

**Chowdhury for NYS Senate | District 13 | 2018**

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TAHSEEN DISTRICT 13  
**CHOWDHURY**  
2018 FOR NYS SENATE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **16 Year-Old, Tahseen Chowdhury, Becomes First Contender Against IDC Senator Jose Peralta**

**Queens, NY - May 19, 2017** - Following recent allegations of fraud lodged against IDC member Jose Peralta, and fed up with corruption in Albany, Tahseen Chowdhury is proud to announce his candidacy for New York State Senate, District 13. "As Democrats across the nation come together to fight for progressive values, our own state senator is solely empowering himself and Republicans," says Chowdhury. "We cannot keep accepting watered-down versions of progressive legislation from the Independent Democratic Conference (IDC). New York should be at the forefront of the progressive movement, not enabling Trump Republicans to get their way." Taking on the Independent Democratic Conference and pushing for real progressive reform are the pillars of his campaign.

The IDC is a group of eight State Senators who run as Democrats but caucus with Republicans. Through a power-sharing arrangement with the GOP, they exchange their support for leadership posts, greater allocations and other perks. The IDC/GOP coalition actively prevents vital legislation like the New York Health Act and many other necessary measures from being heard on the floor of the Senate. In sum, the IDC prioritizes personal privilege and political expediency over legitimate representation of its constituency.

Tahseen Chowdhury was born and raised in District 13. He understands his district and knows its values and needs. As a member of a working-class family, Chowdhury is the candidate who sees

eye-to-eye with his community. As a community organizer, he has worked with local organizations to fight for the availability of Halal and Kosher lunches in all NYC public schools. He has worked with nonprofits and the Department of Education to increase diversity at Specialized High Schools through extensive and well-coordinated awareness campaigns. As the Student Union President at Stuyvesant High School and the Manhattan Borough Student President, Chowdhury has done everything from stabilizing and managing a \$150K budget for the student union to changing complicated school policy through skilled diplomacy.

As the son of Bangladeshi immigrants, Chowdhury's parents became American citizens to offer him a better future. He understands the importance of keeping families together and supports a legal defense fund for undocumented immigrants. In addition, he will push to bring the Sanctuary State legislation to the floor for a vote.

In terms of education, Chowdhury explains, "The reason certain students don't do well in school is not because they lack intelligence and it is not because they care less about their future. It is because these students grow up in communities and families with issues and a complicated set of circumstances. It is important that schools are able to provide students the support staff and tools they need to do well."

Furthermore, he plans to start a pilot program that will desegregate classrooms to boost academic achievement across the board. Chowdhury is committed to pushing progressive legislation like Single-Payer Health Care, Sanctuary State, and the DREAM Act through the Senate. Simply put, Chowdhury will push for reform that has eluded the Senate for decades.

Tahseen Chowdhury is running for New York State Senate as a progressive alternative to the current IDC member, Jose Peralta. With Trump in the White House, never before has it been more important for Democrats to unite and resist. New York should be at the forefront of the progressive movement and the IDC should not be holding us back. For Chowdhury, his only special interest is the community he loves.

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