

# EXHIBIT “11”

Transcript of the Forum for the Democratic Attorney General Primary Candidates

Streamed live on September 4, 2018

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6n2\\_LHNEUW0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6n2_LHNEUW0)

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for the Democratic Attorney General Primary Candidates

**Transcript**

0:00

welcome everyone to tonight's evening with the candidates we have with us the

0:06

four candidates for the Democratic nomination - Attorney General my name is Roger Huang  
Maldonado I'm the

0:12

president of the New York City Bar Association I will be Co moderating tonight's forum together  
with Susan De

0:19

Santis the deputy editor for the New York law journal the New York Law

0:25

Journal and the City Bar Association are co-sponsoring tonight's forum Susan will

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<sup>1</sup> Statement by Letitia James calling the NRA a “criminal enterprise” can be found on p. 10 at  
17:50

0:31

actually give an explanation of how we're going to proceed but I would first like to introduce our the four

0:39

candidates and to keep to make sure that we get to tonight's proceedings quickly I'm only going to give their names in

0:46

alphabetical order so we have Lygia Eve

0:51

Letitia James Sean Patrick Maloney and Zephyr Teachout

0:58

Susan so it's my job to give you the rules candidates have been seated in the

1:05

order determined by lot there will be no opening statements we're not taking

1:10

questions from you but you suggested the question so this is in fact your debate

1:16

our questions will be directed to all the candidates the first round of

1:21

questions will have answers limited to two minutes a second round will be one minute each moderators may ask follow-up

1:30

questions and candidates may respond to other candidates questions responses

1:36

will be limited in that case to 30 seconds at the end of the questions there will be an opportunity to provide

1:43

a brief closing statements with an order again determined by lot please limit

1:49

your statements to two minutes we have a timer seated in the front row right

1:54

there Eric Friedman I'm sure a lot of you know he's gonna hold up a yellow

2:00

sign when the candidate has ten seconds left a red sign when the candidates time

2:06

is up and of course we expect you to abide by that thank you very much and I

2:11

am going to ask the first question to miss James who was

2:19

again as I said determined by a lot so what I'm interested in is what would be

2:26

your day one message to staff members I would assess each and every Bureau of

2:31

the office of attorney general to determine the staffing levels I would also let them know of my priorities and

2:37

my priorities include again challenging the abuses from Donald Trump to going

2:42

after corruption three focusing on all of the issues I've crisscross the state there are environmental issues there's

2:47

issues with respect to gun violence in our state and there's issues with respect to consumer fraud and student

2:54

debt in the state of New York let me also say that there's a fifth candidate in the office his name is in the room

3:00

his name is Keith Wofford in the back he's the Republican candidate and I didn't I wanted to make sure that he was

3:05

identified as well and that's my two minutes well first of all thank you all

3:13

for being here on this Tuesday night thank you for moderating and thank you

3:19

to my opponents we have been to many forums together now have gotten to know

3:24

each other very very well and I really appreciate this is our last week I think

3:30

of forums there's three this week and tell everyone I'll be the godmother of your baby so so thank you for being here

3:39

what I would communicate to the incredibly talented staff and I've been

3:45

so impressed with the work of the attorney general's office is that this

3:50

job is among the most important in this office is among the most important legal offices in the country at this moment

3:57

and because of the context of the moment nationally and locally the nature of the

4:05

office necessarily has to rise to new challenges the first challenge is the

4:11

direct threat to the rule of law posed by Donald Trump the direct attack on our

4:20

values across the board and that means that this office has to become the firewall stand

4:26

after Donald Trump the illegal rollbacks of his administration but also actively

4:33

investigates his businesses and foundations which are here in New York and the New York Attorney General's

4:39

Office plays a unique role there second because of the ongoing crisis of

4:45

corruption in Albany the New York Attorney General's Office has to play a key role checking that corruption

4:52

investigating and where necessary prosecuting and really leading the

4:58

charge on cleaning up Albany third very much related to what's happening today

5:03

with the Cavanaugh hearings we're facing a change judiciary and and we in this

5:10

office are going to have to use new legal strategies to face the complex and

5:15

evolving legal challenges of this moment Thank You mr. Maloney well thank you all

5:21

for being here message number one is Barbara Underwood please stay and do any job you want you

5:33

know I have been in the White House and I've been in the governor's office when there was a crisis at the top and I will

5:39

tell you it is very very traumatic for all of the good people there who have

5:44

committed themselves to that public service and who did nothing wrong and so the primary job initially is to say to

5:51

that team we value you we respect you we need you here doing this critical work

5:57

and this is going to be the best public interest law firm in the world this is going to be an office that competes and

6:04

wins for talent with the Southern District with the Manhattan district attorney's office and with every great

6:10

law firm in this city and we want the most talented young lawyers coming out of the best schools and the best law

6:16

firms to see this office as a critical place to contribute to the public good and to hone their legal skills that's

6:22

job number one this is a competition to build a great law firm first and foremost in addition to that the

6:27

priorities of the office are indeed the extraordinary threats coming from Washington both holding Trump

6:33

accountable personally in terms of his campaign and of course his personal business activities but more broadly the

6:39

Trump administration and and the policies that the administration represents I D I think um almost an

6:47

arguably are more radical and more threatening to New York than anything we have seen from previous Republican administrations and there needs to be a

6:54

comprehensive strategy on that there's also a critical prior to around public corruption in Albany this office must

6:59

demand primary criminal jurisdiction over public corruption in state government we've never had that in this

7:04

office it's long overdue the next Attorney General must insist on it it's the kind of thing attorney generals want

7:10

until they become governor but that's got to stop that's got to stop this office should be the cop on that beat and finally there

7:17

are core functions of this office consumer protection securities enforcement antitrust all the bread-and-butter work the scandals you

7:23

don't know about the conflicts you don't see that this office must unearth and that's where I would focus well first of

7:31

all thank you to the New York Law Journal and the New York City Bar Association for hosting this and for all

7:36

of you in the room and those who are watching online today and in the future the first thing that I would say and I

7:43

believe the most important message to the staff is simply first and foremost to say thank you to say thank you for

7:50

your extraordinary work at an unprecedented time in our state and in

7:57

our nation's history when the challenges are greater than they have ever been in

8:02

my 54 years this is an organization of

8:07

extraordinarily talented lawyers and support teams who I know every day get

8:13

up going to work trying to do their utmost to make this state more fair and more just for all New Yorkers and that

8:21

role has become even more important given the assault by the President of

8:26

the United States on all of the rights that we hold dear and that so many New Yorkers so many people before us fought

8:34

so hard to cheat to achieve so why would first and foremost say thank you and then I would listen and hear from

8:42

them about how best as the new Attorney General I can support them so that that

8:48

work continues my message in terms of the work will be we have two critical

8:53

priority fighting back and leaving no stone unturned against the assault on our

9:00

rights but also taking care of business at home we must use every tool

9:05

imaginable and available at our disposal to root out corruption so that we can restore the faith in government that has

9:13

been lost by too many New Yorkers and then we have a long list of priorities which I as attorney-general will make

9:20

unequivocally clear that we must champion for all New Yorkers that includes making our criminal justice

9:26

system more fair making our democracy stronger by having stronger voting protections and doing our utmost to

9:34

protect all New Yorkers and our environment and our natural resources um

9:41

first of all let me correct for the record that my co-moderator is the

9:46

deputy editor in chief of the New York law in light of the answers given by the

9:53

candidates to the previous question I'm going to modify the question that I was going to ask I was going to ask you

9:58

what's more important resisting federal policies or making sure that New York's

10:04

own governing house is in order you can ask answer that question but in doing so also save enough time to also

10:11

answer putting the Trump administration outside of the equation what would be

10:18

your top issue that must be dealt with so with those questions first visit each

10:24

other well thank you I actually see these issues as profoundly connected we

10:30

have I'm an anti-corruption expert I've spent my life researching and fighting

10:36

against corruption in fact a week after Donald Trump took office I laid out the

10:44

case that he was on the verge of violating the emoluments clause and after that working with the top team of

10:50

lawyers and filing suit three days after he took office I sorry a week after he

10:57

was elected I laid out this strategy and I do think I do take that the threat of Donald Trump incredibly seriously I do

11:04

also take the threat of our own failure to deal with corruption scandals

11:10

at home seriously and one of the things that connects them is money in politics we really do have to address the deep

11:17

rot of a big money in politics I'm the only candidate who isn't taking corporate money either

11:24

corporate PAC money or LLC money in this race but then we have this as I was

11:31

saying earlier this changing shape of changing needs going forward I'll just

11:38

use consumer protection as one example there's seven different agencies federal agencies responsible for consumer

11:45

protection Donald Trump and the Republicans are gutting all of them right now all of them so what that means

11:53

is that the New York State Attorney General's Office needs to be crafting

11:58

new legal strategies and really leading the fight to protect on clean air and water against financial fraud and scams

12:07

across the board filling in the gap that we're really seeing at the federal level and the

12:14

spine that I see connecting all these in my fourth priority which is really leading the fight to end mass

12:20

incarceration ending cash bail discovery reform is that we focused we have to

12:28

really rethink who we're putting in jail

12:33



the wrong people are in jail right now a greater focus on white-collar crime and

12:39

a greater understanding of the role that money and politics plays in our legal system mr. Maloney well thank you for

12:47

that question I also see that as something of a false choice although I do think if you listen to the campaign

12:54

you might think all of your problems start and stop with Donald Trump or with campaign finance reform I don't think

13:00

that's practical I think those of us who have been doing this work out in the field will tell you that when you're

13:07

dealing with a family that's lost someone to the opioid epidemic that's an issue about whether you're going to hold those companies accountable for clean up

13:14

this mess whether you're dealing with health care the question is whether you're going to right now insist on the rights this state has under existing

13:20

federal law we talk net neutrality what is this office gonna do is that get in our own house in order

13:25

or is that the Trump administration I think it's both I do think whether you're talking about criminal justice reform there's a

13:31

critical role this office plays but it's not just it's not just telling someone else who has the authority what to do

13:36

it's finding the resources and tools in the office to fund prison education programs I have three formerly

13:42

incarcerated people who are on my team how does this office actually direct civil asset forfeiture funds to do

13:48

something about that problem not just talk about it I think that whether you're talking about immigration and keeping dreamers in the country with

13:54

you're talking about keeping kids from being separated from their parents whether you're talking about families like mine that right now are being

14:00

prevented from adopting children that is both getting our own lives and and

14:05

rights as a priority but also fighting back against this administration so I

14:10

think an area after area whether you're talking about health care or the environment or a woman's right to choose I don't know how to separate the

14:17

priorities from New York families in a very real and practical way from the threats I see coming from the Trump

14:22

administration but I will tell you that is absolutely important to have someone do this job for a few years without

14:27

blowing up in a scandal that's getting your own house in order I think it'd be great if somebody just did the work like

14:33

Barbara Underwood does and it's a little less worried about the next office they're gonna run for the next press conference they're gonna have I'm very

14:39

troubled by the idea that someone will do this job with a political or an ideology ideological agenda and tell you

14:44

ahead of time the prosecution's that the office is going to bring that runs counter to a

14:50

lot of a lot of the ethics and standards I think most lawyers think are important so I hope the person would follow the

14:55

facts in the law in the first instance but I do believe I do believe that we should get our own house in order

15:01

absolutely so that we can be an example to the country at a time when the federal government is such a bad one I

15:09

believe it's a false choice there are thousands of New Yorkers right now whose

15:16

constitutional right to a speedy trial is being violated who have been arrested

15:22

and they're in pretrial detention and they're not out simply because they don't have the money to get out they're

15:28

not focused on whether they're there because of Donald Trump's policies or because the state of New York doesn't

15:34

have its act together all they know that they are that they are a victim of an unjust system I'm the

15:41

product of the public school system in New York and yes I'm a graduate of Harvard Law School but the foundation

15:48

for me being able to graduate from Harvard Law School as a quality public school education that the state's highest court that I proudly serve for

15:56

for two years said that every child in this state is entitled I would on Title

16:01

I would are you morally entitled but the state's highest court said they were constitutionally entitled to receive that public school education and we have

16:09

thousands of children across our state who are not receiving what the state's

16:14

highest court so they are constitutionally entitled to receive that is a function in part because we

16:21

have a Secretary of Education who is more interested in using resources to

16:26

help arm teachers then she is educating public school children but that's also a

16:31

function of our house not being in order so I believe it's a false choice we are

16:37

the greatest state in the greatest nation on earth we should be able to walk and chew gum at the same time fight against bad

16:44

policies emanating from Washington and get our act together and address the

16:50

needs that cry out from New Yorkers across the state for us to address

16:56

yesterday is James it's a Hobson's choice I've traveled to

17:02

Buffalo and there's lead poisoning in Buffalo I've traveled to Newburgh they're challenging the EPA on the fact

17:08

that their water is poisoned I found I've challenged I've traveled to the mid-hudson region where individuals

17:15

concerned about consumer fraud and student fraud I've traveled to Long Island and Dix Hills and Brentwood where

17:21

they're dumping environmentally on communities of color I've traveled to Albany where eight black men have been

17:27

shot I've traveled to Syracuse where gun violence is a major issue my priorities again include making sure

17:34

that we have states rights and that we harden our system and that we again examine all of our laws in the state of

17:40

New York to ensure that our rights are protected and that includes making sure that the Clean Air Act is in force and

17:46

Clean Water Act is enforced clean power and clean power is in force going after the NRA because it is a

17:54

criminal enterprise making sure that we stand up for immigrants who are now hiding in the corner is afraid to go to

17:59

work afraid to go to school hiding in the shadows against this administration what we need is someone with experience

18:06

and someone who has consistently and repeatedly spoken truth to power and someone who understands at this point in time our democracy is under attack this

18:14

is not an academic exercise we need someone with practical experience and someone who walked the corridors of a

18:20

school that turned a mirror on this country and someone that once again has studied the Constitution and recognized

18:26

that in his historically the rights of people of color were violated and now it appears that the rights of all of us are

18:32

being violated and we need a strong fighter in that regard and so as the

18:37

next Attorney General it's critically important that everything is at stake at this point what's the most important

18:45

case you've argued in court what impact has it had on what kind of attorney-general you'd be if not a case

18:53

you can substitute a policy or regulatory initiative this first goes to

18:59

mr. Maloney sure well you're talking to somebody who spent years at Wilkie Farr and Gallagher it was a partner at

19:04

Kirkland and Ellis and at aura Carrington so you know when you're when you're at really good law firms they don't they don't they don't let you near

19:11

a lot of courtrooms but lawyers can get that joke but the fact is is that I've got certainly as much legal experience

19:19

practical legal experience as anybody on the stage I focused in my early part of my career on investigative work I'm very

19:25

proud of the fact that I ran an investigation of the CEO of a major bank on behalf of an independent committee of

19:30

the board went on for most of a year helped a CEO accountable for some very serious wrongdoing I worked on

19:38

congressional investigations I worked on the independent counsels investigations I served as the White House staff secretary for three years and saw every

19:44

document that went to the President of the United States I prepared and and reviewed all the

19:50

executive memorandum and and directives and orders to the agencies I saw the

19:56

national security information for three years of my life hoping you would get to one pace yeah

20:02

I'll tell you I'll tell you about one thing that's very special to me you bet you bet there's a woman named Maria

20:09

Cristina that I know well and her dad was deported after living here for 35

20:14

years her mom got deported not long after they came here illegally in the 1980s and from what I can tell never did

20:21

anything wrong after after after that worked two jobs and he was so depressed about being thrown out yeah that he

20:28

suffered a series of health setbacks he found himself in Mexico with no health insurance with no network of friends or

20:34

family and with no access to real care and on February 27th he died of a heart attack

20:39

and I did everything I knew how to get him out of jail so we could spend the last couple weeks with his family and I did that basing basing my appeal on my

20:48

experience in the White House I knew how to how to do that but I couldn't stop it and so when I went to his funeral and my

20:55

husband and I went to his funeral his daughter Maria thanked us and she said thank you for what you did for my dad so

21:01

I'm gonna tell you about a story I didn't feel very good about which is that I don't feel like I did enough and

21:06

ladies and gentlemen I don't think any of us are doing enough and that's why I'm running for attorney general because as Attorney General you can go into

21:11

federal court and seek an injunction against unconstitutional or illegal federal immigration policies as a congressman you can slow it down so I

21:18

think we need to do more and and I'm gonna be proud to do a lot more if you give me this opportunity well thank you

21:25

for the question I am proud to I've been a lawyer for 28 years

21:31

my roots in this state run deep I have more courtroom experience than any other

21:36

candidate in this race across the state and federal and state courts but the

21:42

case that I'm most proud of is a case that I handled with three other young women associates when I was a young

21:50

associate at Covington and Burling in Washington DC I joined three other women

21:56

in representing as a plaintiff class all women incarcerated a District of Columbia prisons against the District of

22:02

Columbia the name of the case filed in federal district court the District of Columbia is women prisoners of the

22:10

District Columbia versus the dish of Colombia there were four parts of the case one dealing with environmental care

22:16

one dealing with the lack of equal educational opportunities to male

22:21

prisoners sexual harassment we had clients who felt that they had to have sexual intercourse with prison

22:28

guards to be able to have a guarantee of seeing their children I was in charge of

22:33

the obstetric or gynecological care part of the case one of my clients had her

22:38

leg shackled to a hospital bed as she brought a child into this world this is

22:44

in the nation's capital and our country this conduct clearly was inhumane as

22:52

well as being unconstitutional and so we filed suit we fought hard

22:58

the litigators out there know what I'm talking about we fought very hard but

23:05

I'm proud to say we won we won the case was appealed to the DC Circuit from

23:11

which Judge Cavanaugh now hails and we won in the DC Circuit

23:17

and then they sought to appeal it to the United States Supreme Court which denied cert that is the kind of what we call

23:25

baby lawyer I was I was 29 years old when I represented hundreds of incarcerated women that gives you a

23:32

glimpse of the kind of attorney-general I will be the law has been the firmest

23:38

pillar of our democracy and the law historically has been used as a sword and as a shield someone once ridiculed me and said Tish

23:47

James goes into the office of public advocate each and every day she thinks of a lawsuit she Sue's somebody and then

23:52

she goes home that's true I've sued on behalf of the residents of public housing I've sued on behalf of autistic children

23:59

I've sued on behalf of children in foster care I've sued on behalf of residents who were illegally evicted and victim by

24:08

construction I've sued on behalf of senior citizens who were not getting benefits I've sued

24:13

the mayor of the city of New York on a wide range of issues but the case that I am most proud of is representing a child

24:19

pro-bono who came to this country illegally his father was murdered and

24:25

else in in Honduras his mother abandoned him and I went to court and so and represented

24:31

him in was successful in getting an asylum petition granted he recently graduated from high school he lives in

24:38

Brooklyn with his uncle and he just introduced me to his girlfriend who I do not like I also filed recently in friend

24:47

brief on behalf of a child who was ripped out of the arms of a mother I'm

24:53

so happy to say that our petition was granted the family has been reunited and they've been released from detention we

25:01

should not live in a world where children are ripped out of the arms of their children and it was important it was imperative that I go to court and

25:08

represent those families and I have consistently and I have I think I'm the only candidate or maybe there's another

25:14

candidate but I have visited a number of detention centers to ensure that they are complying with the federal law and

25:19

it's critically important that we all understand our values and our principles as Americans and that we never ever

25:26

allow that to happen again and as the next Attorney General of the state of New York I will fight this illegitimate

25:32

president tooth and nail to remind him of what America is all about I started

25:40

my career as a death-penalty lawyer representing people on a post-conviction

25:45

review who had been sentenced to death and as a death penalty the lawyer you learn a lot you certainly learn about

25:54

the horrors of our current criminal justice system but you also learn how to

26:01

both dig up facts intense investigation

26:06

find things that haven't been found before because there is the threat of

26:12

the state trying to kill your client you

26:17

also learn how to dig up laws and legal theories that haven't been used before and somebody I worked with very closely

26:24

is here tonight a Stephen Greenwald who did worked on many different cases with

26:30

the case I want to talk about is the bulk of my career I have been focused on anti-corruption work and I wrote the

26:38

book on corruption called corruption in America I've been working with money in politics groups as

26:43

well as antitrust groups on legal strategies over the years three days as

26:49

I mentioned earlier three days after Trump took office I and a small team of lawyers representing people in the

26:56

hospitality and restaurant industry sue Donald Trump in the Southern District of New York for violating the foreign and domestic

27:04

emoluments clauses of the Constitution he is taking foreign government money

27:11

from the Chinese government from a Saudi prince through his businesses going into

27:20



his own pocket that's in direct violation of the Constitution but these are issues that have never  
been  
27:25  
litigated before we built this legal strategy that case is currently on  
27:30  
appeal in the Second Circuit I've taken myself off that case of as a candidate but I've continued to  
advise the  
27:37  
attorneys general in DC and Maryland and they just recently had a major victory and in that  
victory judge machete cited  
27:46  
my work explicitly adopting my theory of the emoluments clause is Eve what steps  
27:55  
can the Attorney General take to address New York's widening income inequality  
28:01  
gap well there are a number of ways to address it and frankly when I received  
28:08  
the question about priorities that's why I focused on the challenges we have here  
28:14  
at home education as I mentioned before is not an issue that you hear an attorney general speak  
about but I  
28:21  
believe it's fundamental to the well-being of communities across this state if you don't have a  
basic quality  
28:30  
education you have three strikes against you before you're out of the gate so I  
28:37  
believe that ensuring that all children receive their constitutional right under  
28:44  
the States Constitution to a quality basic education is critical to closing  
28:50  
the gap we also need to do or to expand economic opportunities for  
28:55  
New Yorkers across the state we need to do more to ensure a fair criminal justice system and  
provide greater  
29:03  
alternatives to incarceration so for people who have committed a crime but done their time and  
pay their debt to  
29:09  
society they are in the best position with the state of New York by their side to turn their lives  
around and lead  
29:16  
productive lives that benefits them and their families and and all of us these  
29:22  
are just some of the challenges that we must confront and we must address and I  
29:28

am the candidate that is best prepared to address them miss James income

29:36

inequality as the Public Advocate of the city of New York we passed groundbreaking legislations and banned

29:42

salary history because I believe in equal pay for equal work it should be more than just a slogan the governor of

29:47

the state of New York issued an executive order and I'm now airing the governor of the state of New York to codify banning salary history it's am

29:55

also important that we set policies to promote more women as partners we promote more women and give them more

30:01

c-suites we promote more women in a wide range of industries we need to elect more women

30:08

in government on the federal level on the state level and obviously on the local level we also I'm so glad I was

30:13

part of the effort to raise minimum wage in the state of New York particularly on behalf of fast-food workers and so I have been in the

30:21

forefront on a wide range of issues addressing the issue of income inequality because income inequality particularly hurts women and at this

30:28

City Bar Association I led a forum to talk about private pensions and how it's

30:33

necessary that we have more private pensions and that we create a system to promote more private pensions

30:38

unfortunately when this president came in he decided to do away with that and did not support my effort and basically

30:45

said it was in violation of ERISA we have to be more creative we've got to be more innovative we got to push the

30:51

envelope both on litigation and in terms of policy and legislation and all throughout my 20 years of public work

30:57

I've done just that and I will continue to do that as the next Attorney General we also need to increase and promote

31:02

more women and minority-owned businesses in the state of New York and by them a greater share of contracts

31:08

miss Tito thanks for the question because I I'm going to talk about three different ways but at the root of being

31:16

the people's lawyer standing up for this radical promise of law which is the

31:21

promise that all people regardless of wealth regardless of the color of their

31:27

skin their debt an addiction problem they may have our equal in the eyes of the law equality is actually really at

31:35

the heart of the job so I'll just mention three particular ways one is in

31:40

taking on corruption in Albany the Buffalo billion trial this summer I went

31:46

to opening day argument was about three-quarters of a million dollars that

31:52

was supposed to go to economic development in the state instead going

31:58

to major donors it's a it was a bid rigging scheme it really showed quite

32:03

clearly the way that corruption leads to inequality which leads to suffering because in Utica which has a for a

32:12

family of four in average income making thirty thousand dollars a year they were desperate for those economic development dollars but instead they went to big

32:18

donors so fighting corruption is also about fighting inequality second

32:24

investigating illegal behavior in the real estate industry whether that's

32:29

tenant harrasment or tax fraud both of those are drivers of inequality and I

32:37

don't take real-estate corporate money the office has moved in a really good

32:42

direction in the last 20 months bringing on a great tenants lawyer to run the bureau there's so much more that we need

32:49

to do and failure to enforce the law and the real estate industry is a driver of inequality and third something I

32:56

mentioned in passing but care quite passionately about is really leading the fight to end cash bail in the state

33:02

working with the incredible activists that have gotten it as far as it's gotten already because cash bail is a

33:09

direct affront to law itself it's saying you're incarcerated because of how much

33:15

money you can afford as opposed to because of what you have done mr. Maloney right well I

33:23

guess my initial reaction to your question is that is that it's it's tempting to think that the Attorney

33:28

General of New York is the universal elixir for all human problems I'm not sure I'm not sure

that's the right frame

33:34

to start with but let me answer your question I think yes you're gonna want to focus on the things that are the

33:40

Legislature's job and the governor's job and push those and you can introduce program bills and there's some there's an important role there for sure

33:46

equal pay you bet paid family leave you bet highest minimum wage in the country you bet we've done a lot of those things

33:52

under Governor Cuomo by the way and that's good I do think where this office is gonna come in is on vindicating the

33:57

rights of workers and working families to get what they have coming to them so I'm thinking of wage theft that is a

34:03

terrible problem for for organized labor thinking about your health care costs think about a working family that spends

34:09

most of its income trying to get the medicine for a sick parent or an ailing child so so prescription drug price

34:17

transparency is something this office can really work on holding opioid manufacturers accountable to the extent

34:22

that they they should be for the cost associated with those types of health

34:28

care issues housing is critically important for people this office has a role to play in directing civil asset

34:33

forfeiture funds to help things like the land banks I work with in Newburgh New York that makes a real difference to

34:40

help a working class family get affordable housing even though you don't make the policy you can fund the solutions that are working and you can

34:47

particularly direct funds that work were ill-gotten to helping the victims and

34:52

that's a great area to start I do think discrimination is at the heart of what this office should focus on because so

34:58

much of what holds people back from making it making a real wage or making a making it in this country is that they

35:03

never get that chance is because you're transgender or you're gay and lesbian or you're african-american or you're Latino

35:08

and your rights are being vindicated or being are being are being discriminated against excuse me and your and the

35:14

Attorney General should vindicate those rights I do think having an active role in criminal justice reform is important my

35:20

husband is here tonight he works he works you work so passionately on prison education programs the bar presentation

35:25

of and others re-entry programs that help people reentering society make a

35:30

living and beep octave and contribute to the welfare of the country and I think you can fund

35:35

those programs through this office and civil asset asset forfeiture and other forfeiture funds so those are some ideas

35:42

where this office could actually do something within its authorities next question goes to mr. James do you see

35:50

any issue with Immigration and Customs Enforcement making civil arrests in and

35:55

around state courthouses if so if so

36:01

what would you do as Attorney General but I'd like to you to confine your answer to powers that are within the

36:07

attorney general's office okay so the office of attorney general is an advocacy role and it's really critically

36:13

important that the diverse advocacy role be used particularly in abolishing ice

36:19

ice is an affront to our democracy it's really critically important that when we

36:26

abolish ice that we set up another organization we will rebuild another organization to focus on issues that ice

36:33

is responsible for such as human trafficking and gun trafficking as well

36:39

as patrolling the border and and and dealing with terrorism in our country so

36:46

it's really critically important that one the chief judge we work with the

36:53

chief judge so that law enforcement agents and officers within courthouses not cooperate with ice two that we

37:00

inform individuals when in fact ice agents are in court to detain

37:05

individuals 3 it's really critically important that we use common law to

37:15

enforce the law with respect to individuals who are currently before a court seeking justice that they not be

37:22

arrested lastly we need to make sure that ice is totally removed from the

37:31

courthouse and that we challenge it consistently and repeatedly ice is really an affront to immigrants and it's

37:36

important that immigrants also have legal representation when they're when they're facing detention I think that's

37:42

really critically important I applaud what Melissa burrito has put forward as the former speaker in the City Council and also

37:48

with with the assistance of the mayor of the city of New York I also believe that immigrants who are afraid of going to

37:56

court right now it has it's having a chilling effect on the administration of justice and Isis basically impeding

38:03

justice and it's really critically important that we all stand together and abolish ice and its abuses against

38:09

immigrants who are basically seeking justice thank you for the question I've

38:17

written a couple op eds on why it's important for law enforcement to really be leading the

38:22

fight to abolish ice as it undermines basic principles of law in terms of the

38:30

particular things the office can do I do I agree that I think the the bully pulpit is important there there's also

38:37

the critical lawsuits that have been filed by barbara underwood against the

38:43

illegal actions of the Trump administration they are essential we must continue with that litigation

38:51

and she and the attorney general's office have been real leaders on that

38:56

nationally three supporting New York

39:02

State becoming a true sanctuary state so that local law enforcement is not

39:07

cooperating in any in in these instances with ice that's absolutely essential we

39:14

are not where California is and I would certainly push for that for making sure

39:21

there is the representation which is absolutely essential I agree with you on that as well and then five really

39:29

examining the civil rights violations of ice in our schools ice in our courts ice

39:37

on our streets I also support driver's licenses in New York State for

39:42

undocumented immigrants and I think it's again critical but law enforcement

39:48

really lead the charge on why that's so important well thank you for the

39:56

question I mean this is this is something that has come up in this campaign I'm deeply uncomfortable with the glib answer that

40:03

we should abolish ice I think what people mean by that although I think it's irresponsible for somebody running

40:09

for the chief legal officer of the state to shorthand it I think what people mean by that is that the policy of the Trump

40:16

administration is is racist and unacceptable in its application and that

40:21

to impose a zero-tolerance policy which makes no distinction between a young woman's family I mentioned earlier a man

40:28

who's been working for 30 years supporting his family to make no distinction between an individual like that and an ms-13 gang member or a

40:36

terrorist is unconscionable and it has led directly step-by-step to separating

40:41

kids from their parents at the border that's why we did that and there are still five hundred kids that have not

40:46

been reunited I've been to the detention centers there aren't good answers for why it happened  
you can't get a straight

40:52

answer out of this administration so I understand the frustration with what's happening real  
families are being torn

40:57

apart but this office has to lead law enforcement and has to has to bring it up I mean I represent  
Orange County New

41:04

York and I represent parts of Westchester and Putnam County and Dutchess we've got a lot of  
first responders we have a lot of law

41:11

enforcement personnel I remember what those people did on 9/11 I see the good work that so  
many people in law

41:16

enforcement do and I don't want the chief legal officer of this state bash

41:21

in law enforcement just to score cheap political points I think it is a fair argument to say that the  
Trump

41:27

administration is way out of line and we are seeing families ripped apart but this office should  
lead and it should it

41:33

should it should challenge law enforcement that tells me as a congressman local law enforcement  
especially we don't want to be ice we

41:40

don't want to be rounding up people for immigration violations it's in the way of our  
investigations of domestic

41:45

violence or of crimes that we're trying to solve so I think what's good about law enforcement and  
the best voices in

41:52

it can be can be part of the solution here but I absolutely think we need to take it to court that's  
where this

41:58

office should make its arguments that's the work Barbara Underwood's doing I support that  
wholeheartedly and it has

42:03

been at the heart of ending child separation keeping the dreamers in the country and ending some  
of the worst abuses we've seen and that's where the

42:10

focus should be Eve well first of all I share Shawn's

42:16

view two of my opponents who speak of shutting down ice in my view that

42:21

reflects a lack of understanding about how the Trump administration's policies



42:28

work how federal government works you can abolish ice and quote unquote as one

42:36

of my opponents said created another agency guess what the president United States is still there the policy is the

42:43

same whether you call it ice ice or any other agency so it's the job of the

42:48

Attorney General to aggressively fight to push back against the policy of ice

42:57

to prosecute any law enforcement official who breaks any law federal

43:04

state or local and and I will also say you know I feel very strongly about this

43:10

because there is a legal conduct that is taking place on the part of employees of

43:17

ice and they should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law but I served as the Senate counsel and homeland

43:23

security advisor to Hillary Rodham Clinton for four and a half years before during and after 9/11 and I respect a

43:30

great deal the vast majority of law enforcement officers who get up and go to work every day risking their lives to

43:37

keep all of us safe and one of the key components of ice has nothing to do with immigration it has to do with fighting

43:44

terrorism and this city remains on high alert I am chair of the Security

43:49

Committee of the Port Authority of New York New Jersey that has been subjected to two terrorist threats in the past

43:55

year so with all due respect to my two of my opponents who are treating this as

44:03

if this is not serious and they don't understand this is this is incredibly

44:08

important but the question had to do with civil arrests around state courthouses state courthouses I would

44:15

have state troopers there arresting Isis agents who are attempting to conduct

44:21

civil arrests on in or around state courthouses that is what I would

44:26

do is the Attorney General we will now move to our questions that are limited

44:33

to one minute responses and ironically the questions are longer better frame

44:39

the issue nice up here so when can we

44:45

like mix it up if you want because there's times when I wanted to mix it up

44:51

but since we're in a stately office okay

44:56

so the question which will first be posed to Ms Teachout the Attorney

45:01

General's Office is currently tasked through an executive order with investigating instances

where a law

45:08

enforcement officer is involved in the death of an unarmed civilian do you

45:13

think the governor should broaden the order to include other state employees such as correction officers this is

45:22

you're talking about executive order 147 which has been a really important executive order and I do think it should

45:28

be broadened I think it should be broadened in various ways it's addressing a core conflict of interest

45:34

where DA's are not prosecuting to the

45:40

full extent officers engaged in violence

45:46

first right now it covers unarmed and the question of what is unarmed leads to

45:54

really difficult situations I think it should not solely concern unarmed

46:00

because what we want to know is that law enforcement is going to investigate

46:06

deaths including looking at all the facts and not making a preliminary

46:12

judgment about whether a batch somewhere in the corner of a room make something armed oh no I only have one minute but

46:20

but I also think it's important to include instances that don't lead to

46:25

death but other instances of assault and violence and I actually think this is a

46:31

really essential role for the next Attorney General mr. Maloney in light of

46:36

his teach outs response I would going to ask I'm going to modify the question as originally posed by someone

46:43

who sent it to us which is do you think the executive order should be broadened in any way to include either activities

46:51

from police officers or to include persons other than police are you talking about death caused by a public

46:58

official in any way well look it I agree

47:03

with what's ever said I think there's a very important role for the Attorney General to play to be a finder of fact

47:08

and the neutral and fair arbiter of these very difficult and very painful cases by the way this isn't a job that a

47:16

lot of people would love to do this is very very difficult work in many cases but I do think there's a role for it

47:22

we've seen it coming to play in cases of sexual violence or harassment or the failure to investigate it we've seen it

47:28

come into play certainly in cases of law enforcement involved deaths I think

47:33

that's appropriate absolutely and I have no problem extending it to any other like context I think it would be great

47:39

if we extended the authority of the Attorney General into putting a bunch of crooks in Albany in jail too I mean it'd

47:45

be great as long as we were enhancing the authorities of the Attorney General - to actually encompass the most

47:51

powerful people in the state who are the most unaccountable and so that would also be my focus if you were giving me

47:57

the pen on how to expand the authorities of the Attorney General's Office but absolutely I think that I think that our

48:03

criminal justice system like all of our institutions benefits from accountability which is why by the way I also support the the the measure - to

48:11

hold prosecutors accountable as well especially as amended mazed yes an

48:17

answer to your question I believe it should be included to include corrections officers obviously I speak from experience having represented

48:25

hundreds of women incarcerated a District of Columbia Prisons who were victims of sexual assault and so yes a

48:33

resounding yes in answer to your question I also say that though as the daughter of someone who in 1971 was the

48:40

very first person to walk into the Attica prison uprisings Attica prison during the uprising and my father Arthur

48:46

Eve was asked by the prisoners there along with Tom wicker the New York Times

48:52

coming in and being observer and negotiate on their behalf and at the end

48:57

of the day what we saw because of horrific conduct by the state of New

49:03

York there were prisoners who were left dead maimed and prison guards who were

49:09

left dead and maimed those actions involved in many instances correction

49:16

officers and so without question I believe that the authority should be

49:21

expanded to include a broader array of those who are part of the criminal justice system miss James

49:29

I'm the only individual on this panel that went to court to seek the grand jury minutes and Eric garner I'm the only individual on this panel who

49:35

actually urged the governor of the state of New York to issue an executive order and he did and I'm the only individual

49:42

on this panel who who has basically been involved in in urging the governor of the state of New York to broaden those

49:48

powers to include correction officers and sheriff's there's a sheriff Kirk this is sheriff currently in Buffalo

49:53

where who unfortunately there's been a significant number of individuals who have died in his custody and one most

49:59

recently was a young lady where it was determined to be a homicide and that Sheriff is still the sheriff in Buffalo I and I also urged the governor of the

50:07

state of New York recently to sign the prosecutorial misconduct bill and I've worked very closely with the District

50:12

Attorney of Brooklyn the former District Attorney the late Ken Thompson and now Eric Gonzalez for a conviction Integrity

50:19

review unit and as the next Attorney General of the state of New York there will be a convection a conviction Integrity Unit in my office to examine

50:27

and to review a significant number of cases but we also need the grievance committee to go after district attorneys

50:32

who unfortunately violate the law as well on the next question we're starting with mr. Maloney the governor just

50:39

signed a law establishing a new bipartisan Commission on prosecutorial misconduct as if we anticipated the

50:46

question well we can save you a little time we have a little bit of a different take so our take on it the DA's

50:54

association is bringing a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the law so as Attorney General you would be

51:02

asked to defend this lawsuit if you find defects in this legislation

51:08

will you still defend it well sure you do your job except in cases of extraordinary moral conflict I do think

51:14

that what we're talking about here is a law that has been passed with an agreement to amend it and it addresses

51:20

the concerns that the Attorney General mentioned in her opinion on this or so we're led to believe so I think we all

51:26

probably ought to keep our powder dry on this I understand that is a sensitive issue for the district attorneys for

51:31

those of you who don't know what we're talking about they passed the law in this but but in only a way that Albany

51:36

can do the governor signed a law that will not be the law he has agreed with the legislative leaders to change it

51:41

though he signed it I'll explain it later but but but but what that what that has the effect of doing is it has

51:48

effective hopefully addressing the very legitimate constitutional concerns with the way it was comprised with the

51:54

separation of powers and the other arguments that attorney general Underwood has has has stated about this

51:59

with which I agree but the but here's the bottom line prosecutors are are enormous ly powerful

52:05

people in our society they should be held accountable like the rest of us and there should be a fair way to do that I

52:11

think it's a step in the right direction yes I would defend the law and to the

52:19

extent that there are challenges to it as Sean is noted there's already

52:24

discussions about how to remedy any purported defects I believe there are

52:29

few issues that are more important than providing a system to hold district

52:35

attorneys who have extraordinary power in our criminal justice system to hold them to account for violating ethics and

52:42

certainly for violating laws and I also just want to briefly mention miss James mentioned a young woman in Buffalo she

52:49

has a name her name is India Cummings she was 27 years old she was taken into

52:54

custody by law enforcement to the Erie County holding center equivalent of a Rikers Island and Erie County and days

53:01

later was found dead on the floor of her jail cell in her own urine and in vomit

53:09

right now under the existing executive order the Attorney General of the state of New York has the authority to

53:16

investigate and prosecute that crime it has been deemed a homicide by the

53:21

Medical Review Board and so the authority is already there to investigate that particular case and so

53:27

I just wanted to clarify those facts for the record for those of you who are concerned about what happened to this

53:32

woman whose death if I am the Attorney General not be in vain but it's not the

53:39

only case in Buffalo and there are others the reality is is that the case the prosecutorial  
misconduct bill is in  
53:47  
violation of the law the district attorneys have argued that it's a violation of separation of powers  
that the legislature legislature overstepped  
53:54  
their boundary and is trampling on their powers as part of the executive both the  
53:59  
Speaker of the State Assembly as well as the next leader of the state Senate Andrea Stewart-  
Cousins have agreed to  
54:05  
correct those constitutional objections the bill will be passed in all likelihood in January and yes I  
would be  
54:11  
proud and honored to defend it as someone who was witness to too many abuses by District  
Attorney's from  
54:16  
Buffalo all the way to Long Island so I I want to answer what I think might be a  
54:24  
different part of the question which is which goes to the question of the role  
54:30  
of the Attorney General when there are constitutional questions about a law  
54:36  
that they may have to defend so executive law New York State clearly  
54:43  
provides that the Attorney General must defend the state that means that if  
54:48  
there's a lie don't agree with that doesn't matter you are defending that  
54:53  
law there's a separate obligation to one it's an independent elected position  
55:00  
you're the people's lawyer to uphold the Constitution so 99 percent of the cases  
55:09  
maybe even more you're just defending the law this is actually a legal  
55:16  
question that I talked to a former attorney general Bob Abrams about who I  
55:22  
have great admiration for and as he as he talked about 99 percent of the  
55:28  
time there's no conflict but there are going to be those when after serious careful investigation  
55:35  
the Attorney General's Office concludes and I will conclude that defending the  
55:41  
law would also constitute a constitutional violation and in those cases I think the obligation is  
first  
55:46

the people of New York and the Constitution's Nazif do you think it  
55:52  
proper for the Attorney General to threaten banks or other financial institutions with criminal  
prosecution  
55:59  
under the Martin Act as leverage for obtaining a substantial settlement of  
56:05  
civil claims well I don't know if I would use the word threatened without  
56:11  
question you know I have been asked would I be the sheriff of Wall Street if  
56:17  
elected the next Attorney General the answer to that question is unequivocally without hesitation  
absolutely yes  
56:25  
absolutely yes New Yorkers spend too many of their hard-earned resources they work too hard  
56:32  
and say here the key question is threat  
56:38  
which you said I don't know about I'm asking the answer to that would do you  
56:43  
think it's proper to threaten criminal prosecution if in order to obtain a  
56:48  
better civil settlement at the end of the day if if I believe that someone or  
56:55  
a bank or financial institution has violated criminal law there's no threat  
57:01  
involved I'm investigating a prosecuting period period thank you Miss James I  
57:10  
disagree with the premise of your question the Martin Act is probably the most powerful tool of  
the Office of  
57:16  
Attorney General and any attempts to minimize it or to change it obviously  
57:21  
would have a major impact on investors and the general public but saying that  
57:28  
as was mentioned I think most people know I don't want to be known as the sheriff on Wall  
Street I think we should  
57:34  
continue to police Wall Street but I want my own moniker my own title I want  
57:40  
to pave my own course in the office of attorney general but the same question do you think it's  
57:45  
to threaten a criminal prosecution to obtain a better result in a civil case I  
57:52  
don't know whether or not any previous Attorney General has ever threatened to get a better civil  
outcome what I do



57:57

know is that there are violations on Wall Street and that the vast majority and a significant number of homeowners

58:04

all throughout the state of New York have lost their property I also know that's on the horizon is student debt

58:10

and I know the same challenges that we argued against mortgage lenders is going

58:17

to have a mate is going to blow up in our faces as individuals continue to cut

58:22

up debt and then sell it and what we are seeing is servicers basically violate

58:31

the law so this is an area where I agree

58:37

with Lisa if I believe there has been a crime than investigating and

58:46

prosecuting that crime is part of the job and after the financial crisis I

58:53

co-founded a group that that ended up working with Americans for financial reform pushing for dodd-frank we pushed

59:01

for breaking up big banks greater financial stability but also for making sure that there are more criminal

59:08

prosecutions there were far too few criminal prosecution questions but what

59:13

about threatening criminal prosecution to attain a better result in a civil case I think the key is following the

59:20

law and the facts and being open to those criminal investigations I think

59:26

that's critical mr. Maloney yeah Roger I'm not sure I understand what you're trying to do with that question I think

59:31

the bottom line is I mean I mean I mean before and I'm gonna answer it so let me save you the trouble of interrupting me

59:38

I think I think I think I think the fact of the matter is is that one of the problems the way the way Andrew Cuomo

59:43

changed the office from the way Eliot Spitzer ran it is that some of the perspective targets who come in don't

59:49

know whether you're coming at them from a civil side or criminal side I don't think it's a bad idea when people may

59:55

have criminal or civil liability to have to guess which way you're gonna come at them and I think that if you can prove in a

1:00:00

criminal case you can prove a criminal case if in your discretion you think it's more efficient for the office for

1:00:06

the taxpayers for the administration of justice to have an enhanced little civil settlement then oh hell yeah you would

1:00:12

do that too so this notion that you're gonna juxtapose it as some sort of Miss doing I actually think it's doing the

1:00:17

job I think what matters is whether you got the goods whether you've got the horses and whether people in those

1:00:22

industries look at those cases and say that was fair that was right what I don't want to see what I don't want to

1:00:28

see is I don't want to see one of us promise you that we are going to prosecute a bunch of industries in New York just for the hell of it when we

1:00:34

haven't actually got the facts of the law to do it that's what's inappropriate miss James

1:00:40

what one bill would you like to see the legislature pass and please limit your

1:00:46

answer to one bill first hundred days I

1:00:52

have five bills but the number one bill the first hundred days would be passed

1:00:57

I've already begun discussions with the speaker as well as the state Senate but the number one bill is to give the office of attorney general original

1:01:04

jurisdiction to investigate corruption in the state of New York it's really critically important and so having had

1:01:09

discussions with the assembly we having had discussions with the speaker I recognize that the governor of the state

1:01:16

of New York when he was the Attorney General he saw that original jurisdiction and but this attorney

1:01:21

general will get it done just one okay

1:01:31

the New York State Attorney General needs to be on the frontlines in cleaning up corruption and if I could

1:01:37

wave a wand and make the legislature comfortable with prosecuting with a

1:01:45

prosecutor investigator coming at it I would also push for giving original

1:01:51

jurisdiction for civil and criminal investigation of corruption the difference here is I think that's less

1:01:59

likely to happen and one of the key things I would do is turn around and say to the governor whoever that is

1:02:05

you have to reopen the Moreland Commission and make sure that we can investigate right now because we cannot

1:02:11

let the governor off the we have to investigate corruption now not waiting for the legislature to act

1:02:16

so we have a genuine corruption crisis and I've been studying corruption and

1:02:22

working on anti-corruption cases and fights my entire life and New York is enfeebled by this corruption inequality

1:02:29

is driven by it we cannot have the series of trials and we should not have to rely on the Southern District of New

1:02:34

York and we would close the pardon loophole well I'm tempted to say when I

1:02:41

meet with the legislature the one bill I'd asked him to pass his term limits for all of us

1:02:47

but but I but I do think I do think seriously that the right answer is that

1:02:54

this office needs primary criminal jurisdiction primary jurisdiction over public corruption that that one change would be historic and and critically

1:03:02

important to finally taking seriously this issue and putting an empowered official in charge of it so I'd leave it

1:03:09

right there thank you there are so many issues and I at first I thought

1:03:16

corruption but I believe although the jurisdictional basis for prosecuting corruption could be broadened and

1:03:23

strengthened as Attorney General I will leave no stone unturned investigating a prosecuting corruption based upon the

1:03:29

existing authority building upon the 2011 agreement between the state control in the state attorney general so if I

1:03:35

had to pick just one act that's the first act looking up it RBG on the wall

1:03:42

right there Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg I would ask I would ask the state

1:03:49

legislature given the assault on women's

1:03:54

rights and reproductive rights I would ask them to immediately codify roe v

1:04:00

wade so that whatever this Supreme Court does whatever the Supreme Court does if

1:04:07

in fact there is a justice Kavanaugh that a woman's right to choose what happens

1:04:14

with her own body will be fully protected in this state thank you each

1:04:22

of the candidates here tonight has indicated in public comments support for reforming the Joint

1:04:29

Commission on professional ethics so my question to ms Teachout first is what is

1:04:34

the first step you will take to do this the first step is that look we need to

1:04:42

totally scrap and have an actually independent Jacob Joint Commission on Public ethics but right now we need to

1:04:52

make sure that Seth Agana resigns he is the executive director of Jacob and as I

1:05:01

was saying and the answer to the last question one of the key jobs here is to

1:05:07

not wait for the perfect but to recognize the crisis as we have it Seth

1:05:13

I gotta as executive director has failed to issue substantial substantial basis

1:05:18

complaints for months at a time well we have corruption crises and

1:05:25

sexual harassment claims sexual misconduct claims swept under the rug he

1:05:30

wrote an unprofessional email to Joe Lhota saying that Lhota could keep his

1:05:35

job heading the MTA while taking outside income in in violation of basic ethics

1:05:45

rules in this state so I actually think the first step is today the first step

1:05:50

is standing up for a strong Jacob and saying even with a broken Jacob we have

1:05:56

to hold leadership accountable mr. Maloney well the the job of this office is to demonstrate the need for it by

1:06:02

making cases that hold people accountable now using existing authorities I do think it can it can be

1:06:09

important for an attorney general to say here's what you ought to do I think a reform Jacob would have total

1:06:14

independence it would have different membership it would not be able to get hamstrung by a couple of people by one

1:06:20

legislative leader it would be able to refer public corruption cases perhaps to the Attorney General including sexual

1:06:26

assault and sexual violence cases which have for far too long been swept under the rug particularly in Albany and I think and I

1:06:33

think I'm happy to have new leadership I don't want to get down in the weeds on on that issue I think there's not a

1:06:39

dimes worth the difference between any of on Jacob but I do think I do think the Attorney General of New York better

1:06:44

start mining the existing authorities to fight public corruption for example the Medicaid fraud crime fraud Act which

1:06:52

gives you sweeping authorities under federal law to go after Medicaid funded institutions you can get after a lot of public corruption that way tens of

1:06:58

billions of dollars are spent there you can do a lot with local DA's partnering with them to give them resources from

1:07:03

this office and say I've got the staff you've got the jurisdiction let's go you even been able to prioritize this but

1:07:09

now you can I'm gonna provide those assistant attorneys general to you those are real steps an attorney general can take right now that will further

1:07:16

demonstrate the need to change the Commission and to change the law I believe Jacob deeds to be scrapped

1:07:22

entirely as well as the legislative Ethics Committee particularly the latter

1:07:28

showing no evidence that the legislature can police itself when it comes to ethics reform but on day one regardless

1:07:36

of whether the legislature acts I would hit the ground running using the existing authority particularly based

1:07:43

upon this 2011 agreement with the State Controller that I referred to earlier that 2011 agreement says that the State

1:07:51

Controller will share what the Attorney General significant investigative and

1:07:56

prosecutorial powers with respect to the misuse of taxpayer funds that is

1:08:03

extraordinary broad authority that means a non-profit a corporation a state

1:08:08

employee a state elected official a state appoint appointed official who misuses taxpayer funds now the Attorney

1:08:18

General for seven years has had the shared authority with the state attorney State Controller to investigate

1:08:24

incidences of misuse of funds and then gets referrals directly from the controller's office to prosecute any

1:08:32

alleged crimes or civil violations with respect to those state funds miss James

1:08:37

Jacob is a J joke and so what we and so just changing faces is not reform we

1:08:43

need a constitutional amendment to create an independent commission which is will be subject to the approval of

1:08:49

the voters throughout the state of New York addition to that the miss Eve refers to

1:08:55

the agreement the agreement actually is operation integrity and it's an agreement between the controller of the

1:09:00

state of New York and the Attorney General but that but that agreement needs to be strengthened as well in

1:09:06

addition to that we need to work with the controller's office with respect to the abuse of public funds and but we

1:09:11

also need to leverage existing power both civilly and criminally in the office of attorney general and we need

1:09:17

to follow the facts and the evidence wherever it leads including to the White House including to the key to the second

1:09:22

floor or including 20 minutes of polity in the state of New York our next  
1:09:28  
question is the last question I know it went fast do you plan to continue or  
1:09:38  
expand the land bank community revitalization program but if you do the  
1:09:44  
money from the bank settlements which fund this program and other perhaps worthy programs is  
going to run out so  
1:09:52  
how would you do it and that question starts with mr. Maloney yeah well obviously obviously  
that's a been an  
1:09:59  
issue from day one on this I've worked with the previous Attorney General extensively on this  
issue I represent the city of Newburgh I represent the  
1:10:04  
city of Poughkeepsie the land banks a great program it's not the only way to fund it I think it is it  
is like a lot  
1:10:10  
of programs necessary to put together a coalition of funding sources there is a public-private  
partnership role there  
1:10:15  
for sure the legislature could get in the game in a bigger way on this and it's a proven model I'm  
telling you in  
1:10:20  
the city like Neuberger Kip see look at Middletown with port jervis these are places that have an  
extra housing stock  
1:10:26  
that that that creates all sorts of related issues and concerns for for the  
1:10:31  
city getting those properties commercial ready getting them back into the market particularly for  
low income and local  
1:10:37  
residents is a very effective very effective program and and in the end saves tax dollars because  
it lowers the  
1:10:43  
overall tax base by having a larger tax base in those communities these communities are on the  
way back I'm  
1:10:49  
telling you and we need to we need to invest in them and believe in them so obviously there will  
be future funds  
1:10:54  
that this office secures in future settlements and and it will be one of the priorities in my office  
together  
1:10:59  
with the prison education programs and criminal justice reforms that I think are are deserving as  
well well thank you for

1:11:07

the question I am proud that when I served as a general counsel of Empire State Development I helped craft what is

1:11:12

now the state's land banks law when I became the first woman in person of color to be the chief economic

1:11:18

development advisor to a governor of our state overseeing 11 agencies in state government I was involved with the

1:11:24

implementation of the state's a newly enacted land bank law there are a number

1:11:29

of potential sources of revenue as Attorney General I would continue the

1:11:35

work that Barbara Underwood has undertaken to go after Big Pharma to the extent that they have misled New Yorkers

1:11:42

about the potency of their drugs and use some of the resources that are gained from that litigation to provide expanded

1:11:49

treatment but also to use funds potentially to go into a land bank to

1:11:56

help renovate homes that are in communities all across the city all across the state and a rural America

1:12:03

that has been affected by the ravages of the opioid crisis I'm the only

1:12:11

individual on this panel who actually sued a mortgage lender name known as Delta funding when I was a former

1:12:16

assistant attorney general and got relief for countless number of homeowners in the borough of Brooklyn who are primarily black and brown

1:12:22

individuals and what we are facing is another crisis which is on the horizon and the next crisis on the horizon is

1:12:28

servicers servicers who unfortunately are not crediting consumers excessive

1:12:33

fees and illegal late payments in addition to that student debt is another

1:12:38

crisis on the horizon so it's really critically important as the next Attorney General that we focus on these

1:12:44

issues I've also met from Buffalo all the way to Long Island legal service organizations because as a former public

1:12:51



defender and as someone who works very closely with legal services they represent the salt of the earth and they recognize issues on the ground and legal

1:12:58

services obviously have been focusing on zombie houses all throughout the state of New York and using land banks as a mean to address affordable housing and

1:13:05

to address the crisis that we are seeing not only in our city but all throughout the state of New York the problem is is

1:13:10

that when you get a settlement as a result of using the martin act or any other creative ledecky litigation

1:13:16

there's been an agreement with the governor we need that funds for the it's intended purpose and that is to address the crisis in affordable housing and to

1:13:23

address the zombie houses which scatter the the land all across the state so the

1:13:29

land bank program has been extremely successful what I want to talk about is the basic principle of law that those

1:13:37

who are harmed by illegal activity should be those who then recoup did any

1:13:45

damages that come from that so you put it more politely than I might have

1:13:51

unfortunately there was a power grab recently where the governor then has

1:13:57

authority over settlement funds as opposed to the Attorney General's Office

1:14:03

and it's more appropriate that the Attorney General's Office who is closer to the victims who's been working with

1:14:09

the people that are the most affected works to find the most strategic way to use settlement funding so one example

1:14:16

that Lisa mentioned is in the opioid crisis the really powerful suit that Underwood brought bringing it by the way

1:14:24

solo which gives her capacity to really manage the settlement which is really

1:14:30

important I'm making sure that those settlement funds go back into treatment facilities when the settlement funds are

1:14:36

around real estate illegality going into affordable housing so making sure that

1:14:41

it is very much the settlement money is going towards those who are the most affected in each particular area of

1:14:47

litigation thank you so each candidate will now have an opportunity to give a

1:14:53

two-minute closing and by previously determined lot Teachout goes first well

1:14:59

thank you very much this evening went by so much faster than I thought I thought

1:15:05

we were going to be in for another twenty questions and I really enjoyed it enjoyed the questions

thank you for your

1:15:11

your time we really are at a genuine crisis moment for law in this country

1:15:22

and in this state and I'm an anti-corruption expert and we have a

1:15:27

corruption crisis I have four priorities for this office

1:15:34

one is to bring that anti-corruption expertise to fight against the very new

1:15:44

and very real threats of Donald Trump and I'm really proud to have the endorsement of the New York Times and

1:15:50

The Daily News and the nation because of their recognition of the particular

1:15:56

challenges of this moment and my particular background in this area that

1:16:02

also relates to a second priority which is taking on corruption in Albany I'm

1:16:08

uniquely independent I have a history of standing up to powerful forces

1:16:14

Republican or Democrat and being willing to call out corruption in Albany and I

1:16:20

will do that do more than call out but investigate because we finally need to clean house

1:16:25

third we really are going to need to chart new territory when it comes to

1:16:33

what this what the New York state attorney general's office does to protect basic rights civil rights

1:16:40

consumer rights we are going to need to rely on state courts when it comes to

1:16:47

protecting our air and water and environment not only because we have the

1:16:52

EPA that we have but because of what's happening in federal courts and finally

1:16:58

I as I mentioned earlier I began my career representing people on death row

1:17:06

and I am committed to using the bully pulpit of this office to fight for

1:17:13

voting rights against mass incarceration and for the D against the deep rot at the core of our system which is the way

1:17:19

that our campaigns are funded and finally get publicly financed campaigns thank you so much for your time I hope I

1:17:24

earn your vote MS James we are in a

1:17:30

pivotal moment in the history of this country careening towards chaos and confusion in the midst of a

1:17:37

constitutional crisis and my campaign is fueled by the fierce urgency

1:17:42

now and so my faith in the Constitution is whole it's complete it's full and I

1:17:52

will not allow anyone to subvert our democracy or our freedom as someone who

1:17:58

is consistently and repeatedly over 20 years smoking truth to power and it was challenged powerful interest in the

1:18:04

state of New York I will not allow anyone to question my independence because it's already been proven as a

1:18:11

former public defender who represented countless number of individuals in the criminal justice system as a former

1:18:17

assistant attorney general who investigated NYPD for stop-and-frisk practices as a former city council

1:18:23

member who took on the most powerful developer in Brooklyn and as the public advocate of the city of New York who's

1:18:29

passed more laws than all previous public advocates combined and handled 32,000 constituent complaints and has

1:18:36

led the way to divest from fossil fuels in the city and to divest from hedge funds and to divest from gun retailers

1:18:45

no this is not a academic exercise what we need is practical experience and

1:18:50

someone who has demonstrated power over and over again I stand before you in the

1:18:55

spirit of shirley Chisholm who's on Boston and bought and I stand before you in the spirit of Barbara Jordan who

1:19:02

investigated Richard Nixon and it's part of the impeachment hearings as a next

1:19:07

Attorney General of the state of New York I look forward to enforcing the law and I look forward to initiating

1:19:14

litigation to protect vulnerable New Yorkers and marginalized individuals in

1:19:19

the state of New York and I look forward to being a force to be reckoned with and lastly when President Trump who refuses

1:19:25

to denounce white nationalist and white racism when he wakes up the day after the election and sees my face as the New

1:19:32

York State Attorney General I'm looking forward to his tweet thank you well

1:19:42

first of all thank you for doing such a wonderful job moderating this forum and

1:19:47

for all of you who are in attendance I am running as the most qualified most

1:19:54

prepared most experienced candidate to be the

1:19:59

chief legal officer of the greatest state in the greatest nation on earth at

1:20:07

a time when this role is more important that it has ever been in my lifetime

1:20:12

that's not just my view it's office as a view of the Albany Times Union that

1:20:19

unanimously endorsed my candidacy it's also the view of the Queens Tribune who

1:20:25

by the way made a point of saying that every single member of their editorial board believes that I should be the next

1:20:31

Attorney General because they talked about this is not the time for on-the-job training these are serious

1:20:38

times we have an assault an unprecedented assault on every single

1:20:45

right that we as New Yorkers and Americans hold dear and New York needs

1:20:50

to continue to lead the way to fight against that assault but we also have unprecedented challenges here at home

1:20:57

that if we are honest with ourselves predate the election of Donald Trump we

1:21:04

own an unfair criminal justice system we own lack of educational economic opportunity for all New Yorkers we own

1:21:10

some of the worst voting laws in the nation we own the fact that the lead

1:21:16

paint law that my father authored decades ago as a leader of the state legislature continues to be violated and

1:21:22

we have thousands of children who continue to be permanently damaged by

1:21:27

exposure to lead paint we have enormous challenges and I stand before you the

1:21:33

most experienced litigator in courtrooms across the state the person who has

1:21:38

fought in the trenches for social justice for more than 25 years the lawyer that I was when I was 29 years

1:21:46

old representing hundreds of incarcerated women is the kind of lawyer the kind of fighter I will be on behalf

1:21:53

of all New Yorkers as the next Attorney General of the state of New York thank you so much mr. Maloney well thank you

1:22:01

to the Association the bar Thank You Roger Thank You Susan thank you to all of you I hope you see before you someone

1:22:07

who has 25 years of public private sector experience I've done real legal work we run real investigations

1:22:14

negotiated major transactions worked on congressional hearings and special counsel matters for more than a decade

1:22:20

on my life I've been a partner to major law firms in this city and worked at 1/3 I've also got extraordinary public

1:22:26

sector experience I've spent 3 years on the White House senior staff seeing every document - that went to the

1:22:32

president knighted States holding a national security clearance I was there during an impeachment crisis I've spent

1:22:38

two years working at a senior staff level for two different governors of New York and managed over a dozen state

1:22:43

agencies and departments and I've spent six years in the Congress where I was I've passed 30 bills into law and very

1:22:49

proud of the work I've done but I'll tell you also see somebody who's a husband who's a father who believes that this party ought to be the party of FDR

1:22:55

because I represent parts of the state that FDR represented who said we only have to fear fear I think we ought to be

1:23:01

the party again of John Kennedy and a Barack Obama we're the guys who gave you the new frontier and hope and change and

1:23:07

I think we are so paralyzed by fear and so distracted by the circus that is the Trump administration that we are in

1:23:13

danger of becoming defined by the very things we say we're against I want to lift people up I want to be part of the

1:23:18

future and let me say something to the Democrats in the room we need to start winning again and you're looking at the only person on this stage who has beat

1:23:25

the Republicans three times in tough elections it's one thing to talk about it I am a gay man with an interracial

1:23:30

family who won in a trump district that wasn't a given don't tell me we don't

1:23:36

tell me Democrats can't win everywhere I do it for a living and one of the things you have to do one of the things you

1:23:41

have to do is not just win though I want to beat them one of the things you have to do is get results when you get

1:23:46

elected so that you can start building this coalition so we aren't in power for a year or two years we don't have to

1:23:52

worry about one appointment to the Supreme Court I want to build a coalition that lasts a generation or two like FDR did and I want to remember that

1:23:59

we can lead with our ideals not just with our fears that we can be part of something good not just stopping

1:24:04

something bad I don't want to have a tea party on the left I want to have a movement of hope again so that we can go

1:24:11

forward is one country to a better place and I believe this office is front and center on the front lines in making that

1:24:17

more possible I'm asking for your vote on September 13th thank you very much for the opportunity to be here tonight

1:24:23

on behalf of the New York Law Journal the City Bar Association I want to thank

1:24:28

the candidates for such a lively debate and such thoughtful answers I want to

1:24:33

thank the audience for coming and being patient and hearing hearing them out and this seems completely unnecessary but

1:24:41

I've been asked to remind you to vote [Laughter] [Applause]

English (auto-generated)