

**Thank you for agreeing to complete the South Central Brooklyn United for Progress AD51 candidate questionnaire. Your answers to these questions will be made available to the public on our website, <http://scbkunitedforprogress.org/>, and will be promoted on our Facebook page and twitter feed.**

**Answers are due by end of day February 20 if you want to be considered for endorsement!**

**Campaign Information**

What is your name?

Marcela Mitaynes

What office are you running for?

NY State Assembly, District 51

Who is the point of contact for your campaign and what is the best way to get in touch with them?

Alex Pellitteri, Campaign Manager, [alex@marceleforny.org](mailto:alex@marceleforny.org)

What is your campaign address?

Marcela for New York, PO Box 320601, Brooklyn, NY 11232

What is your campaign phone number?

917.929.2376

What is your campaign email?

[marcela@marcelaforny.org](mailto:marcela@marcelaforny.org)

What is your campaign website?

Marcelaforny.org

Is your campaign on social media? If so, what platform(s) and what are the names?

Twitter/Facebook/Instagram: MarcelaforNY

## Campaign Issues

What do you feel are the biggest challenges facing New Yorkers and those in your district regarding **health care** and what would you do to address them?

The biggest challenge regarding healthcare is that our healthcare system is run by private companies that prioritize their bottom line over the healthcare needs of their customers. This means that, even with the Affordable Care Act, many individuals and families are still eligible for healthcare due to their immigration status; it also means that many working families making just above the cutoff for Medicaid cannot afford comprehensive health insurance, opting instead for the cheapest plans which fail to provide coverage for comprehensive care. I support the NY Health Act, which is the current proposal for single payer health care coverage in Albany, and which provides affordable, comprehensive care, regardless of immigration status. I also support a state-funded expansion of the Essential Plan, which would provide affordable health insurance for immigrants not currently eligible for Medicaid due to immigration status.

What do you feel are the biggest challenges facing New Yorkers and those in your district specifically **immigrant rights and access to resources** and what would you do to address them?

The most immediate issue is that many in our immigrant community live in fear of ICE-- a brazen law enforcement agency that, as we've recently witnessed in Brooklyn, feels unconstrained in its use of violence against communities like ours. I support making NYS a true sanctuary state, through the passage of the Liberty Act and the Protect Our Courts Act-- we must end cooperation between state and city law enforcement with ICE, and ban state and city resources from being used to aid federal immigration enforcement. Additionally, I would advocate for expansion of, and funding for, services for immigrant communities, including legal representation for immigrants facing deportation, expansion of health coverage regardless of immigration status, multilingual child and adult education programs. Immigrants, like myself, are an essential part of the fabric of NY, and we must make sure they have the tools and support they need to thrive.

What do you feel are the biggest challenges facing New Yorkers and those in your district regarding **civil rights and criminal justice** and what would you do to address them?

In addition to the immigration issues discussed above, our communities continue to be overpoliced by the NYPD. We must re examine the role police play in our community, for example police have no place in schools. I also want to guarantee protections against racial discrimination in education and employment, end workplace discrimination and wage gaps by imposing harsher fines and pass legislation to provide reparations.

What do you feel are the biggest challenges facing New Yorkers and those in your district regarding **public schools and education** and what would you do to address them?

Our schools are grossly underfunded-- because Albany has failed to comply with the Campaign for Fiscal Equity court order to fund a "sound and basic" education for NYC schools, which amounts to \$4.1 billion owed to NYC schools to date. With that funding, our schools would be able to deal with

overcrowding and teacher recruitment and retention; we could expand social and medical services, and improve our job and college readiness programs; we could hire social workers instead of cops to deal with disciplinary issues, and put an end to the school to prison pipeline. I will fight in Albany for a budget that puts people before profit, and that finally pays NYC schools the funds they are owed under the Campaign for Fiscal Equity court ruling.

What do you feel are the biggest challenges facing New Yorkers and those in your district regarding **housing** and what would you do to address them?

Our biggest challenge regarding housing is that our society sees it as a commodity-- something to be sold to the highest bidder-- and not as a human right. For over a decade, I have been working in our community as a tenant and community organizer, fighting this problem on the individual and the societal level. I have worked with thousands of South Brooklyn tenants to organize against abusive landlords and helped pass historic housing legislation last session. I also plan to be a strong advocate for the good cause evictions bill so that no one is displaced.

What do you feel are the biggest challenges facing New Yorkers and those in your district regarding **public transit** and what would you do to address them? Working class is struggling and transportation is an added expense. We must make public transportation free and accessible to all. We need to add more transportation options like linking the ferry service to metro cards for a transfer. We can also expand express bus services to communities that are transportation desserts like Red Hook.

What more do you think could be done in regards to **street safety** in your district and/or in all of New York City / State? It seems like drivers, bikers and pedestrians have forgotten that we share the road. We all can benefit from transportation education. We need to be able to communicate with one another on the road. Possibly link with insurance companies to provide savings for additional safety training which benefit all.

What is your vision for a just and equitable **New York election and campaign finance system**?

I hope to expand on the electoral reforms passed last legislative session. I also seek to make candidate contributions more accessible to the general public and implement matching funds for state and federal elections.

What is your opinion on the **Industry City rezoning** and what would you do about it? As a tenant advocate and organizing, it breaks my heart to see what is happening. This rezoning has the potential to wipe out the immigrant population and we are already seeing it. IC has proven to be bad neighbors so why should we allow them to expand? They are extracting wealth, getting rich off the displacement of the working class. They are contributing to the rapid gentrification of our community. There are approximately 26 families who will directly be displaced but because they make less than 1% of the population, they are insignificant. No one is talking about the infrastructure. There needs to be a moratorium on all rezoning until the city and our community can have a comprehensive plan for our future.

What other issues do you consider important and how will you address them?

While this questionnaire is very comprehensive, I also want to make CUNY/SUNY free, have higher taxes on the 1% and work to create more political participation by immigrants.

Assembly District 51 encompasses many different communities and diverse neighborhoods. How do you plan to give voice to the communities and engage them in partnership?

Constituent services will be a priority for me if elected. In addition to holding regular town halls, I will ensure my district office is accessible for everyone. I will make sure all people have a seat at my table. As an immigrant, woman of color and tenant, I know what it's like to not have your voice heard, which is why I will fight so hard for all my neighbors.

**For fun (answers to these questions are not required)**

If your district had a musical anthem, what would it be and why? We are the world. Now more than ever our diversity must be preserved.

What is your favorite restaurant in your district? Mis Angelitos Bakery on 40th and 5th. I highly recommend you check it out!