

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

**Name:** Lori CitronKnipel  
Committee

**Office Sought:** District Leader/ State

**Email Address:** NYATTORNEYATLAW@aol.com  
3660

**Phone Number:** 347-351-

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

**1) Why do you seek an endorsement from CBID?** I have been an active member of CBID Since 1992. I have participated in many activities over the years and know their Reform/Progressive initiatives are closely aligned with mine.

I believe in the original meaning of CBIDs goals as best expressed by Margaret Mead: Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world.

I have received CBID's endorsement every time I have run for re-election and it is given me great respect. I hope I can count on your support once again.

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

I don't believe this question can be answered in a vacuum. I cannot say who I will vote for until I know whether she is actually seeking reelection or who her opponents may be. I more than understand her weaknesses and strengths. But as in any Democratic organization don't you have to know the credentials of each candidate before you decide to cast a vote either way.

I have in the past voted against many county candidates but my vote counts on past and present leadership and who if any will run to oppose her. This isn't an issue in a vacuum and I hope you realize I will cast my vote according to my own progressive thresholds and who if any is also in contention.

I'd be happy to elaborate on this at any time. I would hope that between now and then she shows evidence of greater transparency and involvement of county committee members

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

A District Leader is the grass roots organizer on the County Level.

It is not an easy job that takes true dedication and time without any compensation. We register people to vote. We recruit, train and assign literally hundreds of poll workers to work the 9 (10) days of Early Voting and at least 5 different polling sites. Then for Election Day we pull from a large group to serve at many more sites in the district in various roles: Pollworkers, Information Clerks, Scanners, ADA Accessibility Clerks, Door Clerks and often Line Monitors. Since we do not have direct access to the Boards' computer we spend countless hours redoing their assignment errors.

I have always tried to recruit people to fill these positions from Community groups, Colleges and Civic Associations.

In addition, I have had to plan for meetings, forums and town halls to keep our constituents involved.

I had formed the Woman's Caucus that worked hard and volunteered our time to interview candidates seeking judicial office. This allowed for a formulated questionnaire that has been since adopted by many clubs and groups.

We are also the liaison between our elected officials and constituents to help cut through many bureaucratic obstacles, and often act as social worker helping constituents gain access to programs they qualify for, all without a staff or physical office.

**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?**

I proposed changes to our committee system allowing any member of the CC to participate. I also helped pass an amendment to publish the County's finances so that it would be more open and transparent.

I'm not sure that I want to see much stay the same. There has to be a willingness to listen and adapt to members proposals and motions.

I cringe when I feel a meeting is scripted with no room for discussion or appropriate Input and votes.

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

I haven't personally fund raised in several years but I would not take money from developers or any organization that clashed with my values.

**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 have supported an active County Committee and have advised them whenever they asked. They should act independently as that is the nature of such Committees.

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

When I was Chair of the 44th CC many years ago we only allowed proxies for a quorum But not for voting. In absence of that I would like to see a restriction on the number of proxies one individual member can carry.

**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?**

To be more transparent, to make solid platforms that we can all support with regard to more affordable housing, focus on local schools and community centers, better mental health services and universal health care.

When I was on the National Democratic Platform Committee in 2004. I introduced Universal Pre K. I was told by the powers that be that there wasn't enough money in the budget. I argued unless we elect a President we don't have a budget. Cory Booker seconded my motion which was passed by the whole Committee and incorporated into the Democratic National Platform. Unfortunately we lost the election that year but very happy NYC had since implemented it.

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

I've been engaged in the community for many years serving on the Community Board for 40 years, founding the Flatbush Renaissance Committee, Board member Of Temple BethEmeth, member of Fiske Terrace Association, Flatbush Development Corporation and Park Slope Civil Council among others.

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

I helped my neighborhood to get Historic Preservation status so that developers could not tear down houses and build multi-family dwelling changing the character of the neighborhoods and not address affordable housing.

I am extremely upset at the demolition of the Grand Prospect Hall and other spaces that developers have abused.

Zoning and Land use are particularly important in our District. Unfortunately, members of Community Boards can only offer opinions to accept or deny proposals. They don't have any other authority.

**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 have always used fairness and transparency in hiring Election Day workers and our District is definitely one of the best operations. The BOE should definitely hire professional staff. There has never been any transparency in the selection of Commissioners. They literally have been presented to us with their credentials and we have to vote them up or down no other options.