



Queens Central Democratic Club
Candidate Endorsement Questionnaire 2020
District Leader for the 28th Assembly 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: Ethan Felder

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

The current culture of top down machine politics where four men decide which candidates have the backing of the Party based on loyalty and patronage has to end. The current arrangement entrenches power into the hands of an exclusive group of people who tend to come from privileged backgrounds and use party position and the power that flows from it for personal enrichment. We need to empower everyday people and those from non-traditional backgrounds into formal positions of leadership.

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

I seek the most critical endorsement – the voters of the district.

3. If elected, what changes would you bring to being District Leader that may differ from any of your predecessors?

It's time to expand and build out how the District Leader engages and builds voter participation. It has to go beyond making the rounds at the political clubs and civic organization. It has to be through grassroots organizing.

4. Some district leaders opt to create their own democratic clubs. If elected, do you intend to create your own democratic club separate from QCDC? Why or why not?

I have always enjoyed undertaking public engagement with those who share my values and goals when it comes to empowering people and under-represented voices.

5. What reforms do you believe the Queens County Democratic party needs to institute? How will you help institute them?

The Party should not be making primary endorsement nor should elected officials be able to serve as District Leaders.



6. Do you believe transparency is an issue with District Leaders? If so, what would you do to increase transparency of the position and decision-making process?

Greater transparency is absolutely necessary at all levels of how the Queens Democratic Party operates. It requires a cultural change away from an exclusive group of insiders into a more inclusive, open, accessible and democratic party structure.

7. Please identify a time when you have disagreed with the Queens County Democratic party. What did/would you do to work through this disagreement?

The Chairperson of the Party cannot have the Party endorse in an election where the Chair is in fact a candidate. That's a conflict of interest pure and simple.

8. Why are you uniquely qualified to represent us as District Leader?

I don't believe any candidate for any public or party office is uniquely qualified. There are many who can and should serve with honor and distinction.