# FAITH over FEAR CANDIDATES GUIDE for

## District 6

Central Park, Lincoln Square, Upper West Side, Clinton New York City Primary Election Day is

**Tuesday September 12, 2017** 

New York City General Election Day is

**Tuesday November 7, 2017** 

POLLS OPEN 6AM-9PM

#### The Candidates



DR. CARY GOODMAN

Democrat

Exec. Director, 161st Street

Business Improvement District



**WILLIAM RAUDENBUSH** 

Democrat running as an Independant Software Entrepreneur



**DAVID OWENS** 

Independent
Director of Operations,
New York Grays Baseball Club



**MEL WYMORE** 

Democrat

Exec. Director, TransPAC



**HELEN ROSENTHAL** 

Democrat; Working Families Party; Women's Equality Party NYC Council Member, District 6



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

#### **GOODMAN:**

**OWENS:** Yes. Support law enforcement's refusal to help in the deportations.

**WYMORE:** Yes. As a member of the city council, I'll protect ALL New Yorkers. New York can absorb any potential funding loss from Donald Trump. Under no circumstances should we be cooperating with efforts to deport or otherwise target our residents, and the city needs to be much more proactive in winning essential protections at the state level. If ICE attempts to deport residents from my district, I will personally, physically stand in the way if that's what it takes.

**ROSENTHAL:** Yes. Simply put, NYC must refuse to comply with any Trump administration directives that could put undocumented City residents at risk. To protect against federal funds cut in retaliation, the Council should create a "rainy day" fund by reducing unnecessary tax breaks for luxury real-estate development.

**RAUDENBUSH:** I believe that all members of our community should be treated with dignity and respect. The idea that gainfully employed individuals contributing to our dynamic and diverse economy should be made to live in fear of deportation and separation from their loved ones is something I reject completely. New York's policies simply haven't changed much regarding how local law enforcement does and does not collaborate with ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) since the Trump Administration, so I sometimes question whether the repeated declaration of sanctuary city status is about protecting our undocumented residents, or about political grand-standing.

Would you support ending criminal penalties for minor infractions to limit arrests and potential threats to immigrants' status? **GOODMAN:** Yes. Immigration laws should not be used to intimidate and harass.

**OWENS:** Yes.

**WYMORE:** Yes. This is the right thing to do for our immigrant residents but also for all people of color, who are disproportionately affected by police profiling for small infractions which deserve a fine, not arrest.

**ROSENTHAL:** Yes. I'm proud to have co-sponsored legislation (passed in June 2016) to eliminate the requirement that the NYPD write a summons for 170 different low level crimes. Eliminating frivolous tickets will reduce pretexts for deportations.

**RAUDENBUSH:** Criminal penalties for minor infractions is an incredibly broad subject. The devil really is in the details as far as how, why, and what we legislate about how our law enforcement does their job. Decriminalizing, not legalizing, using of recreational drugs is good policy, period. Also, I am heartened that since my youth, police no longer jail people for smoking a cigarette on a subway platform or having an open container but rather issue fines and summonses. Generally speaking, I don't think protecting someone's undocumented immigration status should be at the forefront of decisions about what is illegal and legal as far as behavior that affects our communities' quality of life. That is where I stand, and I believe in being honest and forthright about my positions regardless of their popularity.

Describe your greatest accomplishment in advocating for constituents of the district. **GOODMAN:** Prevented the Museum of Natural History from commencing a toxic expansion plan; saved a playground from destruction in Central Park.

**OWENS:** Helping youths track towards better education and college.

**WYMORE:** As a 22-year member and two-term chair of Community Board 7, the accomplishment I'm most proud of was bringing together our neighborhood to take on the developers of Riverside Center. Because we united as a community, we forced the developer to pay for hundreds of millions of dollars in tangible benefits, including the first new school building on the Upper West Side in 30 years, 600 units of permanent affordable housing, and \$20 million for the renovation of Riverside Park. This is proof that if we organize, we can take on big real estate and get what our community needs.

**ROSENTHAL:** Supporting parent leaders who voted 9-1 in consensus vote to adopt the first public school integration plan for the Upper West Side in more than 50 years – relieving overcrowding and concentrated poverty - and helping persuade City Hall to adopt it. Plan endorsed by NY Times and Daily News.

**RAUDENBUSH:** I along with Olive Freud were at the forefront of filing the zoning challenge that halted the building of an out-of-scale out-of-context mega-tower at 200 Amsterdam Avenue. The nature of this effort makes this a New York City first, and I was the only candidate who helped Olive with the zoning challenge.

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

**GOODMAN:** End school desegregation - stop the expansion of the museum into public parkland - expand resources for senior citizens whose population is up 40%.

**OWENS:** Affordable Housing, Public Education, Quality of Life.

**WYMORE:** 1: Save local small businesses and fill empty storefronts. 2: Fight for public schools and reduce classroom overcrowding. 3: Expand affordable housing and services for seniors.

**ROSENTHAL:** 1) Protecting and expanding affordable housing programs; protect tenants from landlord abuses; 2) Continue efforts to preserve local independently owned retail shops, including fee and fines on storefronts kept vacant by landlords; 3) "Living wage" that can support families for all working New Yorkers; close gender wage gap.

**RAUDENBUSH:** "1. Increased participation in our democratic processes. It is the panacea that will fix our system so that broadly unqualified menaces like Donald Trump have no chance at elected office, let alone the highest in the land. 2. Zoning reform and keeping our public spaces like parks, public. I have by far the strongest platform on this issue, and am also the most knowledgeable and well-versed about the law, the spirit in which it was written, and how through uniting our communities, we can once and forever take our government back from the Real Estate Syndicate and other lobbying interests, and return it to the people who government rightfully should belong to.

# Would you support continued funding to support detained immigrants?

GOODMAN: Detainees require legal and social service support from the moment of their interface with ICE.

**OWENS:** Yes. Protect against Trump's immigration policies

**WYMORE:** Yes. Too many immigrants are forced to defend themselves without legal representation and therefore without real due process. I want every New York resident to have the access to a fair legal process. Right now, huge numbers of New Yorkers, immigrant and native, lack that access. That's unacceptable.

**ROSENTHAL:** Yes. As member of Council's Budget Negotiating Team, I've been proud to support funding New York Immigrant Family Unity Project since 2014. Funding representation for all immigrants facing deportation should continue with the same constituency. Inflection point for whether there's "equal justice for all" is: do you have a lawyer the moment you're arrested? Representation from "moment one" is fundamental to justice.

**RAUDENBUSH:** Absolutely. Everyone in out community deserves equal dignity and equal protection under the law, regardless of their immigration status.

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? **GOODMAN:** I consider FOIL an important element of our due process system. I don't agree with profiling people based on religion or ethnicity.

**OWENS:** Anti-Tracking, based on a protected class and wrongly collected surveillance.

**WYMORE:** Here on the Upper West Side we have many survivors of the Holocaust. Many are personal friends. They know better than anyone the dangers of tracking people based on their religion. I will oppose any such program and support purging all wrongly-collected data.

**ROSENTHAL:** Strongly oppose 1) tracking based on religious identity; 2) including national origin in equal protection; and 3) complying with Freedom of Information Law. Strongly favor expunging wrongly collected data on Muslim New Yorkers. "Tracking", "data collection", and "compliance" are the new code words for discrimination and abridging our freedoms.

**RAUDENBUSH:** I think we should take a lesson from the founding pilgrims who sailed to this country to escape religious persecution for their deeply held beliefs. Although they were deeply reverent and observant people, they knew it was pivotal to separate church from state to protect both of them. I find the tracking and data collection of someone based on anything but widely agreed upon criteria of criminal intent is abhorrent and damages not just the community it targets, but the relationship of that community to its neighborhood and surrounding communities. We're so much better than this, and need to immediately stop this practice, comply with all FOIL requests relating to this, and expunge any and all data collected based on religious affiliation that does not relate to an immediate criminal investigation. Tyranny comes to us when we reject our principles in exchange for easy or convenient solutions that scapegoat or group people unjustifiably without regard to their individual behavior.

What is your position on strengthening the reinstated Handschu Committee?

**GOODMAN:** N/A

**OWENS:** Support the principles of The Handschu agreement.

**WYMORE:** Strongly support. The NYPD needs oversight to ensure that people of all religions--or none at all--are protected.

**ROSENTHAL:** Strongly support a permanent, empowered non-NYPD representative to Handschu Committee. However, adding a civilian representative appointed by Mayor is not enough. Oversight by City's legislative branch should be incorporated by permanently adding to Handschu Committee the City Council Members who Chair the Council's Public Safety Committee and Immigration Committee.

**RAUDENBUSH:** Again, the devil is in the details. there needs to be an experience and an understanding of law enforcement and pragmatic oversight that goes along with anyone who oversees our police department. In principle, I agree with having an intensely qualified civilian as a permanent and empowered member of the Handschu Committee, but there has to be some agreement as to how do we make a functioning oversight apparatus work fairly for both law enforcement and civilians, and (as I think about many difficult policy matters) we can look at other cities that are executing oversight effectively to get a clue as to what this looks like.

Would you bring to justice the perpetrators of all types of hate crimes, including those based on religion, sexual orientation, race, and ethnicity? **GOODMAN:** Not the victims but the perpetrators.

**OWENS:** Yes.

**WYMORE:** As a transgender person, I've personally worked with victims of hate crimes who approached me looking for help, and who require more support from local elected officials. All victims of hate crimes deserve justice, but we also need to prevent these crimes in the first place.

Since the election of Donald Trump, hate crimes have exploded across the U.S., including here in New York. I've also spoken in Upper West Side schools on the topic of hate and how to identify and handle it. If elected I'll immediately convene working groups to continue working on this issue.

**ROSENTHAL:** Yes. Hate crimes strike at the heart of NYC's own collective identity: a place where people can live openly and thrive, regardless of their individual identity. It's essential to fight back against the waves of intolerance that now threaten the most distinctive and admirable parts of our culture.

**RAUDENBUSH:** Yes, absolutely. I would also like to see more work with restorative justice in communities where their is a undercurrent of divide based in religion, immigration status, race, ethnicity, gender, and sexual orientation/identity. We like to think we are much more accepting of difference than we really are; it's a part of our humanity. We need to work really hard on being more accepting, and dare I say loving, of those of us we see as the most different than us.

What is your position on law enforcement tracking members of civil rights movements? **GOODMAN:** I disagree with monitoring civil rights organizations by law enforcement.

**OWENS:** Opposed to any unlawful tracking of lawful groups.

**WYMORE:** This is a disturbing and dangerous practice, and one where we've failed to learn from history. The history of intimidation and monitoring of civil rights movements throughout the last century, such as the FBI's campaign to destroy Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., should not be repeated. Civil liberties movements have the right to exist and to advocate for our communities without fearing our government and law enforcement.

**ROSENTHAL:** Emphatically opposed to surveillance of civil rights movements, including Black Lives Matter. Law enforcement should focus on deterring violent crimes – including the disturbing rise of sexual assault in places like subways and college campuses – and not monitoring people who exercise freedoms protected by the First Amendment.

**RAUDENBUSH:** Firstly, Black Lives Matter. Let's get that out of the way. Secondly, tracking members of civil rights movements, regardless of what we are currently doing with the information is an instrument of tyranny, and one I reject completely.

Would you support legislation to allow non-citizen residents to vote in NYC elections? Allowing parolees to vote in local elections? **GOODMAN:** No to non-citizens. Yes to people on parole for nonviolent crimes.

**OWENS:** I support "Fair and consistent felon re-enfranchisement laws".

**WYMORE:** Yes and yes. Every New Yorker should have a say in our future. And if you've committed a crime and served your time, why should you lose this fundamental right?

**ROSENTHAL:** Yes to both. It's not right that a 20-year US resident who works, pays taxes, raised a family here and never committed a crime be prevented from voting. It's vital to remove stigmas and barriers to fully re-entering society for people (and their families) who have formerly been incarcerated.

**RAUDENBUSH:** I absolutely think parolees should be able to vote in local elections. Non-citizen residents should have a say in their community, so I think allowing them to vote at the local level is something worth looking into, especially because so few of our citizens elect to vote, and our democracy demands participation if it is to continue to thrive. We desperately need people who care about their community and local issues to participate, the more the merrier.

Do you support passing Intro. 1482 to increase oversight and comprehensive reporting of NYPD surveillance technology? **GOODMAN:** No - I agree that a special oversight by the judicial branch is sufficient.

**OWENS:** I support the present proposed 1482 legislation.

**WYMORE:** Yes. This bill has stagnated in committee as its cosponsors have failed to advance it. New Yorkers deserve to know exactly how the NYPD is surveying us and under what conditions. I'll be an active and tireless advocate for this and similar legislation.

**ROSENTHAL:** I'm a proud co-sponsor of Intro. 1482, and vigorously support its passage. Rapid advances in surveillance technology make encroachments on civil liberties – intended or otherwise – inevitable without enhanced oversight and reporting. NYC residents deserve to know how and why NYPD surveillance – both low and high tech – is being used.

**RAUDENBUSH:** I hope that people can understand that in order to maintain a free and equitable society, we need a level of transparency and accountability. That is what 1482 is all about. I am especially interested in the component of 1482 that would also have to disclose whether outside entities, including federal agencies, have access to the surveillance information.

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

#### **GOODMAN:**

**OWENS:** I support the current proposed legislation.

**WYMORE:** I'll strongly support any reasonable reforms to reduce tenant harassment. Unfortunately, this is another example of a bill which deserves consideration but hasn't gotten anywhere. Every Upper West Sider has the right to live without harassment. Unfortunately, many of our neighbors have been unable to get help on these issues in recent years. If elected I'll ensure that when you contact your council office for help, you'll get it—fast.

**ROSENTHAL:** I proudly co-sponsored the Certificate of No Harassment legislation - one of the most effective preventive tools to combat landlord harassment. Also: I served on the Task Force created after passage of Mandatory Inclusionary Housing and Zoning for Quality and Affordability legislation, to assist low and moderate-income New Yorkers.

**RAUDENBUSH:** I support this bill because Gale Brewer's involvement in crafting and creating this legislation puts my mind at ease that this is indeed good government meant to serve an important purpose: make sure construction is not used to displace residents so that their affordable housing is lost.

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?

**GOODMAN:** Absolutely. Affordable housing in most of the current planning is unaffordable to 40% of New Yorkers. **OWENS:** I support HPD when developers request subsides.

**WYMORE:** We need far more affordable housing. Long-time residents of our community can't afford to stay here. That's wrong, and I'll work to stop it by expanding access to affordable housing and rent-control programs. That said, tax giveaways for developers are the wrong approach. We should be taxing the largest corporations and richest New Yorkers fairly in order to pay for affordable housing for middle class and low-income New Yorkers.

**ROSENTHAL:** I strongly support requiring a significant increase in deeply affordable housing from developers. While New York has experienced a real-estate boom – with sharply rising prices – more than 40% of City residents live at or near the poverty level. These residents, our neighbors, need and deserve our help.

**RAUDENBUSH:** Affordable housing is far too often used in order to give massive giveaways to developers. We need to completely overhaul the incentive structure about how and what we give to developers in order to build REAL affordable housing. What's real affordable housing? Permanent affordable housing that is affordable based on the income of the surrounding neighborhood, not housing that is unaffordable to many neighborhood residents even though it fits the regulatory guidelines.

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?

**GOODMAN:** N/A

**OWENS:** I support accountability of vacant public & private property.

WYMORE: I strongly support reforms to prevent landlords from keeping housing vacant, including fees for empty spaces. It's outrageous that it hasn't been passed yet. I'd be a strong and ACTIVE advocate for these reforms. I also support putting similar fees on empty commercial spaces--the plague of empty storefronts across our neighborhood is a blight that deserves immediate attention.

ROSENTHAL: I've co-sponsored all three bills. "Warehousing" is among the most morally objectionable forms of profiteering: taking financial benefits paid for by the public and designed to aid people in need; preventing people in need from using it; and leveraging this public aid to create large-scale private wealth.

**RAUDENBUSH:** This is very incomplete legislation that lacks a plan on the back end to give the exact details and process for how the inventory will turn into affordable housing. I think we need to focus on creating more permanent affordable housing, and institute transitional housing for newly homeless. Something we have not understood about our homeless process is that there is input, output, and throughput of the problem. I would like to see this legislation be more complete as to exactly how it helps our housing and homeless housing crisis long term, I think the supporters of this legislation are up to the task, and I am eager to help in this effort. We also need to start being more realistic about our incoming need for much more senior housing.

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

**Would you support** 

current "broken

windows" policing

practices that over

criminalize minor

crimes and quality

of life infractions

in low-income communities of

color?

**GOODMAN:** No. **OWENS:** Yes. **WYMORE:** Yes. **ROSENTHAL:** Yes.

**RAUDENBUSH:** Yes.

ending the NYPD's **OWENS:** Yes.

GOODMAN: I don't support decriminalizing public urination and drinking. I do support it for fare-jumping and possession of small quantities of marijuana.

**WYMORE:** Yes. Broken windows has proven to be racist and ineffective.

**ROSENTHAL:** Yes. I proudly co-sponsored the Criminal Justice Reform Act, whose passage marked a key push back against over-criminalizing minor crimes and quality of life offenses. As hard data shows, "broken windows" does not reduce crime; it does, through pointless incarceration, increase broken families and re-enforce discrimination and inequality.

RAUDENBUSH: That's a broad question, and although I support ending the arrest for some minor infractions, I do not support decriminalizing graffiti on subway cars and urinating in public, two enforcement actions that have historically helped to create a seismic shift in our quality of life.

What is your position regarding transparency and accountability of the NYPD when officers have engaged in misconduct or abuse? GOODMAN: I believe the NYPD and NYC are working to strike a balance between accountability and punitive policies.

**OWENS:** Everyone should be held accountable for illegal activity.

WYMORE: The NYPD needs greater accountability and civilian oversight. Abuse that impacts our most vulnerable populations is not acceptable.

ROSENTHAL: Police officers have a very difficult job, but they are not above the laws they enforce. Passage of the Right To Know and Right To Record Acts would be an important step towards building public confidence in transparency and accountability. Taking administrative steps alone is an improvement but insufficient.

RAUDENBUSH: Body cameras are a good step for NYPD. I am disappointed that their rollout seems so contentious and bungled, when cities like San Diego have a widely successful program lauded by both the community and the police department. Our regulatory and implementation does not require us to reinvent the wheel. Use the existing frameworks that have proven effective, and steer clear of frameworks and apparatuses that have not worked. This is what effective leaders do, they mimic other effective leaders on issues they are new to, and use successful existing outcomes to create more successful outcomes.

How would you propose to cut greenhouse gas emissions from those buildings that are the biggest & dirtiest in the city? **GOODMAN:** Eliminate funding for all new buildings that don't develop net-zero energy plans. Provide substantial tax credits for retrofitting twinned with stiff penalties for landloards who defile Mother Earth.

**OWENS:** Support PlaNYC and Local Law 22 NYC Climate Protection Act.

**WYMORE:** Climate change is already killing New Yorkers and is an existential threat to our city. I've been working to reduce our GHG emissions for decades and want to make our current strategy much more aggressive. The vast majority of New York City's carbon emissions are from heating and cooling of buildings. I'll work to require every new building to use a renewable heating and cooling system instead of a dirty boiler, and to produce at least 10% of their own energy needs, forcing architects and engineers to incorporate green designs into all of their projects. Existing buildings need rapid modifications to switch fuel sources and conversion to renewables. Finally, we need to fully electrify our vehicle fleet.

**ROSENTHAL:** NYC can lead by example, aggressively moving its large stock of publicly owned buildings away from fossil fuels and towards renewable energy. Tax incentives can steer private buildings this way. I've sponsored legislation accelerating the phase out of dirty fuel oil and creating an expedited process for green renovation projects. I believe we should require all new buildings to meet the passive building standards.

**RAUDENBUSH:** It's time to invest heavily in renewable energy and set the highest standards of environmental design and stewardship. Although I simply don't have a solution for those buildings built fairly under a bad ruleset that allows them to be eco-unfriendly, I think we need to set very high standards for any and all new development projects as far as expectations and outcomes in regards to environmental impact if these projects wish to garner city approval to move forward.

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?

**GOODMAN:** 100%.

**OWENS:** I would, wherever feasible.

**WYMORE:** Absolutely. Every building in New York City, not just public buildings, should be generating their own electricity. Low-income communities in New York are also the most affected by pollution and its associated health problems--what's called "environmental racism." Shifting to widespread solar generation is a great way to create new green jobs and to uplift communities which have been economically left behind and are most at-risk.

**ROSENTHAL:** Yes. As Chair of the Committee on Contracts, I held an Oversight Hearing (January 2017) on the status of the City's plan to put solar on public buildings. During this Hearing, we learned about the number of projects funded through a Power Purchase Agreement and how many are managed by city workers. During the Hearing we held the Administration's feet to the fire regarding NYC's progress toward reaching 100 megawatts (and beyond) of municipal solar capacity; their CUNY programs to train people for green jobs and hire local for the City-led solar projects; including requirements in the PPA's to train and hire local; and making sure this investment would benefit affected and low-income communities.

**RAUDENBUSH:** Yes, although I have grave concerns about other bills making their way through City Council that would fast-track and possibly sidestep community review processes for green projects, especially because the threshold for what makes these projects green is either impossibly low, or not defined at all. A truly green project, one that seeks to obtain LEED Platinum status should get our extra attention and help in approval, but nothing less.

#### **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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