



## Central Brooklyn Independent Democrats: 2024 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?

As an alternative to the incumbent—and there is no democracy without choice—my candidacy very much falls within the purview of Article II of the CBID Constitution. As a long term resident of CBID's geographic area, I share many of the local and national concerns of the organization and humbly ask for the organization's support.

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

My priorities are three-fold, with many local applications to NY-10:

- 1) Climate and environment: accelerate the shift towards a lower carbon society, an area where I have considerable professional experience
- 2) Affordability: close tax loopholes and increase the corporate tax rate to generate resources necessary for strengthening existing and creating new programs. This includes addressing Social Security which will run out of funds in less than 8 years, reinstating the expired child tax credit (the most effective way of addressing child poverty), providing funds for after-school activities, and funding new affordable housing
- 3) Political reform: run a democratic primary race according to principals that most voters aspire to, namely minimizing the role of money, accepting small contributions only, and eschewing drama. Additionally, address structural political dysfunction by advocating a change in NY's voting system, to adopt open primaries with RCV, and to change the rules of the IRC to ensure that it is much more independence from the political process. I would advocate these changes across all states.

### 3) What is your position on the Israel-Hamas conflict? Do you support calls for a ceasefire? If so, under what conditions? Do you support a two-state solution? With respect to Ukraine, do you support continued financial aid and assistance from the US?

I support the peace process and a two-state solution. While imposing peace in a 75-year-old conflict is not possible, we should encourage both Israel and the Palestinian Authority to re-enter into a dialogue, even if it is fraught with difficulty, and to abstain from taking actions which interfere with a potential long term resolution. This is an area where the US does have considerable levers of influence.

In regards to the Israel-Hamas conflict, I support the US effort to reach a ceasefire based on a release of refugees. In the absence of such an agreement, I would strongly encourage the Israeli government to transition from a full military operation to one of counter-terrorism. The plight of civilians needs to be addressed, while a coalition of regional partners is assembled to start regional peace discussions and the long process of rebuilding.

I fully support continued financial aid and assistance to Ukraine, and would encourage the US to enter a multi-year commitment most likely to signal to Russia that there is no path to a military victory.



**4) Do you support the right of a pregnant person to choose to terminate their pregnancy? What legislation do you support to guarantee that abortion access is available to everyone who wants it? Do you support medication abortion? What other actions do you support to guarantee the right to choose?**

Yes I do and I fully support medication abortion which has a 40+ year history of safety around the world. I firmly believe 2<sup>nd</sup> semester and late-term abortion decisions should be made by the pregnant person in dialogue with their doctor. Considering the overturning of Roe, I would support a federal abortion bill which may be a bit more limited in scope, but would none-the-less be an improvement to the current situation.

**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?**

I support a ban on new oil and gas leases on Federal lands, with some minor exemptions if necessary to secure the passage of much greater climate legislation. I support the pause in permitting for new LNG facilities so that their broader climate and environmental impact can be considered in the permitting process.

Climate change is at the center of my campaign. I am very supportive of IRA and believe that Congress must continue to monitor its implementation to resolve bottlenecks as they emerge. We need more transmission to connect producers with consumers and I support CETA, which would give sole permitting authority to FERC. I also believe that the quantity and impact of new transmission must be minimized via rewiring, re-developing closing coal/gas facilities already connected to the grid, storage, and distributed energy. I support reaching 100% renewable energy by 2035 and the vision of the Green New Deal. I believe that climate change should be placed at the center of most of our laws and tax bills, and have numerous proposals in this area.

**6) What health care reforms or plans do you support? Do you support Medicare for All?**

Having experienced a single-payer system in three different overseas countries, I am a big fan of providing base coverage through a government funded healthcare system, supplemented with private insurance (which is the system used by most countries in Europe and Japan). The challenge is how to make and finance such a transition, without alienating voters, healthcare professionals and causing a temporary decline in quality of care. As a result, I support a gradual, more incremental approach:

- Expanding the availability of Medicare for All to younger people, in exchange for the payment of premiums
- Continuing to expand the ability of Medicare to negotiate drugs costs
- Including the profits generated from pharmaceutical activities in the profit formula allowed by insurance companies
- Strengthening Medicare's formula for compensating primary care doctors, the frontline of any medical system
- Working with states to address medical deserts

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

The filibuster has been abused by a minority in the Senate to block legislation that most Americans support. But it also protects the minority party from majority over-reach, and it is a certainty that Democrats will be in



the minority at some point in the future.

As a result, I support a two-step process:

- Lift the filibuster for HR 11 which strengthens election rules and democracy
- Encourage states (starting with NY) to address partisanship via the adoption of truly independent redistricting commissions, open primaries and RCV

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 support HR 11, as well as the set of voting rules and regulations that Gov Hochul signed.

In regards to the state of NY, however, much more needs to be done, and I would make a strong case (and work with advocates) to the State Assembly and the Governor for a ballot measure which would open primaries to all voters, preferably via a jungle primary (top 3-5) similar to the reforms adopted in CA, WA and AK, and change how IRC members are chosen (CA offers a great model). I would also work with similar advocates across all states to push for such ballot measures.

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

I support a ban on the sale of new assault weapons, registering all existing assault weapons, raising the age for purchasing guns to 21, a truly universal background check, a waiting period, mandatory training, red flag laws, parental responsibility for crimes committed by the children (due to negligence), and gun manufacturer criminal responsibility of they are caught selling weapons to unauthorized buyers.

10) **What actions do you support to protect our immigrant neighbors? Do you support the Senate immigration reform bill? Explain what legislation you do or don't support.**

The US was built thanks to the talent of millions of hard-working immigrants. Voters dislike chaos, however, and the continued arrival of migrants to New York is the largest source of frustrating of the dozens of voters I have spoken to (of all ethnic backgrounds), particularly in mixed neighborhood. While I have not yet read the full provisions of the Senate immigration bill, I do support measures necessary for fixing the asylum system, including a modified version of the former remain in Mexico policy, capping how many people are allowed to remain in the country after entering illegally, creating a pathway to applying for asylum from overseas, and dramatically expanding the number of immigration court judges. I also strongly favor a path to citizenship for long term residents, starting with Dreamers.

11) **What legislation do you support with respect to reforming the Supreme Court? Do you support the Judiciary Act?**

Republicans have dangerously increased the politization of the Supreme Court, but I do not support the Judiciary Act, as it is likely to be countered by the next Republican president, and changing the number of Justices every four years is not the solution to the over-politization of the Supreme Court.



I favor passing a set of measures on Supreme Court ethics and term limits, and focusing Democratic efforts to get President Biden re-elected and to keep a majority in the Senate.

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

I support a higher minimum wage law and paid family leave.

I propose a Fair Termination of Employment Act whereby an employer must treat employees who are being laid-off in a humane and respectful manner. Escorting workers off the work premises would only be permitted if the employer has credible concerns about the safety of its remaining employees.

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

I support a two-pronged approach:

- Developing a comprehensive city-wide urban plan which takes into account historic architecture, neighborhood character, transportation access, schooling, climate resiliency and other socio-economic factors to encourage new construction while preserving historic neighborhoods (yes, it is possible to do both!). The plan should result in expanded landmark areas, the designation of some zones for new high-rise construction (with affordable housing requirements) near good transportation hubs, amended parking requirements (dependent on local transportation availability), reformed zoning laws (including FAR, ADU, multi-family), climate resiliency, thoughtful plans for addressing old infrastructure, and protection of industrial areas which provide local jobs. NY should also amend its minimum apartment size rules to foster the construction of a new housing segment which addresses the needs of lower income singles/couples with no children: micro apartments in high rises with no parking, built in areas close to transport hubs, emulating a successful NE Asian city model.
- Federal spending for improving the maintenance of NYCHA housing (and addressing roots of recent corruption case) and for funding large-scale development of affordable housing on new campuses

**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.**

Money in politics is the source of many of our problems, and given that I am running in a Democratic primary in a very safe blue district I am minimizing the amount of time spent on fund raising. I do not plan to accept any corporate or PAC contributions and have limited individual contributions to \$500 per person at this time.