

2026 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

New Jersey

Key: Yes, supports No, does not support Chose not to answer

MAYOR, CITY COUNCIL & COUNTY CANDIDATES

CANDIDATE	Antonio Merolli
CITY / COUNTY	Princeton
POSITION	Princeton Council
Q1: Adopt the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism as the standard for city departments.	
Q2: Ordinance for content-neutral safety buffer zones around private residences and other targeted sites.	
Q3: Consistent enforcement against unpermitted demonstrations, illegal signage and obstruction; coordinate with state agencies.	
Q4: Procurement standards excluding vendors that discriminate against Israel or Israeli entities, per state law.	
Q5: Review city grants so public funds do not advance content singling out a national or religious group.	
Q6: Convene a working group with Jewish institutions and law enforcement on threats, security planning and security grants.	
Q7: Publicly oppose, including by a no-vote, council resolutions on foreign policy outside the city’s jurisdiction.	
Q8: Publish an annual public report on hate crimes and bias incidents, broken down by targeted group.	
Q9: Establish a defined channel for the Jewish community to engage your office on policy and safety concerns.	

Verbal Responses:

Marina Rubina – Princeton Town Council

I grew up in the former USSR and have unfortunately experienced antisemitism personally. My family left Russia when I was a teenager, specifically to find a better world free of discrimination. We ended up in the US, but life could have worked out differently, and we could just as easily have been residents of one of the kibbutzim attacked by Hamas. My teenage kids could have been at the Nova music festival, and I feel deep grief in my heart for that horrible day.

I am running for Town Council in Princeton, and if elected, I will have the opportunity and responsibility to create an environment in our town where all people are free to express their views, practice their faith, and live without fear. Over the next three years here in Princeton, this will mean shaping both the physical environment (as we revise our land use regulations) and the psychological environment, by setting policies and modeling how we communicate and relate to each other in our exceptional community.

If elected, I will have no more impact on our country’s foreign policy than any other resident of Princeton. However, I believe the largest impact I can have toward eliminating antisemitism and discrimination in the future is as a mother. My Jewish children go to school, play sports, make music, perform in plays, and work on stage sets together with kids of all religions, races, and countries of origin. I truly believe that building friendships on that personal level is the most productive way to build peace.