



GENERAL INFORMATION

Candidate info

Name	Elvis Santana
City Council District #	17
In which primary	Democratic
Age	31
Education	Bachelor Degree

Other positions or offices

State Committeeman of the 79th NYS Assembly

Campaign contact information

Website	www.santanany.com
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INTRODUCTION

1. What are your top three campaign promises or goals, and what action will you take to achieve them if elected?

Promise 1: Economic Opportunity: I will create meaningful career pathways by partnering with local unions, businesses, and educational institutions. Through comprehensive job training programs and apprenticeship initiatives, we'll equip residents with the skills they need to secure well-paying jobs and drive sustainable economic growth in our community.

Promise 2: Public Health and Environmental Justice: The current health crisis in our borough—marked by high rates of asthma, obesity, and diabetes—demands urgent action. I plan to launch robust anti-pollution initiatives, utilizing city resources to improve waste management and clean our neighborhoods. This includes halting the expansion of chemical plants and other high-pollutant industries in underserved areas, thereby reducing the environmental hazards that contribute to our health challenges

Promise 3: Quality Housing for All: Affordable, safe housing is a fundamental right. I will work collaboratively with housing authorities, developers, and community stakeholders to ensure the creation and preservation of affordable housing options. This involves enforcing tenants' rights, fighting unjust evictions, and advocating for policies that protect lifelong residents from displacement.

2. If elected, what is the first piece of legislation you would introduce? Why is that your top priority? If you are an incumbent, please also state what legislation you have passed which you are most proud of.

If elected, my first legislative initiative would be to empower small businesses in the Bronx by streamlining the permit process, expanding access to affordable commercial spaces, and establishing targeted grant and low-interest loan programs. This comprehensive bill aims to reduce bureaucratic hurdles and provide the financial support necessary for entrepreneurs to thrive.

This is my top priority because the South Bronx urgently needs a boost in economic stability and opportunity. By investing in local businesses, we not only create jobs but also ensure that our talented college graduates and community members have a reason to build their futures right here at home. Retaining and nurturing local talent is essential for fostering sustainable growth and strengthening the social and cultural fabric of our neighborhood.

3. In your view, what are the major needs of your district’s constituents?

In my view, District 17 constituents face several urgent challenges that must be addressed to ensure a thriving community. First, promoting healthy living is essential; this involves implementing preventative measures to reduce environmental pollution, alleviate poverty, and combat food insecurity. Additionally, public safety is a major concern—residents have raised alarm over the increasing incidents of violence, including sexual assaults and domestic abuse, which contribute to a pervasive sense of insecurity in our neighborhoods. Finally, affordable housing remains a critical need, as Bronx residents are being priced out of their homes. Addressing these issues is vital to fostering a safe, healthy, and sustainable community for all.

4. How long have you lived in the district in which you are running, and do you have any achievements or involvement in your neighborhood you are particularly proud of?

I have lived in District 17 my entire life—aside from the time I spent away for college—growing up here with my family and graduating from Fannie Lou high school. This lifelong connection has given me a deep understanding of our community’s challenges and strengths. I proudly served as the State Committeeman for the 79th Assembly District and was a founding member of the Estella B. Diggs Democratic Club, where I dedicated myself to community advocacy and uniting residents to address local issues. These experiences have enriched my bond with District 17 and equipped me to effectively represent and uplift our neighborhood

5. What experience have you had with good government and reform issues? (e.g., voting and election reform, campaign finance, ethics, police accountability, government transparency). If you've worked to advance these goals, we'd love to hear about it.

n/a

6. What do you think the role of the City Council is in city government this upcoming term?

The City Council’s role in the upcoming term is to serve as a staunch defender of New Yorkers’ rights and well-being. This means taking decisive action against policies that threaten our communities, such as the harmful agenda pushed by the second Trump administration. In the Bronx, residents are deeply concerned about ICE conducting mass raids and the erosion of civil liberties through unlawful searches and seizures. Moreover, cutting essential services—like Medicaid, Medicare, and Social Security—in favor of tax cuts for the wealthiest few is unacceptable. The Council must prioritize policies that ensure the safety, dignity, and economic stability of our most vulnerable citizens, maintaining New York’s integrity by resisting divisive and regressive measures.

ELECTIONS AND VOTING

7. Do you support moving New York City’s elections from odd-numbered years to even-numbered years, and will you co-sponsor a Council Resolution supporting that measure?

Yes

Voter turnout in New York City elections is exceptionally low, as they are held “off-cycle” in odd-numbered years. To boost local voter turnout and reduce participation gaps, the Legislature passed and Governor Hochul signed a law that moves county and town elections to even-numbered years, and lawmakers are supporting a constitutional amendment that would do the same for city elections, including New York City’s. Citizens Union is [leading a coalition of groups advocating](#), to move New York City’s elections to even-numbered years, and the City Council is considering a [Resolution in support](#) of that shift.

8. The New York City Board of Elections (NYC BOE) has been a source of frustration for voters and candidates for years. The City Council appoints NYC BOE members and has the power to appoint commissioners who are committed to reform, but the most recent commissioners have been appointed behind closed doors. Do you commit to request a public hearing for BOE nominees, and to only vote for individuals who are publicly committed to reducing party-based patronage and supporting open hiring practices?

Yes

9. Do you support maintaining the use of Ranked Choice Voting in New York City’s elections?

Yes

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

11. Individuals with business ties to city government and registered lobbyists can bypass their donation limits by “bundling” donations from other people. Do you support limiting bundling by people on the Doing Business with the City database?

Yes

12. Are you a supporter of the City’s public campaign matching funds program, and do you commit to protecting the independence of the program and ensuring that the Campaign Finance Board has sufficient resources to run the program?

Yes

ETHICS IN GOVERNMENT

13. The recent pattern of indictments and resignations surrounding City Hall has exposed serious ethical problems in City Government. Please describe how you will maintain the highest ethical standards in office.

Upholding ethical standards is not just a legal obligation—it’s a personal commitment. I will ensure that both I and every member of my staff strictly follow all New York City laws and regulations. My personal philosophy centers on integrity, transparency, and accountability in every decision. City Hall must be a place for advancing the public good, not for personal enrichment. To that end, I will implement clear ethical guidelines and robust accountability measures to ensure transparency in all our operations. I am deeply committed to serving the community that raised me, and I will do so with unwavering ethical principles, setting a new standard for integrity in public office.

14. Incoming public servants must sever ties and divest from companies or other interests that have business dealings with the City, but they are not required to recuse themselves when working on matters involving their former business partners, clients, employer, etc. Do you support forbidding public servants to work on matters relating to their former business partners, clients, employers, and other interests for a set period of time?

Yes

15. Some campaign consultants also work as lobbyists. Do you support restricting campaign consultants from lobbying the candidates they served for two years after the candidate won elected office?

Yes

16. Do you support moving lobbying oversight and enforcement from the City Clerk’s Office to another agency charged with ethics issues, like the Conflicts of Interest Board?

Yes

POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY

17. Who do you think should have the final say on discipline in the New York Police Department? (i.e., Place the final decision with the Police Commissioner; the Civilian Complaint Review Board; the Mayor; the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety; or another individual or entity).

I believe that final disciplinary authority in the NYPD should rest with an independent oversight body—specifically, the Civilian Complaint Review Board. By empowering the CCRB to make these critical decisions, we ensure that discipline is applied impartially and transparently, free from internal bias or political interference. While the Police Commissioner and other city officials play key roles in day-to-day operations and investigations, an independent board is best positioned to restore public trust and guarantee accountability to the community.

CHECKS AND BALANCES

18. The Mayor currently has the power to block charter revision ballot questions (proposed by the City Council, other charter commissions, and citizen petitions) by establishing their own Charter Revision Commission. Do you support removing this Mayoral power?

Yes

19. Do you support allowing bills with strong support to go through the committee process and be put to a vote on the floor without needing the permission of the speaker?

Yes

20. Please provide your views about the New York City Council's "advice and consent" powers. In what cases, if any, should a mayor need the Council's approval for an appointment of a high ranking Mayoral official, such as an agency commissioner?

The New York City Council's advice and consent powers are a critical component of our system of checks and balances, ensuring transparency and accountability in appointments that shape our city's future. I believe that the mayor should seek the Council's approval for high-ranking positions—such as agency commissioners—when those roles have far-reaching implications for policy and public welfare. These key appointments affect the delivery of essential services and the overall well-being of our communities, making it vital that they reflect the needs and values of New Yorkers.

At the same time, it's important that the process remains both rigorous and efficient. While the Council's oversight should help maintain high standards and prevent potential abuses of power, it should not unnecessarily delay or obstruct the appointment process. Striking the right balance will foster a collaborative relationship between the executive and legislative branches, ensuring that appointments are made with both accountability and the urgency required to address the dynamic needs of our city.

ADDITIONAL INFO

Please provide any other info you would like us to know about you and your candidacy.

What sets my candidacy apart is my deep, lifelong commitment to our community and my proven record of advocacy. Growing up in District 17 and serving as your State Committeeman, I've been on the front lines fighting for the issues that matter most—from the Housing Not Warehousing Act and the Rights to Counsel to advocating for 495-A. Working side-by-side with tenant presidents, district leaders, and other community voices, I've developed an intimate understanding of our neighborhood's challenges and built strong grassroots support.

I'm honored to have earned the trust of community leaders and organizations, with endorsements from former member Michael Blake, the Estella B. Diggs Democratic Club, and 1199SEIU. Together, we share a vision for a safer, stronger, and more equitable Bronx. My campaign is rooted in community values and built on collaboration, ensuring that every decision reflects the lived experiences of our neighbors.