



Central Brooklyn Independent Democrats: 2022 State Candidate Questionnaire

Name of Candidate: Robert Carroll Office Sought:

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Name of Person(s) completing the questionnaire: Robert Carroll/ Dan Campanelli

Please answer each of the following questions to the best of your ability:

1) Why do you seek an endorsement from CBID?

My history with CBID goes back my entire life. My grandfather helped found the club and both my father and I were past Presidents of CBID. I have been active with CBID since I was a child and think of CBID as not only my political home, but a true beacon of independence and reform. CBID endorsed me in 2016 when I first ran and in each election since.

2) If elected, what would be your top legislative priority?

I was elected in 2016 and have made a host of issues core to my legislative agenda - including electoral and ethics reform, environmental conservation in the battle against climate change, criminal justice reform, street safety, ensuring that our schools, hospitals, disability services and public transit infrastructure have the funding and resources they need to succeed and thrive. I am the prime sponsor of 111 bills currently. My top priorities include: A2185, my bill to create an expert task force on dyslexia to implement literacy curriculum reforms statewide to ensure that all of our children are able to get the curriculum they need to become fluent readers and A1466-A, the Build Public Renewables Act, which I talk about in more detail below.

3) What measures would you support to improve educational opportunities for all students in New York State.

Since I was elected in 2016 I have been working with NYC DOE, experts, advocates and colleagues in government to persuade DOE to screen all K-2 graders for dyslexia and to implement appropriate curriculum interventions so that all of our children can become fluent and fluid readers. As someone who is dyslexic and knows how important it was for me to be identified and to have the proper interventions implemented, I know that this will make a world of difference in the lives of countless young New Yorkers. In addition, I'm the main sponsor of A2185-A, which would create a legislative task force on dyslexia that would establish best practices for screening and curriculum interventions for dyslexic students and other students with a phonological based learning difference.

4) NYS previously passed the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. What are your priorities and what level of funding would you support to implement this Act? Do you support the Climate Can't Wait package?

I support the NY Renews \$15 Billion budget ask and have written op-eds and attended events to advocate for it. I am the prime sponsor of the Build Public Renewables Act, the BPRP lifts the arbitrary generation cap on the New York Power Authority (NYPA), the largest Public Power Authority in the country, and enables them to own and build new renewable projects to ensure we meet the mandates of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. BPRP would make NYPA accountable to everyday New Yorkers, and expand interconnection by removing uncertainty in the renewable build-out. We do not have time to waste,



this month's spike in electric bills shows what happens when we are reliant on gas, we must Build Public Renewables. I am also the prime sponsor of a number of other climate related bills, including legislation to ban gas powered lawn mowers and phase out dirty peaker plants and to incentive the production of low carbon concrete.

5) How do you propose getting same-day voter registration and universal absentee voting approved by voters in NY?

I am the prime sponsor of the same day voter registration amendment that passed in successive legislatures that was unfortunately voted down in the 2021 general election. This was an unfortunate because it's important to make sure we do all we can to make it easier for people to vote, not harder. Not only will I reintroduce the amendment, but I am also the prime sponsor of multiple bills to lower the registration deadline to the constitutional minimum of 10 days, which I hope to pass this session.

6) What, if any, groups or types of people will you not accept campaign contributions from? If so, please note whose money you will not accept.

I don't take developer, fossil fuel, utilities, or big corporate PAC money. My fundraising is focused on small dollar local supporters.

7) Do you support the work of the state's Public Finance Commission? Do you support any campaign finance reforms in NY State? If so, please describe.

I support public financing of elections. In 2019, I was one of the only members of the entire legislature who stood up on the floor of the Assembly to speak out against the commission and to vote no on the budget because of it. I knew when Governor Cuomo and Assembly and Senate leadership cut a deal to put in the budget that it was a poison pill because it was going to keep big money at the heart of campaigns and that it would threaten third parties. I refused to play along with the commission and I wish that more colleagues would have done the same because if they did then we could have rejected it when they created it. The second it was created it was clear to me that it would never create the kind of small dollar matching system that many of us wanted. Sadly, I was right. This experience should be a lesson for elected officials, advocates and voters.

8) The Supreme Court has ruled that state legislatures can gerrymander political districts along partisan lines. How and by whom should political districts be drawn?

I support independent redistricting. I would have been pleased to accept the IRC lines drawn earlier this year.

9) Now that the Reproductive Health Act has passed, what is your next priority in increasing reproductive healthcare access and gender equity?

The Reproductive Health Act and Comprehensive Contraception Act were critical pieces of legislation to



pass to protect women and women's health. I am proud to have co-sponsored them and will always stand up for a woman's right to choose. Crisis Pregnancy Centers are unlicensed clinics that target pregnant people and attempt to take away their right to choose and I will stand with advocates and others to oppose them this session and beyond.

10) What actions would you take to promote safer and more efficient transportation options for pedestrians, cyclists, mass transit users, and drivers in New York?

I was a leading proponent for congestion pricing in the legislature. The billion + dedicated funding stream for the MTA will revitalize our mass transit system by improving our rolling stock, updating miles of signals and switches, making sure many more of our stations are accessible to all. I am a huge proponent of dedicated bus lanes, we need to do a lot more of what was done on 14th Street in Manhattan and on Church Avenue in my district. One of my bills to take drivers off the road who have a history of losing consciousness while driving was signed by the Governor in December 2019. We need more dedicated bike lanes, but more than that we need a real vision from the mayor to truly create a transportation network for New York City that prioritizes public transit investment and other transportation alternatives. Mayor Adams has done some good things on street safety early on, but there is lots to do.

11) What policies do you support to ensure fairness in employment and workplace conditions, as well as strengthening and increasing access to unions?

I come from a strong union family and was a cleaner in 32 BJ buildings before going to law school so I know the power and importance of organized labor. All workers should have the opportunity to join a union and I will continue to work to support organizing efforts and to ensure fairness in the workplace.

12) What would you do to ensure access to affordable and quality housing for everyone?

The Housing Stability and Support Act of 2019 was a landmark victory for tenants across New York. Ending the vacancy bonus and preferential rent and limiting MCIs and IAI's were historic achievements for tenants and I am proud to have been a co-sponsor on the legislation. That said, we have a city with 60,000 homeless and the city and state need to do more to provide long term housing solutions rather than simply short-term shelter. Additionally, I am a co-sponsor of the good cause eviction legislation and support a range of legislation to create funding for affordable housing for .

13) What are your views on criminal justice reform issues, such as (but not limited to) police accountability, and ending solitary confinement?

I support police accountability. I am a co-sponsor on the HALT bill to end solitary confinement and first co-sponsor on RAPP bill to evaluate all inmates who are over 55 and served 15 years. But I think we should do far more - I have a bill A1613 which would give everyone the opportunity of parole after no more than 25 years and would eliminate the practices of consecutive sentences - no matter what their age. I think we need



to reorient our thinking in this country around prison and incarceration. Keeping people in prison extremely costly in both financial and human terms and my bill would be strong positive step to turn back the culture of mass incarceration in this country.

14) Do you support the New York Health Act?

Yes. I am a co-sponsor.