

From: "Vestewig, Lauren J."
To: "Danforth, Melissa C."
Cc: "Ulliot, Theodore W.", "Kavanaugh, Brett M."
Subject: 09-01 Political Briefing (NY).doc
Sent: Tue, 31 Aug 2004 14:36:41 -0500
[09-01 Political Briefing \(NY\).doc](#)

edits and questions on this. thanks.

NEW YORK BRIEFING

STATE ISSUES

EMPLOYMENT FIGURES

New York's unemployment rate in July was 5.9 percent, 0.7 percentage point below its peak of 6.6 percent in January 2004.¹ (**Note:** As of July 2004, the national unemployment rate was 5.5 percent.) Overall, jobs have been returning to New York since August 2003; the state has seen an increase of 61,300 jobs since then.

NEW YORK CITY ECONOMIC GROWTH

On June 15, the New York City Comptroller's Office said the city's economy grew seven percent during the first quarter of the year, its highest quarterly growth rate since late 1999. The office cited 21,100 new payroll jobs during the first quarter (compared to 4,100 jobs added in the preceding quarter) and a 27 percent jump in personal income tax revenues as the main indicating factors.

TERROR ACTIVITY

On August 1, Secretary Tom Ridge announced the Department of Homeland Security was raising the terror alert level in New York, Newark, and Washington, D.C. from elevated alert (yellow) to high alert (orange). The decision was based on actionable intelligence about specific buildings in these cities. Secretary Ridge announced five potential targets: the New York Stock Exchange and the Citigroup buildings in Manhattan, the headquarters of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund in Washington and Prudential Financial in Newark. In response the buildings are subject to the highest level of security since the September 11, 2001, attacks, with barricades, rapid-response teams, and bomb-sniffing dogs.

New York City has heightened its security in preparation for the Republican National Convention.

On August 5 in Albany, two men were arrested in a raid on Masjid al-Salam mosque and two residences as FBI, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and other agents executed a search warrant amid reports that they had attempted to purchase a shoulder-fired missile. The men were identified as Yassin Aref (34), the imam of the mosque, and Mohammed Hoosain (49), one of the mosque's founders.

Aref and Hoosain allegedly have ties to a group called Ansar al-Islam, which has been linked to al-Qaeda. The men were also purportedly involved in a money-laundering operation as part of the plot to purchase the missile.

NEW YORK BRIEFING

The two are being charged with providing material support to terrorism and with participating in a conspiracy to help someone they believed was a terrorist purchase a shoulder-fired missile. The men tried to buy the missile from an undercover Government agent; thus, no missile changed hands.

The year-long Albany investigation is not related to the decision to raise the terror alert level.

UPCOMING CEREMONIES TO COMMEMORATE THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF SEPTEMBER 11

On August 16, Governor George Pataki (R) and Mayor Michael Bloomberg (R) outlined the details of the observance at the World Trade Center site at 8:00 am on Saturday, September 11, 2004.

Governor George Pataki, Mayor Michael Bloomberg, and former Mayor Rudy Giuliani will each read a passage of significance. Parents and grandparents of victims will then read the name of each victim. A moment of silence and ringing of bells will occur at each of four significant times: 8:46 a.m., when the first plane struck the North Tower; 9:03 a.m., when the second plane struck the South Tower; 9:59 a.m., when the South Tower fell; and 10:29 a.m., when the North Tower fell. In addition, the “Tribute in Light” beams of light will shoot into the sky at the sites of the two towers for one night at sundown.

The Governor and both Mayors will participate in memorials on Staten Island and Long Island later in the day.

WORLD TRADE CENTER SITE REBUILDING

On June 2, the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation unanimously signed off on a general project plan for the reconstruction of the World Trade Center site and certified the environmental review as complete. On July 4, the start of construction was marked by a symbolic groundbreaking for the Freedom Tower, the first and tallest of the skyscrapers planned on the site. The \$1.5 billion Freedom Tower will be the tallest building in the world and is expected to be completed in 2009.

In January, New York officials had unveiled the final design of the memorial to victims of the September 11 attacks. “Reflecting Absence,” by architect Michael Arad, was chosen from more than 5,000 entries in an international design competition. The memorial will consist of two reflecting pools and gardens.

NEW YORK BRIEFING

On April 29, World Trade Center leaseholder Larry Silverstein lost a court decision to double the money he receives from the trade center's \$3.5 billion insurance policy. Silverstein had sued the World Trade Center's insurance company, claiming the attacks on the North and South towers constituted two separate and unique attacks. The case was the first of at least two trials that will ultimately decide how much insurance money will be available to rebuild the World Trade Center site.

In December 2003, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) announced a \$2.87 billion grant to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to help build a permanent transit center underneath the World Trade Center site. Approximately \$1.7 billion will be used for the permanent terminal, which is expected to be completed by 2006. Two downtown subway terminals will also be constructed. The total amount expected from DOT for the projects is \$4.55 billion. A temporary station located under the trade center site opened on November 23, 2003.

SEPTEMBER 11 CLEANUP FUND

On April 12, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced that it had reached an agreement with New York City officials over a September 11 cleanup insurance program commonly called the "Captive Insurance Program." The dispute focused on a Federal program providing one billion dollars in liability coverage to New York City and the four construction companies that had workers at the site. At issue was whether the City would have to pay for medical claims covering the time between September 11 and September 29, 2001. FEMA Director Mike Brown announced "the City and contractors will have full insurance coverage for debris removal claims arising from September 11 forward." Under the proposal, the Federal government will pay \$350 million for injuries from debris removal beginning on September 11, 2001.

SEPTEMBER 11 HEALTH GRANT

On April 6, the Department of Health and Human Services announced a Federal grant for \$81 million for firefighters and volunteer workers who labored at Ground Zero for months after the September 11 attacks. Under the grant, \$25 million in long-term health screening programs will be awarded to firefighters, retired firefighters, and EMS workers from the New York City Fire Department. The rest of the grant will be distributed to area hospitals to screen and monitor volunteers who were exposed to debris from Ground Zero during the rescue and recovery operation.

NEW YORK BRIEFING

SEPTEMBER 11 FAMILIES

On July 13, 125 people attended a meeting in Boston with Justice Department officials to learn about the September 11 flights, including where loved ones were seated and the details of the final minutes of each flight. Those who attended the briefing were instructed by officials not to reveal details, because they are expected to be used as evidence in the upcoming trial of Zacharias Moussaoui. A similar meeting was held June 4 in Princeton, New Jersey. Moussaoui's trial is on hold while an appeals court weighs access to key al-Qaeda witnesses the Government has captured.

LIBERTY BONDS

On July 29, Governor Pataki and Mayor Bloomberg announced that you approved their request to redirect up to two billion dollars in Liberty Zone tax benefits toward other key components of the rebuilding effort in Lower Manhattan. You allowed New York City to "cash in" any under-utilized portions of the aid package, which amounts to two billion dollars. The Governor stated in his June letter that any re-allocated benefits from the tax package should be dedicated to the building of a rail link to Long Island and JFK Airport from Lower Manhattan.

A number of senior business executives representing 18 downtown firms noted the rail link will create 56,000 jobs in Lower Manhattan and downtown Brooklyn, and produce more than six billion dollars in economic output annually. In addition to the two billion dollars, \$560 million put forward by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, and an expected \$400 million contribution from the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, would represent a significant down payment towards the rail link project's completion. The total project is expected to cost six billion dollars.

NEW YORK CITY - FIRST RESPONDERS PROTOCOL

On May 14, Mayor Bloomberg's office released a new protocol designating whether fire fighters or police are responsible for overall command in different types of emergencies. The protocol was established to prevent the confusion that occurred on September 11, 2001. Federal law requires use of an incident command system to qualify for Federal funding. Some critics have said Bloomberg's plan is duplicative and unclear. Mayor Bloomberg has argued that the new system requires the agencies to work together to respond to all emergencies.

On May 19, former Mayor Giuliani testified in Manhattan before the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (the 9/11 Commission) on the second of two days of public hearings looking at how the emergency services performed

NEW YORK BRIEFING

on September 11. Before he left office, Giuliani had issued regulations to address the rivalry between the 40,000-member police force and the City's 11,000 firefighters, and he created the Office of Emergency Management to coordinate response among all agencies. At those same meetings, Mayor Bloomberg criticized the fact that per capita, Wyoming receives seven times the funds New York receives: Wyoming receives more than \$38 per capita, while New York receives five dollars per capita, although the total amount of funding Wyoming receives is the smallest of all 50 states.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

On June 24, the State Court of Appeals in Albany ruled four to three that a central provision of the state's capital punishment law violated the State Constitution due process of law. This ruling spared the lives of four men now on death row, and potentially 30 more. The ruling left the capital punishment law intact, providing the Legislature repairs the provision of concern, which requires judges to tell jurors in capital cases that if the jury fails to reach a verdict during the penalty phase of a trial, the judge would impose a sentence leaving the defendant eligible for parole after 20 to 25 years. The Court said this instruction had the effect of coercing jurors into voting for execution, since the alternative was potential eventual release of dangerous individuals. Including this decision, the Court of Appeals has overturned a death sentence four times since the law was enacted in 1995.

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE

On May 24, New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer (D) filed suit against the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE), Kenneth Langone, and Richard Grasso for Grasso's lucrative severance package from the Exchange. The suit seeks \$100 million from Grasso, and \$18 million from Langone. Langone, a former NYSE board member and ex-chairman of the Exchange's compensation committee, is considered a close friend and confidant to Grasso. Both men are directors of The Home Depot Inc.; Langone is a co-founder of the home improvement retailer.

On June 18, lawyers for Grasso filed to move the lawsuit from state to Federal court. A spokesman for Spitzer said the Attorney General would contest the removal to Federal court because he wants the case heard in state court, where it was originally filed. In the filing, Grasso argued his actions as chief executive and chairman of NYSE, including those alleged in Spitzer's suit, were done under the oversight of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. On August 24, lawyers for Grasso asked for a week's extension to explain why they want the case to be heard in Federal court.

NEW YORK BRIEFING

2012 OLYMPICS

On May 18, New York City was chosen as one of five finalists in the race to host the 2012 Olympic Games. Other finalists include London, Moscow, Madrid, and Paris. Of the five finalists, Paris is ranked first and New York is ranked fourth based upon an evaluation of 11 technical criteria including accommodations, infrastructure, security, and transportation. A proposed \$5.5 billion stadium and convention center is scheduled to begin construction before the final vote. The selection of the host city will be made by the full International Olympic Committee assembly in Singapore in July 2005.

SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

On February 27, Mayor Jason West (Green) of New Paltz (a town in the Hudson River Valley) became the second mayor in the Nation to perform same-sex marriage ceremonies. On March 3, Mayor West pled not guilty to 19 counts of solemnizing marriages without a license.

New York is one of a few states without a law explicitly defining marriage as a union between a man and a woman. In March however, New York Attorney General Spitzer concluded that same-sex marriages are illegal under New York law, but has also opined that state law requires New York to recognize same-sex marriages legally performed in other states. Governor Pataki has said he believes New York law forbids same-sex marriage.

In June, State Supreme Court Justice E. Michael Kavanagh permanently barred Mayor West from conducting same-sex marriages without licenses. A New Paltz trial judge declared Mayor West not guilty of criminal charges. Later that month, Justice Kavanagh issued a temporary restraining order banning all village trustees in New Paltz from performing same-sex marriages.

PARTIAL BIRTH ABORTION

On August 26, U.S. District Judge Richard C. Casey in Manhattan found the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act unconstitutional. Judge Casey said the U.S. Supreme Court has made it clear that a law prohibiting a particular abortion procedure must include an exception to preserve a woman's life and health. A San Francisco judge has already declared the law unconstitutional, and a judge in Lincoln, Nebraska, is still considering the question. The law is aimed at stopping a procedure usually performed during the second trimester of pregnancy.

NEW YORK BRIEFING

INDIAN POINT POWER PLANT CLOSURE

On May 26, Westchester County announced it will spend \$385,000 on a consultant to determine if the county could take over the Indian Point nuclear power plants, shut them down, and replace them with another energy source. The owner, Entergy Nuclear Northeast, operates the 2,000 megawatt (enough for two million homes) facility, and it has said it will not sell or convert the plants. Entergy bought the plants for one billion dollars in 2000 and 2001.

Indian Point security has been a concern since September 11, and a campaign to close the plants has wide support. Critics say the densely populated area around the plants cannot be adequately protected from potential radiation released in a major accident or attack. Last summer, FEMA ruled the evacuation plans are adequate.

STATE BUDGET

On August 11, the State Legislature signed off on a \$101.3 billion budget – the most expensive in state history. Shortly after, Governor Pataki issued vetoes on 195 different initiatives included in the budget in an attempt to ease spending. Pataki noted he vetoed \$235 million in direct spending. In 1998, he moved similarly in vetoing 1,000 items that lawmakers added to his original budget plan. Although neither party promised to override Pataki's vetoes, the Legislature is now reviewing its options and expects the process to last until late November.

In March, the State Legislature adjourned without agreeing on a budget, marking the twentieth consecutive year that New York lawmakers have missed the April 1 budget deadline. Since the New York State fiscal year began April 1, Pataki and the Legislature have allotted \$39 billion in emergency budget bills. Pataki then asked lawmakers to adopt another short-term measure, for \$14.8 billion, to cover costs through September 12.

The state finished FY 2004 with a \$260 million surplus. The surplus will be carried into the FY 2005 budget.

STATE GOVERNMENT

A June 17 poll found 67 percent of New York voters think the State government needs reform.² Fifty-two percent said a state constitutional convention should be called to institute reforms. The poll comes in the wake of a series of ethical scandals involving bribery convictions and sexual misconduct, as well as a delayed budget. Fifty-one percent of New York voters said the State Legislature was not doing a good job, 54

NEW YORK BRIEFING

percent said they approved of the job being done by their individual state Assembly member, and 58 percent said they approved of the job being done by their state senator.

STATUE OF LIBERTY

The 118-year old Statue was closed after the September 11 attacks for security reasons. On August 3, Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton attended the Statue's re-opening. The new free Observatory and Promenade tours will accommodate up to 3,000 visitors per eight hours. Since the September 11 attacks, the number of visitors to the Statue of Liberty has dropped by 40 percent.

KEY 2004 RACES

b(6)

NEW YORK BRIEFING

b(6)

NEW YORK BRIEFING

b(6)

NEW YORK BRIEFING

b(6)

NEW YORK BRIEFING

b(6)

STATISTICS

2000 General Election Results (Presidential):

	Total Votes	% Won
Gore	4,107,697	60%
Bush	2,403,374	35%
Nader	244,030	4%
Other	66,898	1%

1996 General Election Results (Presidential):

	Total Votes	% Won
Clinton	3,756,565	61%
Dole	1,932,900	31%
Perot	503,356	8%

CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

Note: New York lost two Congressional seats in reapportionment.

U.S. SENATE:

- Charles “Chuck” Schumer (D), 1st term, elected in 1998 with 55%
- Hillary Rodham Clinton (D), 1st term, elected in 2000 with 55%

U.S. HOUSE: 29 Total (10R, 19D)

- Timothy Bishop (D-01), 1st term, elected with 50%
- Steve Israel (D-02), 2nd term, re-elected with 58%
- Peter King (R-03), 6th term, re-elected with 72%
- Carolyn McCarthy (D-04), 4th term, re-elected with 56%
- Gary Ackerman (D-05), 10th full term, re-elected with 92%
- Gregory Meeks (D-06), 3rd term, re-elected with 97%
- Joseph Crowley (D-07), 3rd term, re-elected with 73%
- Jerrold Nadler (D-08), 6th term, re-elected with 76%
- Anthony Weiner (D-09), 3rd term, re-elected with 66%
- Edolphus Towns (D-10), 11th term, re-elected with 98%

NEW YORK BRIEFING

- Major Owens (D-11), 11th term, re-elected with 87%
- Nydia Velazquez (D-12), 6th term, re-elected with 96%
- Vito Fossella (R-13), 3rd full term, re-elected with 70%
- Carolyn Maloney (D-14), 6th term, re-elected with 75%
- Charles Rangel (D-15), 17th term, re-elected with 88%
- Jose Serrano (D-16), 7th term, re-elected with 92%
- Eliot Engel (D-17), 8th term, re-elected with 63%
- Nita Lowey (D-18), 8th term, re-elected with 92%
- Sue Kelly (R-19), 5th term, re-elected with 70%
- John Sweeney (R-20), 3rd term, re-elected with 73%
- Michael McNulty (D-21), 8th term, re-elected with 75%
- Maurice Hinchey (D-22), 6th term, re-elected with 64%
- John McHugh (R-23), 6th term, re-elected without opposition
- Sherwood Boehlert (R-24), 11th term, re-elected with 71%
- James Walsh (R-25), 8th term, re-elected with 72%
- Thomas Reynolds (R-26), 3rd term, re-elected with 74%
- Jack Quinn (R-27), 6th term, re-elected with 69%
- Louise Slaughter (D-28), 9th term, re-elected with 62%
- Amory Houghton, Jr. (R-29), 9th term, re-elected with 73%

STATE GOVERNMENT

Governor George Pataki (R), 3rd term, re-elected in 2002 with 49%

Lieutenant Governor Mary Donohue (R), 2nd term, re-elected with Governor Pataki

Attorney General Eliot Spitzer (D), 2nd term, re-elected with 66%

Comptroller Alan Hevesi (D), 1st term, elected with 50%

State Assembly: **150 (47R, 102D, 1 Vacancy)**

Speaker: Sheldon Silver (D)

Majority Leader: Paul Tokasz (D)

Minority Leader: Charles Nesbitt (R)

State Senate: **62 (37R, 24D, 1 Vacancy)**

President: Lieutenant Governor Mary Donohue (R)

President Pro Tem
and Majority Leader: Joseph Bruno (R)

Minority Leader: David Patterson (D)

NEW YORK BRIEFING

STATE PARTY

State Chairman: Alexander “Sandy” Treadwell
National Committeeman: Joe Mondello
National Committeewoman: Georgette Mosbacher

STATE DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Estimated Population 2000:

New York: 18,976,457, an increase of 5.5% since 1990

National: 281,421,906, an increase of 13.1% since 1990

Race/Ethnicity:

New York: 62.0% White, 15.9% African-American, 15.1% Hispanic, 5.5% Asian

National: 69.1% White; 12.5% Hispanic; 12.3% African-American;

3.6% Asian; 0.9% American Indian

Median Age:

New York: 35.9 years (12.9% are 65 years and older)

National: 35.3 years (12.4% are 65 years and older)

College Educated:

New York: 27.4%

National: 24.4%

Median Income:

New York: \$43,393

National: \$41,994

Households:

New York: 65.7% family households; 46.6% married couple families

National: 68.1% family households; 51.7% married couple families

(Source: 2000 U.S. Census Bureau)

YOUR PREVIOUS TRAVEL

Event	Date	Location
Remarks on the USA Patriot Act; RNC Victory Event	April 20, 2004	Buffalo New York City
Conversation on the Economy; Nassau County 9/11 Memorial Groundbreaking; Bush-Cheney '04 Event	March 11, 2004	East Meadow, Long Island
United Nations General Assembly	September 23, 2003	New York City
Bush-Cheney '04 Event	June 23, 2003	New York City

NEW YORK BRIEFING

United Nations General Assembly	September 12-13, 2002	New York City
September 11 Anniversary Memorial; Remarks to the Nation	September 11, 2002	New York City Ellis Island
Remarks on Corporate Responsibility	July 9, 2002	New York City
Earth Day	April 22, 2002	Adirondack Park
NYPD Command Center Tour; First Responders Speech; Fundraiser for Governor Pataki	February 6, 2002	New York City
First Pitch-World Series Game Three	October 30, 2001	New York City
CEO Roundtable; Visit to PS 130 and Engine 55	October 3, 2001	New York City
Helicopter Tour of Ground Zero; Ground Tour of Ground Zero; and Javits Center Visit	September 14, 2001	New York City
Naturalization Ceremony Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony	July 10, 2001	New York City
Naturalization Ceremony Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony	July 10, 2001	New York City

THE VICE PRESIDENT'S PREVIOUS TRAVEL

Event	Date	Location
Victory Event; Yankees Game	June 29, 2004	New York City
Money Magazine Summit	June 7, 2004	New York City
Bush-Cheney '04 Event	January 21, 2004	New York City
Bush-Cheney '04 Event	December 13, 2003	Pawling
Bush-Cheney '04 Events	November 17, 2003	Syracuse, Rochester, Buffalo
Bush-Cheney '04 Event	November 14, 2003	New York City
Bush-Cheney '04 Event	October 24, 2003	New York City
West Point Commencement	May 31, 2003	New York City
NRSC Fundraiser	September 19, 2002	New York City
NRCC Fundraiser and New York Conservative Party Dinner	May 16, 2002	New York City
Grucci for Congress Fundraiser	April 19, 2002	Islandia
Interview with Diane Sawyer; American Friends of Bilderberg Annual	November 29-30, 2001	New York City

NEW YORK BRIEFING

Steering Committee Meeting; and RNC and NRSC Luncheon		
Tour of Ground Zero and Alfred E. Smith Dinner	October 18, 2001	New York City

¹ Department of Labor, Bureau and Labor Statistics

² Quinnipiac University Poll, June 9 – 14. Surveyed 1,466 New York State registered voters. +/- 2.6% margin of error

³ Quinnipiac University Poll, July 12-18. Surveyed 1,119 New York City registered voters. +/- 2.9 percent margin of error.

⁴ Quinnipiac University Poll, June 1 – 7. Surveyed 1,226 New York City registered voters. +/- 2.8 percent margin of error.

⁵ Ibid.