

*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.*

**QUEENS BOROUGH PRESIDENT SPECIAL ELECTION CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE**

*Directions: This questionnaire is part of our club endorsement process, which is followed by a screening from members of the board and a club endorsement meeting, where candidates will have the opportunity to address our membership.*

**BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT CANDIDATE**

Name:

Email address:

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?

Occupation

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

Community Organizations, Associations and/or Involvement

Union Affiliations

**CAMPAIGN INFORMATION**

Campaign Headquarters Location:

Campaign Manager:

Insert name + contact information please

**ENDORSEMENT**

1. Why you and why now?
2. What are your TOP TWO priorities and/or objectives?
3. What do you think are creative ways to improve Democratic Party infrastructure?
4. Please list endorsements to date.

**KEY ISSUES**

Law Enforcement Accountability

Criminal Justice Reform

Public Safety/ Public Health

Religious Accommodations

Immigration Reform

Islamophobia/Hate Crimes

Economic Inequality/Affordable Housing

Education Equity

Infrastructure Improvements

Environment + Sustainability

Government Reform

Diversifying Judiciary & Community Boards

Discretionary & Capital Funding

Foreign Policy

**LAW ENFORCEMENT ACCOUNTABILITY**

What are your thoughts on holding law enforcement accountable for abusive practices? 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?

Yes

No

Do you SUPPORT ENDING the pressuring of Muslims to become informants solely based on their country of origin/faith?

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?

Yes

No

Do you SUPPORT legislation to codify the appointment of a special prosecutor for police killings? (A.5617-Perry)

Yes

No

Do you SUPPORT legislation requiring greater transparency for policing data (the Police-STAT Act (A.5946A – Lentol))?

Yes

No

Do you support the POST ACT?

YES

NO

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM**

Please list 2-3 priorities on how you will reform New York's criminal justice system.

In which ways will you collaborate with the Queens District Attorney in order to support community groups in the borough?

Do you support 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

Do you support the expungement of criminal records pertaining to marijuana charges? YES/NO

Do you support closing Rikers Island? If so, where should resources be allocated instead?

**PUBLIC SAFETY/ PUBLIC HEALTH**

*According to a report from The Trace/Measure of America/THE CITY, victims of gun violence in South Jamaica, particularly those below Hillside Avenue, are most likely to die from their injuries. This is because of their proximity to the* ***only Trauma Center in Southern Queens*** *(Jamaica Hospital).*

How will you help address this inequity in Southern Queens?

What is the best way to decrease gun violence in our communities?

Will you advocate for and increase support of anti-violence organizations in Queens that implement the Cure Violence model?

What are your thoughts on Governor Cuomo adding 500 more MTA police officers?

As a borough with two public hospitals (Elmhurst Hospital and Queens Hospital Center) that are safety-net providers which serve many uninsured Queens residents, how will you use your office to advocate for a system that serves our neighbors who are more often than not marginalized and/or Undocumented?

How will your office best address food insecurity through many neighborhoods in the Borough?

**RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATIONS**

What are your thoughts on improving access to special diets in public schools? Should public schools offer halal, vegan, vegetarian, Fair Trade and Non-GMO options? (Halal is an Arabic word that refers to anything that is permissible according to Islamic law.)

Do you understand the need for culturally competent and sensitive programs for immigrant and Muslim seniors? Will you allocate capital money to build additional senior centers?

Should government agencies and entities accommodate religious dress and gear requirements for employees? Explain your answer.

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?

Do you support the Protect Our Courts Act?

Do you support non-citizen voting?

Yes

No

Do you support the Liberty Act?

Yes

No

Will you support immigrant-serving organizations by advocating for funding to survival services?

Yes

No

How would you expand support and resources for vulnerable communities as we witness the most anti-immigrant federal administration in decades?

**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 two years?

0

1

2

3

More than 3

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 local and state government can address homelessness?

What are your thoughts on some community opposition to the 2 shelters in Central Queens?

How will you approach a future ULURP for any of the community boards/districts in your borough?

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 to ensure residents have a habitable living environment?

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

Do you support SBJSA (Small Business Jobs Survival Act)?

What are your thoughts on city deals with large corporations to create headquarters in local neighborhoods?

**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 are your thoughts on investments in infrastructure ex: roads, bridges, water delivery, natural gas, stormwater management, energy delivery, transit, improvements? Which areas are most vulnerable and what are your thoughts on making improvements?

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

**ENVIRONMENT + SUSTAINABILITY**

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

What are your thoughts on divestment from fossil fuels and reinvestment into renewables?

How would you improve the safety of public parks?

**GOVERNMENT REFORM**

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

How would you improve elections?

How will you use the office of the Borough President to increase participation in the 2020 Census?

**DIVERSITY IN THE JUDICIARY & COMMUNITY BOARDS**

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?

Yes

No

Diverse community boards are essential to ensure that boards are representative, inclusive, and equitable. MDCNY would like to increase the number of Muslim New Yorkers represented on community boards.

What steps do you think you can take to help increase the diversity of Queens community boards?

Will you support nominations of Muslim New Yorkers to community boards?

Yes

No

**DISCRETIONARY AND CAPITAL FUNDING**

What are your priorities for spending the borough president’s office’s discretionary and capital funding?

Do you understand the need for culturally competent and sensitive programs for immigrant and Muslim seniors? Will you allocate capital money to build additional senior centers?

**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?