

Queens Civic Congress [recommended](#) last year that the mayor appoint someone from among our own leadership to the City Charter Revision commission that was not be – at least in 2008. We also noted the [failure](#) (see page of of preceding link) to appoint such commission during debate over whether to extend term limits to three terms.
- Corey Bearak, President, Queens Civic Congress

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Mayor Bloomberg never kept promise to start Charter review panel

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This week marks the first anniversary of a promise [Mayor Bloomberg](#) hasn't kept.

He said in last year's State of the City address that it was time for a new Charter review commission, and he pledged to appoint one for an 18-month, top-to-bottom review of city government.

"We've come to see redundancies, antiquated regulations and areas for cost savings," Bloomberg said. "It's time to apply those lessons in order to make government more open, accountable and efficient - not just this year, but permanently."

Since then, he has done nothing to follow up - except to offer a seat on the commission to [Ronald Lauder](#), in exchange for him jumping on board the steamroller that stretched the city's term limits law so Bloomberg can run again this year.

Of course, skeptics assumed all along that the review commission was a ploy to extend term limits - and with his goal accomplished by other means, he no longer has need of a wonkish panel to dissect city government.

"That's what it seems to have been about," said [Susan Lerner](#) of [Common Cause](#). "And that is not, in my view, a good reason to have a Charter revision commission."

Bloomberg's camp insists he still will fulfill his promise, appointing a commission this year to have proposals on the ballot next year.

"It's going to take a topdown look at city government," spokesman [Stu Loeser](#) said. "It's something we're committed to doing. We follow through on our promises."

Of course, Bloomberg also told New Yorkers he wasn't trying to run for President, even when he was. And he told New Yorkers he was satisfied with a two-term limit for mayors, until he wasn't.

Which has led to the most skeptical interpretation of all: that if a federal judge or the [Department of Justice](#) rejects the term limits law passed last fall, Bloomberg will simply empanel a quick-and-dirty review commission to put a term limit change on the next available ballot.

Loeser denied it. Others aren't so sure.

"I would not be surprised if that's their plan B, to always be prepared for the worst," said [Dick Dadey](#), head of Citizens Union, who said [New York](#) sorely needs what Bloomberg called for.

"What was so appealing about his promise was that it was going to be a thorough review of the city Charter and government," Dadey said. "It's a promise that I would have liked to see the mayor be able to keep."

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