



2017 District Attorney Candidate Questionnaire

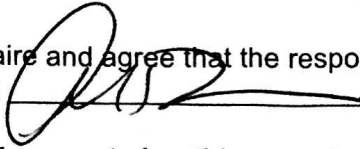
Completed questionnaires will be public documents available on our website. If we ultimately hold an endorsement vote in your race, your questionnaire will be circulated to our membership before the vote.

Name	Ama Dwimoh
How long have you lived in Brooklyn?	29 Years
Preferred campaign contact information: name, email address, phone number	[REDACTED]
Why do you want to serve as Brooklyn DA?	I want to serve as Brooklyn DA because justice matters. And I believe that Brooklyn deserves a higher standard of justice. Brooklynites do not trust our criminal justice system because of wrongful convictions, Stop and Frisk and Broken Windows. The solution is to fundamentally change the DA's office so that its focus is on crime prevention, not just prosecution.
What have you accomplished in your legal career that you are most proud of?	I created the Crimes Against Children Bureau at the Kings County District Attorney's Office and became its chief—and managed it for 13 years. My work in the Crimes Against Children Bureau led directly to major changes in public policy, child welfare and State law. Perhaps most well-known case was seven-year-old Nixmary Brown. I secured the convictions of her murderers: 29 years for stepfather; 43 years for mother.
Why do you want New Kings Democrats' endorsement?	New Kings Democrats is one of the most reform-minded, active groups in Brooklyn. We share those qualities, and I believe we could make great change to the criminal justice system together.

Of the following 9 questions, choose **at least 5** to respond to based on your priorities.

What will you do, as DA, to meaningfully reduce mass incarceration?	Incarnation is not the solution to reducing recidivism and correcting the issues that lead to conviction for many offenders. Alternatives to incarceration have proven largely successful for reducing the number of men and women in jail and helping them to live crime-free, productive lives. Crime prevention -- not just prosecution -- must be the new focus of the DA's office.
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How will you use your prosecutorial discretion to eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in charges, bail, and plea offers?	I will modernize systems at the DA's office to better track cases and publish regular reports on who is being prosecuted where. I will also create internal benchmarks for the speedy completion of cases. To reduce unfair pretrial confinement, I will also support a bail fund for indigent defendants, adequate funding for public defenders and transportation costs for DOC to ensure defendants make court appearances so trials are not delayed.
How will you work to reduce pretrial detention? Do you support the expansion of supervised release programs?	Yes—I support the expansion of pretrial release programs. In fact, I will make it the standard protocol of the DA's office to send home misdemeanor defendants to await trial under a pretrial supervision program. And I will divert defendants to programs such as drug treatment, mental health and other Alternatives to Incarceration.
How will you use your prosecutorial discretion to minimize the harm caused by broken windows policing?	I will fight the use of the Broken Windows policing by helping Brooklynites quickly deal with summonses that are issued as a result of the tactic, by instructing the Early Case Assessment Bureau to review criminal cases that occur as the result of a Broken Windows summons, and by moving to dismiss cases of some low-level misdemeanor arrestees.
What do you see as the DA's role in protecting Brooklyn's immigrant community from President Trump's policies?	The DA has a critical role. That is why I will direct DA staff to help prevent unnecessary deportations and other penalties for low-level immigrant offenders, and fight to make free legal services available to any Brooklyn resident, regardless of their immigration status.
What funds have you raised for this campaign? What are the major sources of your campaign funds?	We filed in January with about \$100,000 raised, and have continued to raise at a good pace since. We expect to be very competitive with our fundraising. I am proud to say that the vast majority of the fundraising is from Brooklynites who want to see change in the DA's office.
What endorsements have you received from publications, electeds, community leaders, or political organizations?	Notable endorsements include Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams, civil rights leader Hazel Dukes, and Jabbar Collins, who was wrongfully convicted of murder in Brooklyn and released from prison after 15 years.
What is one fun fact about you?	My father was from the Ashanti Tribe of Ghana and my mother was a Native American from the Dakota Sioux Tribe.

I have reviewed this questionnaire and agree that the responses set forth in this document are accurate: Candidate Signature:  Date: 9/19/17

You must sign this questionnaire!