



Queens Central Democratic Club
Candidate Endorsement Questionnaire 2021
New York City Council District 29

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 Friday, March 12.

Full Name:

1. During the COVID-19 pandemic, a large number of businesses closed their storefronts in our district. As Council Member for CD29, what is your plan to bring back businesses to our storefronts? Additionally, how do you plan to support the storefronts that already exist?

Immediately after announcing my candidacy I joined and supported an initiative called "Rise Up Red Zone" to help local businesses. After that I spent weeks visiting stores in the community to speak with owners to hear their needs and posted signs urging passersby and residents to shop local. This morning I participated in a forum with small business owners along with Councilman Peter Koo to hear their concerns and discuss ideas to help businesses bounce back.

2. The Mayor and DOE Chancellor just announced that they will be disbanding the gifted and talented program in NYC Public Schools. Do you agree with this cut? Why or why not?

No. There should be no cuts to education. It is the future of our community and we must put all resources to educate our children. Education and safety should be the utmost concerns of elected officials.

3. We have seen our neighbors suffer from food insecurity unlike any other point in recent memory. How will you work with NYC to provide emergency food services to our neighbors (particularly seniors) and support to our food pantries such as Masbia, Queens Community House, and Commonpoint Queens?

I am already doing it. For years I have been a volunteer and distributed food to many food insecure constituents in our neighborhoods. As you know, my father works at Met Council which supports all these pantries that you've mentioned and because of that I have firsthand knowledge of the tremendous needs which have escalated during Covid. I have volunteered at many of these food pantries and just a few years ago I helped raise over \$260,000 for a food pantry that serves Kew Gardens, Forest Hills, Rego Park, and Richmond Hill.

4. We have a couple of citywide races coming up - if a citywide candidate wanted to see some of the best food and shops CD29 had to offer, where would you take them on a tour?

I haven't been to a store in this district that I didn't enjoy. Depending where in the district we are, I would be happy going anywhere. This community has the best shops and the nicest, friendliest people.



5. Business is a lifeblood to any community, and that also translates to jobs. If a major commercial business (i.e. Target or Key Food) wanted to come and open shop in CD29, what requirements would you ask of them in order to bridge them into our community?
Hire local! Hire local! Hire local!

6. In your view, what are the biggest criminal justice concerns in CD29? What changes, if any, need to be made, and how?

As an elected official, the most important concern is public safety above all and as Council member of this district I will be a strong advocate to bring the city back to where it was as the safest city in the USA.

7. Forest Hills Hospital provides front line, life saving work on a daily basis, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. What reforms need to be implemented for our healthcare workers, and what recommendations would you provide to help streamline vaccine distributions?

As a first responder who has responded to over 5000 emergency calls in Queens I know firsthand what the needs are. That is why healthcare and taking care of those who provide care is a top priority. They and my fellow first responders are the real heroes during this unprecedented pandemic. With regards to vaccines I am in the process of becoming a vaccinators who intends to be a part of the NYC vaccinators. I did this as I saw a void and I know it is my duty to help my fellow citizens. In addition as the co-founder of Chaverim Of Queens we have been assisting seniors get to their vaccine appointments since they began rolling them out in NY. My organization has over 100 volunteers who jumped on the opportunity to help our seniors!

8. CD29 has a large senior population, and Queens as a whole has one of the fastest growing senior populations in NYC. How would you work with the Department for the Aging to provide more resources to our district and support our seniors?

Great question. My background is providing healthcare for seniors. As a council member I am going to stop the defunding of DFTA (Dept For The Aging) which includes opening new senior centers, expanding existing senior centers, more meals on wheels for the elderly. As my father was previously the director of senior health and human services for the borough president I gained a keen sensitivity of the needs of our local seniors.

9. According to the Bowery Mission, there are nearly 80,000 homeless individuals in NYC, with over 60,000 of those individuals utilizing a public shelter and 4,000 that live on the street. How would you as a Council Member help stem the tide of homelessness in New York City?

We need to create more opportunities for training and put more money into mental health services and to provide a road to enhancing their ability to end the cycle of homelessness.

10. Our district is one of the few in Queens without a homeless shelter. What are your feelings on homeless shelters to address NYC's growing number of homeless individuals? Should a shelter be developed in this area?

I am still reviewing this particular issue.



11. Our community boards are considered the first line of local government interaction. Similarly, the Council Member has a say in nominating community board members. If elected, how would you work with our community boards and strengthen them?
I will push for a diversified group of individuals on our boards and make the application process easier so that more people can apply. I will have the applications available in all languages spoken in my district.
12. Bike lanes were installed along Queens Boulevard as part of Vision Zero, resulting in the removal of parking spots. Are you in favor of extending bike lanes along Queens Boulevard? Bike lanes are a beautiful thing - but I believe it should not be one rule for all locations rather based on a review of each area taking into account the needs and requests of the people who live there and the small businesses that serve them. Above all- safety should be of utmost concern and the determining factor when making these decisions.
13. The City Council reviews certain parts of the ULURP process, including housing and urban renewal plans and zoning map changes. What are the factors that would lead you to go against the recommendations of the local community board in the ULURP process? How do you view the tradeoffs between the affordable housing that new construction can bring against the impact of potential overdevelopment? The community boards represent the voices of the people in the district where concerns about development can be brought, discussed and resolved.
14. What is your long-term plan for the Kew Gardens jail? I am absolutely opposed to a jail being built in Kew Gardens.
15. What are your three priority budget items for our Council district?
Funding for seniors, Affordable housing, Small businesses, and educating including my poland to bring 3K to this district. I will advocate heavily and fight for this.
16. How would you propose closing the City's budget gap?
By identifying waste in City agencies.
17. How will you use your position to initiate a district-wide conversation about race and racial injustice?
I will work together with the Queens DA's office and their advisory councils and I will advocate for more funding for these advisory councils and implement their ideas.
18. When filling out your ranked choice ballot, which candidate will you rank second and why?
Too early to tell!

