



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	Marc J. Fliedner
How long have you lived in Brooklyn?	I have lived in Brooklyn for twelve 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 District Attorney because the DA's office is fundamentally broken. There are real problems in the office structure that need to be fixed and only a change in leadership can address this. As a reformer, my most urgent concerns are to end mass incarceration, to fix a bail system that punishes poverty, and to prosecute cases of police misconduct.
What have you accomplished in your legal career that you are most proud of?	I'm most proud of the work I did as the first Chief of the Civil Rights Bureau. The Akai Gurley case was a clear cut example of an NYPD officer acting recklessly and I was proud that Brooklyn set an example of what is proper procedure in police misconduct cases. I won an indictment and conviction of a police officer where other DA offices around the country had failed to deliver justice. I left the office because I disagreed with Acting DA Eric Gonzalez about the sentencing recommendation; I felt that Mr. Liang should have received a sentence with jail time, as would anyone else convicted of manslaughter in the second degree.
Why do you want New Kings Democrats' endorsement?	I want the New Kings Democrats endorsement because the club represents the energy of a new generation that is not beholden to the Brooklyn Democratic establishment or machine politics.

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?	We can reduce mass incarceration by fundamentally changing how we handle someone that has been arrested. The initial hours after arrest are crucial because we have the ability to divert someone away from the entire criminal justice system. So many people in our jails should instead be in a drug treatment program or receive help for an untreated mental illness. From the outset, we will determine cases that are inappropriate for prosecution and develop constructive alternatives to incarceration that address the root causes of the alleged criminality.
How will you use your prosecutorial discretion to eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in charges, bail, and plea offers?	
How will you work to reduce pretrial detention? Do you support the expansion of supervised release programs?	I would instruct the DA's office to deliver a fair plea offer to an individual within the first thirty-six days after arrest. Currently, there is no rule as to how quickly the office must produce a plea offer. We can and will do better under my leadership. This is in addition to screening cases better upon intake to divert as many people as possible away from the jail system and to mental illness, substance abuse, and homelessness programs.
How will you use your prosecutorial discretion to minimize the harm caused by broken windows policing?	My office would only process cases that would make Brooklyn safer. We know that a focus on low-level offenses is a poor use of our limited resources and disproportionately impacts communities of color and the poor. My list of offenses for which I will not bring formal criminal charges goes beyond marijuana possession and extends to include but will not be limited to farebeating offenses, possession of syringes, and certain categories of knives that are used exclusively for employment.

How will you address the destructive consequences of court fines and "surcharges" levied against defendants who do not have the ability to pay?	
How will you use your prosecutorial discretion to implement true "Raise the Age," for 16- and 17-year-olds charged with nonviolent and violent felonies?	While I was supportive of the Raise the Age version that was more straightforward and comprehensive, I applaud the legislature for passing some form of Raise the Age legislation. I would instruct the DA's office to process cases involving minors through the family court system whenever possible. A humane and progressive justice system treats children fairly and seeks to avoid institutionalization of children.
How will you work to support successful re-entry, following incarceration?	We know what factors can promote successful re-entry into society, and what factors can encourage recidivism. Right now, there are community groups that want to partner with the DA's office to help ease the newly-freed members of our society, but they have not been approached or have been denied the opportunity to partner with an official organization like the DA's office. Having worked in the office in senior positions, I can tell you that partnering with these groups is not a priority right now and this is unacceptable. We should continue to work with and expand our current partnerships.
How can the DA's office better support survivors of sexual violence while securing justice?	The DA's Office must recognize the limited and sometimes inadequate capabilities of the NYPD Special Victims Bureau to properly interview and support sexual assault survivors in the hours after reporting and to collect evidence in the context of these investigations, and therefore take a more active role in providing comprehensive, culturally competent investigative and support services on hand as soon as possible after the report of violence. Thereafter, the DA's Office must maintain consistent and respectful communication with these survivors as the case wind their way through a lengthy and unfamiliar system, keeping the survivors apprised of all critical case developments and engaging them in discussions around case disposition.
What do you see as the DA's role in protecting Brooklyn's immigrant community from President Trump's policies?	As the former Chief of the Civil Rights Bureau and a former civil defense lawyer, I know that the Jeff Sessions-led Justice Department will adopt regressive policies on criminal justice and on civil rights protections. We are already seeing some of this, with Sessions directing the Justice Department to pursue the toughest charges in drug cases. Local prosecutors can resist in substantive ways by using their discretion to ignore federal sentencing and charging recommendations. When it comes to immigration cases, I would bar ICE agents from setting up shop in our court system and grabbing people after their immigration status has become known.

What funds have you raised for this campaign? What are the major sources of your campaign funds?	
What endorsements have you received from publications, electeds, community leaders, or political organizations?	
What is one fun fact about you?	My husband and I are both missing the "gay cooking gene"

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

Candidate Signature: _____

Date: 6/16/17

You must sign this questionnaire!