



Central Brooklyn Independent Democrats: 2020 State 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 went up to Albany last June to protest in support of the new rent laws and was arrested with my fellow tenants. As I looked around, I only saw one elected official standing with us. I felt that this was unacceptable. The working people of this state needed an ally, who understands their struggle. In office I would like to see big improvements in housing, healthcare, workers rights, decarceration, and seriously address climate change. Winning these fights will require a grassroots movement that can stand up to corporate interests. CBID has a track record fighting for social, economic, and racial justice and I believe that by working together we can build a winning movement.

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

My top legislative priority is to make universal rent control a reality and pass Good Cause Eviction. The Good Cause Eviction bill (S2892A/A5030) would protect tenants who are not covered by rent stabilization and rent control. For these tenants, there are no protections when it comes to lease renewal. A landlord can decide not to renew your lease and there's little you can do about it. He can demand a 50 dollar increase, a 100 dollar increase, a 500 dollar increase, or a 1000 dollar increase. A landlord might want to raise your rent because of the color of your skin, because of your gender, or because of who you love. And as long as the landlord doesn't admit to discrimination, he's probably going to get away with it under the current system. I've seen this in Assembly District 57, where landlords are pursuing relentless displacement of black and brown working class tenants. We need Good Cause to end the cycle of displacement and gentrification that is driving our severe housing crisis.

3) 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.

Improving our schools starts with fully funding schools in accordance with the foundation aid formula. This is something Cuomo has consistently refused to do--poor school districts in our state are currently owed over 4 billion in missing funds. As a result, racialized inequality persists unchallenged in our public schools. Historically underfunded schools--especially schools that serve black and brown students--must receive the resources that they deserve and need. These resources would improve test scores and fight the racism that exists in our education system. Fully funding foundation aid would be a serious first step to address these problems.



4) What is your position on National Grid and the Williams Pipeline?

I am opposed to the Williams Pipeline. National Grid has argued that the pipeline is necessary to supply enough natural gas to the city, but this was proven false when the PSC successfully ordered National Grid to allow new hook ups. Climate change means we should not be building new pipelines. I support recent calls to make utilities democratic and publicly run companies. Energy is a human right. It should be provided affordably and transparently, not used to generate massive profits at the expense of working people.

5) NYS passed the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act this year. What is your position on the \$1 billion allocation which activists are requesting be put into the state budget this year?

The CLCPA was an important first step towards addressing climate change here in New York. I support the \$1 billion allocation, but we must push for far more. We must act now to end fossil fuel consumption and create a renewable-energy system that empowers working people and the most vulnerable. That's why I am championing a Green New Deal for New York. This means:

--Moving to 100% clean, renewable energy by 2030.

--Stopping all new fossil fuel infrastructure, while creating thousands of high-paying union jobs.

--Making our power system publicly owned and operated, creating savings for users over profits for a wealthy few.

--Making these changes by taxing the rich and powerful.

Transitioning to 100% renewable energy will transform our lives and our state for the better. It will require us to expand public transportation, invest in our crumbling infrastructure (starting with long-neglected NYCHA residents), and create thousands of union jobs building large-scale solar, wind, and grid projects.

6) Do you support universal voting in NY? Do you support codifying Governor Cuomo's executive order granting a conditional pardon to people on parole, thereby restoring their right to vote?

I strongly support universal voting. I support codifying Cuomo's pardon for people on parole, however we must go further. Immigrants and incarcerated people are our neighbors and have a real stake in our decisions. They deserve a say in our democracy along with everyone else.

7) 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 will not accept donations from real estate or corporate interests of any kind.

8) Do you support the work of the state's Public Finance Commission? Do you support any campaign finance reforms in NY State? If so, please describe.

I support many but not all decisions made by the Public Finance Commission. I am especially excited about public matching funds for small dollar donors at the state level. In general, I support any reform that expands democracy in our state. We should have a full public financing system for elections, make elections holidays, and make sure all voters are automatically registered to vote.

I oppose the recent decision of the Public Finance Commission to raise the vote threshold of votes for minor parties to qualify for the ballot. This move was a political attack on the Working Families Party and should be opposed.

9) 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?

Trump is attempting to underfund the census and is using fear to keep immigrants who deserve to be counted from participating. As a tenant organizer active in Crown Heights, I envision myself spending a lot of time in my district, making sure my office is staffed by people who have an organizing mindset, and collaborating with local organizations. An organizing approach will facilitate a successful census that ensures our community gets the resources and representation it deserves.

10) The Supreme Court ruled in June that state legislatures can gerrymander political districts along partisan lines. How and by whom should political districts be drawn?

Political districts should not be drawn along political lines. I would support legislation to create an independent commission to decide political districts.

11) Now that the Reproductive Health Act has passed, what is your next priority in increasing reproductive healthcare access and gender equality?



As a nurse, I know that high quality healthcare is a human right. We must pass the New York Health Act, which would make reproductive healthcare free at the point of access for everyone.

12) What actions would you take to promote safer and more efficient transportation options for pedestrians, cyclists, mass transit users, and drivers in Brooklyn?

Transitioning away from fossil fuels will require us to change our transportation systems. I believe that we need to massively expand our public transit system, ultimately working to make it free and paid for through progressive taxation. I would like to start by making bus service free and see this an important way to build a coalition of climate activists, transportation activists, and union workers. I'm deeply appalled by the spike in NYC cyclist deaths in 2019. We must devote more state money towards bike lanes and pedestrian friendly infrastructure.

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

The labor movement is very personal to me. I am a union nurse, specifically a member of NYSNA. Workers' rights are at the heart of why I'm running for Assembly. I understand the difference that union power and a strong contract make on the job. I will support any bills that strengthen unions and workers' rights. Here are several bills I support:

- *A7045/S5302, which would strengthen the rights of workers injured on the job.*
- *A1261/S1947, which would subject all projects financed through public funds to the prevailing wage.*
- *A4508A/S3314, which would increase fines for companies that endanger worker welfare.*
- *A2954/S1032, which would set safe staffing levels at medical facilities.*

I also would like to develop legislation on the following issues, just to name a few:

- *Universal just cause to protect workers from arbitrary firing.*
- *Create a true statewide \$15, with no exceptions, which will rise with inflation.*
- *Repass and pressure Governor Cuomo to sign S2844B (the SWEAT Act) to protect thousands of workers from wage theft.*
- *Implement California-inspired 'ABC' Test to protect workers misclassified as independent contractors.*

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



In June 2019, I participated in a mass civil disobedience as part of the Housing Justice for All campaign. We won some of the strongest tenant protections New York has ever seen. We must build on these protections to put the right to a home over real estate profits. I proudly support a Homes Guarantee. This means:

- *Making universal rent control a reality for all tenants, by passing good-cause eviction and eliminating MCIs.*
- *Promoting common ownership, by allowing tenants to collectively purchase and run their buildings to meet human need, not line their landlord's pockets.*
- *Investing \$3 billion in public housing, with a focus on NYCHA residents who have faced winters without heat and can't get needed repairs.*
- *Supporting our homeless neighbors by developing 20,000 units of supportive housing and supporting those leaving our shelter system*
- *Taxing the rich to solve our housing crisis, by ending 421a and 485a tax breaks and passing new taxes on the wealthy, such as the pied-a-terre tax.*

15) What are your views on criminal justice reform issues, such as (but not limited to) police accountability, legalization of marijuana, and ending solitary confinement?

My criminal justice platform is inspired by Tiffany Caban's campaign for Queens District Attorney. My goal is to seriously reduce the number of people who are behind bars. Jails cannot be our answer to our social problems. I support the following existing legislation:

1. S2101A, to fully eliminate cash bail.
2. S6806, to prohibit police from lying to suspects to extract confessions during interrogations.
3. A654/S2253, to repeal the "walking while trans" ban.
4. A8230/S6419, to decriminalize sex work.
5. A1617B/S1527B, to legalize marijuana.
6. A60/S498, to permit safe injection sites.
7. A2500/S1623, to restrict the use of solitary confinement.
8. S2144, to enact elder parole.

I would also like to work on new legislation to push a decarceration agenda, including repealing all mandatory minimum sentences, reducing maximum sentences with retroactive effect, and decriminalizing simple drug possession beyond marijuana.