

FAITH *over* FEAR

CANDIDATES

GUIDE *for*

District 18

*Soundview, Castle Hill, Parkchester,
Clason Point, Harding Park*

New York City Primary Election Day is
Tuesday September 12, 2017

New York City General Election Day is
Tuesday November 7, 2017

POLLS OPEN 6 AM - 9 PM

The Candidates



ELVIN GARCIA

*Democrat
Mayor de Blasio's Former
Bronx Borough Director*



MICHAEL BELTZER

*Did not respond to requests to
complete a candidate survey*



AMANDA FARIAS

*Democrat
Director of Special Projects,
New York City Council*



RUBEN DIAZ SR.

*Did not respond to requests to
complete a candidate survey*



CARL LUNDGREN

*Green Party; Socialist Party
Architect*

FAITH *over* FEAR



#FaithOverFear #FaithinNewYork #NYCcouncil

Would you defend NYC's status as a sanctuary city?

GARCIA: Yes. I am the child of an immigrant from the Dominican Republic. I have lived in immigrant communities my whole life, and understand the challenges they face. New York City's government has always taken precautions to protect immigrants, but we can continue to do more.

FARIAS: If elected, I will support policies that protect all New Yorkers from the threats of the Trump administration. We are a city of immigrants, where people of color, women, workers, and LGBTQ New Yorkers will not move backwards. I will support policies like "Right to Counsel" for immigrants.

LUNDGREN: Absolutely. My plan would be to oppose any legislation targeting scapegoated/suspected/discriminate or otherwise victimized people, and to introduce legislation guaranteeing and protecting their rights.

Would you support ending criminal penalties for minor infractions to limit arrests and potential threats to immigrants' status?

GARCIA: Yes, I support ending criminal penalties for minor infractions. These are often vehicles to incarcerate immigrants and people of color wrongfully, and it is important that we make it more difficult for that to happen.

FARIAS: If elected, I support ending criminal penalties for minor infractions to limit arrests of immigrants and the potential threat to their immigration status. We need to make attempts to provide common-sense compassionate relief for minor infractions, because not all crimes are equal.

LUNDGREN: Without a doubt. No group(s) of people should be held to a different legal standard than American born or naturalized citizens. We're all human. We all make mistakes. Otherwise this is discrimination.

Describe your greatest accomplishment in advocating for constituents of the district.

GARCIA: As Mayor de Blasio's Bronx borough Director, I worked to bring Universal Pre-K to the Bronx, establish the first-in-the-Bronx Ferry at Clason Point, and worked with all levels of NYPD to address community public safety concerns.

FARIAS: I am very proud of the legislation I created in City Council that tracks the access to healthcare in our city, and underscores the disparities of health care in the Bronx. The data acquired has highlighted the gaps in healthcare in the Bronx, and how best to service our constituents.

LUNDGREN: My accomplishments are as a member of advocacy groups. As the Co-Chair of the "Coalition to Ban Depleted Uranium (CBDU)," we worked with legislators to introduce a bill requiring testing and treatment for military personnel poisoned by DU or other armaments. The bill became law in 2006.

Describe the 3 biggest priorities for the district.

GARCIA: My three biggest priorities for the district if I am elected to City Council are: public safety (improving community police relations), education (expanding career technical education opportunities), and transportation (expanding ferry and rapid bus service in the Bronx).

FARIAS: Ensuring access to more efficient transportation by creating Select Bus Service lines to support the Soundview Ferry, bringing Green Markets to South Bronx, which lacks affordable, healthy food options and bringing job readiness programs and training for our youth and adults, including those previously incarcerated.

LUNDGREN: 1) Instituting neighborhood conflict resolution / nonviolent communication training centers; 2) Demanding testing and remediation of toxic dump sites in the district (there are many); 3) Maintaining the stability -- and advancing the sustainability of -- the district through improved transportation, access to health care, permanent housing for the homeless, and promotion of healthy food choices.

Would you support continued funding to support detained immigrants?

GARCIA: Yes. We have an obligation to protect the three million New Yorkers who were born outside the US. They are the foundation of many communities and, in the current federal climate, we must ensure they are not forgotten.

FARIAS: If elected, I will support continued and expanded funding in the budget for detained immigrants and support their right to counsel.

LUNDGREN: I'd support increased funding and access to whatever legal services and representation they may need, DHS and the PATRIOT Act be damned.

What is your position on tracking US residents and/or citizens based on their religious identity? Would you expunge wrongly collected surveillance data on Muslim New Yorkers?

GARCIA: I am strongly opposed to the tracking of residents or citizens based on religious identity. This is a violation of those citizens or residents' rights to privacy allows racial profiling to continue in our city.

FARIAS: I do not support the discrimination and/or targeting of people based off of their national origin and/or religious identity.

LUNDGREN: Surveillance of this type is appalling. It must be stopped, with all records expunged and purged.

What is your position on strengthening the reinstated Handschu Committee?

GARCIA: Including a non-NYPD representative on the Handschu Committee would provide insight from a member of the community that would be affected by the decisions made by the committee.

FARIAS: I support strengthening the Handschu Committee and the inclusion of a permanent, empowered non-NYPD representative. We need to ensure that decisions are made with input from the affected communities and that we do not encourage a discriminatory law enforcement.

LUNDGREN: The Handschu agreement probably doesn't go far enough in protecting us from political surveillance and police misconduct and abuses related to it. We need to do whatever we can to protect and defend the human right to nonviolent protest and dissent.

Would you bring to justice the perpetrators of all types of hate crimes, including those based on religion, sexual orientation, race, and ethnicity?

GARCIA: In response to increased anti-Muslim incidents as a result of the national anti-Muslim rhetoric, I organized a first-in-the-Bronx Muslim Public Safety Empowerment Forum. I also worked with the NYPD detective squad and city agencies to bring justice and holistic services to Mr. Mojibur Rahman.

FARIAS: If elected, I will advocate to ensure that all hate crimes are properly investigated by the DA's office and I will proactively fight on behalf of all residents within my community and NYC to ensure their rights are protected.

LUNDGREN: I'm not sure of the question. Why would the victims be brought to justice? To some extent that is what often happens. If you're asking if the perpetrators of hate crimes should be brought to justice based on any of those identities, then, "YES." I prefer that non-punitive, non-violent alternatives be utilized in seeking justice.

What is your position on law enforcement tracking members of civil rights movements?

GARCIA: As I mentioned previously, I am strongly opposed to the law enforcement keeping tabs on the community activists in New York City. It is a violation of individuals' right to free speech and privacy.

FARIAS: I do not support the discrimination and/or targeting of people based off of their right to politically organize.

LUNDGREN: Outrageous and baseless. We know from history the toxic, violent, and intolerant atmosphere this creates. Just witness the Trump presidency as the latest example.

Would you support legislation to allow non-citizen residents to vote in NYC elections? Allowing parolees to vote in local elections?

GARCIA: No, I would not support legislation to allow non-citizens to vote in NYC elections. However, I do believe it is important to allow parolees, especially those who are convicted of nonviolent offenses to vote in New York City Elections.

FARIAS: I will support legislation allowing non-citizen residents and parolees to vote in NYC elections. That is why I am committed to bringing Participatory Budgeting into CD18, which I have successfully managed for two years allowing an entire community, including previously incarcerated individuals and immigrants to vote on capital projects.

LUNDGREN: Absolutely. These points have been part of the Green Party platform since its founding in the US.

Do you support passing Intro. 1482 to increase oversight and comprehensive reporting of NYPD surveillance technology?

GARCIA: A key issue in my community is the strengthening the relationship between the police and the community. If we can build a culture of trust between police and the community, our police can focus on serious crime. We need to keep officers accountable through laws like Int. 1482.

FARIAS: If elected, I will support Intro 1482 to increase oversight and comprehensive reporting of NYPD surveillance technology. New York needs greater transparency, oversight and democratic accountability for local policing.

LUNDGREN: I would support it. But I would rather introduce legislation banning it altogether.

What is your position on proposed legislation Intro. 152-A, the Certificate of No Harassment, that aims to protect tenants from landlord harassment?

GARCIA: Housing is a fundamental right for all New Yorkers, and I have dedicated my career to protecting that right for the residents of the Bronx. I've worked protecting residents of the NYCHA campuses in my district, and I would wholeheartedly support legislation like the Certificate of No Harassment.

FARIAS: I support Intro 152-A that aims to protect tenants from landlord harassment.

LUNDGREN: As a rent control tenant myself, I do support this and anything that will prevent landlord abuse.

What is your position on the Dept. of Housing Preservation & Development revising their requirements for developers who request subsidies to include a significant increase in the amount of deeply affordable housing?

GARCIA: If a developer is requesting support from the Department of Housing, Preservation and Development, then it should be mandatory for them to ensure that the housing needs of the area are met. Citywide departments are one of the few safeguards against individuals taking advantage of our citizens.

FARIAS: It is important that any deals that are made with developers who request subsidies highlight the need for not only an increase in affordable housing, but make a requirement to define affordability based on the living wage rate for any given community.

LUNDGREN: Housing is a fundamental human right and must be protected from exploitation and obscene profit making by developers and landlords.

What is your position on the proposed Housing Not Warehousing legislation, including Intro.'s 1034, 1036 & 1039, to assure that land is used for affordable housing and not held vacant for profit?

GARCIA: I am a strong supporter of this type of legislation. All New Yorkers should have access to affordable housing, and as a City Councilor I would fight against corporations or individuals who seek profits over helping those who need it.

FARIAS: I am in support of the proposed Housing Not Warehousing legislative package of bills to help keep affordable housing occupied and an option for New Yorkers who need it. As a city, we need to be able to regulate stagnant property, and ensure there's proper usage and reinvestment into communities.

LUNDGREN: Part and parcel of housing being a human right.

Do you support passage of the Right To Know Act (Intro.'s 182 & 541) to increase police accountability?

GARCIA: Yes.

FARIAS: Yes

LUNDGREN: Yes.

Would you support ending the NYPD's current "broken windows" policing practices that over criminalize minor crimes and quality of life infractions in low-income communities of color?

GARCIA: I would strongly support ending the policing practices that only cause more problems for many in our communities. Strong policy-neighborhood relations force law enforcement officials to be held accountable for their actions, and this would end over-criminalization and quality of life infractions.

FARIAS: Yes, I support the ending of broken windows policing practices.

LUNDGREN: No question about it. Broken windows, along with stop and frisk, have never been shown to work, serve no useful purpose, and only serve to create and inflame tensions between communities of color and police.

What is your position regarding transparency and accountability of the NYPD when officers have engaged in misconduct or abuse?

GARCIA: Police misconduct and abuse has gone on for far too long in our city. A more transparent and accountable NYPD would benefit both officers and the citizens they protect.

FARIAS: I support greater transparency and accountability of the NYPD, especially when officers engage in misconduct or abuse, and believe the NYPD needs to hold themselves to transparency in FOIL requests for records to the public.

LUNDGREN: Police must always be held accountable, and that process must be 100% transparent. Until we have a police force (or constabulary) staffed by and run by the community, there can be no tolerance for police misconduct.

How would you propose to cut greenhouse gas emissions from those buildings that are the biggest & dirtiest in the city?

GARCIA: Supporting measures such as tax incentives for businesses that keep their GHGs below a standard threshold, subsidize energy update projects to ensure that that would prompt major corporations to reduce their emissions would be a successful way to achieve these goals.

FARIAS: I would cut GHG emissions from buildings by reforming the use of air conditioners and refrigeration methods. This includes regulating the use of hydrofluorocarbons; ensuring cool air is not escaping through improperly sealed windows and doors; and diminishing their use overnight in buildings that only do business in the daytime.

LUNDGREN: I work for an architect who has LEED (Green building) certification. We make recommendations to all of our clients to include energy efficient systems/products in their plans. We need to retrofit existing buildings with alternative energy systems, and update Buildings Dept. rules to make it easier to design energy efficient structures.

Do you support installing solar panels on public buildings in NYC? Would you include local job creation & hire and the reinvestment of energy savings into communities most impacted by climate & economic challenges?

GARCIA: Yes I do. Small businesses are the backbone of the Bronx economy, and I would support a plan that combines the need to develop more local jobs and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, that are costly in the long-run.

FARIAS: I support the use of solar panels on public buildings, and the creation of an infrastructure that would support the expansion of such a transition. This would include the manufacturing, installation, and maintenance of solar panels, and ensuring any city contracts for such work would be made available to MWBEs.

LUNDGREN: Yes indeed. As a Green I support the Green Education and Legal Fund's initiative calling for 100% green, alternative energy/divestment from all fossil fuels and nuclear power by 2030. We can do it.

GUIDE INFORMATION

This candidates guide is based on the platform of the Faith Over Fear coalition, a group of more than 27 faith-based justice organizations in New York City, convened by Faith in New York. The content for this guide was created through a candidates survey. All answers were written directly by the candidates or their campaigns, except in some cases where answers were shortened to meet a 50 word limit due to design limitations. All candidates listed by the New York City Campaign Finance Board (NYCCFB) and the Board of Elections were invited to fill out the survey. Only candidates who completed the survey have their information included. This guide was paid for by Faith in New York Action. To view the platform and learn more about the coalition, please visit <https://faithinnewyork.org/faithoverfear>.

VOTING INFORMATION

The NYC primary election is Tuesday, September 12th, 2017. You must have been registered to vote in NYC by August 18th, 2017 to vote in the primary election. The NYC general election is Tuesday November 7th, 2017. You must register to vote by October 13th, 2017 to vote in the general election. On voting day, bring your voter registration card if you have it, and another form of identification just in case. Be aware that you CANNOT be barred from voting as long as you are on the voter rolls, even if you do not have a photo ID or voter registration card. You are guaranteed assistance by a poll worker or interpreter if needed. For other questions on voting, please visit <https://faithinnewyork.org/faq>, or go to the New York City Board of Elections site at <http://vote.nyc.ny.us>.

POLLING LOCATION

Polls are open from 6am until 9pm. Your polling site is listed on your voter registration card and can also be found online at <https://nyc.pollsitelocator.com/search> or by calling 1-866-VOTE-NYC.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION ON THE CAMPAIGNS

With more and more money being poured into elections in our country and city, is it more important than ever to understand who funds the campaigns of our elected officials. As you consider making a decision, please visit the New York City Campaign Finance Board (NYCCFB) website at <https://www.nyccfb.info/> which provides detailed information on candidates' campaign financial information.

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To pledge to vote, to attend a forum, or to simply learn more, please visit <https://faithinnewyork.org/faithoverfear>. We encourage you to follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @FaithinNewYork and use the hashtags #FaithOverFear, #FaithinNewYork, and #NYCcouncil when you post your voter selfie!



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