

Central Brooklyn Independent Democrats: 2020 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?

I am seeking the endorsement of CBID because I would like to represent the New York 7th Congressional District for another term. Since the election of Donald Trump, our communities have faced tremendous adversity. I am proud that despite the obstacles, I have been able to stand up to Trump when it came to crucial issues regarding our communities. There is much more that is left to be done. I am energized and ready to keep working for the NY 7th Congressional District.

I would be honored to have the support of CBID. Organizations such as CBID are the reasons why I love coming back home. You all are doing incredible work to get progressives Democrats elected and empowering people to get involved.

2) If elected, what would be your top legislative priority in your first term?

I believe that we need to address the housing and transportation crises in NYC. As I finish out this term, I have made this a priority. My team is working tirelessly to make sure HUD provides the resources that are needed in order to make the crucial and necessary improvements to our public housing. Additionally, the Federal Government should make transportation more accessible to the most vulnerable. I hope to pass legislation in the upcoming months while building the infrastructure for a more comprehensive housing and transportation package.

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 supported the women's right to choose. I have also been honored to have had the continuous support of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

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 believe we need to do everything in our power to protect the access to abortion and health services. I believe that we need to change the leadership in the Oval Office that is supporting this attack on women's rights. Additionally, we need to take back the Senate to make sure that the budget and protections for women's health is prioritized. Lastly, we need to continue electing more women to all levels of government to ensure that women have a seat at the table when it comes to these important decisions.

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?

As we have seen in places like Puerto Rico, Australia, New York and all over the world, climate change is a global threat and we need to keep that in mind when it comes to any investment and decision. We drastically need to move towards renewable energy and support global initiatives such as the Paris Climate Agreement to make sure that not only our country but the world is making strides towards protecting the earth for future generations. Additionally, I am proud to have opposed the Keystone XL pipeline and advocate for the protection of our natural lands.

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

I believe that a single-payer universal health care system is necessary in the country. In addition, I believe bulk prescription drug purchasing would all be helpful to achieve Universal Health Care as well as increasing funding for community health centers and expanded preventive care for disadvantaged communities.

7) 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?

The upcoming Census has been a priority for me. I believe we need to make sure people in NYC are aware of the importance of the Census. My team and I have already planned several Census workshops and we are planning to increase outreach in every neighborhood in the district so people are aware and prepared to participate in the Census.

8) Voter ID laws, poll taxes, and limitations on polling sites and early voting are all examples of voter suppression tactics. Do you support actions to combat voter disenfranchisement? If so, please describe.

Yes. I believe we need to make sure that the state parties and local election offices are made up of people who will have these issues at the forefront when it comes to combating voter disenfranchisement. I believe that we need to pursue legislation that increases funding for oversight of polling sites while ensuring that polling sites are accessible and open to all citizens.

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

We can't wait any second longer. Too many innocent people have been killed or affected by gun violence. We need to pass Universal Background Checks, we need to close all loopholes, we need to make it harder for people to obtain assault rifles, and we need to make it easier for people to give back their firearms through a buyback program. My legislation such as the Iron Pipeline Act of 2017 is a great example of ways that we can track firearms that are misused but there is much more that needs to be done.

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

We need to pass comprehensive immigration reform and continue to fight back against the attacks made by Trump to our immigrant communities. We need to make it easier for immigrants to become citizens while creating an environment that is welcoming. Additionally, we need to fight against racism and xenophobia in this country.

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

I believe we need to immediately follow the steps of states like California and ban private prisons. Additionally, it is essential that we decriminalize marijuana and grant clemency for those who are in prison for non-violent offense. Additionally, we need to reform correctional facilities to make sure they do more work to rehabilitate people and give them an adequate standard of living while incarcerated.

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

We need to do everything possible to protect worker's rights. I am excited about the proposals to give workers more power in companies. We need to empower workers and unions to have a seat at the table when it comes to corporate decisions. To that end, I have worked on legislation expanding employee-owned

business enterprises. When employees have an ownership stake in their place of work they have greater economic empowerment and their rights are better protected.

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

We need to invest in public housing and make sure that HUD is directing funds to make the necessary improvements to public housing. Additionally, we need to hold developers accountable and make sure that the decisions they make do not displace people out of their homes and neighborhoods.

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.

Since the very beginning of this cycle, I have stopped taking Corporate PAC contributions. I also refuse to take money from those tied to Trump's affairs or have any background when it comes to corruption.

15) What measures would you support to improve educational opportunities for all students in New York City? Please include how you would address the continued drop in Reading and Math scores and efforts to desegregate NYC schools.

I believe we need to invest more money into the public education system and make sure that funds are being fairly distributed to all schools, despite their neighborhood. Additionally we need to increase wages and benefits for teachers. Without investing in teachers, we will not be able to improve the performance of students across the city.