

NYC Mayoral Candidates Respond

by Bill Miller, Senior Reporter

PROSPECT HEIGHTS — Since taking the helm of the Diocese of Brooklyn 18 years ago, Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio has seen New York City political leaders come and go. The Bishop is calling the 2021 mayoral race “critical.”

To that end, he has sent a questionnaire to mayoral candidates who appeared in the televised debates — Eric L. Adams, Shaun Donovan, Kathryn A. Garcia, Raymond J. McGuire, Dianne Morales, Scott Stringer, Maya D. Wiley, and Andrew Yang of the Democratic Party, and Fernando Mateo and Curtis Sliwa of the Republican Party — surveying them on issues that concern 1.5 million Catholics in the diocese.

The 12 topics range from affordable housing, homelessness, immigration, fair treatment of Catholic education, and thwarting recent spikes in violent crime.

The primary election is set for Tuesday, June 22. Incumbent Mayor Bill de Blasio, facing term limits, will leave the office at the end of the year. In response, the Democratic Party has fielded eight frontrunners, while the Republicans have two.

“There’s such a variety of approaches, from the far left and the right,” Bishop DiMarzio said on June 10. “People want to upset everything; they have different ideas about policing, about the environment, about housing. So, hopefully, we can get an administration that’s balanced so that all the rights of everyone in the city are respected.”

In May, Bishop DiMarzio wrote to the candidates, inviting them to participate in the questionnaire. He noted that “Much of what we do is in partnership with the City of New York.”

Therefore, he added, it is important for voters to understand how the next mayor might handle issues of concern for Catholics.

The bishop said many of the issues on the questionnaire concern everyone.

“They’re not just internal priorities,” he said. “And they’re not just for the benefit of the Church, as a religious group, but for the services we do as well.”

In his letter to candidates, Bishop DiMarzio said organizations in the diocese serve people and families “of all

The Diocese of Brooklyn created and sent a questionnaire to New York City mayoral candidates who appeared in the televised debates to be printed in The Tablet. Their responses are presented here. Democratic candidates Shaun Donovan, Dianne Morales, and Scott Stringer and Republican candidate Curtis Sliwa, did not respond to the questionnaire.



QUESTION	ADAMS (D)	GARCIA (D)	MATEO (R)	MCGUIRE (D)	WILEY (D)	YANG (D)
Will you work to increase participation and enrollment in Pre-K programs?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Would you ensure that New York City’s nonpublic schools get their fair share of the CARES Act stimulus and other funding?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Will you support expanding the eligibility of non-public schools to receive funding for nurses by lowering the minimum enrollment requirement (currently 200 students)?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Will you support expanding the eligibility of nonpublic schools to receive funding for security guards by lowering the minimum enrollment requirement?	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓
Will you use the Diocese of Brooklyn and the Archdiocese of New York’s properties throughout the City of New York as local testing and vaccination sites?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Will you provide grants to assist landmarked houses of worship of all faiths to help pay for mandated repairs?	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
Do you support easing the burden of unfunded government mandates on faith-based organizations?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Will you ensure that City agencies cover the actual cost to nonprofits to provide City services to all New Yorkers?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Will you expand resources to serve immigrants legally in this country as well as the undocumented?	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
Do you commit to expand funding for affordable housing in New York City?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Will you commit more resources to address the homelessness crisis?	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
Will you work to reduce crime on City streets and subways to restore safety and security for all New Yorkers?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓