

FAITH *over* FEAR

CANDIDATES

GUIDE *for*

District 9

*Central Harlem, Morningside Heights,
Upper West Side, East Harlem*

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



TYSON-LORD GRAY

*Democrat
Professor*



BILL PERKINS

*Democrat;
Working Families Party
NYC Council Member, District 9*



MARVIN HOLLAND

*Democrat
Political and Legislative
Director, Transport
Workers Union*



MARVIN SPRUILL

*Democrat
Security Sales; Actor*

#FaithOverFear #FaithinNewYork #NYCcouncil



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

PERKINS: Yes. We must stand up to the hatred and discrimination carried out against immigrant communities, continue to support and provide sanctuary for all, and prevent the devastation to families and communities created by mass deportation policies.

SPRUILL: Absolutely. Sanctuary cities are an extension of the obligation that elected officials have of ensuring the safety and well being of their constituents. Our city should be asserting and defending the premise that everyone, regardless of immigration status, deserves dignified and fair treatment.

GRAY: Yes, I believe that policies advanced by the current administration are harmful to immigrants and that New York City has a responsibility to provide a safe space for those being persecuted.

HOLLAND: Yes, I would defend NYC's status as a sanctuary city. I would not allow law enforcement to ask people for their immigration status.

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

PERKINS: Yes. With Trump in Washington, we need to do everything we can locally to strengthen NYC protections for immigrants and prevent families from being torn apart.

SPRUILL: Yes, I would support it. It's not fair to be deported for something that's not a criminal act regardless of their status. Also funds that are used for legal defense on minor incidents can be used for more serious infractions.

GRAY: I do not believe in policies that seek to threaten the immigration status of immigrants. However, I would not want to overlook criminal activity. If the law is being selectively applied or is prejudicial to immigrants I would support a repeal or revision of the law.

HOLLAND: Yes. As a transit worker for over twenty-five years I have seen first-hand how crimes like fare beating can spin out of control. With Trump in the White House we must be extra mindful of this.

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

PERKINS: Impossible to choose just one: standing with Central Park 5 until proven innocent; taking on landlords to pass Lead Poisoning Prevention Act; exposing nationwide HUD hurting Harlem tenants; standing up for quality public schools for all children; sponsoring the living wage law; advocating for residents every day; and more.

SPRUILL: My greatest accomplishment in advocating for constituents was building community relationships, organizing a Christmas tree lighting ceremony for Harlem residents, and also organized an It's My Park Day that consisted of cleaning the park, painting the benches and planting flowers.

GRAY: Greatest is a difficult standard. However, one that I am very proud of is the free environmental conference hosted by my nonprofit organization Green Community Vision, in partnership with First Corinthian Baptist Church, with speakers from Harlem Grown, WE ACT, Green Mountain Energy, and USAgain.

HOLLAND: Just this week alone I had an abusive manager to residents of a senior removed from a senior building in Harlem, visited young men on Rikers Island to get them suits for court, started a voter registration drive for fathers in NYCHA, and chartered two buses to D.C. for young people to the African American museum.

Describe the 3 biggest priorities for the district.

PERKINS: Improving education – so every child has the chance for a good education and opportunity to succeed; Increasing affordability – including protecting and creating affordable housing and making healthcare and services more accessible; Creating jobs and opportunity – including increasing pay and benefits, helping small businesses grow and providing job training.

SPRUILL: My 3 biggest priorities for the district if elected will be to preserve and create low income housing. And also start some sort of program so tenants can start owning their apartments opposing to just renting them. Second, job creation with the proper healthcare. We have to take economic inequality head on and that means raising wages and launching more Harlemites into the middle class bracket.

GRAY: Affordable Housing, Better Schools, and a Cleaner/Healthier Community.

HOLLAND: 1) Housing - increase affordable home ownership, stop privatization of NYCHA and protect our senior housing stock; 2) Jobs - create jobs in the environmental and tech sector; 3) Education - bring charter school and district school parents together to have a real conversation around the education of our children in Harlem.

Would you support continued funding to support detained immigrants?

PERKINS: Statistics clearly demonstrate the importance for immigrants to have a lawyer to avoid deportation and ripping families apart. We must strengthen protections and do everything we can to give all a fair shot and due process.

SPRUILL: Yes. Continued funding provides immigrants with the necessary legal defense to fight their cases including those with legitimate claims for legal status in the U.S.

GRAY: Not enough info provided regarding the budget and allocation of funds to answer.

HOLLAND: Yes, with what's going on at the national level we must do all we can to protect immigrants at the local level.

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?

PERKINS: The NYPD must not spy on the perfectly innocent activities of innocent Americans and other legal residents and must expunge all wrongly collected surveillance data.

SPRUILL: I firmly stand against the tracking of United States citizens based on their cultural affiliations. No law should target people according to race, religion or national origin including Muslims.

GRAY: I do not believe in tracking anyone based on their religious identity.

HOLLAND: I think it's wrong to track US residents and/or citizens because of their religious identity and would sponsor legislation to stop it. And all wrongly collected surveillance on Muslims should be expunged.

What is your position on strengthening the reinstated Handschu Committee?

PERKINS: While reinstating Handschu Committee was a positive step, much more needs to be done including having a permanent and empowered non-NYPD representative, and requiring court approval of the removal of the civilian monitor.

SPRUILL: I definitely support an independent civilian to monitor the New York Police Counterterrorism activities. This is a safeguard that will be a strong check against the discriminatory surveillance of Muslims and minorities in our communities. This will add some transparency and a level of public trust that we're continuing to keep the city safe, but in a lawful way. I welcome and embrace that.

GRAY: I would approve such a decision.

HOLLAND: I thought they had added a non-NYPD representative to the Handschu committee but if they haven't we should add them and make it permanent immediately.

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

PERKINS: Yes, we must bring justice to the victims of hate crimes. I understand the destructive power of discrimination, and take the commitment to eradicate it everywhere and for everyone personally. Throughout my life, I've fought for fairness and basic justice, and against hatred and discrimination.

SPRUILL: Yes, I absolutely would bring justice to the victims of hate crimes. Based on all the above. Hate crimes are unacceptable. These cowardly acts are crimes against all of us.

GRAY: Yes, any crime based on a person's identity should be considered a hate crime.

HOLLAND: Yes, I would work towards bringing victims of hate crimes to justice. As the parent of gay black male I understand the importance of standing up for everyone.

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

PERKINS: Opposed to all tracking and surveillance based on political beliefs or affiliations.

SPRUILL: No group of people should be targeted because of their affiliation to any civil rights movements without probable cause. In my opinion it seems discriminatory.

GRAY: I do not approve of such policies.

HOLLAND: As a board member of the NAACP, I teach young activists, particularly BLM, about COINTELPRO. Clearly I don't like law enforcement tracking civil rights activists but it is important that we teach them this is nothing new to the Black community.

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

PERKINS: I sponsored legislation to permit non-citizen voting in municipal elections and have co-sponsored the New York is Home Act to grant state citizenship, including the right to vote in local and state elections, to non-citizens who have lived in New York and paid taxes for at least three years.

SPRUILL: I would not allow non-residents access to voting privileges because of their status, but parolees should have the option to vote in elections to make them feel like a part of society again.

GRAY: Parolees - yes. Non-citizen residents - no.

HOLLAND: I would support legislation to allow non-citizen residents to vote in NYC elections provided we put in mechanisms to show they are long-term residents of the community.

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

PERKINS: Yes, I'm proud to co-sponsor. The public deserves the right to understand why certain law enforcement decisions are being made. This bill will help protect the privacy rights of New Yorkers. NYC should lead the country into a new era of transparency and this is a positive step in that direction.

SPRUILL: No, I do not support passing Intro. 1482. Surveillance information can get into the wrong hands. The consequences of the proposed legislation would be that with more knowledge of city systems, vulnerabilities can come to light and be explored, creating an effective blueprint for those seeking to do harm.

GRAY: Yes, New Yorkers deserve greater transparency regarding the surveillance technology being utilized.

HOLLAND: Yes, I support the passing of 1482. It is even more important now to know what is going on with surveillance technology at the local level with the out of control service technology at the national level.

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

PERKINS: Support. We must do everything we can to protect often defenseless tenants from being harassed by landlords in their attempts to push people who helped build communities out of their communities through gentrification.

SPRUILL: I support certificate bill Intro. 152-A because it would alter the balance of power among tenants, landlords, city officials and housing courts.

GRAY: I fully support this legislation.

HOLLAND: The passing of Intro. 152A is sorely needed in district nine. As a board member of PALANTE Harlem we deal with the issue of landlord harassment on a daily basis.

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?

PERKINS: Support. With city exemptions and subsidies must come responsibilities. It is important that we demand more from developers so people who live in our community can afford to stay in our community.

SPRUILL: My position on revising term sheets should remain focused on the neighborhoods' interest, meaning low-income and moderate-income tenants benefit from significantly real affordable housing.

GRAY: I support such an action.

HOLLAND: Perhaps the number one cause for the decreasing amount of affordable housing in NYC is the idea of giving developers tax breaks and subsidies to create affordable housing. Therefore the idea of revising term sheets for developers to increase the amount of deeply affordable housing appears to be a step in the right direction.

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?

PERKINS: Support and am co-sponsor.

SPRUILL: I support the proposed Housing Not Warehousing legislation Intro.'s 1034, 1036, 1039 to empower the city to quantify vacant buildings and lots to create pathways to transform properties into permanent low-income housing.

GRAY: I fully support this legislation.

HOLLAND: I am very supportive of the legislation to stop the warehousing of affordable housing as this is a major problem in Harlem and a major contributor to the gentrification and homelessness in Harlem and throughout NYC .

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

PERKINS: Yes.
SPRUILL: Yes.
GRAY: Yes.
HOLLAND: 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?

PERKINS: Yes.
SPRUILL: Yes.
GRAY: Yes!
HOLLAND: Yes, I would support ending broken windows policy.

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

PERKINS: We should have a zero tolerance penalty for false official statements by public officers, require the NYPD to publish a regular report of use of force incidents with data broken down by race, and grant the CCRB authority to prosecute officers who lie under oath during the course of their investigations.
SPRUILL: Officers should be exposed and terminated and arrested if necessary. They should go to jail just like anybody else would.
GRAY: I believe more transparency is necessary.
HOLLAND: There is a need for more transparency and accountability of the NYPD that have engaged in misconduct and abuse. I would like to take a look at body cameras for officers.

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

PERKINS: Buildings account for nearly three-quarters of all NYC emissions. Especially with President Trump's climate change denial, actions that cut greenhouse gas emissions from those buildings become even more important. We should make it easier for buildings to convert to cleaner fuels through partnerships, incentives and financing.
SPRUILL: Buildings should be fined if they do not use green materials and conserve the amount of GHGs that are emitted. Buildings should provide its tenants with opportunities to use energy-saving materials such as improving heating systems, preventing energy loss from windows, air conditioning units, etc., and using energy-efficient lighting.
GRAY: I believe we need to invest in green infrastructure i.e. solar panels on rooftops. This would minimize energy costs and reduce the building's carbon footprint.
HOLLAND: Since the Bloomberg administration, we have been trying to move the towards retrofitting buildings to reduce greenhouse gases. One of the major reasons I'm running for the city council is we need council members to think about infrastructure investment and job creation in Black and Brown communities.

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?

PERKINS: Yes. Green jobs are a win-win that must be advanced. It combats climate change by continuing to halt the expansion of damaging fossil fuels and can provide thousands of new jobs. We have to be bold in our ambition to build a clean-energy economy that works for everybody.
SPRUILL: Absolutely!!
GRAY: Yes!
HOLLAND: Absolutely. I would support moving NYC towards a public solar transition. As a political director for a major union we have been pushing for local job creation with the NYC Central Labor Council (CLC).

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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