



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	Henry Butler
Council District number and neighborhoods represented	41 st Council District. Bedford-Stuyvesant, Ocean-Hill, Brownsville, Crown Heights, East Flatbush
How long have you lived in the above district?	I have lived in Bedford-Stuyvesant my entire life and have been living in the 41 st District the last 12 years.
Preferred campaign contact information: name, email address, phone number	[Redacted]
Why do you want to serve as a member of the NYC Council?	I was urged to run by many of my friends and neighbors as a way to continue doing the work I have done, which was largely in a volunteer capacity. I have been a member of CB 3 for 12 years, serving 5 years as chairperson, and the last 4 years as district manager. During that time I have done a lot of good for the residents of the district and I feel I can further that by being a member of the City Council.
What have you accomplished in public life that you are most proud of?	As chair of CB3, I was successful in procuring funding for several capital projects, including the funding for elevators at the Utica Avenue train station and the reconstruction of the Nostrand Avenue thoroughfare. I also led the successful fight to save the B25 bus that runs through community boards 16, 5, 3 and 2 along Fulton Street. Lastly, in 2012, I was able to get Bedford Stuyvesant north rezoning passed by the New York City Council.
What are the greatest strengths and struggles of your council district?	<p>The district has some of the highest poverty and unemployment levels in the state of New York. A lot of that has to do with poor performing public schools which have led to our youth not going to college and not being prepared for the real world.</p> <p>The residents of my district are great people who need for the city to address their concerns with resources and services that are sorely missing. There is a drive to do better, they just need leaders with the right intentions to rise up and help move the community forward collectively.</p>
Why do you want New Kings Democrats' endorsement?	NKD is a very active and involved organization that is committed to promoting progressive candidates and causes. I come from that same mindset and would be honored to have an ongoing productive relationship.
If elected, what will your top three legislative and budgetary priorities be while in office?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Getting the public schools in the district the support and funding they need to thrive. 2. Bringing job-training programs to the district so residents who are unemployed have a chance at development new skills to put them on a pathway towards a good paying career. 3. Working with insurance companies and the medical community on pro-active healthcare programs so residents get the preventative care they need to protect against chronic illnesses. This district has very high rates of obesity, asthma, cancer, and diabetes.
What is one thing you would do while in office to make New York City government more transparent, accountable, or inclusive?	I believe the city must do a better job with the MWBE community. Many of our MWBEs are small to medium businesses that have very little experience navigating the city's contracting processes. We must do more to work with MWBEs on contracting.

In what ways would you like to expand voting access, and how can you do this as a member of the NYC Council?	I support same-day registration, any reason absentee voting, shortening the window for party enrollment changes to take effect,
What criminal justice reforms would you like to see the Council implement?	We need to do more to promote alternatives to incarceration programs so those who committed non-violent offenses can be rehabilitated and become productive members of society. I generally support the decision to close down Riker's and await more concrete plans from the Mayor on how we get that done in a safe and equitable manner. I also support bail reform, which has really hurt minorities and the poor. Lastly, I support de-criminalizing small amounts of marijuana.
Do you support the Right to Know Act?	Yes
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?	I do not support a Constitutional Convention. I believe it does way more potential harm than good, particularly as it pertains to current protections public employees enjoy after decades of organizing and advocacy. I worry there would be potential to repeal protections like public pensions and the tri-borough amendment. I support many measures supporters of a Constitutional Convention advocate for but feel we can achieve many of those goals legislatively.
What is your vision for the Brooklyn Democratic Party?	The party should be as democratic, inclusive, and transparent as possible. It should welcome and embrace new voices into the party.
What funds have you raised for this campaign? What are the major sources of your campaign funds?	To date I have raised over \$32,000, of which nearly \$15,000 in matchable money. I am proud that my campaign has the most individual contributions of anyone running. When including the matching fund our campaign has the money amount of money raise so far. I am confident we will have the full \$182,000 permitted under CFB.
What endorsements have you received from publications, elected, community leaders, or political organizations?	Senator Velmanette Montgomery, Councilman Robert Cornegy, Assemblywoman Tremaine Wright, Former. Councilman Al Vann, Former. Assemblywoman Annette Robinson, TWU Local 100, Local 46, Vanguard Independent Democratic Association (VIDA)
Of the other people who hold the office you're running for, who do you admire most and why?	I commend anyone who decides to run for office and become a public servant for their community.
What are some of the ways you think New York City residents can best participate in civic life?	Join your block association, civic association, PTA and community board. Get involved locally because often times it is local government that has the greatest impact on day-to-day life.
What is one fun fact about you?	I am a huge Prince fan.

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

Candidate Signature: Henry Butler _____ Date: May 10, 2017 _____

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