**2019 PUBLIC ADVOCATE SPECIAL ELECTION MDCNY Candidate Questionnaire**

Email address \*

*The Muslim Democratic Club of New York (MDCNY) is a New York City-based organization of American Muslims dedicated to helping elect responsible Democrats to office.*

Name \*

Status \*

Mark only one oval.

Incumbent

Challenger

Open Seat

Party Affiliations \*

Check all that apply.

Democrat

Working Families

Republican

Conservative

Independence

Green

Other:

What independent party name will you be running on in this non-partisan special election? Why did you choose this name?

Campaign Headquarters Location \*

Campaign Manager \*

insert name + contact information please

Occupation \*

Military or Civil Service (Americorps, City Year, etc.) \*

Community Organizations, Associations and/or Involvement \*

Union Affiliations \*

**ENDORSEMENT**

Why you and why now? \*

What are your TOP TWO priorities and/or objectives? \*

What do you think are some creative ways to improve the Democratic Party infrastructure? \*

Please list endorsements to date \*

**KEY ISSUES**

Law Enforcement Accountability

Criminal Justice Reform

Religious Accommodations

Immigration Reform

Islamophobia/Hate Crimes

Economic Inequality/Affordable Housing

Education Equity

Infrastructure Improvements

Environment + Sustainability

Government Reform

Diversifying Judiciary

Foreign Policy

**LAW ENFORCEMENT ACCOUNTABILITY**

How would you work to ensure that law enforcement is held accountable? \*

Do you SUPPORT ENDING surveillance of Muslim communities and political activists based solely on faith (or perceived faith) or ideology? \*

Mark only one oval.

YES

NO

Do you support the POST ACT?

YES

NO

Do you SUPPORT ENDING New York’s Section 50-a rule, which has been used by the NYPD to justify hiding officers' discipline records from public review?

Mark only one oval.

YES

NO

The NYPD has a close relationship with police departments across

Israel, a relationship that has facilitated greatly by police exchange

programs over the past two decades. The consequences of this are many:

Israeli policies were the inspiration for the creation of the

NYPD's Demographics Unit and NYPD policies led to the Knesset

passing a Stop and Frisk law and Israeli police adopting the Compstat

program used by the NYPD to implement and track their broken windows

approach to policing. Furthermore, the last three NYPD

Commissioners have taken paid trips to Israel to continue this special

relationship. Are you willing to use your position as a bully pulpit

against the continuation of this deadly exchange?

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM**

Do you support the following:

1. Ending the Taxi and Limousine Commission’s practice of suspending a for-hire-vehicle driver’s license upon arrest instead of after a conviction?

YES

NO

1. Ending cash bail?

YES

NO

1. The expungement of criminal records pertaining to marijuana charges?

YES

NO

**RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATIONS**

Do you support expanding the Halal-Kosher pilot program which aims to offer halal and kosher meal options to students in public schools?

Should accommodations be made for religious dress/gear requirements as it relates to photographs taken for identification purposes such as passport, drivers license, mugshots etc? Explain your answer.

**IMMIGRATION REFORM**

What SPECIFIC ACTIONS are you willing to take to protect, defend and invest in our immigrant communities? \*

What efforts would you put forth to ensure the NYS DREAM Act is passed in the upcoming session? \*

YES

NO

Do you support providing Drivers Licenses for all New Yorkers without regard to their status?

YES

NO

Do you support non-citizen voting?

YES

NO

Do you support the Liberty Act? \*

YES

NO

Will you support organizations serving immigrant communities by advocating for funding? \*

YES

NO

**ISLAMOPHOBIA/HATE CRIMES**

What are your thoughts on methods to combat rising anti-Muslim sentiment? \*

There has been an increase in the amount of bias related assaults in our city against taxi and Uber drivers, most of whom are immigrants. Do you support increasing penalties against those who assault taxi and Uber drivers?

How many mosques or Muslim community centers have you visited in the last year? \*

1

2

3

More than 3

Do you have any Muslims on your campaign staff?

If elected will you try to hire qualified Muslim American on your government staff?

**ECONOMIC INEQUALITY/AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

What are realistic and creative ways that the NYS government can address homelessness? \*

How would you address the affordable housing shortage in NYC? \*

How do you propose correcting the NYCHA crisis and what preventative measures would you advocate for to ensure residents have a habitable living environment.

How would you improve opportunities for minority and women owned businesses? \*

What are your thoughts on the Amazon deal which will create a headquarters in Long Island City? Do you support it?

**EDUCATION EQUITY**

What are your top three education priorities? \*

Please share your thoughts on charter schools. \*

Please share your thoughts on Mayor DeBlasio and Chancellor Caranza's plan to remove the SHSAT (Specialized High School Admissions Test) for 8th graders in New York City. If you do not agree with this policy change, how would you improve diversity in our schools? \*

**INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS**

What will you do to fix the deteriorating MTA subway system, including polluted tracks, increasing fares, and delayed and overcrowded trains?

Do you support city control over the MTA?

**ENVIRONMENT + SUSTAINABILITY**

What are your plans to make NYC sustainable and reduce carbon emissions?

How can we reduce the use of plastic in our city?

**GOVERNMENT REFORM**

Would you push for the appointment of commissioners, regents, advisory board members, etc. who reflect the diversity of New York State? \*

Do you support the following:

a. Early voting

b. Automatic voter registration

c. Same-day registration

d. Public financing of elections at the state-level

How will you use the office of the Public Advocate to increase participation in the 2020 Census?

How would you improve elections? \*

**DIVERSITY IN THE JUDICIARY**

A diverse judiciary is the sign of an inclusive and representative democracy, and ensures access to justice for all communities. MDCNY would like to increase the number of Muslim Americans considered for judgeships and add to the diversity of the bench.

What steps do you think you can take to help increase the diversity of the judiciary in NYC? \*

Will you support nominations of attorneys from the Muslim American community for judgeships?

Mark only one oval.

YES

NO

**FOREIGN POLICY**

Do you support the right of New Yorkers to participate in the boycott, divestment and sanction (BDS) movement without penalty?

YES

NO

Do you support public partnerships with academic institutions and

businesses that have been found complicit in human rights violations?

YES

NO

Are you willing to visit the West Bank and Gaza?

YES

NO

Anything else you'd like us to know about you?