



### 2018 Congressional 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  | Adem T. Bunkeddeko   |
| Congressional District number and neighborhoods represented                   | NY-9<br><br>Brownsville, Crown Heights, East Flatbush, Flatbush, Kensington, Park Slope, Prospect Heights, Midwood, Sheepshead Bay, Marine Park, Gerritsen Beach and Prospect Lefferts Gardens   |
| Preferred campaign contact information: name, email address, phone number     | Adem Bunkeddeko [REDACTED]   |
| How long have you lived in the above district?                                | 10 years   |
| What civic and political organizations are you involved with in the district? | Brooklyn Community Services, Empire State Development Corporation, Bed Stuy Restoration Corporation, Community Board 8, Working Families Party, Central Brooklyn Independent Democrats, Independent Neighborhood Democrats.  |
| What are the greatest strengths and struggles of your Congressional district? | The greatest strength of our district is its diversity. We have an incredible collage of peoples in the district, including the West Indian Community, African American community, Jewish community, Pakistani Community, and a Progressive liberal Caucasian community. We have many first generation immigrants who came here looking for opportunity and who see America as a beacon of hope. I see this as a strength as all the different communities can be united by the hope that the society they live in can constantly thrive to be more just and equitable for people of all colors and religions. I think the greatest struggle is that many of the folks who were red-lined into the district many years ago are now being blue-lined out of the district with rising rents, rising costs of living, and are wondering how they can make ends meet. Our district is not alone in the housing crisis, but it is one of the most acutely affected areas of the country that faces a real housing crisis. |
| Why do you want to serve as a member of Congress?                             | I want to serve as a member of Congress to be the strong voice that has been lacking when it comes to fighting for the needs of people living on the margins of society. We have a crisis in Washington now that Donald Trump and the Republicans have power, but even before them we faced many of the same issues. I believe we have the greatest ability in Congress to affect change in people's lives, and lead the party in a direction that spells out our vision to folks around the country who are facing similar problems.  |
| What have you accomplished in public life that you are most proud of?         | As the son of two social workers who sacrificed life and limb to come to this country and provide for their family, the greatest accomplishments I have ever been a part of was in giving strength and hope to those who faced serious problems. In Brooklyn Community Services, I helped hundreds of families who were formerly incarcerated and mentally disabled people find job placement.   |
| What do you consider to be the highlights of your work experience?            | Some of the early highlights were helping Jumaane Williams win his first city council race when I was a canvasser for him through WFP. Seeing all the families I've helped through Brooklyn Community Services and Bed-Stuy Restoration Corporation has been a highlight I constantly think of. Another highlight was seeing the Brooklyn Navy Yard be developed into a vibrant space for the community to enjoy.  |
| Why do you want New Kings Democrats' endorsement?                             | I want the New Kings endorsement because I believe this campaign has much in common with the central ethos behind New Kings Democrats. I think the political establishment needs a reality check now more than ever. For far too long many in my   |

|   |  |
|---|--|
|   | community have been taken for granted and this race is one to challenge the status quo and demand more. We not only need leaders who work as hard as the families they serve but we need leaders who are willing to pass systemic reforms that make government more open to the public and restores public trust that is largely absent.   |
| If elected, what will your top three legislative and budgetary priorities be while in office?   | <p>My top three priorities would be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Affordable Housing Legislation: My plan is not only to open up more affordable rentals but also to establish a 21<sup>st</sup> century Mitchel-Lama program that would allow folks who make under \$80K a year to own the homes they helped build up before gentrification came in.</li> <li>2. Immigration Reform: As the son of Ugandan war refugees, this issue is deeply personal to me. We need to not only protect the Dreamers, but establish a pathway to citizenship for people who come to this country fleeing areas of the world stricken by disaster. It's hard to believe my parents would even still want to come here with our current administration's comments about their region of the world. We need to make America a place that is seen as a land of opportunity for all who want to work hard and be a productive part of our society.</li> <li>3. Criminal Justice Reform: I would pass legislation that reforms bail and sentencing to keep poor people from never being able to defend themselves, and reform sentencing laws that largely affect people of color disproportionately.</li> </ol> |
| If elected, how will you support the work of New Kings Democrats and its partners to make New York City government more transparent, accountable, or inclusive? | As a Congressman, I would be an ally to New Kings Democrats in their work to reform government from the inside. I have not taken any corporate PAC money on this campaign and never will moving forward. As someone who believes change needs to come from within for Democrats to keep winning elections around the country and here in Brooklyn, I will support New Kings Democrats' various initiatives to make our processes more open.  |
| What is your vision for the Brooklyn Democratic Party?  | My vision is that we are a party that can win in every state from North Dakota to Missouri to New York, as well as everywhere in between. But that can only happen if we elect a strong generation of young leaders who are bold enough to put their vision forward and explain to people around the country how their platforms can help working class people in all different parts of the country.  |
| How will you contribute to efforts to attain unified Democratic control of the New York State Senate?   | I will support efforts to unify the State Senate Democrats by helping with their campaigns after I win this primary. This will be as a boot on the ground and as someone who can help financially as well.   |
| How can you be effective as a Democratic member of Congress in an era of total GOP control of the federal government?   | I believe there are some members of Congress on the GOP side that can be reached on some issues. If Rand Paul and Kamala Harris can unite to fight for bail reform, then clearly there are some GOP members who have constituents that face the same issues as folks in our district. But the other part of getting anything done in Congress is just pushing forward on important issues regardless of what the GOP says. Being an active, tireless leader in the fight on the grass-roots level helps get things passed and is necessary to spell out our vision for what government should be doing.  |
| How do you think the Democratic Party can improve the way it operates in Congress?  | I think the Democrats need to unite around core values and explain in a clearer way how this is important to the lives of people around the country of all colors, religions, and political persuasions. I think the democrats need to unite around issues like Universal Health Care (Medicaid for all), around tackling Student Loan Debt, and making the federal minimum wage \$15 an hour. If we are only playing defense to what Trump and the Republicans are pushing we are losing the battle to win people's lasting support.  |
| What is one important way you think Congress should be reformed, and what is your plan for trying to implement such reform?                                     | I think we need stricter campaign finance laws to get big corporate money out of our elections. We need to pass Campaign Finance Reform so that federal campaigns can be publicly financed in the same way city council races in New York City are. We need to try to overturn Citizens United, which I feel was one of the most disastrous Supreme Court decisions ever.  |
| What funds have you raised for this campaign? What are the major  | I have raised about \$120,000 in the first quarter all from individuals. As previously mentioned, I did not take any corporate PAC money. My major sources of funding  |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| sources of your campaign funds?   | have been from friends, colleagues, and people who believe in my mission as a serious candidate.  |
| What endorsements have you received from publications, electeds, community leaders, or political organizations? | I have not received any endorsements yet from publications or elected officials, but have the support of local community leaders who may not be well known, but have nevertheless pledged their support for me.   |
| What areas of the district do you see as your biggest sources of votes and support?                             | I believe we can do well in all areas of the district. From Park Slope to Sheepshead Bay, from Brownsville to Ditmas Park and everywhere in between we have seen that the district is wide open. Our opponent has been in office for over 10 years and has been part of a political establishment that has been present for over 30 years, but folks we talk to at the doors are ready for change and see this election as a way to shake up the establishment they have not heard from much, or received any benefits from.                                    |
| Which member of Congress do you admire most and why?  | I admire John Lewis as a stalwart for the Civil Rights movement over 50 years ago, who still carries the torch for social and economic justice to this day. I think his work speaks volumes for what a productive member of Congress should try to emulate.   |
| What are some of the ways you think New York City residents can best participate in civic life?                 | I think people should obviously get out and vote, especially young people. But more importantly, we need more people active in their communities organizing change on the grassroots level. Whether this is a tenants union, labor union, civic clubs, or even a social club, people need to come together to fight for what they believe in, and push our elected officials to have to hear their message. My advice to anyone who wants to get involved with civics is just search for a local club near you and start talking to folks and getting involved. |
| What is one fun fact about you?   | My mom spells my first name "Adam."   |

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

Candidate Signature: DocuSigned by: Adam Bunkeddeko 4/2/2018  
7BF928BA4372425... 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)***