



Central Brooklyn Independent Democrats: 2024 State Candidate Questionnaire

Name of Candidate: Zellnor Y. Myrie **Office Sought:** NYS Senate, District 20
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Name of Person(s) completing the questionnaire: Matt Baer

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 honored to receive CBID's endorsement in my previous runs, and would be honored to receive your support once again. I'm proud that since entering the Senate in 2018, we've advanced critical progressive priorities in Albany— from tenant protections and criminal legal system reforms, to election reforms and taking on the gun industry. We've only been able to achieve these victories because we've worked together— but there is still so much more work to do. That's what motivates me to run for a fourth term in the State Senate, and why I'd be proud to have CBID's support.

2) If elected, what would be your top legislative priorities?

- Tackling the affordability crisis, by making it easier for working families to access childcare and afterschool programming
- Championing affordable housing by enshrining strong tenant protections and building more housing where it's most needed
- Holding corporations accountable for the harms caused by their products. In 2021 we passed a landmark gun industry liability law, and this year we're taking on the industries that prey on our young people with deceptive and misleading junk food marketing as well as the fossil fuel companies ruining our planet and our future.

3) What measures would you support to improve educational opportunities for all students in New York State.

Our office works closely with NYC DOE leaders, principals, teachers and parents in every part of our district. I've been proud to fight for full Foundation Aid funding, and as a proud public school graduate, I'll always fight for our students, teachers and families. This year, I'm working to create a pilot program for universal after school programming to reduce the burden on working families and keep students occupied during the critical hours at the end of the day.

4) NYS previously passed the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. What are your priorities and what level of funding would you support to continue to fund this Act? Do you support the Climate Corporate Accountability Act?

I was proud to sponsor the CLCPA, the Climate Can't Wait package and support the NY Renews \$15 Billion budget request. The recent severe weather events— record rainstorms, oppressive heat and unhealthy smog among them, make clear that we cannot wait for climate justice or renewable, public power.

5) How do you propose getting same-day voter registration and universal absentee voting approved



by voters in NY?

As Elections Committee chair, I have advocated for same-day registration and no-excuse absentee voting.

We must bring both these measures before the voters at the next opportunity, and commit to a sustained education campaign around them.

6) What, if any, groups, corporations, or other entities will you not accept campaign contributions from? If so, please note whose money you will not accept.

My campaign will not accept contributions from corporate PACs, big real estate, or PACs and other entities whose values don't align with mine (i.e. fossil fuel, tobacco, gun industry.) In addition, as the author of anti-Pay-to-Play legislation, my campaign will not accept contributions from anyone seeking a state contract over which I have oversight.

7) How do you plan on supporting the NYS Equal Rights Act, which will be on the ballot in November 2024?

Constitutional amendments, even in progressive NYS, must be supported by a comprehensive education and outreach campaign to be successful. I plan to educate my constituents and others about the importance of a "yes" vote in November and coordinate with colleagues and grassroots advocates to ensure broad support for the ERA.

8) Do you support the Invest in Our New York set of bills? Are there some bills you support and others that you do not? If so, please explain.

I'm proud to co-sponsor this entire package.

9) Now that the Reproductive Health Act has passed, what is your next priority in increasing reproductive healthcare access and gender equity, not only in NYS but nation-wide?

With reproductive freedom under attack throughout the nation, I'm proud to stand up for reproductive healthcare that is affordable and accessible to all and will work to ensure New Yorkers always have access to the care and choices they deserve.

10) What actions would you take to promote safer and more efficient transportation options for pedestrians, cyclists, mass transit users, and drivers in New York?

I strongly support efforts to improve cycling and pedestrian infrastructure in NY, and have been proud to participate in conversations with DOT regarding Open Streets and the Plaza Street Block Association regarding safety at Grand Army Plaza. I support major investments in our public transportation system and ensuring the MTA has the resources needed to ensure reliability, safety and service.

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



I'm proud to support burgeoning unionization efforts across many industries in New York and will always stand with workers.

12) What would you do to ensure access to affordable and quality housing for everyone?

From the earliest days of the pandemic, I have been clear: New York must not allow our public health crisis to become worsened by a tidal wave of evictions and foreclosures. I've supported the extension of New York's eviction moratorium, foreclosure relief for homeowners, and major investments in our stock of NYCHA housing.

We must do more to create housing where it's needed most, and ensure that existing tenants have the robust protections they need. We must also combat deed theft.

13) What are your views on criminal justice reform issues, such as (but not limited to) police accountability and ending solitary confinement?

I was proud to be the prime sponsor of the Clean Slate Act, which will seal criminal conviction histories of some New Yorkers who have served their time and returned to the communities. I believe we must have a criminal legal system that lives up to our highest ideals, and that means ensuring everyone has a fair shot at a second chance to contribute to their communities and stabilize themselves and their families. This also enhances public safety by reducing the likelihood of recidivism.

I've also been a leader in the fight to end qualified immunity, and was proud to fight to repeal 50-a in 2020, a law that had been used to shield police disciplinary records from public view for decades. We have so much more work to do. From ending wrongful convictions and stopping deceptive police interrogations, to ensuring incarcerated New Yorkers have access to the services and programming they need in prison, I've been a champion for sensible and just reforms to our criminal legal system.

14) Do you support the New York Health Act?

I'm a sponsor of the New York Health Act and believe we must develop and fund a single-payer plan for New Yorkers. The pandemic has shown us the importance and interconnectedness of our public health infrastructure— supporting New York Health means ensuring our preparedness for the next public health crisis.