



### 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	Nydia M. Velazquez
Congressional District number and neighborhoods represented	7th C.D. includes neighborhoods in Manhattan, Brooklyn and Queens.
Preferred campaign contact information: name, email address, phone number	Adam Minehardt [REDACTED]
How long have you lived in the above district?	Since elected in 1992
What civic and political organizations are you involved with in the district?	CBID, CODA, UDO, WFP, IND, Jim Owles Liberal Democratic Club, Ridgewood Democratic Club, North Brooklyn Dems, 38th Assembly District Part B Regular Democratic Club, the South Brooklyn Democratic Club.
What are the greatest strengths and struggles of your Congressional district?	The strength of my district is its socio-cultural diversity and its energy for activism. Some struggles include forces of development, cuts in federal funding that impacts public housing, youth services, education, digital divide, the loss of walk to work jobs.
Why do you want to serve as a member of Congress?	Women remain under-represented in Congress. I have a strong progressive record and will continue to use my voice and vote to defend inequality, injustice, worker's rights, women's rights and the rights of our most vulnerable – our children.
What have you accomplished in public life that you are most proud of?	I am proud of being the first P.R. woman elected to Congress and have served as Ranking Democratic Member of the House Committee on Small Business – the first Hispanic woman to serve as Ranking Member of a full committee in the history of the House; recommended Sonia Sotomayor to the U.S. Supreme Court, delivered a voting bloc that helped pass the ACA, worked on Dodd-Frank, fought to secure Superfund designation of the Newtown Creek, and Gowanus Canal, was 1 of 3 MOC who voted against the war, voted against all Free Trade Agreements, was the first MOC to call for a Special Counsel to Investigate Russian Hacking.
What do you consider to be the highlights of your work experience?	Many highlights – working with the first African-American President. Voting for the first woman Speaker to the House, supporting marriage equality, created the women's procurement program to help female entrepreneurs receive more contracting opportunities.
Why do you want New Kings Democrats' endorsement?	I believe NKD and I share the same progressive values. I was also the first elected official in North Brooklyn—and only one to support NKD in 2007-2008. I wasn't afraid to challenge the then BK county leader to join young progressive activists fighting for reform.
If elected, what will your top three legislative and budgetary priorities be while in office?	If re-elected, I will continue to fight for reform, environmental justice, immigration, infrastructure (mass transit) healthcare, protect reproductive rights, P.R., voting rights, and gun control.
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?	I will continue to support NKD's platform in uniting my district and engaging residents in political action.
What is your vision for the Brooklyn Democratic Party?	My vision for the BK Dem party is one that is inclusive, transparent and accountable
How will you contribute to efforts to attain unified Democratic control of the New York State Senate?	I will continue to lend the power of my voice and persuasion on this issue. I believe if you ran as a Dem you have to respect the voters and represent them, fight for their issues.

How can you be effective as a Democratic member of Congress in an era of total GOP control of the federal government?	Even with GOP control Dems can be effective—resistance works, organizing is effective. In Congress, I will vote against any bill that hurts my community and nation. I will work with the other side of the aisle on issues we can agree on.
How do you think the Democratic Party can improve the way it operates in Congress?	The Democratic Party continues to evolve – change can be attained thru dialogue and willingness to exchange new ideas.
What is one important way you think Congress should be reformed, and what is your plan for trying to implement such reform?	Congress can be reformed by shutting down Citizens United and making public all donors. Power and influence wield too much power in congress. We also need to end gerrymandering to better represent the people.
What funds have you raised for this campaign? What are the major sources of your campaign funds?	Funds raised have been from individuals, PAC, and labor.
What endorsements have you received from publications, electeds, community leaders, or political organizations?	I have recvd endorsements from multiple progressive leaders, local and national organizations, civic clubs and more.
What areas of the district do you see as your biggest sources of votes and support?	My sources of voters are from throughout the district.
Which member of Congress do you admire most and why?	A few Members of Congress that I admire and come to mine are - Patsy Mink for her fight on Title IX, Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi as first woman Speaker of the House who got important legislation passed: the ACA, Dodd-Frank, CHIP, College Aid, Energy Legislation, head-start reauthorization, minimum wage increase, food safety, and more. And lastly, Shirley Chisholm from Brooklyn - she was “ <i>unbought and unbossed</i> ”.
What are some of the ways you think New York City residents can best participate in civic life?	Now more than ever NYC residents should join local clubs, volunteer for campaigns, hold voter registration and organize in their communities. Never underestimate the power of people.
What is one fun fact about you?	One fun fact about me? I am a twin.

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

Candidate Signature: \_\_\_Nydia M. Velazquez

Date: \_4/4/18

***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)***