



LETTER FROM CITIZENS UNION

Dear Fellow New York Voter,

This year New York enters a time of change for the way in which elections are conducted. With new voting machines making their way to voters over the next year, the act of voting will undoubtedly change. If New Yorkers could only benefit by having more competitive local races in which to vote. However, what this year's primary season demonstrates is that even with changes in voting technology, without meaningful reform, we may change how vote, but not what we vote for. This year almost all local elections for state legislature remain non-competitive.

When voters go to their poll sites this September, they will find new machines, but also a striking lack of competitive primaries across the city. With few open seats, and the annual routine of ballot challenges knocking off dozens of challengers, few opponents have been left standing as we approach Primary Election Day on September 9th.

In two state legislative races in particular, one in the Bronx and one in Queens, the process for filling vacancies on the ballot epitomize the need for reform. In both cases, the incumbent legislator withdrew from his race for re-election after he had filed ballot petitions, securing his spot on the ballot. Party rules allow candidate designated local party leaders to select his replacement on the ballot should he vacate the office after the petitions have been filed and before the election is held. Assemblymembers Luis Diaz and Ivan Lafayette resigned their seats during this period of time, resulting in their replacements being selected by a five-person vacancy committee. Those replacements will not only receive the support of the party in races, making their wins almost guaranteed, but they also will win seats without having to collect one signature. With no way to vet these candidates with the involvement of voters, and with the restrictive voting policies in place that often result in the disenfranchisement of voters, the political parties in New York have again have used the current structure to maintain their power and control over candidates they support.

Ending this horrible practice is but one of the many election reform issues that Citizens Union is trying to change. This state will have more competitive elections when it implements such reforms as Election-Day voter registration, campaign finance reform, independent redistricting, and election administration reform. The day when these reforms are realized will mark an important change for voters.

Regarding the new machines, the national Help America Vote Act (HAVA) requires New York State to update its voting systems. This year, ballot marking devices (BMDs) will be in every poll site across the city, and they will allow disabled voters to cast private and independent ballots at their polling locations, something they could not before do. They pave the way for an entire new voting system in 2009 that will replace all of New York's now famous lever voting machines. New Yorkers, some voting on the same machine their entire life, will suddenly be faced with big changes, but with public



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education and quality poll workers, we hope for a less than rocky transition. This year in September and November, we will be voting on our lever machines for the last time.

So to help prepare you, we bring you our annual voters directory, which is not possible without the hard work of the members of the Citizens Union Local Candidates Committee. They contributed their time, energy and expertise this summer to interview candidates, analyze races, and meet together to make these important decisions. In our candidate evaluation process, we rely on information from many sources, including the candidate's responses to our questionnaire, previous track record on reform, and ability to represent their district well. We thank everyone involved for your participation and commitment to Citizens Union.

We will do this all again in the coming months for our November General Election directory. Meanwhile, with the momentum of a presidential election, we will watch closely with all of you this exciting election season.

Sincerely,

Peter J.W. Sherwin
Chair, Board of
Directors

John Horan
Chair, Local
Candidate Committee

Dick Dadey
Executive Director

Andrea Senteno
Local Candidates
Staff Coordinator



ABOUT THIS DIRECTORY

This directory lists every contest for public office that will be on the ballot in New York City on September 9, 2008. Voters should be aware that New York's tangled election laws often result in the last minute elimination (or reinstatement) of candidates.

Many key contests for State Assembly and State Senate seats have been evaluated by nonpartisan interview teams from Citizens Union's Local Candidates Committee. Citizens Union does not evaluate candidates for federal office or candidates for the judiciary, but for the surrogate court.

This year's interview teams were charged with soliciting candidates' views on key proposals aimed at reforming the legislative process in Albany, assessing the candidates' general experience, and their knowledge of district, city, and statewide issues. No single answer by a candidate ensures – or rules out – a preference.

Recommendations for a "Preferred" rating are made by the Local Candidates Committee (LCC) on the basis of the interview, research, an issues questionnaire, and first-hand knowledge of the candidate. These recommendations are reviewed by the Citizens Union Board, which makes the final decision. A "Preferred" rating reflects a candidate that Citizens Union deems not only qualified for the office being sought, but committed to an agenda of positive reform in Albany. Candidates not preferred may nevertheless be highly regarded by Citizens Union. These distinctions are generally reflected in the commentaries. The "Preferred" rating will apply for the Primary Election only. Citizens Union will be issuing "Endorsed" ratings for the General Election contests.

A "No Preference" rating may result when there is insufficient information available, when one or more of the candidates has not been interviewed, or when a determination has been made that the candidates are of equal merit. Only candidates that have been interviewed can receive our preference.

All maps were supplied by the Community Mapping Assistance Project (CMAP).
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2008 PRIMARY ELECTION CANDIDATE PREFERENCES

BRONX

Senate District 33

Pedro Espada Jr.

BROOKLYN

Senate District 21

Kevin Parker

Senate District 25*

Martin Connor vs. Daniel Squadron
*Attend our September 3, 2008
Candidate Debate and then check
www.citizensunion.org for an update
on our decision.*

Assembly District 40

Inez Barron

Assembly District 55

Royston Anione vs. William Boyland
vs. Leonard Hatter
*Check www.citizensunion.org
for an update on our decision.*

MANHATTAN

Assembly District 64

No Preference

Assembly District 72

Adriano Espaillat

Manhattan Surrogate's Court

Nora Anderson vs. John Reddy vs.
Milton Tingling
*Check www.citizensunion.org
for update on our decision.*

QUEENS

Senate District 16

Toby Ann Stavisky

Assembly District 22

No Preference

STATEN ISLAND

*Staten Island has no state senate or state assembly primaries.
We intend to evaluate Staten Island candidates in the General Election.*

**Includes portions of Brooklyn and Manhattan*



CONTESTED PRIMARY ELECTIONS

FEDERAL ELECTIONS

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TERM OF OFFICE: TWO YEARS • SALARY: \$150,000

BROOKLYN

Democratic Primaries

District 10 **Edolphus Towns (D)**
Kevin Powell (D)

District 13* Stephen Harrison (D)
Michael McMahon (D)

Republican Primary

District 13* Robert Stranieri (R)
Jamshad Wýne (R)

STATEN ISLAND

Democratic Primaries

District 13* Stephen Harrison (D)
Michael McMahon (D)

Republican Primary

District 13* Robert Stranieri (R)
Jamshad Wýne (R)

** District includes portions of more than one borough.
Incumbents in bold.*



CONTESTED PRIMARY ELECTIONS

STATEWIDE ELECTIONS

NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY
TERM OF OFFICE: 2 YEARS • SALARY: \$79,500

BRONX

Democratic Primaries

District 79	Michael Benjamin (D, WF) Sigfredo Gonzalez (D) Jose Padilla (D)	District 85	Israel Cruz (D) Ruben Diaz Jr. (D, WF)
District 83	Sherman Browne (D) Carl Heastie (D, WF)	District 86	Nelson Castro (D) Mike Soto (D)

BROOKLYN

Democratic Primaries

District 40	Inez Barron (D) Nathan Bradley (D) Kenneth Evans (D) Winchester Key (D) Earl Williams (D)	District 55	Royston Antoine (D) William Boyland Jr. (D, WF) Leonard Hatter Jr. (D)
District 42	Michele Adolphe (D) Rhoda Jacobs (D, WF)	District 59	Alan Maisel (D) H. R. Clarke (D)

MANHATTAN

Democratic Primaries

District 64	Luke Henry (D) Paul Newell (D) Sheldon Silver (D, WF)	District 72	Adriano Espaillat (D, WF) Miguel Martinez (D)
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* District includes portions of more than one borough.
Incumbents in bold.



CONTESTED PRIMARY ELECTIONS

QUEENS

Democratic Primaries

District 22 Grace Meng (D)
Ellen Young (D, I, WF)

STATEN ISLAND

No Primary Races

NEW YORK STATE SENATE
TERM OF OFFICE: 2 YEARS • SALARY: \$79,500

BRONX

Democratic Primaries

District 33 Pedro Espada Jr. (D)
Efrain Gonzalez Jr. (D)
Richard Soto (D, R, I)

BROOKLYN

Democratic Primaries

District 21 Simcha Felder (D) Kevin Parker (D, WF) Kendall Stewart (D)	District 25* Martin Connor (D) Daniel Squadron (D)
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** District includes portions of more than one borough.
Incumbents in bold.*



CONTESTED PRIMARY ELECTIONS

MANHATTAN

Democratic Primary

District 25* **Martin Connor (D)**
Daniel Squadron (D)

QUEENS

Democratic Primaries

District 10 **Shirley Huntley (D, WF)**
Allen Jennings Jr. (D)

District 16 Robert Schwartz (D)
Toby Ann Stavisky (D, WF)

District 15 Joseph Addabbo Jr. (D, WF)
Albert Baldeo (D)[†]

STATEN ISLAND

No Primary Races

[†] Candidate Albert Baldeo has announced his exit from the race.

* District includes portions of more than one borough.
Incumbents in bold.



CONTESTED PRIMARY ELECTIONS

CIVIL COURT JUDGESHIPS

TERM OF OFFICE: 10 YEARS • ELECTED COUNTYWIDE OR BY DISTRICT •
SALARY: \$125,600

BRONX

Democratic Primary – Countywide

Maria Matos
Verena Powell
Elizabeth Taylor

BROOKLYN

Democratic Primary

District 1st Municipal Court

Roger Adler
Devin Cohen

MANHATTAN

Democratic Primary – Countywide

Nancy Bannon (D)
Michael Katz (D)

SURROGATE COURT JUDGESHIPS

TERM OF OFFICE: FOURTEEN YEARS • ELECTED COUNTYWIDE OR
BY DISTRICT • SALARY: \$136,700

MANHATTAN

Democratic Primary

Nora Anderson
John Reddy Jr.
Milton Tingling