

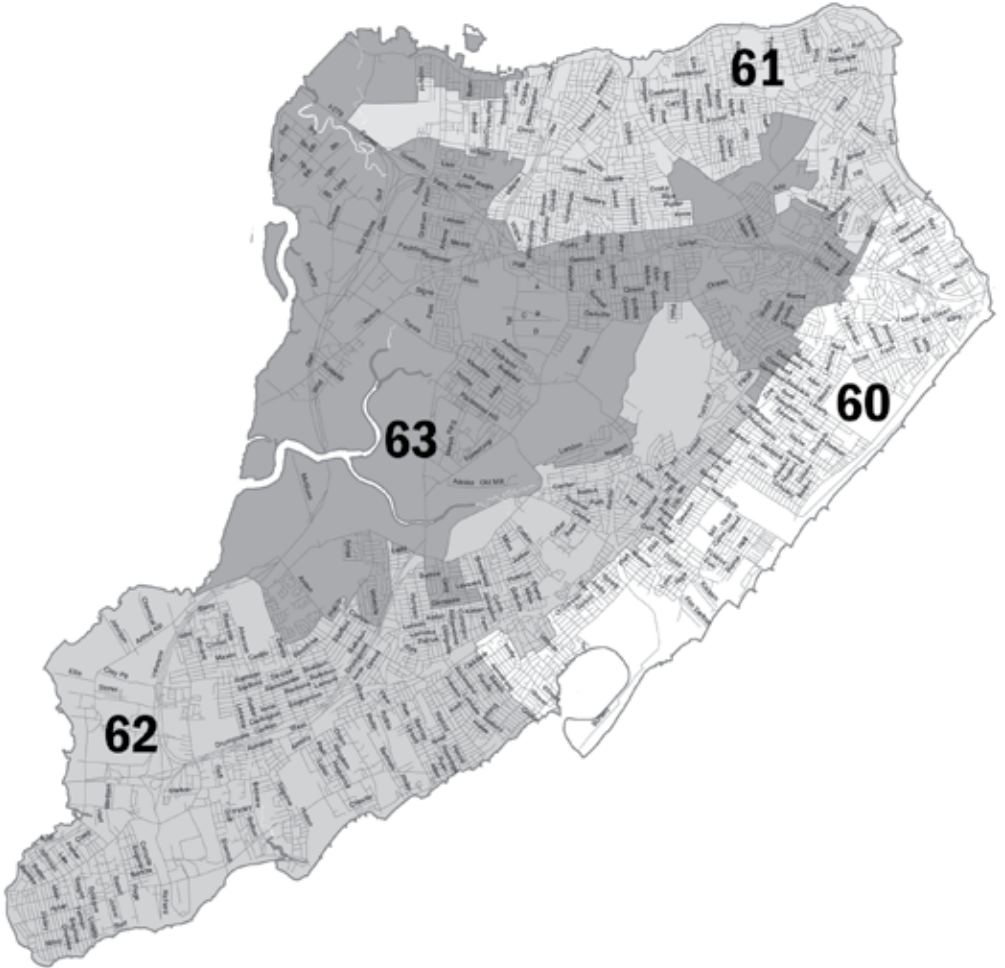


STATEN ISLAND STATE SENATE DISTRICT MAP





STATEN ISLAND STATE ASSEMBLY DISTRICT MAP





STATEN ISLAND RACES

STATEN ISLAND STATE SENATE RACES

DISTRICT 23

*District encompasses portions of Staten Island and Brooklyn.
Please see District 23 evaluation in Brooklyn section on page...*

STATEN ISLAND STATE ASSEMBLY RACES

DISTRICT 63

★ **ENDORSED CANDIDATE—MICHAEL J. CUSICK—DEM, CON, IND, WF** ★

*Has returned questionnaire; responses on page 16
Age: 39 Occupation: Member, NYS Assembly
Education: Villanova University (BA)*

Since his election to the State Assembly in 2002, Michael Cusick has been a strong advocate for healthcare, education, and transportation on Staten Island. Though his priorities remain local issues, he recognizes the need for state government reform. A supporter of most of Citizens Union’s proposals, he believes all reforms should be on the table for discussion with the end-goal being to level the electoral playing field. He has co-sponsored legislation in support of an independent redistricting commission. While he had no specific agenda for the proposed inclusion of legislative ethics oversight into the Commission on Public Integrity, he suggested increasing transparency and remains open to new solutions if the current approach with the Legislative Ethics Committee proves insufficient. Mr. Cusick would support a pay raise for legislators, but in turn believes they should serve full time. Furthermore, he believes it is not appropriate for judicial salary increase to be tied to those of the legislature, and would be open to separating the two. One of his top priorities is healthcare and he noted that Staten Island is the only borough without a public hospital. Its two private hospitals are straining under growing populations and making it difficult for lower-income residents to receive care. During his time in the Assembly, he has authored legislation mandating that the city’s Health and Hospital Corporation earmark 10% of its budget for emergency facilities in Richmond County. Mr. Cusick has successfully fought for increased funding for education, and helped pass a budget providing unprecedented increases in school aid, which he hopes will be used to decrease class size in all New York City schools. He chairs the Higher Education Subcommittee on the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP), which has oversight on tuition tax credit for families, establishes a student loan debt relief program, and provides college tuition assistance for veterans. In the environmental realm, Mr. Cusick supported a public vote on congestion pricing, although he would like to see a bill which would guarantee funding for Staten Island projects and would decrease the authority of the MTA. He has introduced legislation to expand bus service to and around Staten Island, and supports the creation of a West Shore light rail. While he has yet to prove himself as a leader on Citizens Union’s reform agenda, his thoughtful support of these issues and his commitment to Staten Island’s quality of life have earned him Citizens Union’s endorsement.

DAVID ANTHONY PASCARELLA—REP
Has not returned questionnaire.

[CANDIDATE COULD NOT BE SCHEDULED FOR AN INTERVIEW.]