

FAITH *over* FEAR

CANDIDATES

GUIDE *for*

District 40

Crown Heights, East Flatbush, Flatbush, Kensington,
Midwood, Prospect Park, and Prospect Lefferts Gardens

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



JENNIFER BERKLEY

*Democrat
Housing Advocate/
Tenant Organizer*



MATHIEU EUGENE

*Democrat
Council Member District 40
Greg Halzen from FINY Action has
transcribed responses from a Candidate's
Forum held on August 24th at Our Lady
of Refugee Church because candidate
did not respond to multiple request to
complete candidate survey.*



BRIAN CUNNINGHAM

*Democrat
Program Manager,
My Brother's Keeper Alliance*



PIA RAYMOND

*Democrat
Licensed Social Worker*

#FaithOverFear #FaithinNewYork #NYCcouncil



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

CUNNINGHAM: Yes absolutely. We need to do everything we can to resist and fight back against the un-American policies coming out of the White House.

BERKLEY: I would staunchly support New York City's status as a sanctuary city. Immigrants who have contributed to the social and economic life of the city should not be subjected to deportation because they don't have legal documentation or official papers. We need to ensure that the city will not allow ICE officials into our schools or turn over any citizenship-related documentation to the federal government.

RAYMOND: New York is not a true sanctuary city for people of color with Broken Windows Policing. We must end the practice before we begin the Sanctuary city discussion.

EUGENE: "We in the City Council have been taking action to protect the values of the United States. We are voting on legislation to declare that New York City continues to be a sanctuary city. We are coming together so that the federal government knows that we are still a sanctuary city."

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

CUNNINGHAM: Yes absolutely.

BERKLEY: I would end criminal penalties for minor infractions, including misdemeanor offenses (i.e. turnstile jumping, unpaid parking tickets) that should not threaten the immigration status of any New Yorker.

RAYMOND: Yes, no one should be deported for selling churros on 59th Street. Because of Broken Windows Policing and the election of Trump immigrants are being torn from their families.

EUGENE: No answer at 8/24 Candidates Forum.

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

CUNNINGHAM: I was born and raised in this community by a strong, supportive single mother. I am deeply concerned that families such as ours are now being pushed to the margins – literally – by displacement from rising rents and stagnant wages. Brooklyn has historically been a community where working families, particularly union households, could buy a home, raise children, and pursue the American Dream. I don't want those opportunities to disappear. We have a responsibility to guarantee that all workers are paid at least a living wage and ideally a thriving wage, that allows for security throughout life. I want to be the City Council member who stands up for working families.

BERKLEY: My greatest accomplishment has been helping tenants stay in their homes throughout my district through tenant organizing and advocacy, as well as negotiating, when possible, with landlords. I have prevented the displacement of hundreds of families and individuals throughout District 40 over the last several years. This is an accomplishment I am extremely proud of and will continue to build on as the next City Council Member from Flatbush.

RAYMOND: I am a licensed social worker, wife and mother. Although I served a non-profit organization in a senior administrative role, my salary did not afford me the quality child care that we desired. I resigned from the traditional workforce to care for our son and daughter despite the economic challenges. Many women are heads of the household and earn less. Thusly choosing to withdraw from the workforce to raise children can often lead to poverty. I want our children to grow up in a world where they know that whether they are male or female their earnings reflect that their work is valued and respected.

EUGENE: "All my life I have been serving the community. One of the most important things is related to the housing crisis you all know about. I have done so much in terms of protecting the tenants, helping the tenants stay in their apartments, and creating affordable housing in this district. When we talk about affordable housing we have to talk about good paying jobs so that people can afford the food and medicine they need as well as rent. All my life I have talked with youth and we are working to create opportunities, such as working with me in my office. In addition, my office has provided a lot of legal assistance to the community."

Describe the 3 biggest priorities for the district.

CUNNINGHAM: Creating and protecting affordable housing units. Given the uncertainty surrounding the future of the Affordable Care Act, I think it is extremely important for our city and state to enact universal healthcare legislation, which would grant medical coverage to every NYS resident. I support the NY Health Act and have been advocating for its passage in the state senate where media reports have said it is just one vote short of passage. I want to expand our investment in public schools. Today, there are too many children whose science classes have outdated equipment or whose English and math classes are using outdated textbooks. In addition, we have to invest in the women and men who educate our children, providing expanded opportunities for professional development and offering a contract that attracts the best and the brightest to the profession.

BERKLEY: My number one priority will be to end the assault on our district's affordable housing and protect tenants from being unjustly displaced, address the need for youth and young adult services in our community by initiating plans to construct a community center by 2021, and propose and pass a tax credit in the City Council for long-term homeowners in our community to ease the burden of municipal property tax increases, fees, and bills.

RAYMOND: 1. Equal Rights for Women, Human Rights for All; 2. Affordable Housing; 3. Quality Education

EUGENE: "Housing, Jobs, and Youth Opportunities"

Would you support continued funding to support detained immigrants?

CUNNINGHAM: Yes. I believe that every resident of NYC is a taxpayer and contributes to our great city and we should be there for them. Study after study shows how vital having legal representation is to better outcomes for defendants.

BERKLEY: In most cases, I would. Undocumented immigrants deserve the protections of due process, which often requires publicly funded legal representation. Immigrants are on U.S. soil, often work for U.S. employers and pay taxes, and deserve the protection of our legal system and laws.

RAYMOND: Yes, I am proponent of free legal services for immigrants, 90% of immigrants in housing court do not have a attorney.

EUGENE: No answer at 8/24 OLR forum. Did not respond to the candidate survey.

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?

CUNNINGHAM: I am opposed to these types of programs.

BERKLEY: I am strongly against the tracking of U.S. residents and/or citizens based on their religious identities. This practice is unconstitutional, and I would seek to terminate it among the NYPD, as well expunge the records of those wrongfully surveyed. It is the right of every citizen to have equal protection under the law regardless of religious belief.

RAYMOND: Freedom of religion should mean something. I do not support tracking residents because of their religions.

EUGENE: "In the City Council we are voting on legislation to protect everybody, to protect everyone regardless of race, ethnicity, faith, Muslim and Jew. We passed the legislation to protect Muslim holidays to allow students to participate with their community, for example. What makes the United States a strong country is the contribution of all of us without divisions. We have to fight together to protect the key values of the United States." Did not respond to the candidate survey.

What is your position on strengthening the reinstated Handschu Committee?

CUNNINGHAM: I support.

BERKLEY: The Handschu Committee should be strengthened by the inclusion of an empowered non-NYPD representative. The Occupy protests demonstrated that in moments of social unrest, the NYPD often seeks to circumvent the oversight placed upon them.

RAYMOND: Yes, a committee of your peers should not include all NYPD officers.

EUGENE: No direct answer at the 8/24 OLR forum. Did not respond to the candidate survey.

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

CUNNINGHAM: Yes absolutely. Hate crimes will not be tolerated.

BERKLEY: All hate crimes must be prosecuted under the law, and all persons must be protected vigilantly against hate-based violence motivated by the stain of prejudice.

RAYMOND: Yes, hate crimes are hate crimes, targeting people because they are different. I have been targeted by the police several times.

EUGENE: No answer at 8/24 OLR forum. Did not respond to the candidate survey.

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

CUNNINGHAM: I am oppose to any unlawful surveillance and unlawful tracking and arrests.

BERKLEY: Civil rights movements should not be subject to extra surveillance any more than an ordinary law-abiding citizen should be, and this includes Black Lives Matter. I am a member of Black Lives Matter in New York City.

RAYMOND: I do not support tracking non criminals because of their position of a city that historically arrests Af-Am; over 85% of the misdemeanor arrests in 2016 were people of color.

EUGENE: No answer at 8/24 OLR forum. Did not respond to the candidate survey.

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

CUNNINGHAM: Yes.

BERKLEY: Non-citizens should be allowed to vote in our municipal elections if they have resided in New York City for five or more years and can provide proof of residency. Parolees of non-violent felonies and other crimes should be allowed to vote in local elections, putting an end to this unjust disenfranchisement of folks who have served their time and paid their debt to society.

RAYMOND: Yes.

EUGENE: "Yes," supports enfranchisement of both parolees and green card holders.

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

CUNNINGHAM: I support. More transparency at the NYPD will lead to better police community relations as trust and mutual respect should improve.

BERKLEY: Yes. I believe it is vital to ensure that citizens are protected from overreach by law enforcement even in the legitimate interest of fighting terrorism. The more transparent we are, the stronger we are as a democracy.

RAYMOND: Yes, transparency is important; as Council Members we must provide oversight.

EUGENE: No answer at 8/24 OLR forum. Did not respond to the candidate survey.

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

CUNNINGHAM: I support the bill.

BERKLEY: I wouldn't object to this legislation and have seen it work in the Chelsea neighborhood in Manhattan, but I don't believe it will solve the major problem of landlord harassment across the city A certificate of No-Harassment is a useful, but extremely limited legal protection for tenants who are repeatedly subject to landlord harassment in efforts to get long-term and rent-regulated tenants out of their apartments

RAYMOND: One building in my district, 590 Flatbush, had over 261 evictions in a 2 year span. Many of those constituents were harassed by their landlord.

EUGENE: "Yes," supports the legislation. Said, "I have done so much to protect housing and in the City Council we have voted on legislation to protect housing including the right to arrest [landlords]. The tenant has the right to sue the landlord if they are harrassed. The Council just passed legislation to provide lawyers to tenants. In my office we provide lawyers to help people. We fund many nonprofit organizations to help protect tenants."

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?

CUNNINGHAM: I am strongly in favor of 100% affordable housing that is done by non-profit developers.

BERKLEY: I strongly support these revisions requiring a significant proportional increase in the amount of affordable housing provided by developers who seek public subsidies given the extremely high cost of housing in New York City.

RAYMOND: HPD should be transparent, true affordable housing starts with CMI not AMI.

EUGENE: At 8/24 Candidates Forum said there are people in the district paying \$250 rent because of the deal he struck with HPD.

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?

CUNNINGHAM: I need to learn about these 3 bills before taking a firm position. I support expanding tenants rights.

BERKLEY: Landlords benefit from good tenants, and good tenants, in turn, have the right to inhabit their apartments. There is no reason for landlords to violate that compact by letting available units lie vacant in the hope of reaping greater profits. Similar laws have been successful in San Francisco, California.

RAYMOND: I support the legislation.

EUGENE: At 8/24 Candidates forum said that he supports the legislation. Claimed to have created 700 units of affordable housing in the district. "I will create 900 more truly affordable housing units in the district."

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

CUNNINGHAM: Yes

BERKLEY: Yes

RAYMOND: Yes

EUGENE: At 8/24 candidates forum said "Yes," supports the legislation. "In the City Council we have done a lot to protect the community. We can talk about "Stop and Frisk" that we eliminated. And also we can talk about the "Right to Know Act" that before they stop and search police are required to ask permission."

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?

CUNNINGHAM: Yes.

BERKLEY: I oppose "broken windows" policing practices because they are disproportionately and most often unfairly used to over-criminalize low income communities of color. We cannot create the expectation that low income neighborhoods are hotbeds of criminality in the minds of our youth, law enforcement or the citizenry of New York City.

RAYMOND: Yes, a police precinct in my District arrests over 90% of people of color in 2016 for Broken Windows offenses, some of these residents went to Rikers Island, some are still awaiting trial.

EUGENE: "...One of the most important things we have to do is to have the police department change the training and spirit of the officers so they know they are there to serve the citizens. They are not there to do the other things. Protecting people and serving people is what they have to do. They must treat people with respect."

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

CUNNINGHAM: Yes. I always side on expanding transparency.

BERKLEY: Yes. I believe transparency is the key to accountability for the NYPD, and that in the long run it helps the NYPD build trust and support for their efforts in the community.

RAYMOND: Yes. They all have to be held accountable.

EUGENE: No answer at 8/24 OLR forum. Did not respond to the candidate survey.

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

CUNNINGHAM: We should incentivize landlords to upgrade their HVAC systems and old boilers to the newest in green efficient technology coupled with solar panels. I want our city to get all of its power from renewables by 2025.

BERKLEY: I would require the biggest polluters to be retrofitted for emission-filtering technologies as soon as possible. I would encourage new solar-friendly construction with tax abatements, but limit their duration so that the program can be sustained over time.

RAYMOND: A partnership with the state and nonprofits, a cross governmental program will give the project the most support.

EUGENE: “We need to discuss the creation of green space to protect mother nature. For example, I gave half a million dollars to the community to buy land for a community garden. And gave a lot of funding also to the park department because when we put into mother nature oxygen is life. We have to educate our children about how to protect mother nature. I think we have to prevent pollution and create green space.”

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?

CUNNINGHAM: Yes, absolutely.

BERKLEY: I do support a city-wide push to conversion toward solar energy and the creation of more green jobs to help move toward self-sustainable energy sourcing which means more solar power on public and private buildings to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. I support any greenhouse gas reducing measures that translate into local jobs and reinvestment in communities most affected by climate issues.

RAYMOND: Yes.

EUGENE: “It is very important to discuss this legislation and we have to think about natural energy. We must prevent pollution.”

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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