



Central Brooklyn Independent Democrats: 2024 State Candidate Questionnaire

Name of Candidate: Robert Carroll

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Name of Person(s) completing the questionnaire: 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 priorities?

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 have introduced over 150 bills and 21 of them have now become law, including my signature Dyslexia Task Force Act, which the governor just signed at the end of last year. Building on this, my top priorities include my "Right to Read" bill, which would codify literacy curriculum and teacher training standards and my "Dyslexia Diagnosis Access Act," which would require private insurers to cover neuropsychological exams. Beyond literacy, I have a lot more I want to do on climate change, biodiversity, and the environment. I have introduced a new criminal justice reform bill that would vastly curtail the oft-used felony murder charge in New York State. Felony murder doctrine allows a defendant to be charged and sentenced for murder in circumstances where they were committing or attempting to commit a felony but did not actually kill anyone. Evidence from across the country reveals that the impact of felony murder laws such as New York's are highly racially discriminatory with especially negative consequences for young people and victims of domestic violence.

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. As mentioned I will continue to advocate for my "Right to Read" and "Dyslexia Diagnosis Access Act" and hopefully play a role in the implementation of my task force bill, which will hold public hearings and generate a report based on the task force's finding.

4) NYS previously passed the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. What are your priorities and what level of funding would you support to continue to fund this Act? Do you support the Climate Corporate Accountability Act?

Climate change and the environment generally has been a top legislative priority of mine since I was first



elected. In addition to the Build Public Renewables Act, which passed in the 2023 State Budget after years of advocacy as the prime sponsor in the Assembly, I have been fortunate to pass a number of other bills focused on lowering emissions and informing tenants and homeowners about the flood history on their property. A portion of the CLCPA was informed by one of my own bills and I continue to be one of the strongest supporters of this legislation in the Assembly. It's critical that we fund these important measures. I do support the package of bills that NY Renews is advocating for, which includes the NY Heat Act, which is an important measure that was largely included in the Governor's Executive Budget. I plan to sign on to co-sponsor the Climate Corporate Accountability Act.

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 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 have I reintroduced the amendment, but I was also the prime sponsor of two bills, one to lower the registration deadline to the constitutional minimum of 10 days and another to create a "golden day" during early voting which allows for a new voter to register and vote at their early voting site on the same "golden" day. Both passed the legislature and are now law.

6) What, if any, groups, corporations, or other entities 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 has always been focused on small dollar local supporters and labor unions.

7) How do you plan on supporting the NYS Equal Rights Act, which will be on the ballot in November 2024?

I was a cosponsor of the constitutional amendment to put it on the ballot and will advocate for New Yorkers to approve it in November.

8) Do you support the Invest in Our New York set of bills? Are there some bills you support and others that you do not? If so, please explain.

I am a co-sponsor on all of them.

9) Now that the Reproductive Health Act has passed, what is your next priority in increasing reproductive healthcare access and gender equity, not only in NYS but nation-wide?



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. This session I was proud to co-sponsor legislation to provide a "shield" for doctors who prescribe medication to patients in states who have restricted abortion. This bill was signed into law.

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.

I work closely with Planned Parenthood, who has likewise endorsed me every time I've run and have a wonderful grassroots organization in my district called BK Forge (formerly WHARR) that focuses on these issues and always keeps me updated on this set of issues.

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 and fought this year to ensure that UBER and LYFT riders pay their fair share. It's critical that it gets implemented as soon as possible. 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.

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. We first need to protect tenants and work to get our unhoused into safe homes. This is why we must pass Good Cause Eviction and the Housing Access Voucher Program. I do not favor developer handouts to create faux affordable housing and I think it's critical for the State to develop a real affordable housing program to truly meet the needs of working class and immigrant New Yorkers.

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



I was a long-time co-sponsor of Halt Solitary in the Assembly. I was a strong supporter of all the criminal justice reforms we did in the legislature in 2019, including raising the age of criminal responsibility and ending cash bail. As mentioned previously, criminal justice reform is an issue of focus of mine. There is a lot more to do to hack away at the epidemic of mass incarceration and I'm hoping my bill to restrict Felony Murder will be a part of that. I am also a longtime co-sponsor of the elder parole bill, which is a piece of legislation that we should have passed years ago.

14) Do you support the New York Health Act?

Yes. Long time co-sponsor.