



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

**Name:** Lydia Green

**Office Sought:** District Leader

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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'm seeking your endorsement because CBID is one of the most important reform-oriented clubs in the 52nd AD, and as a reform candidate, I hope to build a coalition with like-minded reformers. I will collaborate with CBID on BOE reform and to make the judicial selection process as transparent and democratic as possible.

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

No, because Chair Bichotte Hermelyn has tried to suppress the grassroots wing of the party at every turn. I will work with the other reform District Leaders that are elected to find a new candidate for Chair who will work to make the Brooklyn Democratic Party an active democracy.

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

- **Liaising between Democratic Party and constituents** – A District Leader should help educate the public on the work going on within the party, including upcoming elections, judicial selection, new changes to the law, and the structure and function of government and party systems.
- **Party building** – A District Leader should focus on expanding the Democratic Party and engaging inactive Democrats. In a politically active district like the 52nd, DLs should focus on harnessing the district's existing activism in support of progressive Democrats in parts of the city and state with less progressive infrastructure.
- **Community organizing** – A District Leader should do mutual aid work and provide avenues for a redistribution of resources from those who have more than they need to those who don't have enough. A good District Leader should also be involved in any local protests or campaigns to take power back for the collective good.

### 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 changes I would like to see include reform to the proxy system (see my answer below for more specifics), active standing committees, emailed notices about upcoming meetings, and equal say between District Leaders and County Committee Members on party rules. Generally, I would like to see an active



party that encourages participation, democracy, and organizing.

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

I will not accept campaign contributions from the family members of judicial candidates, police, real estate, or corporate PACs.

**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)?**

Yes and yes. I believe that, like the County Committee itself, ADCs should be democratic and deliberative bodies. The ADC should work with AD leadership wherever it would be helpful to the ADC to have their support, but the ADC should not be controlled by the AD leadership.

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

We should get rid of the COVID rules that gave County Committee Members' proxies to their District Leaders by default, and there should be a limit to the number of proxies that one District Leader or County Committee Member can hold so that no one can use the proxy system to amass power for the few.

**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?**

The Brooklyn Democratic Party should have a platform, and it should be decided by the party membership. We should prioritize taking positions on particularly urgent issues like abortion rights, voting reform, and climate action. Any member should be able to propose a vote to add to or change the platform, and then there should be debate on all the different proposed stances within the party and a final vote on which specific goals the Brooklyn Democratic Party should include in its official platform.

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



## as District Leader?

Currently, I engage my community in the following ways:

- **Campaign work** – I have done field organizing work on multiple local campaigns, including Jesse Pierce for District Leader and Jumaane Williams for Public Advocate. I have knocked doors and phonebanked my neighbors to encourage them to support progressive candidates.
- **RYB work** – I have been a County Committee member since 2020, and I have been an AD Organizer (ADO) for both the 2019-2020 and 2021-2022 cycles of Rep Your Block. As ADO in District 52, I focused heavily on outreach to local orgs and recruitment of new candidates.
- **Mutual aid work** – In 2020, I helped coordinate meal distribution efforts at Wyckoff Gardens (one of the NYCHA buildings within AD 52).
- **Policy advocacy** – I got a bill introduced in the City Council in 2021 that would add weight and height as protected classes in the NYC Human Rights Law. I accomplished this by conducting a survey and collecting 150+ personal stories from fellow New Yorkers on their experiences with weight-based discrimination.

As District Leader, I plan to engage my community in the following ways:

- **Deep canvasses** — I plan to organize deep canvassing efforts on issues where there tends to be a disconnect between our progressive values and the positions we take to help open minds and reduce the harm we inflict on our marginalized neighbors. For instance, I want to start with a deep canvass on the issue of public safety, where we will go out into whiter and wealthier neighborhoods, give people restorative justice alternatives to calling the police, and listen to their feelings about public safety issues.
- **NYCHA canvasses** — I will regularly conduct listening canvasses in NYCHA buildings in the district to find out what their pressing concerns are and then help them find solutions to their issues — whether that means connecting with an elected official, fundraising for meals, helping them find child care, etc.
- **Civic education** — Whenever there is a significant change in the law or important upcoming election or ballot measures, I will go out into the community and educate my constituents through issue-based public education canvasses and townhalls. I will also send out a monthly newsletter to keep constituents updated on smaller local issues.
- **Volunteer opportunities** — I will organize regular opportunities for my constituents to volunteer for progressive Democrats in other parts of the city with less active voters.
- **Vote registration drives** — I will conduct voter registration drives in the EDs within the district with lower political engagement and turnout, and I will keep my constituents informed about upcoming voter registration deadlines to make sure they can vote as often as possible.

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

The 52nd AD is one of the most expensive parts of Brooklyn. We need to create more housing here to keep up with the high demand. For that reason, I have been cautiously supportive of the Gowanus rezoning, which will bring thousands of new units of housing affordable to low and middle income families into the area. While



I was growing up in the district, Gowanus was always a deserted industrial wasteland, and it has been great to see community and culture take off there. This rezoning must come with efforts to clean up the canal, fully fund repairs at the NYCHA developments in the area, and prepare the area for resilience in the face of the climate crisis. As District Leader, I will continue to push for these efforts, which were ultimately promised by the city, alongside my Gowanus neighbors. Additionally, I believe that the neighborhoods that border Gowanus (Park Slope, Carroll Gardens, Cobble Hill, and Boerum Hill) need to help shoulder demand for more housing in the district as well, and I will support efforts to bring new deeply affordable housing to these areas, including rezonings, community land trusts, and expansion of rent stabilized housing stock.

**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?**

I will only recommend anyone for employment with the Board of Elections after they have demonstrated qualification for the position and disclosed any conflicts of interest. I will make any requests for employment recommendation public and share any application materials with my constituents in my monthly newsletters. My constituents will then have the opportunity to comment on the application. When I do come to a decision, I will publicly announce that decision and explain my rationale behind it so that my constituents have a chance to hold me accountable to our values.

Similarly to my predecessor Jesse Pierce, I will put out a public call into the community for poll workers. Beyond that, though, I will also work with local high schools to recruit 17 and 18 year olds to be poll workers, because most 17 year olds don't know that they are even eligible to work the polls, and I believe that our party should be doing more to civically engage young people.