



Central Brooklyn Independent Democrats: 2020 Federal Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Lindsey Boylan

Office Sought: Congress - Representative, NY-10

Email Address: Lindsey@lindseyboylan.com

Phone Number: 646-858-6996

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

1) Why do you seek an endorsement from CBID?

NY-10 is mostly known as the district covering the west side of Manhattan. As I knock on doors and reach out to NY-10 constituents in Brooklyn, I hear that voters have felt left out or ignored by their current representation. I plan to change that.

Across Borough Park, Sunset Park and those living near Industry City, I will make sure to hear and address the needs of each community. From the rise in anti-Semitism in Borough Park to anti-immigrant sentiments and the fear of ICE raids happening in Sunset Park, our district has urgent concerns that must be addressed immediately. In addition, we have miles and miles of coastline that will be impacted not if, but when, the next superstorm hits. Having worked on the state's recovery efforts for both Sandy and Maria, I can tell you we are completely unprepared for the aftermath of a natural disaster if we don't immediately address climate change and the updating of our infrastructure.

Your endorsement would validate my commitment to Brooklyn, making sure residents have the strongest advocate in office with a clear vision for the future.

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

Environmental Justice & Climate Change: Hurricane Katrina hit during my senior year of college. It is that event, along with my admiration for Jane Jacobs, that compelled me to pursue a career that involved building more equitable cities. Over a decade later I oversaw the Office of Storm Recovery for the State of New York, where we were still processing five years of backlog work from the devastation caused by Hurricane Sandy — while taking on much of the disaster relief effort in Puerto Rico from Hurricane Maria. Domestically and abroad, we must position justice and equality at the core of our response to the greatest challenge of our lifetime. This begins with the commitment to deliver investment and workforce development resources to communities disproportionately affected by climate change. We must invest resources to build a safe infrastructure for at-risk areas and create millions of living-wage jobs for communities historically disenfranchised and negatively impacted by our dependence on fossil fuels.

Housing: I worked at the State level to get hundreds of millions of dollars in funding for NYCHA when the federal government failed to properly invest in public housing. It is long overdue that Congress face our country's housing crisis. This starts with making homes for people to actually live in, not just invest in, in order to make housing affordable. To do this, we must overhaul taxes that currently incentivize astronomical housing costs, end federal support to entities that take possession of distressed homes, and build more sustainable collective ownership housing options. I also support providing immediate relief to cost-burdened renters through subsidies, rent stabilization, and fiscal incentives for renter protections. We must also end



redlining designed to segregate communities by incentivizing equitable zoning that encourages diversity. Finally, it is long overdue for Congress to fully fund public housing.

3) Do you support the right of a pregnant person to choose to terminate their pregnancy? Have you always? If not, please explain why your position has changed.

Yes.

4) With Roe v. Wade at risk, do you plan to ensure adequate funding and legal protection to guarantee the right to accessible abortion and health services? If so, what actions will you take?

Yes - First, we must repeal the Hyde Amendment. I support federal funding for abortion providers and I believe the right to accessible abortions and health services should be considered essential services covered under Medicare for All.

5) What is your position on the building of new oil or gas projects? What is your vision for expanding the nation's supply and transmission of renewable energy?

We must recognize that every dollar spent on new fossil fuel infrastructure holds us back from securing our communities and protecting future generations. We simply don't have the time for wishful thinking: there is no proverbial "bridge" from oil to coal to natural gas to renewable energy. We have to immediately move away from the technologies that got us into this crisis in the first place. When elected to Congress, I will promptly work to author and sponsor legislation to establish a countrywide moratorium on all new fossil fuel infrastructure, including a ban on all new pipelines, fracked gas, compressor stations, and coal power plants. In addition to opposing new fossil fuel infrastructure, I will work with my colleagues to mobilize and promote massive investment in solar, wind, batteries, electric vehicles, efficiency, and other clean energy technologies.

And, I unequivocally support a Green New Deal for the rapid transition away from fossil fuels toward cleaner, healthier, and more just communities. For too long, Big Oil and special carbon interests have controlled our energy future. As global temperatures rise and extreme weather events such as hurricanes increase in frequency and intensity, it is not a question of if, but when, the next American city will be devastated without the emergency response resources in place to help victims in need of disaster relief. We are no longer living in a time when we can rely on FEMA alone to handle the influx of destruction caused by climate change.

I also strongly support Congressional hearings to investigate the fossil fuel industry's unchecked role in causing climate change, which is one of the many reasons why I've already pledged to reject any campaign contributions from the fossil fuel industry.

6) What health care reforms or plans do you support?



I support Medicare for All. As part of that, I'm a strong advocate for mental health. I will fight to make sure mental health is treated on par with physical health including mental health checkups, mental health first aid training, mental health support for students in schools, and access to therapists and treatment for anyone who needs it - not just those who can afford it.

7) The Census determines how critical resources and political power are distributed. NYS and NYC have historically been undercounted. What action can you take to ensure that New Yorkers, and in particular, members of immigrant communities, are counted? What outreach and educational activities do you have planned?

I plan to volunteer and encourage my volunteer network to help in any way possible, carry literature, hold a job fair for enumerators, and help in any other capacity to make sure each and every person is counted. I will use my platform as a candidate to help recruit volunteers and encourage people to fill out the census including social media, my email list, house parties, etc. An accurate Census count is at the heart of a fair democracy — No one should lose access to resources or be underrepresented by our government.

8) Voter ID laws, poll taxes, and limitations on polling sites and early voting are all examples of voter suppression tactics. Do you support actions to combat voter disenfranchisement? If so, please describe.

Yes - In addition to what you mention above, I support federal campaign financing, abolishing the filibuster, automatic voter registration, fair redistricting, enfranchisement for incarcerated and formerly incarcerated Americans, and self determination for Puerto Rico and U.S. territories.

In our city specifically - our Representatives have not been focused enough on fighting systemic voter suppression. One of the most recent examples was in 2016, when hundreds of thousands of Democrats in Brooklyn got illegally wiped off of the voter rolls. There was no follow up from our elected officials to make sure everyone has a voice in our elections.

New York City has an overwhelming average of five times more voters per polling location than the nation as a whole and four times more voters per polling location than Los Angeles, the second largest city in the U.S. Institutional shortfalls such as these continue to cause low turnout and hurt marginalized communities most of all. In another example of voter disenfranchisement, Manhattan and Brooklyn were subject to Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act due to systemic Latino voter suppression until part of the law was struck down in 2013. It must now be the job of elected officials to hold the BOE's feet to the fire and ensure the process is fair and everyone can participate in the electoral process.

9) What steps do you support to reduce gun violence in the United States?

I'm an active member of Moms Demand Action. I support a ban on assault weapons and a mandatory buyback program, as well as strengthening background checks and red flag laws. It is also imperative that we disarm domestic abusers, ban weapons in public schools and universities, and work with big businesses to incentivize them to follow common sense reforms where they have power over distribution.

10) What actions do you support to protect our immigrant neighbors?



It is a disgrace that our existing immigration law does nothing to help immigrants who are trying to make a better life for their families. I grew up on the border in San Diego, where I did my senior high school thesis on the Bracero program and worked for a small family run immigration firm along the El Paso - Juarez border to help people avoid deportation. These experiences shaped my understanding of our broken immigration system.

It is an understatement to say we need massive policy reform. As a start, we must recognize Dreamers and abolish ICE. I also believe in expanding TPS and the number of refugees we welcome into this country. In regard to refugees, our immigration policy must reflect the fact that climate change is the leading cause of mass migration. More broadly, it is time to acknowledge the reality of our economy, which requires a variety of skills and labor. Immigrants are not 'stealing jobs' - they are doing the hard, thankless, and often dangerous, work required to keep our businesses and homes running. We need a workers based program that addresses the jobs immigrants do, which are essential to our economy.

11) What steps do you support to reform our criminal justice system?

Ultimately, our goal as a country must be to end mass incarceration that disproportionately impacts people of color. I believe this begins with legalizing marijuana, providing clemency, expunging records, and restoring the right to vote. We must also make sure that the people most impacted by the war on drugs are the first to benefit from these policy reforms. We must also follow New York's example to end cash bail and other financial punitive measures that criminalize poverty nationwide.

It is beyond unjust that we have people serving excessive sentences for non-violent drug offenses while we are sitting on years and years of untested rape kit backlogs.

Investing in mental health services is core to reducing incarceration rates. Mental health, addiction and incarceration impacted my family growing up. I personally know how criminalizing mental health perpetuates the crisis. It is estimated that more than half of inmates have, or have had, mental health issues. Because there is not an adequate system in place for dealing with our mental health crisis, the burden falls on law enforcement. I propose increased federal funding of mental health professionals to respond to emergency calls involving mental crises and expansion of training in mental health first aid so that it is as common practice as regular first aid.

Criminal Justice reform should extend to consumer protections. Corporate crimes need to be prioritized. For too long, those responsible for economic disaster have not been held to account for their egregious abuse of power and wrongdoing.

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



Labor must be prioritized in order to have a just and productive economy. This begins with Unions. I worked alongside Unions as Deputy Secretary of Economic Development overseeing state funding for NYCHA and New York's relief efforts in Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria. I strongly support the right to organize and collectively bargain, making it easier for workers to join a union, and the right to strike. I also support the repeal of right to work laws.

I helped in the fight to pass \$15 minimum wage and Paid Family Leave in New York, which should be scaled on a national level, and I'm an adamant supporter of predictable schedules. I support a federal jobs guarantee to usher in economic transformation in industries we rely on - such as healthcare, infrastructure, and clean energy.

Finally, in order to ensure all workers are treated fairly, I will advocate for equal pay for women, ending the enforcement of NDAs that have long been used to keep women silent in the workplace, expanding protected classes to cover LGBTQ+ and other unprotected workers, and ending the exemption of domestic and agricultural workers from protection under current labor laws.

13) What would you do to ensure access to affordable and quality housing for everyone in Brooklyn and nationwide?

As I mentioned above, I worked at the state level to get hundreds of millions of dollars in funding for NYCHA when the federal government failed to properly invest in public housing. It is long overdue that Congress face this country's housing crisis. Specifically:

- Fully fund public housing
- Overhaul taxes that currently incentivize astronomical housing costs
- End federal support to entities that take possession of distressed homes
- Build more sustainable collective ownership housing options
- Provide immediate relief to cost-burdened renters through subsidies, rent stabilization, and fiscal incentives for renter protections.
- End redlining designed to segregate communities by incentivizing equitable zoning that encourages diversity

14) 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 will not accept any Corporate PAC money, I have taken the No Fossil Fuels Pledge and I will refuse or return any individual funds from bad faith actors in the real estate community, labor, or any others that exacerbate issues in this city.

15) What measures would you support to improve educational opportunities for all students in New York City? Please include how you would address the continued drop in Reading and Math scores and efforts to desegregate NYC schools.

This begins with providing childcare and universal pre-K to address children's needs from birth to age five.



High quality educational interactions are critical for early childhood development, but not all families are able to provide such learning opportunities for their children due to financial and/or time constraints. As such, I support the Community School Model to meet the diverse needs of families with young children.

We need to rethink the impact standardized testing has had on teachers and students alike. I am for expanding the Innovative and Accountability Demonstration Authority which assesses critical thinking, problem solving and creativity which are more relevant to the needs of our economy. Further, testing should be used as a tool to help educators understand where improvements are needed - not as a punishment. To understand progress, I support the National Assessment of Educational Progress.

I support the expansion of Title I funding to adequately support schools and districts with students living in poverty and incentivize schools to integrate, as it has been proven that integration lifts all boats. This support should include access to comprehensive school-based mental health services and develop service links to family support systems that help families care for children with mental health needs.

Finally, our teachers deserve a living wage and the right to organize as we fight for a jobs guarantee.