



Central Brooklyn Independent Democrats: 2020 District Leader 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 one of Brooklyn's premiere reform, progressive Democratic political clubs and is among the most influential and activist political clubs, especially in the 44th AD. It has long been at the forefront of political and social change in Brooklyn, and across the State. In my two years as District Leader, CBID has been a great partner in my attempts to reform the Brooklyn Democratic Party and has tirelessly worked to get more and better Democrats elected.

2) Will you vote for Frank Seddio to be Chair of the Kings County Democratic Party? Explain your decision.

I did not vote for Frank Seddio and would not if he were running for reelection. I do plan on voting for Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte to be the new Chair of the Kings County Democratic Party. Assemblymember Bichotte is not a "machine" politician and has no loyalty to the old Brooklyn "machine." She won office running *against* the "machine" and has remained an independent leader. I have worked with her to defeat the prior leadership's anti-democratic proposals. She is a proven fighter, fundraiser and winner and I believe this is the start of a realignment of the Brooklyn Democratic Party.

3) What do you think are the most important responsibilities of a district leader?

I believe that a District Leader is supposed to register, mobilize and organize voters. They are supposed to identify and mentor candidates to build a strong Democratic bench. They are supposed to engage the grassroots and work with them to develop & communicate a winning Democratic message. They are supposed to stand up and fight for the interests of their neighbors and neighborhoods and they are supposed to be a voice for their community within the local Democratic Party.

4) What changes would you like to see in the operation of the county organization and its rules? What would you like to stay the same?

I believe that the rules of the Brooklyn Democratic Party reflect an outdated vision of what it means to be a local Democratic party and, in the long-term, should be entirely rewritten.

In the short term, I believe, and have introduced amendments to the Party rules relating to, proxy reform, creating and distributing agendas sufficiently in advance of all meetings; taking and publishing notes of all meetings; and, creating the position of Parliamentarian. I also believe it is essential that the Party creates regular financial reports, and finally reenvisions and reorganizes the subcommittees required by the Party Rules.

5) 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 only accept money from individuals. I do not accept money from judges or judicial candidates.



6) Do you support an active Assembly District Committee (ADC) in your Assembly District? Would you support an ADC that operates independently from AD leadership (Assembly member and/or District Leaders)?

I fully support an independent ADC and have worked with community leaders in the 44th AD to assist them in creating such an ADC.

7) What County Committee proxy reforms do you support?

I am proud to have authored and introduced, along with District Leader Josue “Josh” Pierre, a set of amendments to the Party Rules. One of our amendments would change the rules to allow proxies to be submitted electronically; require proxies to be filed 24 hours before the next meeting; and require a list of submitted proxies to be emailed to County Committee Members no later than one hour before the meeting. I also support the proxy reforms proposed by Assemblymember Robert Carroll.

9) Do you support a non-binary option for District Leaders and County Committee members? Do you support removing all designations of gender for District Leaders and County Committee members?

I fully support a non-binary option for District Leaders and County Committee members and was proud to be an original co-sponsor of Emilia Decaudin’s amendment to the NY State Democratic Committee by-laws removing all designations of gender for Members of the State Committee.

10) 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?

In addition to its impact on redistricting, an accurate Census is crucial to ensuring NYC gets its full amount of federal funding. That is why fighting for a complete and accurate count is a top priority for 2020.

I will be working with NYC’s “Complete Count Campaign” and local community based organizations to educate people about the importance of the Census, engage in non-partisan community outreach, work in traditionally undercounted communities, many of which exist in the 44th AD, and make sure that people know that, for the first time, they can complete the Census online.

11) What is your position on the current land use and zoning struggles in your district?

The biggest zoning/land use issue in the 44th AD is the push for more and larger luxury apartment buildings. These buildings are too often constructed without consideration of the character of our neighborhoods and their impact on schools, transit, and general infrastructure. Our focus should be on building more affordable housing and supporting policies that encourage the growth of small businesses over chain stores and self-storage units.

12) District Leaders and the Kings County Democratic Committee Executive Committee have the power to



recommend commissioners and other staff hires to the Board of Elections. In what ways would you use your position as District Leader to increase transparency in the commissioner selection and hiring processes for the BOE, and professionalization of the BOE generally? What, if anything, would you do differently than your predecessor to ensure fairness and transparency in the hiring of poll workers?

I believe the BOE must be a professional organization and there must be an end to patronage jobs. I believe hiring decisions must be made on the merits and not prior contributions to the District Leader or Democratic Party. I assist anyone interested in become a poll worker in navigating the BOE requirements and do not show any favoritism.