Sources: NYS Legislative Task Force on Demographic Research and Reapportionment, April 22, 2002; US Census Bureau TIGER Line files, 2000.
Pedro Espada Jr. is a former three-term state senator from the Bronx. A healthcare provider, Espada has established a network of clinics which he has used as a platform to become civically active. Espada is seeking office again in a different Senate district than the one he used to represent, because he recently moved. He believes that the Bronx and New York City have a unique opportunity right now to utilize undeveloped parcels of land in the district to work with developers and negotiate with the city to allow these projects in exchange for improvements in safety, environment, and the economy within the district. He identifies the number one problem in his district as quality affordable housing, and would work in Albany to find ways to preserve and build affordable housing units. Espada, a supporter of most Citizens Union’s reform measures, particularly noted the need for an independent redistricting committee and maintains that legislators should not be responsible for drawing their own district lines. He has seen how the current practice of having the lines drawn by the legislature has been unfair and preserved those in power.

Citizens Union remains concerned about how Espada’s healthcare organization has contributed to his political activity, given that several of his aides pleaded guilty several years ago to such activity. He himself was found not guilty of similar charges. Given that his opponent, the incumbent Senator is currently under indictment, without yet the benefit of a trial, for misuse of state legislative member items, and has not responded to Citizens Union’s repeated requests to be interviewed, Citizens Union believes that the district deserves better. Espada is someone who has professed to be a reformer and is concerned about providing more services and support to the district. For all of these reasons, Citizens Union prefers Espada.
EFRAIN GONZALEZ JR. – DEM
Has NOT returned questionnaire.
Candidate could not be scheduled for an interview.
Occupation: Senator, NYS Senate

RICHARD SOTO – DEM, REP, IND
Has NOT returned questionnaire
Candidate could not be scheduled for an interview.

THE FOLLOWING RACES IN THE BRONX HAVE NOT BEEN EVALUATED BY CITIZENS UNION:

BRONX STATE ASSEMBLY RACES

District 76  Michael Benjamin (D,WF)
            Sigfredo Gonzalez (D)
            Jose Padilla (D)

District 83  Sherman Browne (D)
            Carl Heastie (D,WF)

District 85  Ruben Diaz Jr. (D,WF)
            Israel Cruz (D)

District 86  Nelson Castro (D)
            Mike Soto

Incumbent candidates in bold.