

Marcela Mitaynes

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Name	Marcela Mitaynes
Office Sought (New York State)	Assembly
District Number	51
Email:	marcela@marcelaforny.org
Party Affiliation(s)	Democrat, also endorsed by the Working Families Party
Age	46
Education	Associates Degree in Accounting from CUNY Kingsborough
Occupation/Employer	Tenant Organizer, Neighbors Helping Neighbors
Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement	Member, Housing Committee Chair- Community Board 7 President- PS 69 PTA Board Member- Tenants PAC
Campaign Manager Name	Alex Pellitteri
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If elected, which legislative conference will you join (e.g., Republican, Democrat, other)?	Democrat
Have you completed the required campaign finance filings?	Yes
Are you willing to be interviewed by Citizens Union's Local Candidates Committee?	Yes
Signature	



1. Replace the Joint Commission on Public Ethics and the Legislative Ethics Commission with an effective and independent enforcement body (S594A/A1282A).

Support

2. Limit outside compensation earned by state legislators and statewide officials to 25% of their salaries and eliminate stipends.

Support

3. Do you support or oppose the following changes to the state's current registration and voting system?

a. No-excuse absentee voting (second passage of constitutional amendment)

Support

b. Election Day voter registration (second passage of constitutional amendment)

Support

c. Re-enfranchisement of people on parole automatically through legislation, without requiring a Certificate of Good Conduct or Relief

Support

d. Automatic voter registration, unless the potential voter opts out

Support

e. Mandating poll sites on college campuses

Support

4. Reform the special election process, utilizing a nonpartisan special election for state legislative seats and eliminate delays in filling vacancies.

Support

5. Reduce the vote threshold to become a registered party back to 50,000 votes and keep the gubernatorial election as the qualifying election, and reduce the petition requirement for independent candidates back to 15,000 signatures.

Support

6. Amend the state's public campaign financing system, approved in the 2021 budget, by

a. Drastically reduce campaign contribution limits

Support

b. Set even lower contribution limits for registered lobbyists and those who do business with the state

Support

c. Move the campaign finance matching program to be administered by an independent, nonpartisan body outside of the NY Board of Election

Support

d. Simplify the matching system by making both in- and out-of-district donations eligible and by eliminating the three different tiers for matching

Support

7. Require full disclosure of grants and contracts issued by the state, including the budget lines from which the spending is made and reporting on the results of each grant or contract over a certain amount.

Support

8. Provide for effective online disclosure and itemization of spending from elected officials' lump sum appropriations, including reporting on potential conflicts of interest and how the funds are spent.

Support

9. Repeal Civil Rights Law, Sec. 50-a, which shields from public view the disciplinary records of police officers, correction officers, and firefighters.

Support

10. Restructure the state Board of Elections to abolish the strict two-party division of governance and operation and put in place professional, nonpartisan administration.

Support

11. Empower the attorney general to investigate and prosecute election law malfeasance and cases of public corruption.

Support

12. Make mayoral control of city schools permanent, with a governance system that provides for accountability, transparency, parent engagement, and democratic participation.

Support

13. Simplify and consolidate New York State's court system by passing the Chief Judge's proposed constitutional amendment to modernize the courts.

Support

14. Adopt technological solutions and provisions that will allow the New York State legislature to convene and vote remotely if needed.

Support

15. Provide public access to

Support

observe and participate in government proceedings, in meetings that would be public under the New York Open Meetings Law, via live and recorded video available on government websites.

16. Implement immediate programs to facilitate absentee voting for all New York voters as long as the widespread contagion risk of COVID-19 continues, under current state constitutional limitations. This includes electronic submission of absentee ballot applications without a wet signature and a public information campaign.

Support

17. What are your concerns regarding the use of emergency powers during this crisis, and how do you think NY government can maintain public accountability standards at this time?

While the government has taken some steps to implement social distancing, it is vital they remain accountable. We must ensure that any new laws implemented to combat COVID are done with our public safety in mind. When elected, I will serve as a watchdog to Governor Cuomo and the rest of the political establishment and ensure our needs are the ones being represented.

18. What are the biggest challenges in your district in dealing with the coronavirus outbreak?

The primary challenge my neighbors are facing is paying rent. While the eviction moratorium is a first step, many families now have no income and cannot make payments. They are worried about being displaced once the moratorium is lifted. That's why I am calling for the immediate suspension of all rent and mortgage payments.

19. What are the appropriate roles of city, state, and federal governments in a crisis such as this?

We must ensure that our government is helping people and advocating for our needs. It is disappointing that in the midst of a pandemic, rent has not been suspended and the prison population has not been adequately reduced all while cuts are being made to our public school system and medicaid. When elected, I will prioritizing taxing the rich so the rest of us can live with dignity and respect.

20. How will you help your future constituents, residents and businesses, access potential funding from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, or any other future government relief funds?

In order for these funds to be effective, they must be accessible. My community contains a large portion of people for whom English is a second language or they don't speak it at all. Many of my neighbors also are undocumented or do not have access to the internet. When elected, I will continue to work to ensure these relief efforts are accessible to all.

Campaign Promise 1

To fight to pass a Good Cause Eviction bill so that people are not arbitrarily evicted from their homes.

Campaign Promise 2

To fight to pass the New York Health Act, which will guarantee healthcare for all people regardless of their immigration status.

Campaign Promise 3

To refuse all money from corporations and real estate developers. Money is the most corrosive aspect of politics and I will only be accountable to my constituents and my conscience. My campaign filings will show that I have kept that promise.

Campaign Promise 4

To hold regular town halls. I believe elected officials must have regular communication with their constituents. I am committed to holding regular town halls in all languages for every member of my community.

Campaign Promise 5

To put people over profit. We see time and again our communities being sold out to luxury developers. If elected, I will fight to make sure rents stay affordable and the character of our neighborhood stays the same.

Please tell us how you have and would continue to conduct the political affairs of this office in an upright manner, and maintain the public trust.

Part of the reason I decided to run for Assembly is because I am tired of elected officials who were prioritizing the needs to the 1% or their campaign donors over their constituents. There are many politicians who may not be doing anything blatantly illegal, but are not operating with the needs of their community in mind. Prior to running for office, my work consisted of grassroots community organizing, not as a member of the political establishment. My campaign is a grassroots one, I refuse all real estate and corporate money and have hundreds of volunteers. When elected, I will continue to be an organizer, but in the role of a State Assembly women.