

# FAITH *over* FEAR

# CANDIDATES

# GUIDE *for*

# District 10

*Washington Heights, Inwood, Marble Hill*

*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*



**JOSUE PEREZ**

*Democrat  
Teacher*



**YDANIS RODRIGUEZ**

*Democrat  
NYC Council Member,  
District 10*



**FRANCESCA M. CASTELLANOS**

*Democratic Party  
Spanish Interpreter*

**FAITH *over* FEAR**



**#FaithOverFear #FaithinNewYork #NYCcouncil**

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

**PEREZ:** Yes, Under Trump's administration the fear of deportation is real. The crime will increase as undocumented immigrants will avoid any interaction with law enforcement for fear of deportation if you are not a sanctuary city. Many undocumented immigrants pay taxes and contribute to the city; they also have children that are citizens.

**RODRIGUEZ:** Yes. New York City's status as a sanctuary city must be protected. I will advocate in City Hall for policy which increases services and funding for the protection of immigrants, and I will oppose any legislation with the goal of removing New York City's status as a sanctuary city.

**CASTELLANOS:** Yes Because I do not consider any human being as being illegal. And immigration is a socio economical and political problem.

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

**PEREZ:** Yes, In the US, minor infractions are considered criminal. We are moving in a right direction in decriminalization of minor infractions that destroy families and individuals' futures and goals.

**RODRIGUEZ:** Yes, I would do exactly as such. These criminal penalties for minor infractions threaten our immigrant communities, especially in the context of the current political climate in the US which promotes policies that destroy immigrant communities.

**CASTELLANOS:** Yes. Why should immigrants be treated different than a US citizen who commits the same infraction.

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

**PEREZ:** Work with the UFT to advocate for teachers' rights; work with local organizations and organizers to get \$15/hr; member of the National Commission of Human Rights Inc.; work with several organizations on local issues.

**RODRIGUEZ:** I have been a champion for affordable housing in the district. One of my major accomplishments was my effort to have the building on 552 Academy St. turned over from negligent landlords to a community organization, and securing \$21.1 million to renovate the building for old and new tenants.

**CASTELLANOS:** I have fought for tenants to live in a decent and safe apartment.

**Describe the 3 biggest priorities for the district.**

**PEREZ:** Education, preserving our neighborhood, tenants rights.

**RODRIGUEZ:** If elected, my top 3 priorities for the district would have to be immigration reform, policing reform to make policing practices more just, and maintaining affordable housing in Upper Manhattan, which has received less than 1% of affordable housing units built since 2004.

**CASTELLANOS:** Affordable and safe housing, we must preserve the ones we have. More resources in the schools like after school programs and technical training in high school that prepares our children for employment. Care for our environment by having our clean and green street.

**Would you support continued funding to support detained immigrants?**

**PEREZ:** Not Sure.

**RODRIGUEZ:** I support continued funding in the Executive Budget to provide legal services and counsel to detained immigrants from the moment of detention.

**CASTELLANOS:** Yes. Everyone needs to be defended and have access to legal counsel.

**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?**

**PEREZ:** Profiling of any kind is just wrong. Every New Yorker should feel safe and protected, no matter their background or faith. Where we draw the line?

**RODRIGUEZ:** Tracking US residents based on religious identity is an encroachment on the civil rights of our people. The NYPD should include national origin in equal protection and should comply with the Freedom of Information Law as it was intended. Wrongly collected surveillance records on Muslim New Yorkers should be expunged.

**CASTELLANOS:** This country allows for freedom of religion and expression and any tracking of people based on this should not be tolerated.

**What is your position on strengthening the reinstated Handschu Committee?**

**PEREZ:** I supported 100%.

**RODRIGUEZ:** I believe that strengthening the reinstated Handschu Committee by including a permanent and empowered non-NYPD representative would go a long way in building a positive relationship between police officers and the communities they serve.

**CASTELLANOS:** Yes as this would bring another prospective.

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

**PEREZ:** And age; there is just no room for nonsense violence, preying on the weak, or attacking someone for any preference.

**RODRIGUEZ:** I would advocate to the best of my ability for folks that have been victims of hate crimes based on all of the identities mentioned. I am a strong believer in protecting the civil rights of New Yorkers, and these kinds of crimes have no place in this city.

**CASTELLANOS:** Yes.

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

**PEREZ:** We are the city everyone loves and the land of freedom, thanks to civil right movements. Tracking leaders of civil rights movements is a step backwards and violates the rights of the person.

**RODRIGUEZ:** I believe that law enforcement tracking members of groups like Black Lives Matter is wrong. Law enforcement is unjustified in tracking individuals simply because they belong to an organization dedicated to civil rights advocacy.

**CASTELLANOS:** This country protects a citizen right to protest when they believe that their civil rights are violated and tracking in itself violates and individuals civil rights.

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

**PEREZ:** One of the most important rights is the right to vote. I believe all citizens should have the right to vote and we should shorten the time and obstacles to become a citizen.

**RODRIGUEZ:** I believe that non-citizen residents should have a say in political matters by choosing their representatives. So yes, I would support legislation that allows non-citizen residents to vote in elections and parolees to vote in local elections.

**CASTELLANOS:** I believe voting is a privilege and should not be taken lightly.

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

**PEREZ:** Yes.

**RODRIGUEZ:** Absolutely. Establishing fair policing practices in my district is one of the biggest items on my agenda. As such, I would support legislation which increases oversight and comprehensive reporting of NYPD surveillance technology. I believe this would keep our citizens safer as well as our officers.

**CASTELLANOS:** Yes as this would serve to clarify many of the issues between the police and the community.

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

**PEREZ:** Yes, a victory for tenants.

**RODRIGUEZ:** Tenants rights are also one of my biggest concerns right now. I have been a long time champion for tenants rights and protecting tenants from abusive landlords. Any such bill that would increase protection for tenants has his support.

**CASTELLANOS:** I strongly support this legislation as landlord harassment is a major cause of the lack of affordable housing crisis.

**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?**

**PEREZ:** Not sure.

**RODRIGUEZ:** I would absolutely support this. My district has for a long time suffered from a lack of affordable housing development. I would support an increase in funding so that affordable housing needs are met in every neighborhood.

**CASTELLANOS:** Affordable housing is not a one size fits all every community is different and we need to accommodate our communities accordingly.

**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?**

**PEREZ:** The whole point of affordable housing is to help low-income families. What is the point of being vacant? Furthermore, residents of the area where new, affordable housing units are available should be given priority.

**RODRIGUEZ:** I would support legislation that gives New Yorkers in need access to affordable housing. If units are being intentionally withheld from New Yorkers in need and that meet all of the required qualifications for affordable housing, especially for profit, this is wrong and must be stopped.

**CASTELLANOS:** I agree no warehousing we need as many apartment in the market as possible

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

**PEREZ:** Yes.

**RODRIGUEZ:** Yes.

**CASTELLANOS:** 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?**

**PEREZ:** You must put an end to "broken windows".

**RODRIGUEZ:** I would support ending these policing practices. It is no mystery that communities of color suffer disproportionately at the hands of these kinds of policies, and I will always fight to end discriminatory policing practices in New York.

**CASTELLANOS:** All laws need to be enforced equally with out regards to a communities economical and ethnic composition.

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

**PEREZ:** As educators, in a public school we are held accountable at very high standards. The same should be true about NYPD: most men and women of NYPD honor their jobs but those who engaged in misconduct or abused their power should be held accountable for their actions.

**RODRIGUEZ:** Transparency and accountability in the NYPD are necessary and essential. When officers are found to have engaged in misconduct or abuse, these officers must be brought to justice and this begins with accountability and transparency.

**CASTELLANOS:** No one should be above the law.

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

**PEREZ:** The Mayor announced a plan in 2016 to reduce GHGs by 80%. I would like to review that plan and put it into motion.

**RODRIGUEZ:** I would support legislation that limits GHG emissions from buildings in NYC, and that impose penalties for parties that are found violating these regulations.

**CASTELLANOS:** Investing in public solar panels and rooftop gardening,

**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?**

**PEREZ:** I do not know why we are not moving in that direction already.

**RODRIGUEZ:** I would support a movement to shift NYC toward a public solar transition, which would create jobs and cut down greenhouse gas emissions. Communities in NYC suffer at the hands of poor environmental practices, which can create long term health and economic complications in our communities.

**CASTELLANOS:** Yes.

## 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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