



CANDIDATE & CAMPAIGNS EXERCISE NYC DISTRICT X

GET TO KNOW DISTRICT X AND THE CANDIDATES:

District X in New York City, with a population of 115,000 voters is having its city council election this year. Voter turnout in the district is historically very low, at between 15 and 20% in its primary elections. This is the first RCV election in District X. There is a significant multigenerational immigrant population from different waves of immigration dating back to the 1930's in District X. District X is 40% Latino, 30% white, 20% Black, and 10% AAPI. In addition, 30% of the population is folks over 60. The district is experiencing an influx of young families that moved to the area for easy access to other parts of the city which has resulted in housing costs increasing. The District's neighborhood schools are struggling, and the problem seems to be getting worse for lack of funding at the state and local levels and newer families deciding to place their kids in private or charter schools. The district has seen an increase in family businesses closing due to rising rent and has also seen an explosion of short term rentals to accommodate tourists, while there is a growing shortage of long-term housing.



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YOU: MARITZA ROMERO

- 59-year-old Dominican American woman. Speaks English and Spanish fluently.
- Born and raised in the district in NYC, and in Florida. Attended college in Florida to become a teacher. Came back to NYC to work and raise a family.
- Recently retired public school teacher and administrator. Worked in NYC Public Schools for 30 years. Was a special-ed teacher for grade-schoolers, a history and government teacher for high schoolers, and ended her career as a high school principal, where she was loved and well respected. Won awards, etc.
- Served on the PTA for the past 8 years.
- Has three children whom she mostly raised as a single mom. Her children are now grown.
- Her oldest daughter has a young child- they live with Maritza now.
- Is active in several local non-profit organizations advocating for immigrant rights, early childhood education, and housing justice.
- Her husband, who passed away five years ago, was a mechanic who owned and operated a neighborhood auto repair shop, which closed soon after his passing.
- Publicly financed.



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PAUL PROBONO:

- 49-year-old Caucasian man born and raised in a different district in NYC. Speaks English.
- Business man. Owns a construction company, as well as three apartment buildings.
- Incumbent.
- Serves on many business organizations as well as several community-based organizations that focus on skills building and job training.
- Good relationship with developers and real estate folks in general.
- He has a wife and two children attending NYC private schools.
- Volunteers as a baseball coach in kid's school. Volunteers at homeless shelter. Raises funds for homeless shelter by hosting a big block party every year. Active church member. Runs marathons and is an avid bike commuter.
- As city council member, has sponsored legislation to fix local infrastructure (roads, sidewalks, improve parks), and has been a champion for increased housing development. Has voted against minimum wage increases for tipped workers and short term rental regulations.
- Main issues are economic development, beautification of the district, good roads (walkability/bikeability), outdoor recreation.
- Privately financed.



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RENEE SULLIVAN

- 44-year-old Caucasian woman.
- Moved to NYC 25 years ago from Burlington, VT to go to art school.
- Has spent her career trying to integrate art and access to public art into the community. She owns a gallery that provides a free summer art camp to local kids.
- Has never held public office.
- Is married to a self-employed graphic designer. Has two young kids, one in middle school in her neighborhood public school and one in high school at Bronx Science.
- Is a breast cancer survivor, the costs of her treatment put her family in significant debt.
- Has always been involved in local politics, but became more active in the party after the 2016 election.
- She organizes two fundraising events at her gallery every year, showcasing local artists. One to raise funds for the summer camp, one to raise funds for breast cancer survivors.
- Main issues are green economy, arts in schools, and healthcare.
- Publicly financed.



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ANTHONY WILLIAMS, JR. (Goes by AJ)

- 32-year-old African-American man.
- Born and raised in the district. Now lives there with his wife and 2-year-old son.
- His father was a pastor in one of the local churches and was a leader in the community. He passed away 3 years ago.
- He grew up helping his father in his ministry and helping the community.
- Attended local public schools, went to undergrad at Penn and law school at Berkeley for their public interest program.
- Moved back to The District 3 years ago with his wife when his father became ill.
- Currently works for a small civil rights law firm. For the first few years after law school, he worked at a large corporate firm.
- His wife is a lawyer who works in the financial district.
- He volunteers at his church, organized several know-your-rights community meetings geared towards educating residents about predatory housing practices.
- Main issues are beautification of the district, green development, fair housing, and living wage.
- Has been vocal in the community about his issues with Paul Probono's voting record which inspired him to run for office.
- Publicly Financed.