

Candidate: Mariama James

Office: NYS Assembly District 65

Question: Please provide a brief statement about why you are running for this office. What would be your #1 policy priority if elected? And please provide one accomplishment that you believe illustrates why you're the best candidate for the job.

Candidate Response:

A Proven Record of Service for New York

Candidate Summary

For over 20 years, I lived in and fought for our community. As a community-focused leader, I am committed to strengthening New York's neighborhoods through practical, people-centered policymaking. I excel at building coalitions across diverse groups to ensure policies reflect the real needs of our neighbors and my professional experience managing teams and budgets under pressure equips me to handle the complexities of public service effectively.

A Record of Results

My commitment to our city is rooted in action and measurable results for working families.

9/11 Advocacy: I was instrumental in the creation, passage, and permanent funding of the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Law, ensuring health monitoring and financial aid for tens of thousands of survivors and responders.

Affordable Housing: As Co-Founder of the Coalition for a 100% Affordable 5 World Trade Center, I helped secure over 400 affordable units with a 20% preference for 9/11 survivors and first responders.

Civic Leadership: As female District Leader AD 65 Part C, DID Executive Member, and Vice Chair of the Manhattan Democrats, I've focused on empowerment—from supervising poll sites to mentoring the next generation of leaders.

Key Policy Priorities

Housing Affordability & Stability: Committed to ensuring safe, stable, and affordable housing by expanding tenant protections, increasing unit supply, and improving oversight so families can remain rooted and seniors can age in place. I am a zealous fighter for Sections 8 & 9 programs, advocating to protect and expand these critical resources.

Healthcare & Community Wellness: Drawing on my work with the Zadroga Law, the WTC Survivor Steering Committee, and the NYP Downtown Hospital CAB, I will champion equitable healthcare. In Albany, I will advocate for full Medicaid funding to pass bills like NYC Council Intro 0615-2024 to end the 24-hour workday for Home Healthcare Aides without harming non-profits.

Investing in Youth and Education: Having served as a PTA, SLT, and CEC officer at schools including PS 234, IS 89, MAT, LMC, Art and Design, LOMA, and Millennium, I understand our system's gaps. As Director for Sophie Gerson Healthy Youth, I help provide underprivileged and unhoused students with resources from after-school programming to summer camp. I will fight for fully funded Title 1 schools.

Expanding Green Space: I inspired the creation of a popular NYC park by advocating for the permanent closure of "Little Pearl Street." I will continue to fight to convert underutilized infrastructure into green spaces.

The Leadership We Need

Recognized by the NYS Assembly and NYC Council for my advocacy, my focus remains on neighbors of all ages, cultures, and abilities. I am dedicated to transparent representation that prioritizes the well-being of every constituent. First, vote for my home club of DID to endorse me. Then on Election Day, vote for Mariama James for a seasoned, community-first voice in Albany.