

YOUTH-CENTERED POLICY MATRIX--DIANNE MORALES

Dianne Morales is a Bed-Stuy native, single mother, and proud daughter of Puerto Rican parents who understands New York City's systems, from public housing to public schools. Her family taught her to *lift as you climb*. Even as an adult, this fight didn't end: A mother of two children with learning differences, Dianne sued the City's public school system to get the resources her daughter needed to learn effectively.

Dianne is the only former NYC public school teacher in this race, and knows firsthand how segregated schools have divided young people based on race, income and ZIP code. She is the former Executive Director of The Door, where she launched a street outreach program for homeless LGBTQ+ youth that expanded to create a drop-in program for homeless youth and a supportive housing development. In her most recent position as the Executive Director and CEO of Phipps Neighborhoods for almost a decade, Dianne managed multimillion-dollar budgets that led to the creation of a career training program for young adults in the healthcare field alongside programs addressing housing insecurity, mental illness, foster care, and education. She defines herself as a learner, a survivor, and a working single mother.

YVote youth leaders Anna, Anyeli, Daniel, Michelle, Nataniela & Sarah assessed Candidate Morales with regard to how well her platform addresses policy recommendations developed in response to the Youth Ask Youth (YAY) Census 2020 with Y indicating that the candidate addresses the recommendation, N indicating that the candidate doesn't address it, and U indicating that the candidate's response is Unclear, Unaddressed, or Incomplete. The statements shared through this Candidate Assessment Matrix are based on Dianne Morales' campaign website, public speaking events, and articles in Gotham Gazette, New York Magazine, New York Times, NY Daily News, Rolling Stone, and The City. For further information, contact Sanda@yvoteny.org

YOUR HOME & COMMUNITY

YOUR SCHOOLS

Policy Recommendations

1. Expand Affordable Housing **Y**
2. Housing and Cash Transfer Programs for Homeless Youth **Y**
3. Increase Funding for Sanitation **Y**
4. Expand Participatory Budgeting Initiatives **Y**
5. Divest and Reinvest Funds from NYPD **Y**

1. Get Police out of Schools and Effective implementation of Restorative Justice Initiatives **Y**
2. Expand Social-Emotional Learning and Increase Social Workers in Schools and Youth Programs **Y**
3. Teach Life Skills and Support "Civics for All initiative" **Y**

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Candidate's Platform

- 1) Supports affordable housing, proposes guaranteed housing. **She's making sure to expand cooperative ownership agenda that will be put into increasing control of social housing and existing developments in the hands of tenants. This involves desegregating, preserving, and expanding new cooperative housing ownership.**
- 2) Housing programs for homeless youth but not cash transfer programs.
- 3) Supports defunding the police.

1. Supports removing police from schools and reallocating money from the NYPD's budget to fund a community First Responders Department that will address mental health and social issues in communities.
2. Developing K-12 learning systems and adding more emotional wellness.
3. Free CUNY.

YOUR POCKETS & FUTURE

YOUR HEALTH & RELATIONSHIPS

Policy Recommendations

1. Increase Job Access for Young People, Expand SYEP and Support Multilingual and Undocumented Students. **Y**
2. Implement work-based learning opportunities. **Y**
3. Provide Metrocards and other free transportation services. **U**
4. Support youth to develop and own business cooperatives that meet the needs identified by young people. **U**

1. Extend flexibility and Increase funding for youth programs to meet community food needs. **Y**
2. Promote safe practices for socialization and exercise. **U**
3. Manageable workload and support for remote learning due to COVID-19. **Y**

Candidate's Platform

1. Wants to increase employment among low-income and marginalized communities by creating green jobs, supports affirmative

- 1) She aids towards efforts in response to food and clothing needs during Covid-19.
- 2) Hopes to eliminate racial factors as to

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human rights protections of undocumented and low-wage workers.

2. 5 year strategy to recruit culturally diverse trauma informed workers.
3. Not states.
4. Plans to support entrepreneurs with grants, but not specifically and youth.

whether or not New Yorkers receive quality healthcare. Nothing clearly states about socialization and exercise.

- 3) Wants to allocate funds to provide students with mental health and other services.

OVERVIEW OF STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES

YOUR HOME & COMMUNITY

She supports affordable and guaranteed housing, as well as housing programs for homeless youth. **Rating: 8/10**

Morales has a detailed plan for addressing homelessness which includes converting hotels into permanent support housing and services by appointing a deputy mayor to address housing and social mobility and repurposing the Economic Development Corporation so that it focuses on addressing the issue of poverty at its roots. This matches the policies recommended by the YAY Census because it focuses on converting unused buildings into affordable housing. Overall, Morales seems very supportive of addressing home and community-related issues. **Rating: 9/10**

YOUR SCHOOLS

She is somewhat supportive of school policies since she supports integration of schools and free CUNY. She also wants to get rid of police in schools and to allocate 450 million dollars to schools for the purpose of student mental health services, support services, restorative and transformative practices. **Rating: 10/10** (strongest area)

YOUR POCKETS & FUTURE

She seems to be very supportive especially

YOUR HEALTH & RELATIONSHIPS

She is supportive of pushing out programs to

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regarding her stance on making CUNY colleges free and creating green jobs. **Rating: 9/10**

Dianne Morales hasn't spent years as part of the political establishment like Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams or Comptroller Scott Stringer. **Rating: 7/10**

She doesn't have a rolodex of wealthy donors like former Citigroup executive Ray McGuire and she doesn't have a long list of allies from working in government like former sanitation commissioner Kathryn Garcia or former federal housing secretary Shaun Donovan. **Rating: 9/10**

help with food, clothing, and mental illness. However she doesn't specify anything about promoting exercise and socialization.

Rating: 8/10