

KEANUÚ SMITH-BROWN

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Candidate Biography

Keanuú Smith-Brown (KSB) is the eldest of six siblings and a first-generation college graduate. He was born in Annapolis, Maryland, and raised by his mother, Tameka Smith, in the communities of Admiral Farragut, Eastport Terrace, Admiral Oaks, and various parts of Calvert County.

Keanuú survived histiocytosis (a cancerous disease) at the age of two, after undergoing months of chemotherapy and radiation. He also grew up surrounded by abuse and domestic violence, witnessing journeys of survival — from addiction to cyclic incarceration. Having personally experienced mental health illness, Keanuú knows the importance of providing access to mental/physical health resources and services.

During Keanuú's senior year of high school, in 2013, he began questioning his sexuality, eventually facing coming out. Attending prom with someone of the same sex, as a gay black man, set a precedent in his high school. He emphasizes the urgency for persons of every demographic, regardless of sexual orientation, to coalesce without fear or hate.

Keanuú began his college career at the College of Southern Maryland. After being elected President of the Student Association in the fall of 2013, he took on the role of Student Government Association (SGA) Vice President. In spring 2015, Keanuú transferred to the University of Baltimore, where he was elected Senator of the SGA in the fall. During his senatorial tenure, in 2016, he was elected Speaker of the Senate, as well as a District 3 Delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 2016/2020. Keanuú was also elected SGA Vice President from 2017-2018.

In December 2017, Keanuú graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Government and Public Policy and a minor in Philosophy. From 2019-2020, he was the scholarship manager and legislative assistant for District 30A Maryland State Delegates Alice Cain and Dana Jones. Keanuú served as District 30 Democratic Club President from 2020-2021, and, from 2019-2021, served on the Board of Directors.