

Thank you for agreeing to complete the South Central Brooklyn United for Progress City Council District 48 candidate questionnaire. Please be sure to familiarize yourself with how our endorsement process works - a candidate must receive  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the ranked choice vote in order to win our endorsement. [More details here.](#)

Your answers to these questions will be made available to the public on our website, <http://scbkunitedforprogress.org/>, and will be promoted on our Facebook page and twitter feed.

**Answers are due 24 hours prior to your scheduled interview time if you want to be considered for endorsement!**

## Campaign Information

What is your name? **Mariya Markh**

What are your preferred pronouns? **She/ Her**

What office are you running for? **City Council, 48th District**

Who is the point of contact for your campaign and what is the best way to get in touch with them? **Mariya Markh**

What is your campaign address? **TBA**

What is your campaign phone number? **(917) 409-6611**

What is your campaign email? **MariyaMarkh2021@gmail.com**

What is your campaign website? **Markh2021.com**

Is your campaign on social media? If so, what platform(s) and what are the names? **Facebook: @MariyaMarkh2021, Twitter: @BrooklynMariya**

## Campaign Issues

What would you do to improve **health care** as a city council member? **Expand options for NYC Cares, make sure hospitals and clinics are funded, work with Coney Island Hospital and hospitals outside of the district to make sure they have the supplies they need, provide services (flu shots, health screenings, etc.) to the community free of charge. I would like to see a burn unit in Brooklyn, as there currently aren't any.**

What do you feel are the biggest challenges facing New Yorkers and those in your district specifically **immigrant rights and access to resources** and what would you do to address them? **There are many different programs available to New Yorkers regardless of**

**citizenship, but most people aren't aware of them or don't know how to access these services. I would work with local nonprofits to make sure they know about these programs and provide the necessary staff training. I would also partner with houses of worship to reach people who may not typically go to community organizations or government offices in order to reach more people.**

What do you feel are the biggest challenges facing New Yorkers and those in your district regarding **civil rights and criminal justice** and what would you do to address them? **We need to focus on connecting the police with the community. Additionally, some duties of the NYPD should be reassigned (for instance, wellness checks for someone suffering a mental health episode should be administered by a medical professional), but others should be brought back (like plain clothes officers that do undercover work and take guns off the street).**

What do you feel are the biggest challenges facing New Yorkers and those in your district regarding **public schools and education** and what would you do to address them? **The Mayor has decided to cancel G&T programs instead of expanding the program so that every school has these enrichment/ accelerated resources available to their students. Additionally, we need to make sure our teachers have more tools available to them, such as adequate supplies, technical support and training. I will fight to fund every school in the district and expand after-school programming.**

What do you feel are the biggest challenges facing New Yorkers and those in your district regarding **housing** and what would you do to address them? **There isn't enough affordable housing and housing for seniors. I would work to bring more housing into the district for our seniors so they can stay in their community. One way we can do this is to remove the carve-out to Mandatory Inclusionary Housing (MIH) that my predecessor put in. Developers will build housing one way or another — MIH would ensure that at least some of those units were affordable to lower-income residents.**

What would you do to improve **transit and street (pedestrian/bicycle/car) safety** for New Yorkers in your district? **I would work to make the MTA more accessible to those with mobility issues. In addition, the City needs to make more bold choices when it comes to street designs in order to enhance safety. DOT designs streets with the expectation that no one will break any laws, and that if they do, the police will always be everywhere all the time and can enforce the law. Instead, DOT should focus on physical design elements that can improve safety, like neckdowns and extended center lines.**

What do you feel are the biggest challenges facing New Yorkers and those in your district regarding **the environment, including access to, maintenance, development and preservation of parks and other open spaces** and what would you do to address them? **The biggest issue is resiliency. In the next 50 years much of the district will be prone to annual floods. We need to mediate as much as we can now and work to make sure we are prepared for the effects of global warming. We can take advantage of the design-build provision in NYS law that permits a faster and more cost-effective procurement process by bundling park renovations into single projects.**

Sheepshead Bay, Manhattan Beach, and Brighton Beach have the highest COVID-19 positivity rate in the city with Midwood and Gravesend not far behind them. What would you do as a city

council member to **decrease the rate of COVID-19** in your district? I've gotten over half a million masks to the communities I worked with during this pandemic. I've also successfully advocated for numerous testing sites to be opened and am working with community locations to become vaccination centers in the district. I have also worked with the Test & Trace team to put out culturally competent PSAs such as urging people not to attend in-person Passover seders and the #SaveTheBabushkas initiative.

What is your position on the proposed homeless shelter at 100 Neptune Ave? Why? **Opposed.** The City is proposing adding a homeless shelter at a site that has been a gas station and mechanic shop since the 1920s and 1930s (decades before the EPA existed) with a provider that has numerous violations. Placing people who are homeless in a location that is potentially unsafe does not help them. We need to get permanent supportive housing to help the homeless achieve stability. I have started a petition and will be speaking against this project to the community board. The shelter model is a historical failure.

What other issues do you consider important and how will you address them? **Our City's budget is in dire straits and the next Council Member won't have the luxury of learning the district's needs and the process to address them. My experience in government makes me uniquely qualified to be ready on day one.**

### **For fun (answers to these questions are not required)**

If your district had a musical anthem, what would it be and why? **Many residents would say "God Bless America," because we have a lot of immigrants who feel a strong connection to the nation that welcomed them, especially when many of their own countries did not. But if we were being really honest with ourselves, it would be Weird Al's "Rye or the Kaiser".**

What is your favorite restaurant in your district? **Everything from Jimmy's Famous Heros to Masal to Retro Burger to Anthony's Place to Anatolian Gyro to Kaff Cafe to Tenda Sushi to Luigi's Pizza to Wheeler's and many more. I like to support my local restaurants and our diverse selection of local establishments allows me to "travel" when I can't vacation.**