

*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.*

**STATE 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:

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 would be your top 2 priorities and objectives? What committees would you like to join?
3. 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**

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

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM**

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

**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.)

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?

How many mosques or Muslim community centers have you visited in the last two years?

0

1

2

3

More than 3

**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?

Share some thoughts on workforce development. High unemployment and a mismatch of jobs and skill levels are among the factors that have made it difficult for economic growth. How would you address both areas?

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

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

**ENVIRONMENT + SUSTAINABILITY**

Do you understand the dangers of hydrofracking?

What are your thoughts on “all of the above” energy strategies?

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?

**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?

Yes

No

**FOREIGN POLICY**

Do you support Governor Cuomo's Executive Order re state agencies and authorities divesting public funding from companies supporting the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) Movement?

Yes

No

Would you support the introduction of a bill limiting the 1st amendment right to free speech?

What are your thoughts on the Anti-Semitism Awareness Bill?

Do you support an end to the military occupation of the West Bank and an end to the Israeli blockade on Gaza?

Yes

No

THAT’S ALL!

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