



Central Brooklyn Independent Democrats: 2020 Federal Candidate Questionnaire

Name:Lutchi Gayot **Office Sought:** House NY-9

Email Address: teamgayot@gmail.com **Phone Number:**(646) 263-1345 (718) 971-9534

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

1) Why do you seek an endorsement from CBID?

Over the years, I have come to realize that career politicians are more concerned with doing the bidding for their corporate donors and designing a system to keep themselves in power. The constituent hardly ever fits in that equation unless it's election time. Washington, D.C. would work more effectively if we had representatives derived from outside of the political class. We need people who are not mired by layers of special interests and corporate cash. This is the reason why I decided to run. I am a small business owner of Haitian descent who grew up in East Flatbush. I am not from a political dynasty nor have I been hand-picked to run by the rich and powerful. My real-world experience is what qualifies me. I have employed dozens of people. I recently had to navigate the health insurance system after suffering a life-threatening injury. I understand what it feels like to be in danger of losing your home to foreclosure while the medical bills and insurance premiums keep piling up. I've come to learn that in politics they try to determine your viability by how much money you have in your campaign account. My goal is to make it about how many people show up for you at the ballot box. This is the reason why I am seeking CBID's endorsement.

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

If elected, my top legislative priority would be to bring the trades back into our schools. We must launch a World War 2-like effort to give every child a skill right out of high school. Electrical, plumbing, robotics, artificial intelligence, and even barbering should be available to all. We need to start giving our youth a high school diploma with a safety net built right in. "IT IS EASIER TO BUILD STRONG CHILDREN THAN TO REPAIR BROKEN MEN." FREDERICK DOUGLASS...

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.

I have always believed that what a woman chooses to do with her body is between her and her family. It should not be up for debate in the public square. All too often, the political establishment will use women's health as a political wedge while nothing actually gets done. If elected, I will work to keep Washington politicians out of women's health issues by introducing an amendment to H.R. 1941 as described below in my answer to Question #4.

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

To protect women's privacy rights over their own bodies. I will introduce an amendment to H.R. 1941- Health Information Privacy Act. This amendment would allow for women's health services to be billed under a private category. This way decisions on women's health issues are made between the Doctor and the patient. Not Washington, D.C. bureaucrats looking to serve their own agenda.



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 incentivize green energy production with comparable tax credits. Electric vehicles will play a major role in reducing our oil consumption. If elected, I will be introducing legislation in support of making 90% of all new cars produced in the U.S after 2030 to be all-electric.

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

I believe a public option is the most responsible and balanced way to achieve a universal health care system. Disassembling the entire system overnight may produce some undesired results particularly with Unions who have negotiated rates with private insurance carriers.

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?

To have the maximum number of people participate in the 2020 census, we must give the assurance that immigrants would not be penalized for stepping forward. Others in minority communities do not participate in the census due to distrust toward the government. As the 2020 census comes and goes, we should be looking to educate our youth on the importance of the census so everyone is comfortable with being counted in 2030.

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.

Voter suppression tactics take many forms. The most prominent I've seen in this election cycle is the media blackout of certain candidates. I don't mean to sound too controversial but let's call it for what it is. These are all tactics from a system that is designed and built by the political establishment to keep themselves in power. Thanks to social media, endorsement invitations like this one from CBID, non-establishment candidates finally have the opportunity to be heard.

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

Gun violence is something that hits close to home. I lost my best friend in 1998 when he was shot and killed by a 15-year-old Crip gang member. Back in those days, you could literally buy an illegal gun off the street for \$150. Today is no different. People are still buying illegal guns in my community for less than the price of an iPhone. Gun laws only work for responsible licensed gun owners. But gun violence on the streets of our inner-cities needs a bolder more in-depth solution because the problem is so much bigger. Poverty, lack of adequate resources and the blatant neglect by many of our political representatives has effected an entire generation. We now need good pragmatic solutions that will take people out of poverty in order to stop gang violence in our inner cities.

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

If elected I will introduce a retroactive guest worker program. This will allow immigrants to come forward to receive work permits. There are many TPS recipients in the Haitian community that has been in limbo for



many years now. This program will be a doorway for TPS recipients and other immigrants who want a pathway to citizenship.

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

Our criminal justice system has been broken for nearly a generation. The crack epidemic hit our inner cities hard. The government's response was to treat those who were addicted as criminals rather than giving them treatment. Many states still have parts of 1994, H.R. 3355 on the books. I personally don't like to talk too much about race. But today your skin tone can determine whether you get a summons or spend the night in central booking for jumping a turnstile. Putting a stop to racial profiling alone can reduce the number of people that end up going through the system. Lastly, for-profit prisons are another big part of the problem. This is why we must remove corporate money from politics. This way our legislators have no incentive to sign onto these inhumane private/public prison ventures.

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

I am a proud signatory of Local 253 Carpenters union. I understand the importance of fair pay and workplace safety standards. If elected, I will bring my knowledge of collective bargaining with me to Congress. Protecting workers who produce the lifeblood of this country should always be your first priority as a legislator.

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

To ensure access to affordable housing, we have to look at all the factors that brought us here in the first place. High property taxes and foreclosures have become the death knell to many single, two, and three-family homeowners and renters. None of the sitting legislators in this race are actively doing anything to stem the illegal foreclosure epidemic in NY-9.

If elected, I will introduce an amendment to protect homeowners from illegal foreclosures on the federal level. When it comes to increasing affordable housing units my experience as a licensed builder forces me to take a realistic achievable approach compared to some of the unattainable solutions presented by other candidates.

We can immediately reduce the cost of rent by creating federal tax incentives for landlords who agree to pass the savings onto the tenant. I would also introduce an amendment to make rent payments 100% tax-deductible.

To realistically raise the trillion-plus dollars necessary for affordable housing construction, Washington, D.C. will need to start thinking outside the box. Blockchain Technology is currently being used throughout Europe to raise billions for housing. This technology could be an upgrade to the existing government municipal bond systems. 50% of World War 2 was paid for through U.S. War bonds. Today lets use Blockchain Technology



to raise the money for affordable housing through “U.S. Housing bonds.” I will work with the Congressional Blockchain Caucus to prepare the legislative framework to standardize the use of Blockchain Technology for municipal fundraising purposes. Further, we have to take a serious look at expanding our transportation infrastructure to give people better access to more affordable real estate.

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 would not accept any political contributions from a corporate interest group or from any group that promotes the disenfranchisement, of any other group.

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.

The measure that I would support is a World War 2-like effort to bring the trades back into our schools. At the age of 16, I was able to take an engine apart and put it back together, but I was never good at physics or algebra. We are doing our youth a huge disservice by not offering curriculums designed to expand on their many amazing talents. Bringing access to the trades is the centerpiece of my campaign. Let us frontload the investment into education today so we don't have to backload it into welfare tomorrow.