



(Photograph from
<https://www.facebook.com/rapiocrowley/>)

Joseph Crowley, Democratic Party

EDUCATION

Q: What is your position on diversity initiatives in historically racially and socioeconomically segregated schools, and if elected, what steps will you take to influence federally funded programs and/or policies?

A: We must ensure every child has equal access to quality education, no matter the color of his or her skin or their neighborhood. Nowhere is this more important than in New York City, which is home to the most diverse communities in the country. For decades, the federal government has sought to advance equitable education through landmark laws like the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and the Title I program. But funding for these programs has fallen short, leaving schools without the resources needed to meet the needs of every child. We should also increase funding for tutoring programs to help underprivileged youth prepare for rigorous testing. I will continue to fight for increased funding for public education and will work to protect the civil rights policies that are the bedrock of our education laws.

GUN CONTROL

Q: What is your position on gun control and if elected, what specific policies will you advocate for?

A: Enacting gun safety legislation is critically important in keeping our families and communities safe. I strongly support reinstating the assault rifle ban, banning bump stocks, closing dangerous loopholes that undermine background checks, and keeping guns out of the hands of dangerous criminals.

Far too many families and lives have been shattered because of senseless gun violence - violence that is entirely avoidable. We could pass legislation today if Republican leaders in Congress had the courage to put common sense gun safety legislation on the House floor for a vote. When Democrats retake the House in 2018, this will be a top priority.

HEALTHCARE

Q: What steps will you take to ensure that immigrants continue to have access to health care in New York in light of recent discussions concerning public charge policies?

A: I believe healthcare is right for all, not a privilege for the few. Every person, immigrant or otherwise, should be able to access the health care and social services they need without fear of reprisal. New York has been a leader in ensuring that immigrants can access a number of public health programs, and I will fight for states to continue to be able to protect their populations, even as we fight restrictions at the federal level. I will also oppose efforts at the federal level to create unfair public charge policies that discourage immigrants from accessing needed assistance.

IMMIGRATION

Q: Given the recent changes and proposed changes to immigration policy, which existing immigration policies would you advocate to protect?

A: Our communities are under attack by President Trump's inhumane immigration policies. He is turning his back on every value Americans hold and putting the safety of our communities at risk. This is unacceptable. We need to pass comprehensive immigration reform, secure a pathway to citizenship for the DREAMers, extend Temporary Protected Status for individuals from distressed countries, and reverse the Trump administration's inhumane practice of ripping families apart.

Our immigration system has long been based on core tenets like ensuring family unity and offering the hope of an opportunity to millions around the world. I would strongly oppose any efforts to move away from a family-based immigration system or to restrict immigration benefits to skilled immigrants.

CENSUS

Q: What steps have you taken or will you take to ensure accurate representation of underrepresented and vulnerable communities for Census 2020?

A: Collecting demographic information gives policymakers the insight needed to better understand communities and to create policies that meet our country's needs. When it comes to the Census, if you're not counted, you essentially do not exist in the eyes of our government. For New York City residents, the 2020 census will be critical. I demanded that the Trump administration allocate more resources to the Census Bureau as the agency is staffing up for 2020. I've also raising alarm bells about recent reports that the Trump Administration will not include data collection on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals, a troubling move considering the unique challenges members of those communities face.