentives
7. Workforce development
8. Innovation, science and technology
9. Consolidation of local government or of local government services
10. Governmental debt and public authorities