



**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	Yvette D. Clarke
Congressional District number and neighborhoods represented	I currently represent the Ninth Congressional District, which includes Park Slope, Crown Heights, Midwood, Flatbush, East Flatbush, Ditmus Park, Prospect Lefferts Gardens, Marine Park, Sheepshead Bay, and Brownsville.
Preferred campaign contact information: name, email address, phone number	Peter Williams, [REDACTED]
How long have you lived in the above district?	I was born and raised in New York's Ninth Congressional district and lived here for almost my entire life.
What civic and political organizations are you involved with in the district?	I am member of the Brooklyn Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.; and a member of the Flatbush Section of the National Council of Negro Women.
What are the greatest strengths and struggles of your Congressional district?	<p>The Ninth Congressional district is united by its diversity, which symbolizes the hope and promise of America, especially during these trying times. This diversity is what has always made America great and what will ultimately allow us to overcome any challenge that stands in our way.</p> <p>Unfortunately, the Ninth Congressional District also faces numerous challenges. Republican refusal to reach a deal on DACA and this administration's outright assault on the Temporary Protected Status Program both deeply affect families throughout our district.</p> <p>The lack of affordable housing is also a crucial issue that deeply impacts the lives of all our citizens. Whether it's the lack of public housing, increasing gentrification, or the continued effects of the housing crisis, the price of housing is simply too high.</p> <p>Finally, the Republican tax bill is disastrous for our district. It will make it harder for New York to invest in state services, is already leading companies to fire workers, and could send long term shockwaves throughout our economy.</p>
Why do you want to serve as a member of Congress?	<p>I want to continue serving as your Member of Congress so that I can remain at the front lines in the battle for gender equality, racial equality, LGBTQ equality, and immigration reform. Brooklyn is my home and nothing gives me greater pleasure than representing Brooklyn values of tolerance and inclusion in the halls of Congress.</p> <p>I've been fighting these battles for over a decade and fully understand the depths of what we are up against. However, the relationships that I have formed over the course of the past 11 years make this an easier fight to wage on your behalf.</p>
What have you accomplished in public life that you are most proud of?	I am most proud of founding the Congressional Caucus on Black Women and Girls, to advocate for public policy that eliminates the barriers that prevent black women and girls from reaching their full potential. I am also proud to have introduced the ASPIRE TPS Act to provide TPS recipients with a means of lawfully remaining in the country and the Hardest Hit Housing Act, which would provide supplemental housing appropriations for cities like New York that remain badly hit by the housing crisis.
What do you consider to be the	I consider the highlights my career is my service to both residents of 40 <sup>th</sup> City Council

highlights of your work experience?	District and the 9 <sup>th</sup> Congressional District
Why do you want New Kings Democrats' endorsement?	I am seeking your endorsement because I believe that we share common interests and values. We both believe in a bold progressive vision in which economic barriers do not prevent people from living long, healthy, meaningful lives of dignity and respect. We also believe in the power of people to impact the political process and the deep urgency of doing so at this crucial moment in time.
If elected, what will your top three legislative and budgetary priorities be while in office?	My top three legislative priorities will remain fighting for immigration reform that benefits DREAMers, TPS recipients, and diversity visa lottery winners. I will also fight for affordable housing for all Brooklynites. Finally, I will fight to restore responsible governance in our nation's capital by supporting legislation that protects the fundamental right to vote, ends partisan gerrymandering, and does away with the corrosive influence of money in politics.
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?	<p>If re-elected I will continue to support efforts to make voting easier. In Congress, I have supported legislation that protects the right to vote, and continue to support voting registration that is online, automatic, same day, and allows for correction at polls. I also support the urgent need to reform our prison system, including the end to racially discriminatory mass incarceration practices, investing in communities, establishing humane prison conditions, and addressing the roots causes of crime.</p> <p>While my efforts are primarily focused on federal policy, I am happy to lend my voice to establishing such goals on the state and local level as well, as I have done throughout my career in city government.</p>
What is your vision for the Brooklyn Democratic Party?	<p>I hope to see a well-organized, progressive voice that emanates from Brooklyn and shines as an example for the rest of the country to emulate. This means regular meetings that bring elected officials and members of the public together to ensure that elected receive officials from their constituents and are best able to advocate on their behalf.</p> <p>I want to have a Brooklyn Democratic Party that supports smart and progressive candidates for office and is transparent. Also, I would like to see the expansion of the participation of individuals in the county committee process.</p>
How will you contribute to efforts to attain unified Democratic control of the New York State Senate?	As a Member of Congress, my primary focus is on federal affairs. However, I recognize how important state and local government are in improving the lives of ordinary Brooklynites and am happy to campaign for progressive candidates that share my values.
How can you be effective as a Democratic member of Congress in an era of total GOP control of the federal government?	The best way for me to be effective is to continue advocating for the values that Brooklynites hold dear on core issues, such as immigration reform and affordable housing. While we are currently in the minority, I am optimistic that we stand a strong chance of retaking control of the House of Representatives this fall and that the positions we lay out now will set the stage for how we govern in January under divided rule.
How do you think the Democratic Party can improve the way it operates in Congress?	The Democratic Party needs to do a better job advocating for progressive values. While I am and have always been a proud Democrat, we are at our best when we understand the intersectionality of women's empowerment, LGBTQ equality, immigration reform, prison reform, and economic justice. These issues are interrelated and we need to be forceful advocates for all those who are marginalized by supporting bold progressive policy solutions. This is why I am a member of the Congressional Progressive Caucus and consistently rank as one of the most progressive members of congress by ideology and voting record.
What is one important way you think Congress should be reformed, and what is your plan for trying to implement such reform?	<p>We need to end partisan gerrymandering in order to make politicians beholden to their constituents, rather than the other way around. The best way to do this is through independent citizen redistricting commissions, which are increasingly popular throughout the country.</p> <p>The Supreme Court has also agreed to hear numerous cases this term that could hold</p>

	that partisan gerrymandering violates the First Amendment. While the Supreme Court is filled with Republican appointees, Justice Kennedy has previously voiced his support for this idea and I am cautiously optimistic that we could see a judicial standard put in place to help combat partisan gerrymandering and restore our democracy.
What funds have you raised for this campaign? What are the major sources of your campaign funds?	This election cycle the campaign thus far has raised \$526,400. The majority of her funds are from individuals. The remainder come from both labor and corporate PACs.
What endorsements have you received from publications, electeds, community leaders, or political organizations?	SEIU 1199, Central Brooklyn Independent Democrats, Vanguard Independent Democrats, Independent Neighborhood Democrats, CWA District 1, New York Construction Trades Council, IT Local 237, New York Hotel Trades Council
What areas of the district do you see as your biggest sources of votes and support?	I was born and raised in Prospect Lefferts Gardens and went to Edward R. Murrow High School in Midwood. I later represented these areas, along with Flatbush and East Flatbush, on the New York City Council. They know me best and have always been most vocal in my support.
Which member of Congress do you admire most and why?	I admire my friends and colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus for consistently being the moral voice of Congress. I specifically admire my friend John Lewis for risking life and limb in the fight for equal voting rights and Maxine Waters for being a tireless advocate for Women and the Caribbean community.
What are some of the ways you think New York City residents can best participate in civic life?	The best way to participate in civic life is to vote. Vote in every election, no matter how big or small because your voice matters. Contact your representatives to make your voices heard, become active in civic organizations, and run for office if you feel your voice is being ignored.
What is one fun fact about you?	A fun fact about myself is that I love to dance and I love Hip Hop.

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

Candidate Signature: Yvette D. Clarke

Date: \_\_\_\_4-

5- 2018\_\_\_\_\_

***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)***