



# MANIFESTO 2025

## THE PLAN FOR ACTION

TOGETHER, WE WILL BREAK THE CYCLE,  
FOR A BETTER FUTURE

**RAUL GONZALEZ JR.**

INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE FOR NEWLANDS

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# INTRODUCTION

## Why I Am Running for Newlands



I am Raul Gonzalez Jr., and I am running for the Newlands constituency because I understand the struggles of this community—struggles I have lived through and continue to share. For over 24 years, Newlands has been my home, and I have raised my family here. I am not just seeking office for political reasons; I am here because I want to make a real difference. I have a deep, personal connection with this community, and I feel your pain, your challenges, and your hopes. Together, we can create a brighter future for Newlands, and for the Cayman Islands.

I am committed to representing the people of Newlands. My allegiance is to you, not to special interest groups or individuals who benefit from the status quo. I believe in the power of unity, collaboration, and action. Together, we will break the cycle, for a better future.

# **COST OF LIVING**

Making Life More Affordable for Families

## **ISSUES**

- High cost of groceries, utilities, and housing burdening families in Newlands.

## **SOLUTIONS**

- Take control of buying fuel from CUC to reduce costs.
- Advocate for policies that reduce import duties on essential goods, easing the financial burden on families.
- Advocate for price regulation to prevent price gouging and ensure fair pricing for consumers.
- Install a Consumer Protection Board to regulate and protect consumers from unfair practices.
- Support initiatives for affordable housing and development to ensure that all Caymanians have access to homes they can afford.
- Reintroduce government programs like GG HAM to help Caymanians qualify for assistance in purchasing homes.
- Work towards lowering the cost of health and property insurance through local interventions to increase fairness and competition.
- Regulate high strata fees and ensure that Caymanians benefit from reduced rates.
- Ensure flexible policies to allow Caymanians to access better financial opportunities.

# EDUCATION AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Empowering Our Youth for a Brighter Future

## **ISSUES**

- Gaps in education quality, accessibility, and opportunities for youth.
- Challenges with government scholarship eligibility and requirements for students studying abroad.

## **SOLUTIONS**

- Advocate for better funding and support for education to address the gaps in quality and access for all students.
- Work with the government to ensure health insurance coverage for students overseas, ensuring it meets the requirements of their respective universities.
- Review and revise the scholarship system to ensure fairness and alignment with international university standards.
- Create more vocational training programs and scholarships to support youth development.
- Advocate for a modernized curriculum that better prepares students for the demands of today's job market.
- Support after-school programs and mentorship initiatives for youth development and engagement.
- Implement a Trade School in collaboration with the Heart Trade School from Jamaica.
- Ensure that GPA requirements for scholarships align with university standards, rather than the Cayman Islands Government's set standards.

# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Building Stronger, Safer Neighborhoods

## **ISSUES**

- Lack of community engagement and limited space for public interaction.

## **SOLUTIONS**

- Establish a District Council for ongoing community involvement in decision-making.
- Host community events every four months for direct engagement, updates, and transparency.
- Advocate for safer neighbourhoods, including improved lighting, CCTV installations, and a greater police presence.
- Ensure safe and adequate bus shelters, especially for school children.
- Advocate for a Civic Centre and facilities such as ambulance and fire trucks at the Marine Headquarters for quicker response times.
- Improve sidewalks and lighting from ICCI to the Bypass, including Rex Creighton Blvd.
- Enhance community safety with neighbourhood watch programs and better policing.
- Upgrade parks with Wi-Fi, restrooms, and security cameras to make them more family-friendly and accessible.
- Establish a Community Office with fully functioning staff to support residents and address concerns.

# TRAFFIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Connecting Newlands, Reducing Congestion

## **ISSUES**

- Growing traffic congestion, inadequate road infrastructure, and insufficient public transportation options.

## **SOLUTIONS**

- Advocate for extended road networks and alternate routes to ease traffic congestion.
- Implement synchronized traffic lights for better traffic flow and reduced waiting times.
- Encourage the introduction of more public transportation options to reduce congestion and improve mobility.
- Complete the East-West Arterial Road to help ease congestion and improve access to the community.
- Create alternate routes for emergency evacuation and improved accessibility.
- Stagger work times to alleviate peak-hour traffic congestion.
- Encourage private schools to bus their students to reduce the number of vehicles on the road.
- Advocate for remote working policies in both government and private sectors at least two days a week, allowing employees to work from home to reduce traffic and improve work-life balance.
- Establish a public transport system for Newlands to make travel easier for residents and reduce car dependence.

# DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Ensuring Our Community's Safety and Readiness

## **ISSUES**

- Vulnerability to hurricanes and other natural disasters.

## **SOLUTIONS**

- Strengthen the disaster response plan, including clear communication channels for emergencies.
- Improve hurricane shelter facilities and ensure they are well-stocked with necessary supplies.
- Improve the drainage system to reduce flooding risks and protect homes and infrastructure.
- Ensure the completion of gazetted exit and entrance routes out of Newlands to facilitate evacuation during emergencies.
- Develop a proactive hurricane season plan with well-equipped shelters and resources.
- Enhance communication and emergency services to improve disaster readiness and response.



# FAMILY AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Supporting Families, Strengthening Community Ties

## **ISSUES**

- Lack of support for families, mental health services, and social programs.

## **SOLUTIONS**

- Support funding for mental health services and family support programs.
- Advocate for better work-life balance policies, including flexible working options and remote work options.
- Promote initiatives that strengthen family values and encourage community well-being.
- Support youth development programs to help children and families thrive.
- Organize community events to foster engagement, transparency, and build a stronger sense of community.
- Create family-friendly spaces and activities for everyone to enjoy and connect with others.

# IMMIGRATION REFORM

Protecting Opportunities for Caymanians

## **ISSUES**

- Inequities in the immigration system affecting Caymanians' opportunities and rights.

## **SOLUTIONS**

- Review and reform rollover policies for expatriates working in the civil service, ensuring qualified Caymanians can fill those roles.
- Implement a moratorium on status grants and permanent residency to protect Caymanians' opportunities.
- Reinstate the Cayman Protection Board to ensure that Caymanians' interests are prioritized in immigration decisions.
- Ensure better cooperation between government agencies (Scholarship Secretariat, WORC, and Civil Service) to prioritize job placements for returning graduate students.
- Review and close loopholes in the Immigration Act and regulations to prevent abuse and protect the interests of Caymanians.

# HEALTH CARE

Access to Affordable, Quality Care for All

## **ISSUES**

- Rising health care costs, inadequate coverage for students studying overseas, and limited coverage for children and senior citizens.

## **SOLUTIONS**

- Advocate for free health insurance coverage for children up to age 18 and senior citizens.
- Work with the government to provide free health insurance for Caymanian students studying abroad to ensure they meet the health insurance requirements of their universities.
- Ensure that insurance plans meet university requirements, especially in areas like mental health coverage, to avoid students having to purchase additional insurance policies.

# PENSION REFORM

Securing a Fair Retirement for Future Generations

## **ISSUES**

- The pension system is currently capped, meaning that once an employee earns over \$87,000 annually, they and their employer are only required to pay pension contributions (5% each) up to \$87,000 — not on the full salary amount.
- This system is unfair to lower-income earners who must contribute 5% of their entire salary, while higher-income earners are not required to contribute 5% of their full earnings.
- This creates an imbalance that makes it harder for the pension fund to grow and puts a greater burden on those who are already struggling financially.

## **SOLUTIONS**

- Advocate for the removal of the \$87,000 cap, requiring that all employees and employers contribute 5% each on the full salary amount, no matter how much they earn.
- Ensure fairness in pension contributions, making it equitable for everyone across all income levels, and helping to build stronger, more sustainable pension funds for Caymanians.

# CLOSING STATEMENT

Together, We Will Break the Cycle

I, Raul Gonzalez Jr., pledge that if elected, my only alliance will be to the people of Newlands and the Cayman Islands — not to special interests, political elites, or outside influences.

I will work for you, listen to you, and stand with you. However, true change cannot be achieved by one person alone. It requires all of us standing together — united in vision and action — to build the future we deserve.

As part of my commitment to our community, I am pledging to donate 25% of my monthly parliamentary salary into a Community Committee Fund.

This fund will be used to assist residents in need, support community development initiatives, and strengthen the programs that directly benefit the people of Newlands.

Together, we can break the cycle and build a stronger, safer, and more prosperous Newlands and Cayman Islands for our families and future generations.

For real change, for a better future — Vote Raul Gonzalez Jr.