



Mayor of Providence

Brett P. Smiley


January 3, 2023

Honorable Members  
Providence City Council  
City Hall

Dear Honorable Members:

Pursuant to Sections 302(b) and 701 of the Providence Home Rule Charter of 1980, as amended and Public Law, Chapter 45-50, Sections 1 through 3 passed 1987, I am this day appointing Erlin Rogel of 21 Lynde Street, Providence, RI 02908, as a member of the Providence School Board for a term to expire on January 31, 2026, and respectfully submit the same for your approval.

Sincerely,

  
Brett P. Smiley  
Mayor

IN CITY COUNCIL  
JAN 19 2023

READ  
WHEREUPON IT IS ORDERED THAT  
- THE SAME BE RECEIVED AND APPROVED

 CLERK

# Erlin R. Rogel, J.D.

21 Lynde Street Providence, RI 02908 | erlinrogel@gmail.com | 401.952.2950

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## STRATEGIC ADVISOR | EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

Strategic advisor with a wide array of experience in organizational leadership and mass communications in municipal government, political campaigns, and nonprofit formation. Leverages creative problem-solving and a broad network to advise partners on public positions, governmental relations, and coalition building. Exhibits careful attention to emotional cues and personality types. An intelligent communicator who uses an effective, personable style in leading and collaborating with internal teams, external partners, and stakeholders. Fluent in Spanish.

### STRENGTH AREAS

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Organizational Leadership | Project Management | Government Relations | Communications | Coalition Building

### STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

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#### *Office of Rhode Island Lieutenant Governor, Sabina Matos*

Present

#### **SENIOR ADVISOR FOR INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

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Lead on policy research and development, intergovernmental relations, and communications. Monitor General Assembly session and track legislation relevant to office. Draft talking points, remarks, speeches, oversee social media content and provide media interview preparation. Serve as contact person for media relations and as liaison to other state offices and departments. Advise Lieutenant Governor on political and media strategy.

- Researched and drafted "Fair Chance in Housing Act": which limits criminal and credit background checks in tenant application process. Engaged relevant stakeholders and built grassroots support. Identified bill sponsors who introduced in each chamber. Prepared Lieutenant Governor for committee hearing. Will introduce again in 2023.

#### *Providence Public School Department*

2021-2022

#### **DIRECTOR OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS/ INTERIM CHIEF OF STAFF**

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Oversaw public school district of 24,000 students, 4,000 employees, and a \$419 M budget. Coordinated and advised the state Commissioner, Superintendent and Executive Team on the development and implementation of key district initiatives, including the district's Turnaround Action Plan (strategic plan) priorities and fall 2021 school re-opening plan. Managed all activities and staff of the Superintendent's Office, as well as managed the district's policy, communications, intergovernmental and community relations plan.

- Successfully orchestrated school reopening in September 2022 with newly appointed Superintendent.
- Led reorganization of executive staff, central office staff, and restructured staff meetings to address staffing needs and increase efficiency.

#### *City Council of Providence*

2019-2021

#### **CHIEF OF STAFF**

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Served as Chief of Staff for 15-member Providence City Council. Oversee 7 city departments and 58 employees. Successfully negotiated the City's \$773 M fiscal year 2020 budget, the fiscal year 2020 Community Development Block Grant \$5 M budget, and the City's \$115 M Capital Improvement Plan for years 2020-2024. Oversaw and managed the Council's city and state legislative research and development, external communications strategies, constituent services tracking, and internal budget monitoring. Served as the primary liaison between Councilors, Council and Administration, and Council and state elected officials. Wrote legislation, op-eds, statements, press releases, and led a rebranding of the Council's website and external communications to be more reflective of the neighborhoods we serve.

- Operationalized virtual public body meetings immediately after Open Meetings Act was relaxed by executive order.

Led COVID-19 Council response; which included: working with food rescue organizations to provide needy families food baskets throughout the pandemic, allocating funding to establish a COVID-19 testing site for uninsured, seed-funding a small business micro-loan program in partnership with the Providence Revolving Fund, and directed staff to help with Census count efforts in hard to reach communities.

**Providence Public Schools** – Providence, RI

2015 – 2019

**ELA TEACHER**

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Taught ELA and ESL to middle and high school students using personally-designed and culturally-competent curricula that allowed students to practice analytical skills through a medium they felt connected to. As an example, I once did a unit around the African diaspora and it culminated with a class trip to see the Black Panther movie in theatres. Cofounded “Boy’s Night Out” and the Gentlemen’s Academy: a mentorship program for young men of color.

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**EDUCATION**

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**Juris Doctor (JD)** – Roger Williams University School of Law, 2015

President, Multicultural Law Student Association, 2013

**Bachelor of Arts (BA)** - Political Science – Roger Williams University, 2012

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**Additional Affiliations**

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Founding Member – Rhode Island Hispanic Bar Association

Founding Member – Millennial Rhode Island

Corp Member – Teach for America, 2015

**Name**

Erlin Rogel

**Address**

21 Lynde Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02908  
United States  
[Map It](#)

**How many years have you been a Providence resident?**

32

**Phone**

(401) 952-2950

**Work Address**

82 Smith Street

**Work Phone**

(401) 222-3983

**Email**

erlinrogel@gmail.com

**Where and how would you prefer to be contacted?**

Email

**General Questions**

**What do you consider to be three of the most critical issues currently facing the Providence Public School district? Please be as specific as possible.**

Currently, the most critical issue facing Providence students is the chronic lack of academic achievement which has only compounded since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. This year's RICAS scores show that Providence students are still not meeting, and severely lagging behind, statewide averages in ELA and Math proficiency.

The second most critical issue effecting Providence students is the lack of wraparound services that are a prerequisite for learning. Services such as stable housing, food security, public safety, and mental healthcare are necessary for students to learn and show improvement on assessment tools such as RICAS.

Finally, the third most critical issue in our district is the state of our learning facilities. Our school building inventory is antiquated and our facilities and learning spaces are not conducive to 21st century learning.

**What is the role of the School Board in addressing these critical issues?**

Traditionally and per City Charter, the School Board has served as the governing board of the school district; charged with overseeing its operations, policy adoption, budgetary allocations, and personnel. Due to the state intervention, the School Board's role has become somewhat opaque but has served as a public forum for District leaders to engage and inform community members regarding Turnaround Plan progress. While valuable, the School Board should begin to focus on its structure and role in anticipation for the state's return of the district and the approval of elected school board members by voters. W

**Are you able and willing to commit to a three year term beginning in 2023 which requires an average of four meetings per month? In a typical month there are business meetings which provide management oversight of the School Department, workshops which educate the Board, and disciplinary hearings which require full Board attendance.**

Yes.

**Questions for First-Time Applicants**

**How do you view the role of a School Board member? What are the strengths and experiences that you would bring to this position?**

Under state intervention, the role of a School Board member should be to ensure that critical information is getting out to the community, that robust dialogue includes a community perspective, and that the state is delivering on its Turnaround Plan objectives.

I am a former PPSD student, educator, and have served in leadership roles at the district level. I am a lifelong Providence resident and bring a well-rounded perspective to this role.

**What non-profit board and community leadership positions have you held or do you hold now? How has this work informed your understanding of the role of a School Board member?**

I have served as a founding board member of the RI Hispanic Bar Association, Millennial RI, and the Gentlemen's Academy which is a youth mentoring program I and fellow PPSD educators launched in 2016,

Serving on boards has taught me that it is necessary to work collaboratively, to be inclusive, and be honest with colleagues. As a board member, you serve on a team and so it's important that you be a good teammate.

**How, at present, do you keep informed about education policy in general and issues facing the Providence Public Schools in particular? How, as a School Board member, would you educate yourself more fully? What resources would be helpful to you in gaining the background and information you would wish to acquire?**

In light of my past roles at PPSD, I stay very informed on education matters especially those impacting PPSD students. I think the role of a school board member is to be an active learner and to use the school board forum as a space to learn from experts and professionals.

**Please submit names of and contact information for two references.**

Lt. Governor Sabina Matos: sabina.matos@ltgov.ri.gov

Victor Capellan: vfcapellan@gmail.com

**Did you attend the Providence Public Schools? If so, please list the schools and the years you attended each school.**

William D'Abate Elementary School: co 2000

Gilbert Stuart Middle School: co 2004

Classical High School: co 2008

**Do you have or have you had children attending the Providence Public Schools? If so, please list the schools your children have attended and the years they attended each school.**

No

**How did you learn about this application process?**

Through the news.

**Attach your current resume here, including your education, employment history, and any other info you deem relevant.**

[ER.-2023-resume.pdf](#)

**Would you object to the disclosure of any information on this application?**

No

**Certify**

I hereby certify that the information that I have presented in this application is complete, accurate, and true to the best of my knowledge, and I hereby authorize the School Board Nominating Commission to verify this information as may be required.

**By entering your name you are hereby certifying that the information that you have presented in this application is complete, accurate, and true to the best of your knowledge.**

Erlin Rogel

**Date**

11/18/2022