

**MYD Officer Application
2012**

**To be voted on Tuesday, January 17, 2012 at the MYD General Meeting
Applications will be available on gomyd.com for the membership to view on Jan 9
Applicants must be a 2012 dues paying member**

Please submit to Emmy at president@gomyd.com by 6PM on January 9, 2012

Name: **Nekpen Osuan**

Position Running For: **Executive Vice President**

E-Mail: nekpen.osuan@gmail.com or nekpenosuan@hotmail.com

Phone Number: **347-847-6377**

Occupation: **Data and Operations Manager at Democracy Builders, Inc.**

MYD events attended in 2011:

March General Meeting

Panel on Immigration Reform in April

Please answer the following questions. Brevity will win you points with voters.

1) What is your vision for the Manhattan Young Democrats for 2012? Give some concrete examples of initiatives you would like to undertake before the end of the year.

My vision for MYD as EVP in 2012 would be two-fold: develop our member engagement strategy and improve our organizational reach. 2012 presents a unique opportunity to engage young Democrats leading up to the Presidential Election, and hopefully use that tide beyond November. I think we can all agree that there is great need for youth engagement 2012 because of key debates that impact young voters. These include credit and loan regulation, tax codes and supportive programs for less-wealthy Americans. I think MYD should focus on voter education, voter attendance and utilize the election cycle to promote exciting events in partnership with key players in New York. These events would not only engage members but also highlight MYD and improve its brand beyond our current membership.

2) Why do you think you're a good fit? Please list relevant experiences you would draw from and strengths you could bring to the position you are running for.

I believe I am a good fit for the office of Executive Vice President because I have served in a similar capacity, in support of a President, with a few other non-profit groups. These include the Residents' Council at the International House-New York and the Teachers College Student Senate as a committee chairperson. These roles reported directly to the President and supported efforts by various committees.

I currently work as a community organizer in Uptown Manhattan managing key initiatives to engage constituents and leading others through voter education. My

passion is evidenced by past accomplishments including being part of the New Leaders Council 2012 Fellows, StartingBloc Social Innovation Fellowship and Community Outreach Officer for a non-profit servicing the tri-state area.

3) Serving on the executive board of MYD is a significant time commitment. How committed will you be as a member -- how would you be able to fit your leadership responsibilities within your current schedule? Please list your commitments outside of your employment (i.e. leadership positions in other clubs).

I would be very committed to serving on the MYD executive board because it would be my top priority for the year. I pride myself in giving 110% to all I do and know it is important to be available to members and fellow officers to make our organization successful. I am very organized and detail-oriented, which helps with managing multiple objectives and planning great events.

4) What 3 (three) issues would you consider most important to New York?

- Living wage**
- Education**
- Housing**

5) In 2012, the Democratic Party will be focused on winning important state and national elections. How do you think MYD should be involved?

I have three suggestions on how MYD can get involved with the 2012 election cycle:

- 1. Connected with City and State Democratic offices**
- 2. Engage MYD members and all young Democrats in issue debates with professionals in that sector**
- 3. Encourage members to volunteer for local races by connecting with campaign offices**

6) What do you see as the biggest challenge to engaging young voters? In broad terms, how can we make changes to correct it?

I firmly believe voter mis-education is the biggest challenge to young voters. Another challenge is overcoming voter cynicism and apathy.

.I strongly believe that lack of clarity about the voting process discourages young voters, in addition to skepticism about politicians who cannot seem to put their difference aside. To counter these obstacles, I suggest MYD serve as a liaison to educate voters in unique ways. While the struggling economy and bipartisan debacles have forced more young people to get engaged to advocate for their interests but more must be done to ensure voter turnout and civic engagement.

7) (Optional) Is there anything else you think MYD's membership and leadership should know about you before reviewing you application?

I am a New York transplant looking to utilize my strengths for great causes like MYD.