



2017 City Council Candidate Questionnaire

Completed questionnaires will be public documents available on our website, so put your best foot forward. If we ultimately hold an endorsement vote in your race, your questionnaire will be circulated to our membership before the vote.

Name	Antonio Reynoso
Council District number and neighborhoods represented	District 34- Williamsburg, Bushwick in Brooklyn and Ridgewood in Queens
How long have you lived in the above district?	My entire life- 33 years. I was born and raised in the Southside of Williamsburg.
Preferred campaign contact information: name, email address, phone number	
Why do you want to serve as a member of the NYC Council?	I want to serve as Council Member to the 34th district because I want to continue to work for families that contributed to the fabric of the place I call home. This work is how I put a face and a human experience to decades of bad policies that severely impacted these neighborhoods at the Council. All my efforts at City Hall are to contribute towards making the City more equitable and just. I believe that I have made inroads but there is still plenty left to achieve. I want to pass Intro 495- Waste Capacity Reduction and the Right to Know Act because these are two pieces of legislation that will effect meaningful change in my district and the City as a whole.
What have you accomplished in public life that you are most proud of?	I am most proud to be one of the leading voices at City Council when it comes to environmental justice for North Brooklyn and my advocacy for transparency and accountability from the NYPD. I am proud to have fostered a long term lease with Nuestros Ninos Daycare and the City. I am proud to be as close as we've ever been to acquiring the building of 211 Ainslie from a private owner to a community based organization. I am proud to have introduced two community based processes to my district (Participatory Budgeting and the Bushwick Community Plan). I assisted in the formation of 3 Tenant Associations. All these things are ways in which I have provided members of my community access and empowered them to organize, to learn their rights, and to hold the City and myself accountable.
What are the greatest strengths and struggles of your council district?	<p>The greatest strengths of my district include the common denominators when it comes to issues that matter to all my constituents like affordable housing, transportation, environmental justice, and public safety. This makes it easier for me to accurately and passionately advocate on their behalf and represent this district. When I got to a Council hearing I know exactly where my district stands on these issues and that united front is powerful. Also ,we have a history of diverse and ardent leaders like David Pagan, Luis Garden Acosta, Jan Peterson, Father Karvelis, and Father Powis etc. who made New York City for their work in North Brooklyn. I am so proud that we have their contributions and legacy to characterize my district.</p> <p>Some of my districts include gentrification and displacement. I believe my district is the epitome of poor planning at the hands of Robert Moses and misguided leadership by previous Administrations . We have one of the City's lowest amount of park space (and highest rates of asthma because of it) and over and underdevelopment at the same time. The decision to cut through Williamsburg for the BQE is one that my district is still feeling the effects of.</p>

<p>Why do you want New Kings Democrats' endorsement?</p>	<p>I cannot see my political future unfold without the presence of NKD. By helping to found NKD, I was essentially looking to be part of a progressive movement that strived to open up government and the Democratic Party in Brooklyn to more participatory and democratic processes. Additionally, I envisioned NKD to be the most diverse organization in NY and the nation to fight for progressive values like transparency and equality. The club has evolved and expanded and I am extremely proud of being a part of that legacy. The last time I visited and spoke about the need for the <i>Right to Know Act</i> I stood in front of a crowd of 80+ people that were ready to organize, fight, and change our political reality. I wholeheartedly believe in empowering my constituents and the general public by giving them the tools to make important civic decisions and NKD integrates this into their mission.</p> <p>I value NKD's incredible efforts in aiding my campaign in 2013. Their presence was powerful and we were successful because of how much they believed in that campaign. I seek the New Kings Democrats' endorsement because I stand unyielding in my commitment to opening up County and hope that I can count on their support to make that a reality.</p>
<p>If elected, what will your top three legislative and budgetary priorities be while in office?</p>	<p>If re-elected, I plan on focusing on getting the Right to Know Act and Intro 495 bills passed. I also intend to work in policy for parks and green space equity at the City Council. My budget priorities will include working to help fund the BQGreen decking in the Southside, Immigration resources, and expanding the ELLA program (Extremely Low-Income Affordability) .</p>
<p>What is one thing you would do while in office to make New York City government more transparent, accountable, or inclusive?</p>	<p>One of the things I would like to do at the Council to make city government more transparent is giving access to the public at large to legislative proposals from their inception. As it stands, access is only made available in later phases of the legislative process. This makes it difficult to navigate because often times you don't know which Council Members have submitted what legislation until it's introduced. There are missed opportunities for Council and community collaboration if we open this up from the beginning.</p> <p>I would also like to see PB for all districts. The Speaker has done a tremendous job at supporting the now 26 district that participate but I would love it if all 51 districts would be a part of this movement to enhance transparency and empower residents to be a part of our budget.</p> <p>Additionally, I would like to institute a binding community planning process for rezonings. So that all rezoning have a thoughtful and inclusive decision process for how they allow development to unfold in their neighborhoods.</p>
<p>In what ways would you like to expand voting access, and how can you do this as a member of the NYC Council?</p>	<p>I would like to see municipal voting realized. It's crucial that we make it so that every hard working New Yorkers voice is heard at the polls. I would also like to see same day registration happen. Additionally, I would like to see early voting unfold in the way it does in other states. As a state with some of the most dismissal voter turn out rates in the country, I believe that all these campaigns close the voter access gap and prevent barriers for participation. As a Council Member I plan on actively supporting all legislation, demonstrations, and strategies that accomplish this.</p>
<p>What criminal justice reforms would you like to see the Council implement?</p>	<p>I would like to see the Council pass the Right to Know Act and work with the Mayor's Office to close Rikers in less than ten years.</p>

Do you support the Right to Know Act?	Yes. I am a proud sponsor of the Right to Consent portion of the act.
Will you be participating in the NYC Matching Funds program?	Yes
NKD supports holding a New York State Constitutional Convention. Do you? Why or why not?	We should talk about it.
What is your vision for the Brooklyn Democratic Party?	<p>Fair Elections: Our Party needs to be able to give information about campaigning and all of its legalities to all candidates that choose to run for elected office. This includes matters such as petitioning, purchasing campaign literature, and access to legal counsel. NYC has a public campaign finance process that helps to root out money in our municipal political system but by also accomplishing these proposals I put forward for Brooklyn I believe that we can have the fairest elections across the country. Our elections could just finally come down to a battle of ideas between candidates.</p> <p>Promoter of Progressive Legislation: Our Party must be able to take a political stand on legislative matters. Right now, the Brooklyn Democratic Party does not publicly endorse or even have a process for endorsing legislation or putting forward legislative ideas. There lies an opportunity to create a participatory process for which members can voice their ideas or vote on where the Party should stand with certain legislative matters. Progressive processes will eventually lead to progressive outcomes—our Party will—endorse progressive legislation.</p> <p>Paragon of Transparency: Right now, the Brooklyn Democratic Party has a proxy voting system that is way outdated, a backdoor method of nominating judges for elections, and no method of expanding itself. The position NKD has taken of changing the proxy system is something I support. Our judges need to be nominated in a public forum so that we could display our transparent Brooklyn coattails. Lastly, we should be organizing all year long by attending events and informing other Brooklynites about the Party and how one becomes a member.</p>
What funds have you raised for this campaign? What are the major sources of your campaign funds?	I have raised close to \$80k. The major source of funds have come from New York City residents, many from District 34 and Labor/ Lobby groups.
What endorsements have you received from publications, electeds, community leaders, or political organizations?	Currently, my endorsements include 32 BJ, Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez, Assembly Member Maritza Davila and the NB Democratic club. I also over 100 community members and leaders who have endorsed my re-election campaign.
Of the other people who hold the office you're running for, who do you admire most and why?	<p>I really admirer our Speaker Melissa Mark Viverito. She has dramatically changed the norm at Council. From progressively changing the way district budgets get allocated (on a needs based now) to investing resources to promote access to City Government through PB, language sensitive materials, etc.</p> <p>Additionally, I admire Council Member Ritchie Torres from the Bronx. He is smart, hardworking, and unapologetic. He brings so much value to his committee being raised in Public Housing himself. His voice resonates at the Council.</p>
What are some of the ways you think New York City residents can best participate in civic life?	I always start local. Understand what's happening in your neighborhood and use your Council Member's office as a tool to ask questions, learn about opportunities, and introduce ideas. I encourage residents to get involved with Participatory Budgeting so that they can learn how the City's process actually works from beginning to end. Also, run for committee!
What is one fun fact about you?	Looking to represent Dominican Republic in Overwatch WorldCup (Electronic Gaming) in 2019!

I have reviewed this questionnaire and agree that the responses set forth in this document are accurate:

Candidate Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. King", written over a horizontal line.

Date: 4/18/2017

You must sign this questionnaire! When complete, please e-mail your signed and scanned questionnaire to politics@newkingsdemocrats.com and info@newkingsdemocrats.com