

Tahanie Aboushi

Tahanie Aboushi is a civil rights attorney running to reduce the footprint of the Manhattan DA's office and transform it from one that destroys communities, to one that restores them.

Tahanie was born in New York City and raised by two Muslim Palestinian immigrants who valued hard work. When she was only 14 years old, **Tahanie experienced the destructive impacts of mass incarceration firsthand. Her father was sentenced to 22 years in prison**, and overnight her mother became a single parent to 10 children.

This experience made her fight to end mass incarceration personal. Over the last decade, Tahanie has been in the trenches as a civil rights attorney working side-by-side with vulnerable communities and grassroots organizations **fighting against racism, discrimination, and abuse of power**. Tahanie has fought against Trump's racist policies, has been a fearless fighter for victims and children who experienced sexual assault, has represented BLM protestors, and is **the only candidate in the race to help secure charges against and termination of NYPD officers for excessive force**.

In 2008, Tahanie secured a settlement for three Muslim women who were forced to remove their hijabs in front of male officers to take mug shots. In 2017, when Trump

illegally suspended the entry of Muslims into the U.S., Tahanie spent 4 days at JFK airport litigating cases for the unlawfully detained. In 2020, Tahanie fought to protect Black NY firefighters from a discriminatory “no shave” policy. Throughout her career, Tahanie has been a fearless fighter for victims of sexual assault and regularly represents and children who are bullied, harassed or sexually assaulted in school as well as suspension hearings. She is currently representing a group of protestors filing a lawsuit against the NYPD for their excessive use of force during the Black Lives Matter protests.

Tahanie will bring decarceral, transformational change to a DA’s office that throws police and prosecutors at every societal problem.

Tahanie will change the criminal legal system by focusing on decarceration at every opportunity. Her model is rooted on:

- **A Community-First Approach:** Center justice around people and shift the focus from convicting at all costs to investing resources in our communities to prevent crime and reduce harm.
- **Centering Survivors and Victims:** Invest in comprehensive victim services and fully investigate sexual and domestic violence-related charges. Create proactive prevention and education partnerships that help people from becoming victims in the first place.
- **Sentencing Reform:** Refuse to charge children as adults, never seek sentences longer than 20 years, refuse

to charge crimes that carry mandatory minimums and seek lesser included offenses instead, never prosecute gang conspiracy cases. End coercive plea bargaining.

- **Addressing Systemic Racism and Wealth-Based Justice:** End cash bail and court-imposed fees. Commit to transparency in reporting the racial breakdown of cases.
- **Changing Policing:** Hold police accountable for misconduct and refuse to use DNA and gang databases. Help scale up non-law enforcement public health solutions. Refuse to prosecute crimes stemming from broken windows policing tactics.
- **Public Health Approaches Instead of Criminalization:** Decriminalize crimes of poverty, mental illness, substance use disorder, and sex work. Partner with community groups to actually address root causes of problems instead of after-the-fact approaches. Refuse to be a mechanism of a system that responds to too many crises with policing and prisons.
- **Protecting Working Families and Immigrants:** Prosecute the powerful, hold corporations accountable, uphold labor standards, prevent collateral consequences for immigrants, and end cooperation with ICE.
- **Advocating for Change:** Overhaul our diversion system, support investment in community safety initiatives instead of more policing and prisons, and ensure Rikers is closed ahead of the current timeline without building new jails.

