



## 2020 City Council 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, we will circulate your questionnaire to our members before the vote.

Contact with questions: Jessica Thurston, NKD's VP of Political Affairs, [politics@newkingsdemocrats.com](mailto:politics@newkingsdemocrats.com)

Name	Regina Kinsey
Council District number and neighborhoods represented	Council District 35, Serving Crown Heights, Prospect Heights, Fort Greene and Clinton Hill and portions of Bedford-Stuyvesant
How long have you lived in the above district?	My parents moved to the district in 1964, I grew up in Clinton Hills and have lived in Crown Heights for 25 years.
Why do you want to serve as a member of the NYC Council?	I want to bring fiscal responsibility, transparency, common sense, and reasoning back to city hall but most of all the voice of the people.
What civic and political organizations are you involved with in the district?	I am currently a member on Community Board 8, Vice Chair for CB8 Senior Committee, also member of CB8 Transportation Committee, Education Committee and Economic Committee. President of Together We Stand St, Johns Block Association, President of Friends of St, Johns Park, Member of Crown Heights North Association, and a member of the 77 <sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council
What have you accomplished in public life that you are most proud of?	My membership on various organizations, along with my longevity as a Community Advocate has afforded me the opportunity to build relationships, not only with other community leaders but more importantly, young men and women who were facing employment and housing challenges. Through my on the ground advocacy and ongoing outreach, I was able to assist countless young men and women with socioeconomic barriers to obtain employment, I also encouraged many more to get their GED and attend college. The unemployment rate has been historically higher in communities of color. It makes me feel proud to know that the young men and women that I assisted along the way had trust in my guidance and have persevered.
What are the greatest opportunities and challenges facing the district?	Healthcare disparities, widespread displacement, mental health issues and public safety are some of the challenges. The district was one of the hardest hit with Covid19. The pandemic should be an eye opener for how we move this city forward in regard to the reduction of hospital beds, the loss of affordable housing stock, heightened suicide rates and

	increased crime.
Why do you want New Kings Democrats' endorsement?	New Kings Democrats is organized, grounded has taken the lead on many issues that directly impact NYC residents.
If elected, what will your top three legislative and budgetary priorities be while in office?	My budgetary priorities would be increased funding for, Small Business Services, Health and Hospitals and Homeless Services. I would also increase capital spending on education and housing.
What is one thing you would do to make New York City government more transparent, accountable, or inclusive?	Some strides have been made on behalf of the city to be more inclusive, some capital projects with the incorporation of community input forums. The participatory budget process is another tool used for inclusiveness, but it's not enough and there's still the issue of transparency Ethical leadership is needed to ensure a more transparent, accountable and inclusive government. In order to rebuild public trust and obtain those things we must rebuild the government and overhaul the legislative processes.
Please review NKD's voting rights platform: <a href="https://www.newkingsdemocrats.com/voting_rights">https://www.newkingsdemocrats.com/voting_rights</a> . In what ways would you like to expand voting access, and how can you do this as a member of the NYC Council?	I would like to substantiate any difficulties pertaining to access throughout the district to determine what is needed. One issue that tends to be problematic is the numerous complaints from residents not knowing where their polling site located. I would propose that the BOE be more proactive with communications when notifying voters about elections and poll site changes.
What criminal justice reforms would you like to see the Council implement?	I would like to see more emphasis placed on female offenders and the abuses they endure inside the system. The female incarceration rate has grown significantly yet they receive little attention in the criminal justice reform measures. Many women in the system entered it with a history of sexual, physical and emotional abuse. Instead of receiving the services and treatment that they need to overcome their challenges, too many end up being abused by the correctional staff. I would advocate for expanded protections, stringent oversight and tougher penalties for sexual misconduct.
What specific racial justice issues are impacting the district and how would you address them as a Council Member?	Access to a quality public school education is an ongoing issue. Our children must meet the educational and developmental skills that's needed to succeed in a global atmosphere. The address of a child should not dictate the level of resources granted.
What is your perspective on, and what would be your plan regarding, the funding of the NYPD?	From my perspective, black communities cannot afford to be embroiled in that debate, when evidence and body counts reveal that defunding would be counter-productive to the security of the law abiding residents. The number of homicides and people wounded in black communities is staggering. There has been over 800 victims of gun violence since the start of summer, including a 20 year old tourist Ethan Williams, and 1 year old baby Davell Gardner. There's no question that reforms and accountability is needed. I think that could be achieved through comprehensive legislation along with

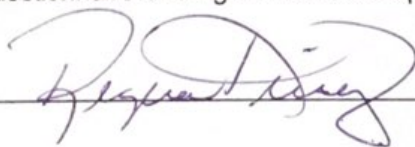
	<p>innovative policies on improving police/community relations, extensive sensitivity training, updated revised tactical training, conflict management, annual psychological evaluations and more oversight.</p>
<p>What housing issues specific to your council district concern you most, and how would you address them if elected?</p>	<p>HPD's Third Party Transfer (TPT) program, displacement, deed theft, and unethical rezoning practices, and the lack of access to affordable housing. My district has the highest number of real estate fraud cases, highest displacement, and highest rate of deed theft in Brooklyn. These were all tactics used to displace, transform and destabilize the district. As council member I would call for a moratorium, revisit the TPT programs policy and fight for the necessary reforms. I would also work to change the formular used to determine the eligibility for affordable housing by adopting an AMI that's conducive to the district. Many displaced neighbors and working residents are at a disadvantage and are met with challenges when trying to obtain housing through the lottery system. The set criteria welcome's some while others are squeezed out of the process and out of the community, and that's not acceptable.</p>
<p>Do you support cancelling rent for tenants and small business owners during the COVID-19 pandemic?</p>	<p>Yes, I do support canceling rent for tenants, small business owners and temporary mortgage relief for homeowners as well.</p>
<p>What will you do to help reach more gender equity within the NYC Council?</p>	<p>I would fight to eliminate and repeal oppressive policies that discriminate and hinder diversity. Gender equity is a human right and it's important to raise awareness and propose legislation that close the gender equality gap. As councilmember I would take a proactive role and initiate policies that advance equity and equality for all.</p>
<p>In reviewing the NYC Budget, what specific categories do you think should be either cut or increased to help the city's current economic predicament?</p>	<p>Budgetary increases for Small Business Services, Education, Health and Hospitals and Social Services should be prioritized. Incentivizing and supporting small businesses will encourage growth and help boost the local economy. Increased funding in health and hospitals is necessary now more than ever. Healthy communities increase productivity.</p>
<p>What are your recovery priorities for the district related to the COVID-19 pandemic?</p>	<p>During the height of the Pandemic' we found ourselves short on hospital beds and essential life saving equipment. Instead of closing our hospital and transforming them into luxury housing, and slashing the budget on existing hospitals, funding should have been provided for the transformation to state of the art medical facilities along with state of the art equipment. The downsizing and closing of our hospitals was legislatively irresponsible. Introducing legislation like Intro 2076-2020, to update building codes so that buildings could be easier to convert into temporary hospitals is not safe nor is it the answer. We need to keep the hospitals we have. The focus has to be on emergency preparedness followed by a response plan and a continued investment in our healthcare facilities.</p>

What would you do to reform the Land Use process to promote racial and social equity?	More inclusive to community input. Advocate for modifications to the City Charter to incorporate mandates outlining racial and equity reforms set forth by community stakeholders. To create balance in the process the community must be allowed to have a share of the decision making power.
What is your vision for the Brooklyn Democratic Party?	Inclusion, transparency and broadening the participation for Brooklyn residents to be a part of and to actively engage in the in the party process is long overdue. It's time for change.
New Kings Democrats has proposed several <u>rules changes</u> to be considered by the County Committee. Do you support the proposals? If elected, will you advocate for these and other reforms that democratize power within the County Committee?	Yes I do support the proposals. Yes I would advocate for the proposed rule changes.
How much money have you raised for this campaign? What are the major sources?	To date I have raised \$5000, all of which were individual contributions.
Are you accepting campaign contributions from law enforcement unions?	To date I have not received any contributions from any unions.
What endorsements have you received from publications, electeds, community leaders, or political organizations?	My campaign is 100% grassroots and I have not sought any endorsements from publications, or local elected officials.
Of the elected officials in the NYC Council, who do you admire most and why?	The current state of our city has not allowed me to have an admirable view of the council. However, as a advocate for seniors I can respect Robert Cornegy's and his initiative to designate Bedford Stuyvesant a Naturally Occuring Retirement Community (NORC), so that seniors could age in place.
What are some of the best ways you think New York City residents can best participate in civic life?	I always encourage residents to join their local community board.
What is one fun fact about you?	I was once in a Chuck Schumer commercial.

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

Candidate Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

12/10/20



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**You must sign this questionnaire! When complete, please email your signed and scanned questionnaire as a PDF to [politics@newkingsdemocrats.com](mailto:politics@newkingsdemocrats.com)**