



Central Brooklyn Independent Democrats: 2022 Federal Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Carlina Rivera
Email Address: community@carlinarivera.com

Office Sought: Congress NY-10
Phone Number: 917-334-8895 or
305-926-6189 (Pedro Carrillo, Political Director)

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

1) Why do you seek an endorsement from CBID?

I believe the most effective Congress Member is one who has her ear to the ground and has partnerships with local community organizations in the district. I hope to earn CBID's endorsement to gain your grassroots partnership in this race and well into my tenure.

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

I always say the four basic needs are housing, food, education and healthcare – if we are not helping working people meet these basic needs, we are failing them. Therefore, I plan on making these the central pillars of my legislative priorities in Congress.

I have a strong local legislative and budgetary background in these issues, as well as those related to transportation, workforce development, disability rights, and small and immigrant-led business assistance. From reproductive justice and gun violence to housing affordability and transit access, my deep understanding of the city's most pressing problems — and its limitless potential — makes me uniquely capable of pulling the levers of Congressional power in order to revitalize our city, improve our quality of life, and keep New York affordable for the people and families who live here.

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 a person's right to choose is one that is fundamental.

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?

The threat to Roe will be devastating. In anticipation to threats against this precedent, I helped create the nation's first municipally-funded abortion access fund here in New York City, which is now being replicated across the country. I not only believe in the right to choose but that pregnant people should have direct help from every level of government in accessing these healthcare services. I plan on supporting and championing Congressional action to enshrine reproductive rights into law and will join efforts to repeal the Hyde Amendment, which is an unjust targeted law that bars assistance to what I consider general healthcare.

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? Do you support the vision of a Green



New Deal?

We need to abandon new fossil fuel production and focus on a quick expansion of renewable energy production. I believe that renewables should be directly funded and incentivized, both on the commercial and residential level. I do support the Green New Deal vision, and have also introduced a resolution in support of the Green New Deal for Public Housing. I also believe that we should invest in publicly-owned utility options.

In the City Council, I proudly co-sponsored one of the most ambitious legislative packages in any major city to combat the threat of climate change, requiring large and medium-sized buildings — responsible for nearly a third of all greenhouse gas emissions in the city — to reduce their emissions by 40% by 2030 and 80% by 2050.

I also helped secure the billions of dollars it took to break ground on the East Side Coastal Resiliency Project, which will protect public housing and the broader Lower East Side community from the growing threat of climate change and the rising seas and storm surge that will come along with it.

I would like to take my experience working on climate advocacy, social resilient infrastructure, and my skills as an effective organizer and legislator to Congress to benefit not just my district, but the entire country.

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

I believe in Medicare for All as a basic healthcare option. Additionally, mental health needs to be treated not as a separate specialty, but as part of general and preventative healthcare so as not place unnecessary financial burdens on people seeking this type of care. Ensuring that immigration status is not a barrier to affordable healthcare or even private employer coverage should also be a priority in expanding covering. I would also seek to ensure that immigrants are able to access affordable care options regardless of status. Bodily autonomy should be a guiding principle in healthcare, so abortion access, a variety of free and affordable contraceptives, maternity care that includes post-partum visits, and LGBTQIA+ affirming services should all be part of a comprehensive, universal healthcare vision.

7) Do you support repealing the Senate filibuster? If so, how will you use your platform to push for this reform?

Yes I support repealing the filibuster. The modern filibuster has racist origins and continues today to be mainly used to obstruct anti-racist and equitable social justice policy. If Senate Rule 22 was amended, the Democrat-led Senate could materially improve the lives of New Yorkers by passing federal legislation related to many fundamental issues for residents here and in the country. I would convene grassroots allies on the issue and leverage my existing relationships within the New York delegation to grow the coalition against the rule. We all need to consistently remind voters that some of the most popular reforms and programs to keep us safe, promote health, protect our planet, care for our children, and defend our democracy are blocked due to its use.

8) Voter ID laws, poll taxes, and limitations on polling sites and early voting are all examples of voter suppression tactics. What will you do to protect voting rights and elections, including but not limited to cosponsoring legislation?



In 2020, I published an op-ed (see [here](#)) that detailed some common sense measures to expand access to the ballot to promote pandemic safety and ensure timely and correct receipt and processing of absentee ballots. To their credit, the Board of Elections met with me to discuss the proposals, and we did get some wins like dropboxes and a larger number of early voting sites. However, many of the recommendations faced hurdles that included funding, procurement problems, or state law. This is not unique to New York City nor New York State. Ballot access issues, equipment oversight, and funding should be federally regulated under strong legal mandates. There have to be national norms for both process and access. The John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act is just a start, but I strongly support it.

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

The very least we can do—the least we owe every person who’s been gunned down on the streets, at a grocery store, or in a classroom—is to pass federal, common sense gun control. Congress’s inaction on this has cost us countless lives, most recently the children and teachers we lost in Uvalde, TX, but also in Buffalo, in Laguna Woods, and in far too many other tragedies.

First and foremost, I believe that we need to invest sufficient dollars into our Black and brown communities who have been most impacted by stark inequalities in education, housing, and healthcare. We also need to recognize that guns are also at the core of so much of the violence and fear in our communities and schools, and we should not give up on our legislative efforts to solve the gun violence epidemic in holistic ways.

If I am elected as NY-10’s next representative in Congress, I will cosponsor existing legislation to create a national gun buyback program, and work with my colleagues to sponsor the legislation we urgently need. A robust gun buyback program will help cut down on hundreds of millions of firearms in circulation throughout the United States, as well as create inroads for other gun violence reduction strategies. Gun buybacks are one piece of a comprehensive approach to working toward true safety for all New Yorkers, and must be complemented by universal background checks, red flag laws, liability insurance reform, firearm registration, as well as increased age limits and waiting periods for gun purchases.

Legislation such as the Safer Neighborhoods Gun Buyback Act of 2021 is currently cosponsored by New York City Representatives Grace Meng and Adriano Espaillat, and I would join their efforts on my first day in office.

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

I believe that immigration status should not be a barrier for employment, access to healthcare, or housing. I have sponsored legislation calling on Congress to abolish ICE, held an emergency hearing to remove ICE’s access to our hospitals, and I will work with our federal leaders to push for immigration policies that undo the damage caused by the Trump Administration and create pathways to citizenship and make the visa process easier. I will also use my position to vehemently oppose anti-immigrant bias and xenophobia which I have a record of denouncing planned ICE raids on several occasions, and working to block harmful policies that leave families without benefits, and funding the organizations assisting with safe passage for unaccompanied minors.

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



I firmly believe that we must continue exploring alternatives to incarceration whenever possible, especially considering how many people who end up incarcerated actually need access to healthcare and other trauma-informed resources.

As a City Council Member, I've proudly supported the work of Avenues for Justice in the Lower East Side, an organization that keeps court-involved and at-risk young people ages 13–24 out of prison by providing job training, education, mentoring, and mental health care. Their work has shown decades of success in the neighborhood, so much so that they've expanded their work across Manhattan. That's the type of work we should be investing in across the board to create meaningful, systemic change.

As chair of the Criminal Justice Committee in the Council, I've been overseeing countless hearings about the multiple and urgent issues on Rikers Island. The conditions there are nothing short of a human rights crisis, and it's costing both incarcerated people and Correction staff their lives. I have introduced legislation to ban solitary confinement in New York City and would bring this fight to the federal level.

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

My record in the Council demonstrates my interest in safe and welcoming workplaces. The very first bill I passed as New York City Council Member was to amend the New York City Human Rights Law to include sexual harassment as a form of discrimination.

Having grown up in a union household, I witnessed how some degree of security is provided to a family by organized representation in the workplace. I support legislation such as the PRO Act that would enshrine the right to organize. I also believe that we need to further assist people with disabilities in accessing employment opportunities and would support the Disability Employment Incentive Act, which would provide greater incentives for accessible workplaces, since people with disabilities consistently show the highest rate of unemployment of any community.

I would cosponsor Sen. Murray's and Rep. DeLauro's Healthy Families Act, which would set a national paid sick days standard, allowing workers in businesses with 15 or more employees to earn up to seven job-protected paid sick days a year. It is critical that the country follow New York City's lead in guaranteeing workers their hard-earned sick time. Moments of vulnerability, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, have underscored the importance of guaranteed sick time in ensuring the safety of our families and our communities. That's why I co-sponsored legislation to create an ongoing informational campaign to raise awareness of workers' rights under New York City's earned safe and sick time act.

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

Housing should be a human right. We have it in our power to ensure that every person has access to permanent, dignified, and universally-accessible affordable housing. We just need the investments and political courage to make the supply meet the demands.

Our affordable housing efforts must include the development of a national social housing program that ensures the availability of truly affordable rents across the country. This effort must fully fund the Section 9



program to meet the \$80 billion in capital needs across the national public housing portfolio. I applaud the White House's recent announcement putting affordable housing development and associated land use and financing issues, many that promote economic and racial inclusion, at the forefront of the national discussion.

I have also advocated for collective ownership models, such as community land trusts, which I believe can empower marginalized communities to control their own destiny in housing. In 2020, I introduced the Community Opportunity to Purchase Act (COPA) in the New York City Council. This transformational policy would make home ownership and community wealth building possible for the Black and brown communities excluded by racist housing policies. I have also advocated since my first term for the expansion of Community Land Trusts (CLT) and secured municipal funding for community organizations to bring more properties into this model. I believe that the CLT ownership model can keep communities in place while building cooperative wealth, and one that can be championed and expanded nationwide.

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.

Fossil fuel companies, pharmaceuticals, big agriculture. I have vetted and returned such money in previous campaigns.