

FAITH *over* FEAR

CANDIDATES

GUIDE *for*

District 8

*El Barrio/East Harlem, Mott Haven, Highbridge,
Concourse, Longwood, Port Morris*

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



DIANA AYALA

*Democrat;
Working Families Party
Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of
City Council Speaker Melissa
Mark-Viverito*



TAMIKA MAPP

*Democrat
Small Business Owner*



ISRAEL MARTINEZ

*Did not respond to request to
complete candidate survey*



ROBERT J. RODRIGUEZ

*Democrat
New York State Assembly
Member for District 68*

#FaithOverFear #FaithinNewYork #NYCcouncil



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

MAPP: Yes, because that's what makes New York special is our culture and I'm going to do everything in my power to protect it.

AYALA: Absolutely. There is no reason for law abiding citizens who live in our communities and contribute to society to be removed from their homes and separated from their families. If elected, I would work alongside those who are fighting to improve and maintain New York City's status as a sanctuary city.

RODRIGUEZ: Absolutely. I will stand up for the rights of immigrants no matter who is in the White House.

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

MAPP: Yes, because it will keep more families together. Children need both parents regardless of their citizenship status.

AYALA: Yes. With Trump extremism creating even greater threats towards immigrant than those that existed before his presidency, it is more important than ever that we do not allow minor infractions to aid this administration's unlawful detention and deportation of immigrants.

RODRIGUEZ: The penalty for most minor infractions should be to pay a fine, not to be separated from your family or deported. That's why I support NYC's Sanctuary City status, and will fight to focus local law enforcement's resources on keeping our communities safe, instead of enforcing the severe immigration agenda of the Trump administration. Decriminalizing marijuana is a key policy where we can reduce the amount of unnecessary criminal penalties, and that's why I support it.

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

MAPP: My greatest accomplishment in advocating for parents across the district is when I got assembly members and state senators to listen to how family court is destroying our families and pledge to help more families with the bullying of family court.

AYALA: In recent years synthetic Marijuana (K2) has plagued the streets of East Harlem and the South Bronx, most severely on East Harlem's 125th Street. My work in our district helped bring attention to the impact of K2 on neighborhoods in our community and others throughout the city. As a result, the City Council passed a package of legislation to combat the sale of this harmful substance. The stores responsible for marketing the drug to children in candy packaging have been closed and the number of reported uses of the drug have significantly decreased.

RODRIGUEZ: During budget negotiations, I fought aggressively for the MTA to put \$1.5 billion back into their capital plan for phase two of the Second Avenue subway. Most recently, as a result of my efforts, the MTA has allocated an additional \$700 million in the current capital plan. I fought to secure 300 Million dollars in state funding for NYCHA, and made sure NYCHA is safer for residents by removing scaffolding from areas and buildings where no work is taking place.

Describe the 3 biggest priorities for the district.

MAPP: Holding New York City Housing Authority responsible for fixing the roof, removing black mold from each residence and getting each apartment back to a healthy living place that our people can be proud to call home; Getting our living wage to \$20 per hour so our residents can stop working 3 to 6 jobs to have a place to call home, put food on the table, transportation and childcare (until we get universal childcare pass); Moving our city to become pollution free by passing a law that require all film trucks, ambulance trucks and fire trucks have filters to stop putting harmful emissions in the air.

AYALA: Housing: I have worked towards preserving affordable housing and supporting NYCHA, which is particularly important since City Council District 8 has the highest concentration of public housing in New York City. This is also of great importance to me because I am a product of public housing myself and have children who are currently relying on it; Public Safety: I have spent almost 2 decades listening to the public safety concerns of constituents and have also lost the father of my own child to gun violence. I am committed to keeping the residents of East Harlem and the South Bronx from guns and drugs; Senior Services: I got my start advocating on behalf of seniors in our community, so I am committed to strengthening the senior services here and fighting back against any senior center closures or attempts to cut senior programs.

RODRIGUEZ: 1) Affordable Housing: As a City Council representative, I will make sure NYCHA developments receive the repairs they were promised, fight to preserve developments, help to address the long waiting lists and work to remove scaffolding sheds from properties where no active work is taking place. 2) Transportation: It is vital that residents of East Harlem and the South Bronx have access to reliable subway service and affordable fares. I have been a passionate advocate for the Fair Fares initiative, and I have successfully secured funding to expand the Second Avenue Subway. I also have been an advocate for the Move New York Fair Plan bill which would create a more equitable system and lock in revenue that can be used to upgrade New York City's transit system. I will continue to work with city and state agencies to investigate alternate means of transportation for the South Bronx. 3) Expanding our Waterfront: I know that access to the waterfront is a critical quality of life element. In 2015 I was able to secure \$4 million to build a brand new, state-of-the-art East River Esplanade and Pier 107 in East Harlem, and I am committed to bringing a similar plan to the South Bronx to enhance its vibrant waterfront.

Would you support continued funding to support detained immigrants?

MAPP: Yes, because everyone should have right to have an attorney.

AYALA: Yes. Legal resources play a crucial role in whether or not immigrants get deported after being detained. Not only would I support continued funding in the Executive Budget for legal fees, but I would also support an increase in the amount of money being allocated for it.

RODRIGUEZ: I believe that access to counsel in the byzantine immigration and deportation process is an absolute right.

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?

MAPP: It's totally wrong to track any resident and/or citizen based on their religious identity. I won't stand for this at all and I'll do everything in my power to protect every resident and/or citizen regardless of their citizen status or religion.

AYALA: I am against tracking based on religion. An individual's religious identity is not indicative of whether or not they are a threat. The NYPD should include national origin in equal protection since origin has become a way to discriminate against people. They should also comply with the Freedom of Information Law, which will help to promote transparency between the public and law enforcement. I am in favor of expunging wrongly collected data on Muslim New Yorkers.

RODRIGUEZ: I oppose surveillance based on religious identity and support expunging illegally collected data.

What is your position on strengthening the reinstated Handschu Committee?

MAPP: I'm opposed to strengthening the Handschu Committee. We need to pass Intro 1482 very quickly to make sure our religious freedom is protected.

AYALA: I am in favor of a non-NYPD representative being included in the Handschu Committee to improve its effectiveness.

RODRIGUEZ: I support community-based policing and bringing law enforcement and communities together, bridging the gap and mistrust that has developed over generations. In regards to Handschu, I support a non-NYPD representative.

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

MAPP: Yes, because hate crimes are not acceptable in the city I love!

AYALA: Absolutely. When members of marginalized communities are victims of hate crimes, they deserve justice that is as honest and swift as the justice everyone else is receiving.

RODRIGUEZ: Absolutely. All people should be free of threat of violence based on their identity, and people who commit hate crimes should be punished.

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

MAPP: I think they need to be tracking police officers that are killing our children every day and night and leave organizations alone that are trying to make sure our civil rights are protected and our children are informed.

AYALA: I am opposed to tracking members of civil rights movements. People should only be tracked if they have committed actual crimes or have suggested that they will. Groups and movements like Black Lives Matter are not criminal organizations and should not be treated as such by law enforcement.

RODRIGUEZ: I strongly oppose any effort by anyone to infringe on the first amendment rights of peaceful protesters.

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

MAPP: Yes, because you still have the right to pick who represents you in your city. Allowing parolees and non-citizen residents to vote will empower them to become a great citizen because they know their voice will be heard.

AYALA: Yes. Everyone who lives in this city is impacted by the politicians who represent them, as well as the legislation they put forward. No one should be denied the ability to have a say in what happens in their lives.

RODRIGUEZ: I am in favor of working to make the path to citizenship easier for immigrants, and making sure that voting information is in all languages however non-citizen residents should not be allowed to vote in U.S. Elections. I support suffrage for parolees, they deserve to participate in the American voting process and have a chance to have their voice heard regardless of criminal history.

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

MAPP: Yes, because we have the right to know what they are using to help protect our residents from any potential harm.

AYALA: I do support this. NYPD surveillance footage has proven to be pivotal evidence in several instances of interactions between police and civilians. Reporting of NYPD recordings should always be thorough and honest. They should be held accountable when that does not happen.

RODRIGUEZ: Yes. I support holding all civil servants accountable, and this allows us to bridge the gap in trust between the police and our communities.

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

MAPP: I'm totally for Intro 152-A because no one should be harassed in their own home.

AYALA: I am in favor of this legislation. Landlord harassment, often a result of greed, should not be tolerated. We must protect and emphasize tenants rights while cracking down on illegal or unreasonable requests from landlords and developers.

RODRIGUEZ: Yes, I support any legislation that protects tenants from being forced out of their homes, in a verifiable and regulated manner.

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?

MAPP: I believe this will help keep people out of the streets and people into permanent homes. The city pays roughly \$300 per day for a family stay at unsafe and sometimes not clean places to lay their head just for a night. They can take that money to developers who want to create affordable housing for each New York. This is how we'll end homeless when we stop using our resources on shelters and put them into permanent affordable housing for all New Yorkers!

AYALA: I support this. If developers request subsidies, they should be required to provide a substantial number of affordable units for the residence living in the areas they are seeking to occupy.

RODRIGUEZ: Yes. I am always in support of deeper affordability in housing.

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?

MAPP: I totally support the Housing Not Warehousing and all the Intro's that go with this. This is how we'll end homeless when we stop using our resources on shelters and put them into permanent affordable housing for all New Yorkers!

AYALA: I support this legislation. Vacant housing for profit is wasteful and should not be kept from New Yorkers when so many are struggling to secure housing they can afford.

RODRIGUEZ: Yes. Developers should not be allowed to hold on to vacant properties while more families are forced out of their homes.

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

MAPP: Yes.

AYALA: Yes.

RODRIGUEZ: No

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?

MAPP: Yes, we need to protect our youths so they can have a great bright future. The world needs them now more than ever.

AYALA: I would support ending broken windows policing. Race and income should be non-factors when dealing with crimes and this form of policing disproportionately impacts low income communities of color, disrupting lives over minor crimes.

RODRIGUEZ: Yes. I support the decriminalization of marijuana and prosecuting minors as minors in family court.

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

MAPP: I believe each NYPD officer should be held accountable for any misconduct and/or if they abuse the power that they have. I also believe that each person have the right to know who's arresting them or just stopping them for no reason. I also believe all NYPD officers should undergo an annual psychology evaluation to make sure they are still able to do their jobs.

AYALA: NYPD officers have influence over civilian lives, so it is important that they remain transparent and accountable at all times. Abuse and misconduct from law enforcement is unacceptable and should always be met with consequences.

RODRIGUEZ: All government institutions should be transparent and all civil servants should be held accountable if they have engaged in misconduct or abuse.

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

MAPP: By introducing laws that will require these buildings to change their current system to a much more efficient system.

AYALA: A start would be mandating the use of renewable energy sources to supplement our current ones. For example, solar panels on roofs can be used to provide energy that is both cost effective and clean. Buildings that do not wish to participate in use of green alternatives should be subjected fines or taxes that can be put towards other clean energy initiatives.

RODRIGUEZ: I voted for the Climate and Community Protection Act of 2017 (A8270). The bill makes our state climate pollution reduction and clean energy commitments legally binding across all sectors including energy, buildings, and transportation, setting a path to 100% clean renewable energy by 2050.

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?

MAPP: Yes, because we need to protect our children and seniors to make sure they can live in a clean loving city.

AYALA: Yes. It is important that NYC consider alternative energy sources to keep residents healthy. More importantly, renewable energy creates long lasting employment opportunities and economic advancement that low income and working class New Yorkers would benefit greatly from. I support this.

RODRIGUEZ: Absolutely, becoming 100% renewable by 2050 goes hand in hand with growing a local green economy.

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.

CONNECT WITH US

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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