



Central Brooklyn Independent Democrats: 2022 State Candidate Questionnaire

Name of Candidate: David Yassky

Office Sought: State Senate – District 26

Email Address: david@davidyassky.com

Phone Number: 347-735-3600

Name of Person(s) completing the questionnaire: David Yassky

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

1) Why do you seek an endorsement from CBID?

My purpose in running for State Senate is to use the tools of government to make progressive change – to make NYS and NYC fairer, more equitable and more just – to transform Albany’s culture of insularity, opacity, resistance to democratic accountability and politician-centered rather than public-centered governance – and specifically to reform the criminal justice system, ensure safety from gun violence, provide affordable housing for all who need it, ensure universal access to health care, convert NYS to clean energy, overhaul our educational system and provide a high-quality education to all NYS children, provide universal access to broadband, enact campaign finance reforms and create a 21st-century transportation system. CBID has a long tradition of political action for progressive change. I believe our goals are aligned and I would be honored to receive your endorsement.

2) If elected, what would be your top legislative priority? Universal access to affordable broadband; increased investment in supportive housing; NYS-led, community-friendly plan for the BQE, transform special education, gun-trafficking legislation.

3) What measures would you support to improve educational opportunities for all students in New York State. Full funding for education; special ed reform.

4) NYS previously passed the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. What are your priorities and what level of funding would you support to implement this Act? Do you support the Climate Can’t Wait package? Priorities include mandating utilities to phase out fossil fuels for home heating, eliminating the 10-foot rule, increased commitment to energy efficiency, legalize sale of electric vehicles, statewide deployment of EV chargers, low-carbon fuel standard, investment in green roofs, investment in solar and wind power generation.

5) How do you propose getting same-day voter registration and universal absentee voting approved by voters in NY?

Shoe-leather work and vocal advocacy in support of an amendment to the New York State Constitution.

6) 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.

Fully follow NYS campaign finance laws in letter and spirit.

7) 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.

YES. I support implementation of a matching funds system and substantially reduced limits on the size of contributions. I will also champion structural reform of the New York City Board of Elections.



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

Commission appointed by Governor, legislative leaders, and the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals.

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

New York should be a safe haven for women who live in anti-choice states and who need reproductive healthcare, including abortion. I will also lead the fight for universal childcare to support working parents and families.

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?

New York needs a safer, greener and more efficient system of transportation than the outdated and crumbling system we have now. The MTA has been underfunded and neglected for decades by Albany. As State Senator I will push for greater MTA funding including speedy implementation of congestion pricing. Statewide availability of EV chargers would accelerate the electric vehicle revolution. I have long championed making NYC bicycle-friendly including writing legislation that required office buildings to allow bicycle commuters to store their bikes in the building. We need a comprehensive regulatory approach to the e-bikes and the mushrooming plethora of micromobility options, including a reimagination of the streetscape to ensure safe mobility for pedestrians, cyclists, and scooter and e-bike users.

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

First, gig workers need the same rights and benefits as workers in more traditional fields, including the right of industry wide collective bargaining. As State Senator, I will use all available tools to support unionization efforts by workers in service, e-commerce and other industries, such as those by Amazon employees..

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

Stronger affordability requirements in new development. Calibrating housing eligibility requirements according to neighborhood income levels. We urgently need to improve NYCHA housing, including by giving NYCHA the ability to borrow based on dedicated tax revenue and by giving residents stronger representation on NYCHA's board..

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

I support giving external review boards greater authority to investigate police misconduct and to discipline officers for using excessive force. I will also push for greater transparency of police department disciplinary decisions. I support a complete end to solitary confinement.

14) Do you support the New York Health Act?

I am fully committed to securing universal healthcare for all New Yorkers. There are questions about the feasibility and implementation of the New York Health Act that must be answered before I commit to supporting it.