

# New Action/UFT

...a caucus of the United Federation of Teachers  
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February 2013

## An Unfortunate Decade of Mayoral Mistakes

Year	New Action Recommends	Did we listen?	Result
2002	No to Mayoral Control	No. First Mayoral Control bill gives Bloomberg unfettered control	Countless Disruptive Reorganizations – managers (not educators) dominate the DoE bureaucracy
2009	No Extension of Term Limits	No, even though we could have stopped Bloomberg by swinging a handful of City Council votes	The worst of Bloomberg's terms
2009	Let Mayoral Control Sunset	No. We put in "checks and balances" ....	... but those "checks and balances" did not limit the mayoral dictatorship
2009	No Waiver for Chancellors	No	Cathie Black
2009	Endorse Bill Thompson against Bloomberg	No, we sit out the election	Bloomberg squeaks by for four more years of school closings, abusive administrators, and mountains of paperwork
2013	Remove Christine Quinn from consideration for our endorsement	???	???

**Let's Not Even Think about a Quinn Endorsement for Mayor**  
Bill DiBlasio, John Liu, and Bill Thompson may each be worthy of our consideration, but not Christine Quinn. The current City Council Speaker has acted as a sort of Bloomberg Mini-Me, spending the last six years greasing the skids for billionaire mayor. We should remove her from consideration for the United Federation of Teachers endorsement in the Democratic primary.

### End Mayoral Control

Last Tuesday New Action brought a resolution to the UFT Executive Board to support the Montgomery/Weprin bill to revise mayoral control (Highlight – reduce Mayoral appointees to the PEP from eight to four). The resolution was voted down, with only New Action voting to curtail Bloomberg's dictatorship. The bill may not have been perfect, but we should not run away from opportunities. We should reconsider, and support the Montgomery/Weprin bill.

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## Teacher Evaluation and Binding Arbitration - No Way to Go!

“Cuomo told Bloomberg and the United Federation of Teachers President Michael Mulgrew that if they can’t hammer out an agreement for an evaluation system by Feb. 22, he’d submit an amendment to his new budget plan giving the state Education Department authority to impose its own evaluation system on New York City educators.” (New York Post 2/4/13) The article further states that, “Last week, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, a strong teachers-union ally, and the leaders of the Senate made clear that they’re ready to back Cuomo in imposing a settlement on the city.”

UFT President Michael Mulgrew welcomed Governor Cuomo’s involvement. According to the New York Times (1/30/13) President Mulgrew is quoted as saying, “...while we would prefer a negotiated settlement, it’s good to know that should talks fail again, people who actually understand education will be part of the decision making process. ” “Parents need to know that, thanks to the governor and the legislative leaders, there will be no further risk of the loss of state money for our schools.”

This is disastrous on a number of accounts. Firstly, binding arbitration on the teacher evaluation system is a disgrace. Our union should never agree to have the state intercede and impose a settlement on our working conditions. Secondly, if the UFT leadership believed it was impossible to negotiate with Bloomberg (and that is all too evident) they should never have agreed to push for Race to the Top. We might as well have asked for the State to impose an evaluation system. Thirdly, the Race to the Top monies (750 million) will be used to implement a teacher evaluation system (ie. money for consultants, validators, test design, and coming up with systems to evaluate teachers, etc.) WHAT A SCAM! And to tell the public education is losing hundreds of millions!

New Action opposes binding arbitration. PERIOD! We oppose any new evaluation system that uses test scores (up to 40%) to rate teachers. Perhaps it’s too late to avoid this trap but members should know when they’re being sold a bill of goods.

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