



Central Brooklyn Independent Democrats: 2024 District Leader Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Diana González

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Office Sought: District Leader

Phone Number:

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

1) Why do you seek an endorsement from CBID?

CBID is my political home. It's a neighborhood institution that connects civically-minded people with their elected leaders. I believe that the work that CBID does is indispensable and I hope to have a productive partnership with CBID as District Leader.

2) Will you vote for Rodneyse Bichotte Hermelyn to be Chair of the Kings County Democratic Party, if she seeks renomination? Please explain your answer.

No. She has done a number of things that I consider to be beyond the pale, including running slates of judicial delegates against neighborhood slates, taking away district leaders' power to appoint poll workers, and undermining Democratic candidates running in tight races.

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

I think that, first and foremost, a District Leader needs to be a leader in the district. The District Leader is the liaison between Democratic voters and the Democratic Party. The District Leader needs to be out in the district, listening to people, and advocating for the causes they believe in.

Also, district leaders have enormous sway over judicial elections and the responsibility of vetting candidates is enormous.

Appointing poll workers, and recruiting poll workers, is also indispensable – without district leaders, we wouldn't have elections.

And lastly, performing an oversight role on the Chair and the staff of the 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?

Where to begin! I think the party needs to do a soup-to-nuts review of the party rules, increasing transparency and facilitating the participation of county committee members. This means allowing participation at county committee meetings and limiting how many proxies one person can hold.

The one thing I would keep is the judicial screening committee.

5) What, if any, groups or organizations will you not accept campaign contributions from?

Real estate developers. As the Land Use Chair on Community Board 7, this could potentially be a conflict of



interest.

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)?

The 44th already has an active, independent ADC, of which I am currently the Corresponding Secretary. I would like to keep the ADC as it is – independent but working in collaboration with District Leaders.

7) What County Committee proxy reforms do you support?

We need to limit how many proxies one person can hold.

During the last organizing meeting, the party leadership did a number of things with proxies that need to be expressly forbidden so that they don't happen again. We cannot, under any circumstances, assign proxies without consent, and proxies must not be transferred without consent.

We also need to allow proxies to be submitted electronically and publicly release the proxy list so that it may be reviewed.

8) Do you support a party platform for the Brooklyn Democratic Party? If so, what two or three principal goals should be included in that platform?

I support a party platform because it shows voters who we are and what we believe in. I would like to see the platform focus on issues that the voting public cares about, such as increasing the amount of affordable housing, fighting gun violence, and addressing the migrant crisis in a humanitarian way.

9) How do you engage in your community now? How do you foresee engaging in your community as District Leader?

Until October I was the President of the Central Brooklyn Independent Democrats. I'm also the Corresponding Secretary of the 44th Assembly District Democratic Committee and the Land Use and Landmarks Chair of Community Board 7.

As District Leader, I will continue my service on the community board and serve as an ex officio member of CBID's leadership. I will also attend meetings and events in the community.



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

Prospect Heights, Park Slope, Windsor Terrace, and Kensington are neighborhoods that have not seen much new development for some time. The struggle now is to find lots that are good candidates for development and encourage affordable housing development on those properties. Unfortunately, real estate developers aren't enthusiastic about building affordable housing or listening to community concerns, so communities need to be tough and get what we need from developers. This is something I am currently involved in as Land Use Chair on CB7.

11) 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 support legislation that would make the BOE a non-partisan civil service, with promotions and raises determined without political influence or favoritism.

I would do what I can to shed light on the process of choosing a Commissioner, but realistically, much of this process is withheld from District Leaders as well.

As to poll workers, I think my predecessor has done an excellent job recruiting poll workers and giving them their assignments. I seek to continue this tradition and assist anyone who wishes to be a poll worker. We have chronic shortages of poll workers, so there is no place for any kind of favoritism.

We need people to feel confident that their vote will be counted, so I will do whatever I can to promote integrity in our elections.