



Central Brooklyn Independent Democrats: 2020 State Candidate Questionnaire

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

1) Why do you seek an endorsement from CBID?

I am seeking the endorsement of CBID, because the values they hold are the same I fight for up in Albany.

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

If I am re-elected, I would continue to advocate for my "anti-chokehold bill", which would make the tactic that the police officer used against Eric Garner illegal.

3) 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.

As a former public school teacher, the parent of public school students, and the previous budget chair for the Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic, and Asian Legislative Caucus, I am fully aware of the disparities that exist in our public school system, specifically their lack of funding. For years I have advocated for the billions needed to fund our schools, and I will continue to fight to ensure that adequate funds are allocated to public schools. I as an Assembly Member, am committed to ensuring that the city's plan move forward.

4) What is your position on National Grid and the Williams Pipeline?

In the past, I have been publicly opposed to fracking, and I am currently co-sponsoring bill A101, which would prohibit fracking from oil or natural gas extraction activities. I am committed to fighting the expansion of the fossil fuel industry in New York State.

5) NYS passed the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act this year. What is your position on the \$1 billion allocation which activists are requesting be put into the state budget this year?

Just in the past year, I helped pass the Climate Protection Law and the SFY 2019-20 spending plan, both of which involve mass investments in renewable energy, pollution clean up and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. But much more work needs to be done, and the planet's future depends on it. We must continue to allocate more funding toward protecting our communities and the planet against climate change.



6) Do you support universal voting in NY? Do you support codifying Governor Cuomo's executive order granting a conditional pardon to people on parole, thereby restoring their right to vote?

The right to vote is one of the fundamental components of citizenship. Individuals should retain their right to vote regardless of their past criminal record.

7) 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 have signed the No Fossil Fuel Money pledge, and will not be accepting charter school contributions.

8) Do you support the work of the state's Public Finance Commission? Do you support any campaign finance reforms in NY State? If so, please describe.

Publicly funded elections are necessary to increase participation in the democratic process. Candidates should not be forced to take money from corporate donors in order to fund their campaigns. To ensure that candidates can run a campaign on small donors, we need a system of at least 6 to 1 matching donations. My testimony in defense of publicly funded elections before the Public Financing Reform Commission this past October, is proof of my commitment to campaign finance reform.

9) 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?

We must ensure that the Census is properly funded. It is critical for all New Yorkers to be counted in the census, regardless of what zipcode they live in.

10) The Supreme Court ruled in June that state legislatures can gerrymander political districts along partisan lines. How and by whom should political districts be drawn?

Districts should be drawn to ensure that the communities that make it up are represented. The state legislature is and should be the one to draw the district lines.

11) Now that the Reproductive Health Act has passed, what is your next priority in increasing reproductive healthcare access and gender equality?

I spearheaded the passage of measures to prohibit discrimination against employees based on reproductive choices and other health care decisions and codify a woman's right to an abortion in New York State. Women can never be truly equal until they have complete control over their bodies and their health care decisions without the government or their boss stomping on their constitutional rights.



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

I will continue the fight in Albany to ensure that the subway system is fixed with funding that doesn't reach into the pockets of commuters. The way to get our transit system into a state of good repair is paved via congestion pricing and a real commitment from both the city and the state to fund desperately needed improvements. We also must continue to fight for more bus lanes and investments in our bus system.

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

In my capacity as an elected state official I have supported the formation of union throughout my tenure. That is why I helped to co-sponsor A8419, the farm laborers fair labor practices act this past session. This bill helped bring the ability to form a union to one of the largest economic sectors in our state. I will continue to build on legislation like this to help ensure that anyone regardless of where they work has the opportunity to organize.

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

Just as with tenants rights, I have always been in the fight for affordable housing. The previously mentioned Housing Stability and Tenant Protection Act also safeguarded affordable housing. I am a public advocate for more affordable housing, especially as I witness the gentrification of my district, borough and city. Just because people are not millionaires does not mean they should not be allowed to live in New York. Therefore, I will not stop working to ensure that affordable housing grows and thrives, giving thousands of New Yorkers a home. In 2018 I sponsored bill no. A01628, whose specific intent was to prevent landlords from increasing rent on the basis of improvements.

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

For years I have advocated for the legalization of Marijuana and reformative justice as a central part of this plan, which is why I am a cosponsor of the Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act. By the same token we must ensure that previous low level marijuana convictions are dismissed, and emphasize that revenue made from marijuana sales be poured back into the communities impacted most by marijuana-related arrests.

I am a multi-sponsor of the HALT Solitary Confinement Act. I am also the main sponsor of the "Eric Garner Anti-chokehold" bill.