

## **BKForge Endorsement Questionnaire**

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Democratic Candidate  
New York City Council District 39

**What will you do to combat fake abortion clinics in NYC and the spread of misinformation regarding reproductive health and abortion care?** It is essential to draw attention to the danger that fake abortion clinics and crisis pregnancy centers pose to pregnant people. Not only do they need to be exposed, they need to be held accountable for the harm that they cause and the misinformation they propagate about reproductive care and abortions. I know from my professional work on combating misinformation in elections and politics as a whole that the best way to counter misinformation is to ensure that the correct information is readily available and easy to find. I have and will continue to fight for increased access to reproductive healthcare and safe and legal abortions, as well as education and greater public access to accurate information and to support programs and groups such as Planned Parenthood, Reproductive Freedom for All, and BKForge.

**What specific steps would you take to reduce the rates of maternal mortality across the city?**

NYC faces a maternal health crisis, particularly affecting women of color and women of lower socioeconomic status. We need more funding for patient advocates and interpreters that help protect the rights of underserved communities and we must invest in women's health amidst a maternal and broader intersectional women's health crisis that disproportionately affects women from marginalized groups. We also need to protect and increase city funding for the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) that provides crucial data on maternal mortality and reproductive health, and the communities that are most at risk. PRAMS funding needs to be shored up by the city in the event that the Trump Administration pulls the CDC funding the program receives. Additional resources need to be provided to H+H hospitals for affordable public OB GYN and maternal health services. Furthermore, I believe that the NYC Department of Health must launch a new media campaign focused on the reproductive and maternal health services that are available in NYC.

**What reproductive justice and/or reproductive health organizations, if any, are you involved with in the city? Can you describe your involvement?**

I've attended BKForge meetings and been on their mailing list since 2022. Ahead of the 2024 election, I did GOTV for Prop 1 with Independent Neighborhood Democrats (IND)

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while in the last trimester of my pregnancy. And after the Dobbs decision, I signed up to house women traveling to New York City to get access to safe reproductive care including abortion. As a mother to a 4 month old baby, I'm more committed than ever to continuing to fight for all people to choose when and how to parent safely.

### **What specific initiatives (community programs, neighbor-to-neighbor actions, legislation, budget items, etc.) have you spearheaded to improve reproductive health and gender equity for New Yorkers?**

My career has focused on creating more equitable government processes to ensure that everyone has the right to basic human rights, including reproductive freedom. As a senior fellow and manager at the Brennan Center, I've led research and advocacy related to [violence against women in politics](#), more [gender equitable congressional processes](#), and other intersectional work on gender. I successfully advocated for the FEC to change campaign laws so that candidates can use more campaign funds for security (which is particularly crucial for women and people of color who face more violence and in many instances have less access to wealth.) [I was profiled in Ms. Magazine](#) for my work on gender equity. Up until going on maternity leave in October 2024, I co-chaired the women and gender equity Employee Resource Group (ERG) at the Brennan center, where we build community and advocate for staff who identify as women or non-binary. Recently, we advocated for more transparency and information on health insurance coverage for women on staff seeking fertility treatment. We've also advocated for more flexible schedules to accommodate those who feel physically or emotionally unsafe while commuting or have care obligations and gender pay audits. Prior to my work at the Brennan Center, I led a project of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and United Nations that explored how parliaments around the world engaged with their citizens during the pandemic. That included a large body of research and recommendations related to promoting gender inclusive engagement, a topic I'm very passionate about when it comes to local government as well. As a Professor at NYU, I centered gender in teaching about American political development (including a focus on the way misogyny and racism are baked into our institutions.) I have applied an intersectional gender lens to all my research and advocacy, and will always do so.

### **Are you committed to refusing donations from political groups that contributed to any anti-abortion Republican candidates in the 2024 primary and general elections?**

I have not accepted, nor will I accept, contributions from anti-abortion political organizations or PACs that contributed to anti-abortion candidates in 2024.

