



Queens Central Democratic Club
Candidate Endorsement Questionnaire 2020
New York's 6th Congressional District

Thank you for applying for the Queens Central Democratic Club (QCDC) endorsement. If you have any questions about this document or the endorsement process, feel free to email us at qcdcny@gmail.com. Please email us the completed questionnaire by Sunday May 17th.

Full Name: **Grace Meng**

1. What is the single most important issue to you as a candidate for federal office? Why?

I'm the proud daughter of immigrants, and growing up in the most diverse county in America taught me that every person deserves a seat at the table. As the mother of two young boys, I recognize the importance of investing in a future that works for everyone, regardless of your background. It's my priority to advocate for inclusive policies and ensure equal access to opportunities for all of my constituents, including the often overlooked.

2. What endorsements do you have from elected officials, political organizations, unions and community leaders?

1199SEIU

32BJ

AFGE

ASAAL

ATU

BOLD PAC

Brady Campaign

Council of School Supervisors and Administrators (CSA)

CWA

DC 37

Equality PAC

Everytown for Gun Safety (Moms Demand Action)

HTC

IBEW Local 3

Jim Owles

Letter Carriers - Local

NAVA

New York Immigrant Coalition Action



New York League of Conservation Voters

NPMHU

NYSNA

One Queens Indivisible

Planned Parenthood Action Fund

Progressive Caucus PAC

Progressive Voices United

Sanitation Workers

Sierra Club

Stonewall Dems

Teamsters Local 237

TWU National

UA Local 638 (Steamfitters)

UFT

Vote Mama

Working Families Party (WFP)

3. What is your vision for how the federal government should respond to the COVID-19 crisis?

Our workers, small businesses, neighbors, children and elderly are hurting, without an end in sight. We must act to make sure that no Americans are left behind while we deal with this crisis.

Congress has passed a series of bills that bring immediate and necessary relief, but they are not enough. We've fought to include resources for health care workers, and relief for unemployed Americans and small businesses. Ultimately, the next bill must ensure that New York State and New York City receive more financial assistance to help combat this crisis, and that the federal government is there when we need it the most.

4. What has the COVID-19 crisis revealed to you about the condition of the American social safety net?

Social Security and Medicare are some of the most important social safety nets in our country, and I'm committed to protecting and expanding these vital programs.



Vulnerable communities have been hit the hardest by COVID-19, and low income Americans are suffering the most. Over 36 million Americans have filed for unemployment since early March, and a study found that 44% of applicants have been denied or are still waiting. The systems in place for processing unemployment benefits have not kept up with the number of claims, and we must ensure that states have the resources to process these claims and provide reliefs to Americans who have lost their jobs due to COVID-19.

Our labor force is working overtime and putting themselves at risk to support our economy and our communities. Many contracted workers do not have crucial labor protections in place, including paid family and medical leave. We must support expansion of paid family and medical leave for all workers.

5. How has the COVID-19 crisis affected your views on the state of health care in the country and in Queens?

Queens has been the epicenter of the coronavirus crisis and many of my constituents continue to suffer from the effects of the outbreak. The COVID-19 pandemic has unfortunately exposed and exacerbated the weaknesses in our current healthcare system. Everyone in Queens, and the country, should be able to seek out medical care when they need it. We need to move toward universal, affordable healthcare.

6. Do you support a single-payer healthcare system? What would your ideal healthcare system look like?

Yes. I am troubled by the nearly 30 million Americans who are currently uninsured, and the over 40 million Americans who struggle with the costs of their co-pays and deductibles. While I am an original cosponsor of H.R. 1384 - "Medicare for All," and a founding member of the Medicare for All Caucus, I also support public option, Medicare buy in, lowering Medicare age, and any proposals that will get us closer to universal, affordable healthcare. I will take the necessary steps to ensure healthcare access for all Americans – regardless of age, income, or socioeconomic status – is attainable.

7. What is your vision for addressing the housing crisis in the country and in Queens?

A legacy of generations of structural and systemic racism and social injustice has left communities of color especially vulnerable to affordable housing crisis and



homelessness. In fact, I recently introduced the Pathway to Stable and Affordable Housing for All Act (H.R. 5813) - which would ensure housing justice for each person - each child and family. My bill would be a robust 10-year investment plan to first get those experiencing homelessness into homeless shelters quickly; and second get those in shelters into safe, affordable housing. My bill would also increase the funding for tenant-based rental assistance (vouchers) so that all eligible households. According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition, my bill would effectively end the scourge of homelessness and housing poverty in the country.

I am an original cosponsor of H.R. 4546 - the "Public Housing Emergency Response Act," which would authorize an additional \$70 billion for HUD's Public House Capital Fund, including \$32 billion for the New York City Housing Authority, the nation's largest public housing agency.

Right now, Queens residents are struggling to pay their rent and mortgages. The rent crisis has been exacerbated by COVID-19, and I've joined with Rep. Ocasio Cortez and the NY Congressional Delegation to call on House and Senate leadership to include rent and mortgage forgiveness in the next COVID-19 relief package. It would serve as a direct stimulus for the countless families that are facing unprecedented economic hardship. I have also called for the creation of a Housing and Urban Development (HUD) fund that would reimburse landlords for the cost of cancelling rent for the duration of the crisis, and for an additional six months after the pandemic ends.

8. What is your vision for addressing climate change in the country and in Queens?

I am an original cosponsor of H.Res.109 - Recognizing the duty of the Federal Government to create a Green New Deal. I've fought against Republican attacks on environmental protections, and I'll continue to fight to strengthen environmental protections. I believe the U.S. must return to the Paris Climate Agreement, and I will fight for clean energy and a sustainable future.

9. Should the federal government raise taxes on the rich? How high should these be?

Republicans have repeatedly passed tax cuts that benefit the wealthiest few and corporations. These tax cuts hurt working families by cutting our budgets for Medicare, Medicaid, infrastructure spending, and Pell Grants. We need tax reform legislation would benefit all Americans and not just the fortunate few.



10. Should the federal government raise the federal minimum wage? How high should it be?

Yes. I support the Raise the Wage Act (H.R.582/S.150), which would increase the federal minimum wage for employees to \$15/hour by 2024.

11. Please identify a time when you have disagreed with the national Democratic Party. What did/would you do to work through this disagreement?

I am proud to be a DNC Vice Chair, and I'm extremely proud of the work the DNC has done under Chairman Tom Perez' leadership since 2016 - our party has made huge steps to be more inclusive, transparent, and accountable. I believe that the climate crisis is an urgent matter and last year I voted in support of climate-specific Presidential primary debate, which went against party leadership. Unfortunately, the resolution did not pass, but I took a stand for what was right, even though there was tremendous pressure to do otherwise. Following that DNC meeting and grassroots advocacy, the DNC approved the creation of an Environmental Council to ensure that climate action is a 24/7 priority, and encouraged additional climate forums.

12. Why are you uniquely qualified to represent us in Congress?

I am honored to represent the vibrant and diverse place that I was born and raised. As a woman of color and the child of immigrants, I understand the structural barriers and biases that affect many of the people of my district. In the seven years I have represented New York's Sixth Congressional District, I have worked with numerous individuals, organizations, and advocacy groups across this district, city and country with the goal of finding common ground and coming up with solutions to help people who are often left behind in the decision making process.