



## Central Brooklyn Independent Democrats: 2022 Federal 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?**

CBID is a Brooklyn club of progressive Democrats that cares deeply about the issues that I care about: universal pre-k and 3k, affordable housing, climate change, health care, gun safety legislation, voting rights and environmental justice. CBID always shows up; it stands alongside elected officials in fighting for a progressive agenda, but it also holds those elected officials accountable and ensures that politicians are doing their jobs, and doing what they say they are going to do. I will fight alongside CBID as we take on the serious challenges facing our city, our state and our nation. I would be honored to receive CBID's endorsement.

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

Climate change-Build Back Better Act and Green New Deal-and universal pre-k and 3k: I want to build on NYC's success and work to reduce emissions from buildings, create cleaner and more fuel-efficient transportation, support renewable and cleaner energy, divest pension funds from fossil fuels and actualize environmental justice. I also want to work with state and local leaders on divestment and emission reduction.

Additionally, I want to build on NYC's success and make universal pre-k and 3k a national model. Early education is key to reducing inequality and creating a more level playing field. Shortly after being elected Mayor of NYC, my Administration implemented an entirely new government program: Pre-K for All. Today, nearly 70,000 NYC children enjoy free Pre-K as a universal right, and 40,000 more take part in 3-K, putting money back into the pockets of parents who need it. I hope to expand this program and give every child in this country universal pre-k.

**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.**

Yes. I have always been pro-choice and have always supported the right of a pregnant person to choose to terminate their pregnancy.

**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?**

Yes. I will aggressively advocate for safe abortion access in every state as well as Medicare for All. Healthcare is a right, not a privilege. Abortion is healthcare. During my tenure as Mayor, we expanded NYC's public health insurance option and guaranteed that anyone ineligible for insurance – including undocumented New Yorkers – had direct access to physicians, pharmacies and mental health and substance abuse services through a novel program called NYC Care. I will work to expand these successful programs on a national level while also advocating for Medicare for All. I will also work with groups and municipalities to provide grants and funding to pregnant people who may need to come to NY from out of state in order to obtain an abortion. We know many pregnant people will need to book hotels, arrange



childcare, and pay for buses, trains and planes. As a state where abortion is legal and safe, we must do all we can to provide services to these people, especially vulnerable people, who may need our assistance.

**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?**

Ending new oil and gas infrastructure, in line with science-based targets, was and will remain a top priority for me. As Mayor, the city successfully pushed to stop the Williams NESE pipeline, which would have hooked more New Yorkers for decades to come on fracked gas. I also achieved a historic end to gas in all new construction in 2021, a landmark law that will ensure that the approximately 2,000 new buildings per year built in NYC are built 100% fossil free. I also helped stop the proposed Astoria NRG gas power plant and began NYC's planning to end dependence on fossil fueled power.

With respect to transmission, my administration was the major force behind the Champlain Hudson Power Express project, which will transform NYC's power grid by bringing in renewable energy into our grid. We also set in place 100% renewable energy purchasing for city government and achieved divestment of the city's pension funds from fossil fuels.

My Administration also achieved the city's historic Local Law 97, which is now on track to create tens of thousands of jobs this decade by slashing pollution from large buildings. I am a passionate supporter of a Green New Deal. That vision of a massive program to slash pollution, create jobs and build a fairer society is my top priority. There is no time left to waste on climate action: only radical positive change, now, can prevent worldwide catastrophe. Thanks to my administration, New York City is now a global leader among large cities. I will take the same approach at the federal level.

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

I strongly support Medicare for All. Health care is a human right. Access to quality and affordable health care is one of the biggest burdens working people face. In 2019, I launched the largest, most comprehensive plan in the nation to guarantee health care for every New Yorker. The plan serves 600,000 New Yorkers without insurance by strengthening NYC's public health insurance option, MetroPlus, and guaranteeing anyone ineligible for insurance – including undocumented New Yorkers – has direct access to NYC Health + Hospitals' physicians, pharmacies and mental health and substance abuse services through a new program called NYC Care. The NYC Care card provides the uninsured with a dedicated doctor and 24/7 customer service care line for appointments and questions. I will work to expand this program on a national level while I also advocate for Medicare for All.

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

Yes. Although I'm not in the Senate, I will strongly advocate to end the filibuster. The filibuster has been overused and abused in recent years. There have been more than 2,000 filibusters since 1917; about half have been in just the last 12 years. It is a completely flawed model that serves as a major roadblock to getting anything done in the Senate. We must change Senate rules and end the gridlock.



**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?**

I will support voting rights legislation. Voting rights are under attack. We need to make voting easily accessible and we need to get money out of politics. For years, I have spoken about the detrimental effects of Citizens United, and have called for legislative changes to fix federal campaign finance laws. In 2018, I made the project of improving democracy in New York City a top priority, and I created a new role: the chief democracy officer. We did a tremendous amount of work on voter outreach campaigns, voter registration campaigns and voter education campaigns. We dramatically increased voter rolls. We also reduced the power of money in politics by increasing public matching funds 8 to 1 in the public financing program in NYC. In NYS, I supported and pushed for same day registration and early voting. On a national level, there is much to do and I would support HR1. I strongly believe in public financing, early voting, same day registration, no excuse absentee ballots, and independent redistricting commissions.

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

We must break the NRA blockade and pass sensible gun safety legislation. I have spoken strongly in favor of background checks for all gun purchases, bans on automatic and semi-automatic weapons, and divestment from arms manufacturers. We must also do everything we can to prevent criminals and the mentally ill from getting access to guns. I am fully prepared to bring this progressive agenda to Congress.

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

There are 11 million undocumented people in America. They're part of our communities now. They're part of our economy. They're our neighbors. What we need is comprehensive immigration, once and for all, to fix it. Let's have a path to citizenship for 11 or 12 million people who have been here for decades. This is the greatest don't ask/don't tell in American history. For decades, we have had millions and millions of undocumented folks. And they're core to our economy at this point. And they're part of our communities. We could have a rational immigration system. We could have clear border security, and it could be done in a way that actually helps our economy function and creates fairness. We have to change the discussion about in this country. I supported sanctuary city policies as Mayor and fought the Trump administration's plans to strip cities of federal funding. I opposed ICE crackdowns, before calling for the agency to be abolished. I even unveiled plans to provide health care coverage for illegal immigrants. We also sued the Trump administration when it attempted to withhold federal grants that were tied to cooperation with U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement. I decreased cooperation with ICE when I signed into law a bill to end the presence of ICE at all City facilities, including Rikers Island, and dramatically reduced the City's cooperation with federal ICE detainers for low-level offenses.

In 2020, my Administration launched the COVID-19 Immigrant Emergency Relief program, reaffirming the City's commitment to ensure all New Yorkers, regardless of immigration status, are included in citywide COVID-19 response and relief efforts. This \$20 million donation marked an essential step to provide



emergency monetary relief to immigrant workers and their families, who have largely been excluded from federal COVID-19 relief programs.

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

When I took office, I vowed to reform a broken stop and frisk policy—both to protect the dignity and rights of young men of color, and reduce police officer interactions in situations where those interactions are unnecessary, and can lead to escalated conflict. There were so many who said it couldn't be done. But we proved them wrong. Fewer people entered the criminal justice system AND crime went down. I believe in holding police accountable and decriminalizing poverty.

I have fought for years to reduce the discriminatory impact of the criminal justice system. In criminal cases with non-violent offenders, prison does not solve the underlying problems that low-income and disadvantaged individuals often face. I successfully pushed to create a borough based jail system so that we could close Rikers and reduce the prison population. When New York City released its Rikers plan in June 2017, the City's jails held an average of 9,400 people on any given day. One year later, the jail population dropped by almost 13 percent to around 8,200, the lowest level in more than three decades.

I also signed legislation decriminalizing a number of violations that were previously criminal under our CJRA reforms in 2016, such as being in the park after dark, open container, littering and unreasonable noise. Some of these summonses for minor offenses gave offenders a permanent criminal record, and missing one court date led to an arrest warrant. Those violators are now issued a civil fine instead of a criminal summons, removing those individuals from the criminal justice system.

On the national level, I want to continue to work on all the issues cited above, and seek an end to mandatory minimums in criminal sentencing.

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

I strongly believe in the power of unions and will support the PRO Act: when workers exercise their right to organize a union, they have higher wages, better benefits and safer working conditions. Protecting workers' rights to organize is crucial to rebuilding America's middle class and improving the lives of workers. Large corporations are savvy and will continue to try and find ways to prevent their workers from meeting, organizing and joining unions, whether that's through intimidation or harassment. Employers must face tougher consequences when they are found to have violated workers' labor rights. I support this bill because it will create a more even playing field and make it easier for unions and their members to organize and fight for fair wages.

I have fought alongside many unions throughout my time in public service, helping them with organizing drives, on picket lines and through collective bargaining efforts. When I first became Mayor I reached contract deals with all of the city unions, expanding their ranks and increasing their pay. This impacted hundreds of thousands of city workers. These contracts had expired for years under Mayor Bloomberg, and we reached deals quickly and fairly. Pay was raised; services were increased; and still, NYC's economy thrived.



I also helped pass many laws that benefitted non-union workers, like the Paid Sick Day expansion, Freelance isn't Free Act, and the Fair WorkWeek bills. One of my top priorities in Congress will be seeking an increase in the federal minimum wage, and advocating on behalf of unions.

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

We must find ways to make housing more affordable. I'm proud that the Mandatory Inclusionary Housing (MIH) policy, passed in 2016, was a game-changer in many ways. MIH requires that all new housing—where a density bonus is awarded or in rezoned areas—include 20-30% of units at certain affordability thresholds where occupants would pay no more than 30% of their income in rent. MIH dramatically changed the rules for development and affordable housing in the city for good and is a key strategy for leveraging the private market to add to the city's affordable housing stock without the use of city subsidies.

In December 2021, at the end of my tenure, we announced that my Administration had financed the preservation or new construction of 200,000 affordable homes, the most of any administration in New York City history. The plan remains on pace to reach its ambitious goal of creating or preserving 300,000 affordable homes by 2026.

By expanding the range of tools available to build and preserve housing and protect tenants; advancing innovative policies and programs to address a broad range of housing needs and serve more of the most vulnerable New Yorkers; expanding and diversifying the pool of partners who participate in this work; and streamlining existing processes to make them more efficient; the City not only secured 200,000 affordable homes, but also advanced an agenda designed to make this a more equitable and inclusive city.

I also made sure that the Rent Guidelines Board, a board in which I appointed the majority of members, stopped raising rents each year by exorbitant amounts (which we saw under Bloomberg and Giuliani). There were three years in which the Board actually froze rents. I will continue to expand upon this work in Congress.

**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**

- The top military contractors (Northrup Grumman, Lockheed Martin, etc.)
- PACs, lobbyists or SEC-named executives of the fossil fuel industry

If you have questions about a specific group or person, please let us know so we can respond.