

FAITH *over* FEAR CANDIDATES GUIDE *for*

Mayor of New York

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



SAL ALBANESE

*Democrat
Attorney*



BOB GANGI

*Democrat
Director, Police Reform
Organizing Project*



BILL DE BLASIO

*Democrat;
Working Families Party
NYC Mayor*



MIKE TOLKIN

*Democrat; Smart Cities
CEO/Founder/Investor,
Merchant Exchange, IMAX
Labs, and Rooms.com*



WILLIAM BASHNER

*Did not respond to requests
to complete candidate survey*



NICOLE MALLIOTAKIS

*Did not respond to requests
to complete candidate survey*

#FaithOverFear #FaithinNewYork #NYCcouncil



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

DE BLASIO: I know we must protect our immigrant brothers and sisters. We will not allow the NYPD to be turned into Trump's deportation force. And we must not break up families over low-level, non-violent, minor infractions.

TOLKIN: Yes - until we have a fair immigration program and viable path to citizenship, we will provide a safe space for our immigrant communities. We'll tighten our belts, lawyer up, and do whatever is needed to protect and empower ANYONE who chooses to call NYC home. See www.NYHeartsYou.com.

GANGI: Yes. It is important to ensure that undocumented immigrants and documented migrants feel safe in our city. I would end broken windows policing, which puts many undocumented New Yorkers at risk of deportation because their criminal records become available to federal agents, such as ICE and DHS agents. The Gangi administration would also do everything in its power to make sure ICE Agents do not have access or admission to any of the municipal court houses in New York City, so as to not target undocumented individuals arriving for court proceedings.

ALBANESE: I would continue to support sanctuary policy now in place.

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

DE BLASIO: See previous answer.

TOLKIN: Yes - in these times of bigotry and injustice, we must be extra-protective of our immigrant community. A crime is a call for help. We will invest in new social, education and vocational programs to help our immigrants achieve economic freedom and their own version of the American Dream.

GANGI: Yes. It is important to stop criminalizing minor infractions for all individuals in this city including immigrants. We should not criminalize poverty and we expend more time, energy, and money by making arrests for minor infractions. Immigrants should also feel safe in our city and should not face deportation for low-level offenses such as fare evasion, marijuana possession, jaywalking, etc. On day one of our (Gangi) mayoralty, we will direct the city's police chief to end broken windows policing.

ALBANESE: I will only have my agencies turn over to the federal government those undocumented New Yorkers who are felons and/or commit violent crimes.

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

DE BLASIO: 1) Tackling the affordability crisis with rent freezes, worker protections like paid sick leave, and creating more higher wage jobs; 2) Reducing crime to record low levels while also reducing stop-and-frisk by 93%; 3) Creating high-quality pre-kindergarten for every four-year-old child in NYC, and strong schools in every community.

TOLKIN: I've primarily focused on creating jobs for New Yorkers in the private sector by building new companies. I also founded a non-profit, Reimagine NYC, which is developing a public park on Broadway. See www.nomadwalk.nyc.

GANGI:

ALBANESE: I was swing vote in passing the 1986 Gay Rights law. I passed the City's first living wage law in 1996.

Describe the 3 biggest priorities for the district.

DE BLASIO: 1) Making New York City an affordable place to live, no matter where you live; 2) Keeping crime low while also bringing police and community closer together; 3) Ensuring a great education for every kid in every neighborhood.

TOLKIN: 1. Modernize our government to be leaner, faster, more innovative and more compassionate; 2. Reframe our economy to be a true public-private ecosystem, with city-owned enterprises generating profit to fund our public programs; 3. Develop our alliance of cities, Smart Cities, to jointly address our shared global challenges.

GANGI: End abusive and discriminatory policing by ending quota-driven broken windows policing, provide actual affordable housing based on neighborhood median income, and small classes for all public school students.

ALBANESE: Fix and fund mass transit, reform our corrupt political system and build real affordable housing.

Would you support continued funding to support detained immigrants?

DE BLASIO: The City Council and I just reached an agreement to ensure that the city will fund legal counsel for deportation hearings for all immigrants without serious or violent criminal convictions detained in NYC. All New Yorkers not eligible for city funding will be covered through private funding.

TOLKIN: Yes - with our new source of revenue, NYC Enterprises, we'll be able to continue to fund this program, and furthermore, our League of Love will be an intersectional Human Rights Council that will help us craft and implement our human rights agenda.

GANGI: Yes. We fully support providing legal services to detained immigrants no matter what their criminal history.

ALBANESE: I would not support legal assistance from the city budget for violent undocumented persons but would offer it for others.

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?

DE BLASIO: Racial and religious profiling has no place in NYC, or anywhere.

TOLKIN: I oppose any individual being tracked based on religious identity. I support the NYPD including national origin in equal protection. I oppose compliance with ANY unjust law that can be used to harm New Yorkers. I support expunging wrongly collected data. Period.

GANGI: We are wholly against the tracking of anyone based on their religious identity or national origin as this is unconstitutional and discriminatory. The NYPD should recognize that equal protection under the law (including the US constitution) includes national origin. Therefore, the NYPD should never discriminate or impose unequal treatment onto someone based on that person's national origin. The NYPD should also always comply with the Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) as it is a municipal governmental agency/entity, which falls under the purview of FOIL and should be completely transparent. Furthermore, all wrongly collected surveillance data on Muslim New Yorkers should be expunged, as we do not condone unconstitutional and discriminatory practices.

ALBANESE: My police department would continue to adhere to Handschu doctrine and information wrongly collected about someone will be expunged.

What is your position on strengthening the reinstated Handschu Committee?

DE BLASIO: My Administration and I deeply respect the Handschu Agreement.

TOLKIN: I support this.

GANGI: The Handschu Committee should be fully reinstated and that a permanent and empowered non-NYPD representative should always take part in the committee so as to include a wholly independent and non-partial individual for genuine accountability purposes.

ALBANESE: I don't have a position but need to do more research before considering it.

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

DE BLASIO: Hate crimes must be combated at every turn. These laws must be vigorously enforced and violators prosecuted.

TOLKIN: Yes - hate is hate. Any crime against any specific group is a hate crime. To achieve meaningful and sustainable cultural change, we must fight hate with love and compassion. Our criminal justice system must focus on rehabilitation. Hatred is an illness - we must treat it as such.

GANGI: We will always fight to obtain justice for victims of all hate crimes. It is important to recognize the need to address discrimination and brutality based on peoples' identities.

ALBANESE: I would urge all prosecutors to bring to justice all victims of hate crimes in above categories.

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

DE BLASIO: Any individual tracked by law enforcement should be done in accordance with judicial oversight and/or for reasonable cause. There is no place for profiling. My Administration has deep respect for the Handschu Agreement.

TOLKIN: Vehemently opposed. We must protect our civil rights groups so that they can effectively fight on behalf of our vulnerable communities. And we're all vulnerable.

GANGI: We are wholeheartedly against law enforcement tracking members of the Black Lives Matter movement, in the same way law enforcement has done in the past to members of the Black Panther Party, Malcolm X, Martin Luther King Jr., anti-war activists, etc., before them. This kind of tracking is simply to intimidate and thwart civil rights movements.

ALBANESE: Law enforcement should not be tracking civil rights advocates unless they have information of a potential crime being planned and then there should be a court order.

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

DE BLASIO: I support a large range of reforms to democratize our electoral system, such as same day registration and early voting. Any non-citizen voting legislation will be reviewed if/when it's introduced.

TOLKIN: No, but I think citizenship should be a much simpler, faster and more open process. Yes, I think all prisoners and parolees should be able to vote.

GANGI: Yes. Non-citizen residents (especially, but not only, those with permanent resident status) should be allowed to vote in NYC municipal elections as they are part of the bedrock of this city. Many of the decisions and laws made by NYC officials affect them directly. Furthermore, all parolees should be allowed to vote in local elections as well, since they, too are affected by a variety of decisions lawmakers and officials make. Voting is a birthright for all Americans and should be for all New Yorkers.

ALBANESE: I would support legislation to allow parolees to vote in local elections but don't support it for non-citizen residents.

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

DE BLASIO: Proper oversight of surveillance technology is important. However, I will not support legislation that compromises the NYPD's ability to prevent terrorism.

TOLKIN: I need more information on this issue before I can meaningfully answer this question.

GANGI: We fully support passing Intro. 1482 for increased oversight of NYPD surveillance technologies. It is important that the NYPD be transparent and be held accountable. There is a deep underground of NYPD technologies that is being used without any sort of checks or oversight, including devices already in use in the public that have the ability to gather metadata from private individuals' cell phones. The NYPD must report to the City Council, the Mayor, the public, etc., what exactly it is doing with these technologies.

ALBANESE: I don't have a position on this bill. Need to do more research on implications.

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

DE BLASIO: The Mayor-City Council working group on tenant harassment is very close to a recommendation for an expansion of the Certificate of No Harassment program. This will result in passage of an amended version of Intro. 152.

TOLKIN: I support the Certificate of No Harassment. Moreover, our NYC Homes initiative will create entirely new affordable housing complexes for New Yorkers, and of course, we will be an awesome landlord!

GANGI:

ALBANESE: I support 152-A.

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?

DE BLASIO: I have introduced the most ambitious affordable housing plan in NYC history -- 200,000 homes over 10 years. NYC has also introduced two consecutive rent freezes and now for the first-time ever requires developers to build affordable. NYC will always drive a hard bargain to meet the needs of neighborhoods.

TOLKIN: We have a housing crisis. Under these extraordinary circumstances, we will instead buy real estate and invest in our own developments, NYC Homes, so that we can provide affordable housing to as many people as possible and meet the needs of local neighborhoods.

GANGI: We fully support any legislation that protects tenants from landlord harassment and intimidation. Too many landlords in NYC continue to abuse their power and leave their tenants in squalor-like or uninhabitable conditions. We must allow tenants to speak out and hold their landlords accountable without fear of retribution or harassment.

ALBANESE: Absolutely support HPD revise their term sheets to require significant increase in deeply affordable 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?

DE BLASIO: I am implementing the most robust municipal affordable housing plan ever, already producing/preserving 77,000 affordable homes over the past three years alone. I will review these pieces of legislation and work with City Council on these issues.

TOLKIN: I support the legislation. Waste is waste.

GANGI: Our position is to remove real estate developers from the process of creating more affordable housing. We want to build truly affordable housing based on the neighborhood median income and in collaboration with community groups that already have laid the groundwork for fighting for affordable housing in their local communities. We plan to provide the most marginalized and vulnerable New Yorkers, low-income and shelterless New Yorkers, with truly affordable housing.

ALBANESE: I support those bills.

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

DE BLASIO: My Administration has overseen the reduction of stop-and-frisk by 93%, introduced neighborhood policing, instituted new training for our police, and will outfit every patrol officer with body cameras in the next two years. The NYPD has implemented changes consistent with this legislation via the Patrol Guide. The Administration and NYPD will continue to monitor those changes to ensure they are effective.

TOLKIN: Yes.

GANGI: We wholeheartedly agree with any legislation that calls for genuine affordable housing to be occupied by New Yorkers who need it the most, low-income and shelterless New Yorkers. We will take profit making out of providing true affordable housing. Housing is a right to which all New Yorkers are entitled.

ALBANESE: 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?

DE BLASIO: My Administration has introduced many reforms to minimize the long-term unintended negative impacts of enforcement of low-level infractions. Marijuana possession is one example. Yet there is still a critical place for quality-of-life policing in our City.

TOLKIN: Yes. Instead of punishing people, let's invest in new programs to engage them in their communities and help enhance quality of life.

GANGI: Yes, we have widely publicized that our day one pledge is to put an immediate and complete end to abusive and discriminatory "broken windows" policing that, as a matter of practice, targets low-income communities of color, sometimes via false arrests and bogus summons for petty offenses that have been virtually decriminalized in white communities. These practices are blatantly racist and do not make the city safer.

ALBANESE: I do not support overcriminalizing minor crimes but will enforce quality of life infractions equally in all communities but only in conjunction with neighborhood residents.

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

DE BLASIO: There must be transparency and accountability in those cases where there has been police misconduct or abuse.

TOLKIN: Complete transparency and accountability of the NYPD. Period. We know there's a pervasive problem of institutional racism and systemic ignorance (i.e. some people aren't even able to identify racism when they see it). We need to be able to trust our institutions, or we will perpetuate the cycle of fear and friction.

GANGI: Yes. We believe in full transparency and accountability of the NYPD. We will dismiss any NYPD officer that has engaged in blatant abuse. We will initiate this practice on day one, by dismissing all of the officers involved in the killing of Eric Garner.

ALBANESE: I support transparency and accountability when officers engage in misconduct or abuse.

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

DE BLASIO: Under my leadership, NYC has a bold and ambitious plan to reduce NYC greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050.

TOLKIN: Under our NYC Green plan, we will become a carbon-neutral and energy independent city by 2030. Our Smart Cities program will help develop new building materials, construction techniques, renewable energy sources and energy-saving technology that will help our buildings reach carbon-neutrality. And we will subsidize renovation costs using a variety of instruments, including grants and co-investments.

GANGI: “Yes, we have widely publicized that our day one pledge is to put an immediate and complete end to abusive and discriminatory “broken windows” policing that as a matter of practice targets low-income communities of color, sometimes via false arrests and bogus summons for petty offenses that have been virtually decriminalized in white communities. These practices are blatantly racist and do not make the city safer.”

ALBANESE: I would aggressively advance the time table for private buildings to be retrofitted to reduce greenhouse emissions.

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?

DE BLASIO: I support more solar energy investments, and more alternative energy investments broadly. Not only will these policies reduce our carbon footprint and protect the planet, they will generate new jobs for our workers.

TOLKIN: Yes - Under our NYC Eco plan, we will be developing an entire ecosystem around renewable energy sources, including sea-based solar panels. And our NYC Research program will include an entire institute around the cultivation of new forms of sustainable energy. Proceeds from our NYC Enterprises will fund investments to meet the needs of our most vulnerable communities.

GANGI:

ALBANESE: Absolutely yes to all of the above.

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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