



## Central Brooklyn Independent Democrats: 2022 District Leader Candidate Questionnaire

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

**1) Why do you seek an endorsement from CBID?**

I am seeking CBID's endorsement as I am actively seeking support from organizations committed to strengthening our party and creating a more inclusive democracy where everyone has an opportunity to participate.

**2) Will you vote for Rodneyse Bichotte Hermelyn to be Chair of the Kings County Democratic Party? Please explain your answer.**

The honest answer is I don't know yet. I would really have to seriously examine all of the possibilities and the voices of people within the district to determine a course of action. The party has a lot of work to do to engage more of its members, give folks a voice in the process and restore trust. My vote would require significant movement towards that end.

**3) What do you think are the most important responsibilities of a district leader?**

The most important responsibilities of a District Leader in this moment are to help oversee the party in Brooklyn as members of the Executive Committee, affect necessary changes in the party structure to give members a voice, serve as an advocate for our community's interest in the state party, help choose judicial candidates and make sure our elections run smoothly. This role, however is what you make it. I believe that District Leaders can be the force for civic engagement in our communities.



**4) What changes would you like to see in the operation of the county organization and its rules? What would you like to stay the same?**

The passing of time often calls for changes in rules to meet the needs of the day. While there are a number of reforms I would like to see, I am very passionate about changes to Meeting Procedures and Committees.

I believe the best way to have a strong, active, and engaged party in Brooklyn is to make sure that committee members have a chance to fully participate. For me, I believe we have to do a better job at planning. People have busy lives full of many obligations, we must give our members the respect of reasonable notice. This would give members an opportunity to plan accordingly (whether to attend or give their proxy to someone they trust). In no other organization or agency would you expect to go to a meeting without an agenda (with all relevant information and action items included). Meetings should be accessible in terms of transportation as well as for those who need other accommodations. Also, I do believe we need more than one business or organizational meeting every other year. We should also consider a hybrid model to further expand opportunities for participation.

I am committed to making sure that members of my assembly district have the skills they need to participate and access to information. Our AD has some of the most active members of our party and I do believe that our district can serve as a model. I will work with my fellow district leader as well as our elected AD Chair to move organizing past the conversation stage. I truly believe that you have to represent the change you wish to see. I believe that if the individual AD's were organized then an argument could be made for their committees serving as a feeder to the larger county committee to make them operational. This would not eliminate any other member's capacity to serve but might help get the committees operational to start. Committee chairs should be elected as we need passionate people with a willingness to serve.

**5) What, if any, groups or organizations will you not accept campaign contributions from?**

I do not intend to accept any contributions from development interests.

**6) Do you support an active Assembly District Committee (ADC) in your Assembly District? Would you support an ADC that operates independently from AD leadership (Assembly member and/or District Leaders)?**

I wholeheartedly support mobilizing our Assembly District. I will actively champion this and work with both my counterpart as well as our elected chair to make this a reality. I believe strongly in leadership by example. I want our assembly district to mirror the changes we wish to see in the larger body. I want to provide more opportunities for members of county committee to have their voices heard. While I have opinions on many topics, I feel strongly that this is the best way to truly represent the interests of the community at large is to give people a say in the process at every level. Barring some unforeseen events, I am committed to bringing issues back to the organized body for their input. I do think the ADC once well established should maintain autonomy however I think it prudent for there to be a working relationship with both the District Leaders and the Assembly Member to ensure information is properly disseminated.



**7) What County Committee proxy reforms do you support?**

In theory I would like if each district reached an in person percentage towards the overall quorum that eliminated the need for proxies all together but the reality is that people have many commitments that may keep them away. I also believe that people have a right to exercise their voice and participate in the process. I think the best thing reform proposed has been to limit the number of proxies any one member of County can hold regardless of position.

**8) Do you support a party platform for the Brooklyn Democratic Party? If so, what two or three principal goals should be included in that platform?**

I strongly support the Brooklyn Democratic Party adopting a platform. There are many issues we can tackle including Climate Justice, Housing Equity, and Election Reform.

**10) How do you engage in your community now? How do you foresee engaging in your community as District Leader?**

Direct service has always been a part of my life whether volunteering biweekly at a food pantry in my neighborhood, organizing a food distribution, or doing homeless outreach, I have always believed that we should take care of our neighbors. I have been active in the larger community for a number of years planning programs for kids, voter registration drives, forums to educate people on topics like the census and ranked choice voting and more.

When elected district leader, I am deeply committed to increasing engagement in underserved parts of our district. I want to reach out to tenants associations, block associations, community groups, and the like who are sometimes overlooked.

**11) What is your position on the current land use and zoning struggles in your district?**

The ULURP needs to be overhauled. We have to give communities a greater voice earlier on in the process. We need to do a better job and planning to ensure that our neighborhoods continued to have the resources they need as development moves forward.



**12) District Leaders and the Kings County Democratic Committee Executive Committee have the power to recommend commissioners and other staff hires to the Board of Elections. In what ways would you use your position as District Leader to increase transparency in the commissioner selection and hiring processes for the BOE, and professionalization of the BOE generally? What, if anything, would you do differently than your predecessor to ensure fairness and transparency in the hiring of poll workers?**

First, I support all of the ideas put forth by State Senator Zellnor Myrie in regards to reform. I generally believe the board of elections is ready for some over haul but there also seems to be a gap between legislation and implementation. I am committed to making sure that the selection of candidates is fair, open, and based on qualifications. I want to make sure the process to apply for poll work is easy to understand and that communication with those who apply is improved. Again, I want to reach out to parts of our district that are sometimes overlooked and help create pathways to poll work.