

# Kyiv Mayor Newsletter

September 2019

**CHANGE STARTS WITH KYIV**

## **Klitschko announces plans for next elections**

The mayor of Kyiv Vitali Klitschko revealed plans to run for mayor again in the next elections. His political party is also set to take part in the next city council elections.

“I will fight for self-government in Kyiv, interests of Kyivans, for the city itself and Ukraine. I think of Kyiv as a truly European city. Ukraine is a truly European country. I have done a lot for this and there is still a lot to be done. This is why I am running for to be Mayor of Kyiv and will lead my political party into the next city council elections,” he said. He added that he welcomes joint efforts with other political forces to promote the city’s development.



“Current situation is not about the names or any political parties. It is all about key principles of democracy and local self-governance. Only administration bodies elected by Kyivans have to be in charge for the development of Kyiv,” emphasized Klitschko.

“A political war is being waged against me. My opponents think about their own ambitions rather than interests of Kyivans. It can influence the city’s livelihood. This is not a statist approach,” he outlined and remarked that “since there is plenty of fierce mudslinging at me, the election campaign has definitely started.”

## Klitschko and Kurz discuss challenges and visit APP's event

At the invitation of the chairman of the Austrian People's Party Sebastian Kurz the mayor of Kyiv Vitali Klitschko visited Austria. They discussed new challenges facing Ukraine and the EU at the working meeting and together attended an Austrian People's Party event.

"I do remember our first meeting at the Munich Security Conference in 2014, in times of Maidan rallies, when the people of Ukraine had to defend their aspirations for democracy and European path. To hear sincere words of encouragement from you - the then Foreign Minister of Austria was most important. It was equally important to have a support of Austria and other EU countries in our fight against Russian aggression and in pursuing our path of reforms," stated Klitschko at the meeting.



He remarked that European stability and safety depend largely on the ability of Ukraine to defend its own independence and - together with Europe - principles of international law and joint democratic values. "Ukraine wants EU to be united and powerful. And my hopes are that Europe is mutually interested in powerful and successful Ukraine," stressed Kyiv mayor.

"We believe that Austria as well other EU member-states will reinforce support for Ukrainian sovereignty and territorial integrity. Primarily, in keeping sanctions in place as the most powerful tool of opposing Russian aggression," he underlined.

"Ukraine needs peace, but not at any cost. We have no right to let an aggressor to implement its 'settlement plan' (even in part) which will impose a constant threat to Ukraine's sovereignty. It will also further galvanize Russia's warmongering policy and jeopardize European stability and security," said Klitschko.

Klitschko and Kurz also talked about an importance of further implementation of decentralization reform and enhancing local government capacity.

“An experience of Austria in many socio-political spheres and expertise in achieving economic stability and accelerating economic growth is of great significance for us. We appreciate the political, economic and trade cooperation with Austria,” emphasized Vitali Klitschko.

He also highly appreciated the personal efforts Sebastian Kurz put into the development of Ukraine-Austria relations.

The Austrian People’s Party was founded in 1945, and now with more than 600.000 members is the biggest party in Austria. Sebastian Kurz’s People’s Party won a clear victory in Austria’s recent snap parliamentary elections.

### **Mayor inspects refurbished Borschahivska light rail line**

Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko inspected repairs on Borschahivska light rail line which reopened to passengers in early October. Five more stations also underwent modernisation work as part of a major overhaul. There were extensive repairs being done on electrical wires. Other improvements included the refurbished platforms and entrances, installation of tactile paving and police surveillance.

“The city is continuing with plans to renew the city tramway rolling stock. Next year we plan to introduce 25 new generation trams supplied by PESA, Tatra-Yug and Electron,” added Mayor Klitschko.

Borschahivska light rail line has 12 stations in operation and delivers 180,000 daily rides.



## Klitschko: 110 more orphans get keys to their own homes



As Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko emphasized at the ceremony of handing over housing vouchers to orphans and children deprived of parental care, over the past two years the city has bought overall 110 such homes.

“Today we are meeting on a most pleasant occasion - to hand title deeds to children who are deprived of a family environment and orphans and who need our special attention and care. These 21 apartments are new one-room and move-in ready. I am certain that in the nearest days you will be able to see your new homes and start to furnish them,” said Klitschko.

He reminded that some years ago not more than five orphans annually were entitled to get keys for their own homes. According to the mayor, currently 353 orphan kids are on the city’s housing waiting list.

“Over two years 110 new apartments have been allocated in total. The situation has significantly improved. In particular, in 2018 the city earmarked over 76 million hryvnas for delivering housing to orphan kids and children deprived of parental care. This March 24 orphaned children and children without appropriate parental care received their title deeds for new move-in ready apartments,” remarked Kyiv mayor.

Under the city’s housing delivery programme in 2019 the city government allocated ₴50 million and received ₴14 million as a state subvention.

## Klitschko: Kyiv steadily grows its international ratings

As Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko emphasized in his speech at 2019 Invest in Kyiv Forum, over the past several years Kyiv has experienced steady growth in ratings and this reflects the success in streamlining business regulations and increased overall investment attractiveness of the city.

“According to Transparency International, Kyiv entered top 6 European capitals among 26 capital cities for most transparent local governance. Kyiv has climbed 5 positions since last year according to 2019 Doing Business Index and also has risen 13 places in the liveability ranking. It has entered top 10 the most successful cities globally for return on budget investment and awarded an fDi Strategy Awards for red tape reduction. And finally Kyiv is the first in the ranking of the most low-cost cities for traveling regarding the cost of accommodation, meals, drinks and taxi,” remarked Klitschko.

He also stated that the city has already prioritized the most exciting investment spheres: IT-industry, creative industries and industry with high added value.

“Startups and innovative hi-tech industries have to become cornerstones of future transformation in Ukraine’s capital city. At the same time, the encouragement of small and medium-sized enterprises will make it easier to do business as measured by Doing Business Ranking and consequently will develop more trust with our foreign partners,” emphasized Klitschko.



At the Forum fDi Intelligence (a division of The Financial Times) presented GIS Planning which is an online service providing comprehensive data to engage potential investors.

This year’s Forum brought together investors, representatives of business, European municipalities and local governments to discuss the development strategy of Greater Kyiv.

## Klitschko unveils second phase of improvements to Peremoha park



Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko reopened to the public the second phase of improvements at Kyiv's Peremoha park in Dniprotsky city district.

“Kyiv is one of the greenest cities in Europe. Until recently the larger part of city parks have been neglected, with little to no infrastructure. And today we do everything we can to create inviting and comfortable recreation areas. The city is continuing with plans to renovate urban parks and squares. Today we are pleased to cut the ribbon on the second phase of renovations at Peremoha Park,” said Klitschko.

According to him, this is one of the most visited city parks, with over 10,000 visitors on weekends. Over 2 past years, 25 hectares of the total 65 hectares park space have been completely transformed. Now there are newly paved walking paths, comfortable park benches, restrooms and a security station, as well as a new hedge and lighting. The park features now playgrounds with brand new play and sports equipment and an adventure rope complex. Some art installations round out the many improvements to this park: 5 meter tall ‘iron’ trees, a signpost which gives distance to various cities, alphabet letter benches that form the name of the park, wooden tic-tac-toe and a green bear - a figure of bear made of artificial grass.

This year the city renovated 31 green areas. “Works in the third portion of Natalka park and Sovky park are currently in progress. Soon we are going to reopen these modern and comfortable recreation areas to the public,” stressed Vitali Klitschko.

## **Klitschko at YES Opening Ceremony: Happiness is about improving your city and country**

“Happiness is a willingness to do a first-class job. Positive changes to bring in to the city and the country. Challenges one faces and the best results one delivers,” said Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko in his opening speech at the 16th annual Yalta European Strategy Meeting in Kyiv. This year the meeting focused on governance for happiness, and analyzed today’s main challenges from that angle.

“The concept of happiness is definitely vital for all of us, since everyone wants happiness. How can governments create a greater happiness for citizens? First of all, to do everything to let them live a comfortable life. Which means, high standards of living, social benefits, well-developed infrastructure, modern transportation, quality education and healthcare. Improved working conditions and effective reward system. Speaking of Kyiv, these are high on our priorities list. These are areas where we allocate our core expenditures,” stressed Klitschko.

As he also said, recreational experiences also matter. Spending more time with the family and sports activities are very important. He noted that Kyiv authorities are committed to provide the best athletic environment they can. The city government renovates and establishes new parks and recreation zones, playgrounds and exercise areas, stadiums, public spaces and new beautiful locations.



“A lot of foreign guests are present today, so here is a minute of mayor’s commercial. Did all of you go to the pedestrian bridge? Do visit it! I welcome you to stroll down to a new staircase nearby the Saint Andrew’s Church and the Artists Alley, take a walk to Volodymyrska Hirka park!” invited Kyiv mayor.

He emphasized that governing capacity of any authority and its efficiency largely depend on the competence of those in power. On how all people with no exception stick to the law and love their job and their country.

“If all these factors are present, one can speak of happiness. Happiness is a willingness to do a first-class job. Positive changes to bring in to the city and the country. Challenges one faces and the best results one delivers,” he added.

Klitschko believes that if a government at all levels follows these principles, Ukraine’s people would be happy. “One cannot make the world brighter and more reliable having dirty hands and dirty mind. This is my strong belief. I would say, an honest, hard-working and efficient government makes happy and cheerful citizens. I believe, Ukraine is worthy of this equation! And we all have to make it work, with support of our foreign partners and friends to whom I want to say thank you for your trust and confidence in Ukraine!” he emphasized.

The 16th YES Annual Meeting ‘Happiness Now. New Approaches for a World in Crisis’ brought together over 400 leading politicians, diplomats, businessmen, civil activists and experts from 26 countries. A new global survey on happiness and governance was presented and discussed at the YES meeting. Also the conference gave a comprehensive insight into Ukraine after the presidential and parliamentary elections.

### **Klitschko: real-time air pollution check available online in Kyiv**

The real-time air monitoring data are now available online for all Kyiv districts. Currently the city deployed 2 air monitors, with more to come, as well as a mobile air quality monitoring setup to be used at temporary locations. Air quality can fluctuate based on season and weather patterns or climate events.

“Recently Smart City experts have established a platform to learn about real-time air quality in 10 local areas across the city. Sensors monitor principal pollutants, which are: formaldehyde, nitrogen oxide, carbon monoxide, oxygen, carbon dioxide as well air temperature, humidity and air pressure. All these data are available both to the public and environment supervisory experts,” remarked Klitschko.



## Road repair work in Troeschyna neighbourhood

After a visit to Troeschyna neighbourhood to view road repair work being carried out on Vygurivski boulevard, Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko remarked that it is rapidly becoming a favourite walk for local families.



“The city’s road repair and rehabilitation programme forges ahead. We continue to grapple with potholed-covered inner courtyards, block passages and driveways. Some of these courtyards have never seen a renovation - since the 1950s. Local residents are satisfied with their local place, and this is the highest praise,” said Kyiv mayor.

Improvements include overhaul of the boulevard and several driveways and courtyards, complete with roadways and pavements resurfacing, landscaping and greening, LED-lighting, new benches, trash cans and no-parking posts installed. Vygurivski boulevard is 550 meters long and up to 20 meters wide.

Overall, this year the city government allocated about €0.5 billion for maintenance and repair of 800 block passages, inner courtyards and driveways across the city.