



### 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	Ede Fox
Council District number and neighborhoods represented	35 <sup>th</sup> Council District: Fort Greene, Clinton Hill, a bit of Bed-Stuy, Prospect Heights and Crown Heights
How long have you lived in the above district?	I've lived in Prospect Heights for 14 years.
Preferred campaign contact information: name, email address, phone number	
Why do you want to serve as a member of the NYC Council?	<p>I come out of a tradition of progressivism, from grandparents who were active union members and parents who were resolute civil rights activists who tirelessly fought for the very rights their children now enjoy. This is a tradition that says we shouldn't just accept the world as it is, but work to make it better – and I have always sought to live up to this standard.</p> <p>Over the last ten years, the very fabric of our communities has changed dramatically. Affordable housing is scarce, real estate development is booming yet the workers building these developments can't afford to live there. Our schools continue to be under funded, and much needed criminal justice reforms have not materialized. Our public assets like our libraries and parks are being privatized. These are large issues that impact who we are and where we, as a community, are headed. And we need leadership with creative solutions, and commitment to community, to make sure the right decisions are made.</p> <p>This is why I am running to be your Council Member in Brooklyn's 35th District.</p> <p>I want to make sure that the changes in our community make us better, make us stronger. I want to make sure that the cultural fabric, the harmonious, diverse glue that holds us together, remains a part of our lives.</p> <p>At SEIU 1199, I saw with my own eyes what a fair contract means to a struggling family. I learned how to fight for a progressive agenda and empower workers to get their fair share. In my 11 years working with the City Council I never forgot those families I worked for as I helped negotiate major economic development projects and bring much needed jobs and affordable housing to local communities. I never forgot those families as I worked to bring education funding and school programming to their communities. Working families in New York need champions on the City Council.</p> <p>The City Council changes lives. The work done there, the decisions made there, affect everyone in our city – from getting potholes filled to promoting small business – and we need someone who will not only fight for us and for our communities, but get the job done.</p> <p>If you elect me to be your representative on the New York City Council, I will fight for our communities.</p> <p>I will get the job done.</p>



What have you accomplished in public life that you are most proud of?	I am extremely proud that I started the Economic and Community Development Division in the City Council. The Division arms Council Members with real skills and data so when faced with large development projects they know exactly what to demand for the district so that the projects actually benefit the community.
What are the greatest strengths and struggles of your council district?	<p>There are so many strengths to the 35<sup>th</sup> that it is hard to begin. Our district combines the giants of the progressive movement with the height of the cultural institutions. BAM was not just a cultural center going back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, but it was also a platform for Frederick Douglass. This is the district of Shirley Chisholm, Major Owens, Jeffery Davis and Tish James.</p> <p>We are blessed with the Brooklyn Museum, Medgar Evers College, the Central branch of the Brooklyn Public Library, Fort Greene Park Prison Ship Martyrs' Monument, and much more. The Spaldeen ball was manufactured here and Jackie Robinson played at Ebbets Field. We had the first modern bread manufacturer at the Ward Bakery and Aaron Copland grew up here.</p> <p>We are home of the West Indian Day Parade and we have an important part of the biggest Caribbean community in the United States.</p> <p>Yet every day, our legacy is being erased and our legacy of arts and activism gets replaced with generic buildings and corporate culture. The former home of Dan Goldstein was years ago replaced with the Calvin Klein VIP Entrance. More is coming: Two buildings taller than 70 stories are proposed for the border of the district. Displacement of long-time residents is rampant. About 1660 residents have been evicted from Ebbets Field over the last 3 years and our current City Council member is not up to the task of giving residents a voice.</p> <p>The most visible battle is the Bedford Union Armory. This is city-owned land, and unfortunately, EDC wants to turn it into luxury housing. There is a better solution.</p>
Why do you want New Kings Democrats' endorsement?	I have been a long-time supporter of NKD. I was a member in 2009 then several other members who were also from Prospect Heights decided to spin off and start our own club, Prospect Heights Democrats for Reform in 2010. We looked to NKD, a leader on the issue of transparency and reform, for guidance. NKD has always represented the best in reform politics and I would be honored to have your endorsement.
If elected, what will your top three legislative and budgetary priorities be while in office?	Affordable housing is the number one issue I hear around the district so my top priority will be to introduce legislation and direct my budget priorities toward the creation and preservation of affordable housing. I will also take a leading role on criminal justice reform as well as improving our local public schools that are increasingly segregated as our neighborhoods change.
What is one thing you would do while in office to make New York City government more transparent, accountable, or inclusive?	I will work with the City Council to review the current status of open datasets across agencies to make sure that open data that is being released is usable and relevant to our advocacy groups, nonprofits, journalists, researchers and individual citizens.
In what ways would you like to expand voting access, and how can you do this as a member of the NYC Council?	<p>New York City's voter participation is a painful embarrassment. Increasing participation and transparency are essential to return faith in the electoral process and in the legitimacy of our government. Currently, the DMV has been accused of failing to live up to the "Motor Voter" law and we can improve the ease of voter registration through the DMV. FiveThirtyEight.com called New York State's laws for voters to change their political parties by far the hardest of the 50 states. The purge of voters was an outrage and the fact that many voters were purged due to having a Hispanic name should provoke immediate investigation. The fact that our elected officials were so quiet on this issue is deeply disturbing.</p> <p>Instant Run-off Voting is one way that we could easily get a better idea of the voter's priorities. This has already gotten support in the City Council. We should also consolidate federal, state and city primaries.</p>



	<p>New York State does allow formerly incarcerated people to vote, but many do not. This has to change. Luckily, there are many groups and individuals dedicated to re-entry, most notably the Brooklyn DA. I would like to work with the existing groups to encourage the formerly incarcerated to participate both as voters and as citizens.</p> <p>Being selected by the voters to be a representative in the City Council is more than just being a lawmaker. With a vast majority of Democrats in the 35<sup>th</sup> district, I would feel compelled to take a leadership position as a Democrat. I have a long history of encouraging local Democrats to get involved in County Committee. I have a long history of supporting the reform proposals of NKD. Expanding voting access means little if the Democratic Party remains opaque. If elected, I would take seriously my responsibility to expand participation in the Kings County Democratic Party and I would continue to encourage neighbors to run for County Committee.</p>
What criminal justice reforms would you like to see the Council implement?	I would like to see an end to "broken windows" policing which is disproportionately impacting communities of color with severe consequences for immigrants and youth. I would also like to see reform to our bail system, alternatives to incarceration for nonviolent crimes, the end of solitary confinement, and progressive legislation and regulation 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?	While I wholeheartedly encourage reform in Albany, I do not support a Constitutional Convention in New York State because there are major protections for workers that are guaranteed by our State Constitution. Given the current political climate nationwide, where unions are constantly threatened, a NYS Constitutional Convention could endanger many residents' pensions and our unions' organizing rights. I am particularly concerned about any changes to the civil service laws that could change terms of employment for union members and other workers. In addition to workers' rights, I am concerned that other protections enshrined in our State Constitution, from public education to the environment, could be at risk once this process begins. Traditionally, any Constitutional amendment may be accomplished through the State legislature for a vote on a general election ballot. I believe the State legislature is the most appropriate for debate on the NYS Constitution this year.
What is your vision for the Brooklyn Democratic Party?	<p>I would like to see the Brooklyn Democratic Party united, with all clubs working together to mitigate the effects the Federal administration will have on Brooklyn and NYC as a whole. There may be large impacts felt at a local level -- for example if Community Development Block Grants are eliminated, many local constituencies like seniors and community gardens will be threatened due to a loss in programmatic funding.</p> <p>After the presidential election in 2016, voters all over the City are growing increasingly activated and engaged. I envision a Kings County Democratic party that is a leader in voter registration, communication and activism. Our Party should be taking advantage of this wave of interest to engage the next generation of voters and strengthen our base. No matter what the Party does, I will work to do this in the 35<sup>th</sup> Council District.</p>
What funds have you raised for this campaign? What are the major sources of your campaign funds?	In March 2017, I filed \$29,975.76. Most of my donors are friends and family in the 35 <sup>th</sup> or throughout NYC.
What endorsements have you received from publications, electeds, community leaders, or political organizations?	Mason Tenders District Council PAC, NYS Laborers PAC, District Council 9, Iron Workers Local 46, Donna Mossman of Crown Heights Tenants Union, Alicia Boyd of Movement to the Power of the People.

Of the other people who hold the office you're running for, who do you admire most and why?	I admire CM Antonio Reynoso for his commitment to passing the Right to Know Act this year in spite of the administration's opposition, as well as his dedication to reforming the land use and environmental review processes for better community planning and feedback.
What are some of the ways you think New York City residents can best participate in civic life?	<p>There are countless ways for New Yorkers to participate in civic life. Voting is the most obvious, but when judicial candidates are chosen behind closed doors, and when the Democratic and Republican judicial candidates are the same individuals, the election booth can be frustrating, even for the most dedicated and informed voter.</p> <p>I was a member of Community Board 8 for ten years, and that is a great way to participate, but there are many other ways, from block associations to political clubs to Parent Teacher Associations. Many churches, mosques and synagogues have Social Justice Committees as well.</p> <p>Our district has a wide range of political clubs, Tenant Associations, and neighborhood groups, including the Fort Greene Association, the Barclays Center Impact Zone Alliance, Prospect Heights Neighborhood Development Council (which recently became a membership organization), Crown Heights North Association, and Crown Heights South Association.</p> <p>There are online discussions, with yahoo groups for parks and buildings to the new rise of GetOrganizedBK, which is mostly an online organization in the 35<sup>th</sup>, but which is also a real life opportunity to meet.</p> <p>I do not want to choose which form of participation is best, because not everyone wants to go to a Community Board meeting, and GetOrganizedBK is also not for everyone. For some people hanging out on their stoop is a political act. For others, going to protests is most important.</p>
What is one fun fact about you?	I can dead lift 115lbs.

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

Candidate Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

***You must sign this questionnaire! When complete, please e-mail your signed and scanned questionnaire to [politics@newkingsdemocrats.com](mailto:politics@newkingsdemocrats.com) and [info@newkingsdemocrats.com](mailto:info@newkingsdemocrats.com)***