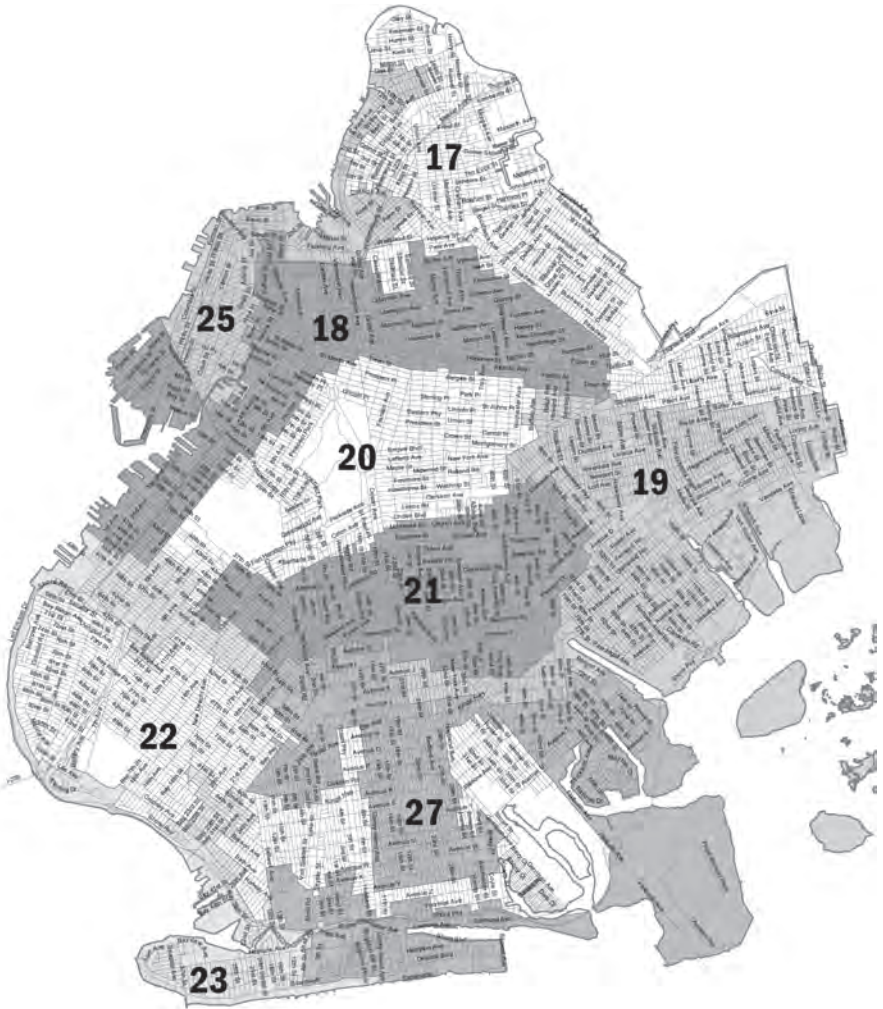




BROOKLYN STATE SENATE DISTRICT MAP

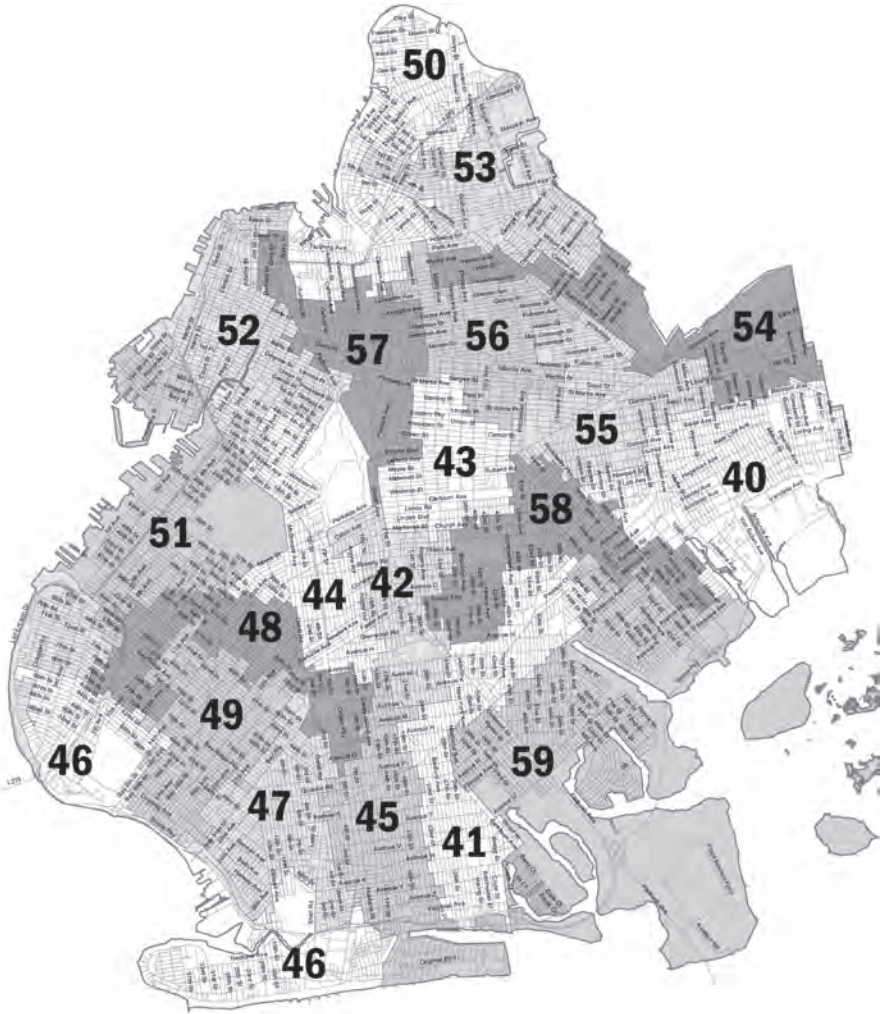


Sources: NYS Legislative Task Force on Demographic Research and Reapportionment, April 22, 2002;
US Census Bureau TIGER Line files, 2000





BROOKLYN STATE ASSEMBLY DISTRICT MAP



Sources: NYS Legislative Task Force on Demographic Research and Reapportionment, April 22, 2002;
US Census Bureau TIGER Line files, 2000





BROOKLYN STATE LEGISLATIVE RACES

• BROOKLYN STATE SENATE RACES •

District 18 – Democratic Primary

★ PREFERRED CANDIDATE – VELMANETTE MONTGOMERY – DEM, WFP ★

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 13

Occupation: Senator, NYS Senate

Education: University of Accra, Ghana; New York University (BA, MS)

A State Senator since 1984, Velmanette Montgomery is a former teacher, day care director, and president of Community School Board 13. Montgomery finds fault with the current judicial selection process, but is wary of a merit-based appointment system because it could possibly lead to a lack of diversity on the bench. She supports the creation of an independent redistricting commission to draw state legislative district lines, and argues that downstate districts are under represented, largely due to the counting of prisoners at their prison location for determination of district size. Montgomery recently drafted a bill that has been passed by both houses of the Legislature, and awaits approval by the Governor, which would help formerly incarcerated individuals reintegrate into the job market and reduce recidivism by amending the general business law to prevent licensing agencies from disqualifying someone from receiving a license to become a barber or cosmetologist solely on the basis of a criminal conviction. She also sponsored a bill that would grant \$1 million to the Department of Education to establish extracurricular activities in the state's largest school districts, which she believes, will help reduce dropout rates and crime. Montgomery has voiced concern over several elements of the plan to develop the Atlantic Rail Yards, specifically the possibility that the massive development project would price long term residents and business owners out of their communities. She has been vocal in demanding that the state extend the public comment period on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the project arguing that the 60-day period is woefully inadequate for a project of such scale. Montgomery has been a dedicated public servant, consistently lending a needed voice in Albany to the disenfranchised, and will continue to serve her district well if reelected which is why CU has chosen to prefer her.

TRACY BOYLAND – DEM

Has NOT returned questionnaire.

Candidate could not be reached for an interview.



BROOKLYN STATE LEGISLATIVE RACES

District 20 – Democratic Primary

★ PREFERRED CANDIDATE – ERIC ADAMS – DEM, WFP ★

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 13

Occupation: Retired (former Captain, NYPD)

Education: NYC Technical College; John Jay College of Criminal Justice; Marist College (MPA)

A former police officer and co-founder of 100 Blacks in Law Enforcement Who Care, Adams has proposed the adoption of a registration system for handguns similar to the one already in place for cars, where the handgun would have to be physically presented each year in order to be inspected and registered. Adams supports stricter rules regarding the use of campaign contributions, believing these funds should be used for campaigns only, and a system of public matching funds to encourage greater electoral competition and diversity of ideas of those that run for office. He also believes that districts should not be gerrymandered to serve partisan purposes. Adams proposes designating a “senior day” each week when senior citizens would have easier access to key services, including a special window at the bank so they could avoid waiting in long lines. Adams has raised concerns over the lack of adequate infrastructure in the current Forest City Ratner plan for development of the Atlantic Rail Yards. He would like to see the plan include greater investment in infrastructure, such as an expanded sewer system and more schools to accommodate the influx of families that would result from the new housing units in the area. Adams is a thoughtful and outspoken candidate whose dedication to community issues and proposals for statewide legislation make him Citizens Union’s preferred candidate.

ANTHONY ALEXIS – DEM

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 13

Occupation: Former Legislative Director, NYC Councilmember Tracy Boyland

Education: Brooklyn College (BA); Pace University (post-grad)

A former legislative director for Councilmember Tracy Boyland, Alexis pledges support for the creation of an independent budget office to provide nonpartisan revenue projections and stricter limits on gifts and honoraria that a legislator can receive. Alexis has pledged, if elected, to focus his efforts on constituent issues, such as fighting for funding to re-open closed community hospitals and creating new jobs. Alexis supports the current proposal to develop the Atlantic Rail Yards, because of the potential for valuable job creation. However, he believes that the impacts outlined in the environmental impact statement are troubling. Alexis would like to see the state government set goals with contractors and developers on state projects for job creation, and if the goals were not met, for the state to take away subsidies for those projects.



BROOKLYN STATE LEGISLATIVE RACES

GUILLERMO PHILPOTTS – DEM

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 13

Occupation: Security Education: Two years of college

A former asset recovery consultant on Wall Street, Guillermo Philpotts is president of his block association and a member of the local community planning board. Philpotts supports easier access for candidates to get on the ballot, suggesting a nominal fee coupled with a nominal amount of signatures needed to qualify. Philpotts would like to see a more active role for local representation in the MTA, arguing that the Senate should have approval power over appointments. While Philpotts has not taken a position on the development planned for the Atlantic Rail Yards, stating that it does not fall in his district, he believes the use of eminent domain for the seizure of property for private development is unacceptable.

District 21 – Democratic Primary

★ PREFERRED CANDIDATE – KEVIN PARKER – DEM, WFP ★

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 13

Occupation: Senator, NYS Senate

Education: Pennsylvania State University (BS); The New School (MS)

Kevin Parker, former special assistant to Comptroller H. Carl McCall, is currently serving his second term in the Senate. He is the chair of the Task Force on New Americans, and is the ranking member on the Energy and Telecommunications Committee. Parker supports the creation of an independent redistricting commission to draw district lines after each census and believes that full public financing of campaigns for state office would limit the influence campaign contributors have over the political process. Parker has been an advocate for reform of the operations of state government, most notably demonstrating this by defying the accepted practice of “rubber stamping” of a political appointee to the Public Service Commission. Parker sponsored legislation which would require employers to grant working parents 16 hours of leave during the school year to attend parent-teacher conferences, and a bill that would allow college coursework to be credited as a work activity when applying for public assistance benefits. Parker is proud of his efforts to help fund a small business development center at Brooklyn College which provides low-interest loans to small business owners, and his role in the creation of a local development corporation to increase housing stock throughout Brooklyn. Certainly,



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Parker's alleged aggressive behavior towards a traffic agent in 2004 poses certain concerns for Citizens Union, but because the accusations were dropped and he has proven to be committed to reform, adept at providing constituent services, and an outspoken and visible member of the minority party, Citizens Union has given him our preferred rating in this race.

NOAH DEAR – DEM

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 13

Occupation: Commissioner, Taxi and Limousine Commission; Attorney

Education: Brooklyn College (BA); Yeshiva University, Wurzweiler School of Social Work (MSW); Brooklyn Law School (DJP)

Noah Dear, former district manager of Community Board 12, was a New York City Council member for 19 years and currently serves on the Taxi and Limousine Commission. He supports the creation of an independent redistricting commission that would maintain the integrity of distinct neighborhoods while drawing district lines after each census. He also sees the need for reform in the judicial selection process, and suggests using a combination of competitive elections between judicial candidates and an independent committee to evaluate and appoint candidates for judicial office on the basis of merit.

Dear believes that the East Flatbush district that he represents has been neglected, and if elected, he would focus on securing more funding for local schools, parks and police. Dear pledges to work to provide incentives for businesses to hire and train undereducated minorities, believing this would help reduce crime rates in the district. Dear believes the state should reevaluate tax breaks to large corporations to increase revenue available for community projects.

District 25 – Democratic Primary

District includes portions of Brooklyn and Manhattan.

Please see District 25 evaluation in Manhattan section on page 41



BROOKLYN STATE LEGISLATIVE RACES

• BROOKLYN STATE ASSEMBLY RACES •

District 43 – Democratic Primary

★ PREFERRED CANDIDATE – JESSE HAMILTON – DEM ★

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 14

Occupation: NYC Department of Finance

Education: Ithaca College (BS); Long Island University (MBA); Seton Hall Law School (JD)

Currently the Vice-President of Community Board 8 and President of the Lincoln Civic Block Association, Hamilton's legislative priorities, if elected, include alleviating overcrowding and addressing the shortage of qualified teachers in the city's public schools, reducing unemployment and encouraging the development of more affordable housing. Hamilton advocates a policy of affordable ownership, believing that if tenants own their own homes, they will become more active community members, which will result in safer and cleaner neighborhoods. Hamilton supports a restructuring of the Board of Elections to allow greater independence from the two parties that control its operations. He also supports more protection for candidates who are frivolously dragged through a lengthy petition challenge process to help promote more electoral competition. Hamilton states that he is not opposed to the plan for the development around the Atlantic Rail Yards, but he is concerned with the large-scale displacement of residents and businesses should the project proceed as planned, as well as the use of eminent domain to seize land for private interests. His support for Citizens Union's reform agenda, as well as his thoughtful approach to both state and local issues, makes Jesse Hamilton a welcome candidate for State Assembly and earns him preference.

KARIM CAMARA – DEM, WFP

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 13

Occupation: Member, NYS Assembly

Education: Xavier University (BA); New York Theological Seminary (MDiv)

Karim Camara was elected in a special election in November 2005 to replace the former Assembly member and Kings County Democratic Chairman Clarence Norman, who was convicted of mishandling campaign contributions and removed from office. As the current special election process dictates, there was no primary election and Camara was nominated by the Democratic party in what has been described as a highly scripted affair. Regardless of who the committee picked to be the anointed candidate of the party, the process is deeply flawed and in need of reform. Camara hopes



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to spur economic development through legislation that would make small loans available to entrepreneurs. He also supports the use of tax incentives to encourage local businesses to hire employees with criminal records in order to help them rehabilitate and alleviate unemployment. Camara supports the current proposal to develop the Atlantic Rail Yards, because of the affordable housing it would offer and the project's ability to create jobs. Camara is in favor of making it easier for candidates to get on the primary ballot, but does not believe that lowering signature requirements will solve the problem. As an alternative, he proposes exploring the idea of removing the signature requirement altogether. Camara espouses legislative reform, and if re-elected Citizens Union hopes that his strong ties to the political establishment will not prevent him from asserting his independence and being active in this arena.

District 46 – Democratic Primary

★ PREFERRED CANDIDATE – ALEC BROOK-KRASNY – DEM, WFP ★

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 13

Occupation: Executive Director, Council of Jewish Émigré Community Organizations

Education: Moscow Technological Institute (BS); Columbia Institute for Non-Profit Management

Executive Director of the Council of Jewish Émigré Community Organizations, a central coordinating body for 34 community-based Russian-speaking émigré organizations in New York, Alec Brook-Krasny immigrated to the U.S. from the former Soviet Union in 1989. He was a business partner in “Fun-O-Rama,” an entertainment center in Brooklyn, that is now closed for business. To address the affordable housing needs of the city, Brook-Krasny believes that the state needs to be more aggressive in ensuring that developers are building the appropriate number of units that they agree to set aside for affordable housing when they apply for tax incentives. He favors a greater focus on the creation of small Mom-and-Pop businesses in the district and believes that the state and city should make more low interest loans available for these purposes. Having run for state and city office, Brook-Krasny supports a campaign finance program similar to that of New York City where candidates receive a 4 to 1 match from the city for every dollar they raise in contributions less than \$250. He also favors a lower contribution limit of \$750-1000 for candidates running for state Assembly. Brook-Krasny believes the number of signatures needed to get on the ballot, 500 for State Assembly, is not overly burdensome, however, he charges that the petition challenge process needs to be changed to reduce the time and resources candidates spend simply defending their signatures. Brook-Krasny's support of a host of reform measures, and his engagement in community affairs, has earned him Citizens Union preferred candidate rating.



BROOKLYN STATE LEGISLATIVE RACES

ARI KAGAN – DEM

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 13

Occupation: Journalist, TV and radio

Education: Lvov, Ukraine (Journalism); Baruch College (BA).

Ari Kagan was born in Belarus and immigrated to the United States in 1993. Kagan has worked as a reporter in New York for Russian language publications and was the host of a daily morning news radio program on cable television. If elected, Kagan would focus his efforts on housing, health care — particularly for seniors —and an issue which he feels has not gained enough public attention— hurricane and flood protection. Vying for a seat the represents oceanfront Brooklyn, Kagan believes that not only does the city need to be better prepared for a disaster occurrence, but that insurers must offer insurance to those that live in the most flood prone areas, which he says they have been denying for residents moving in in the last few years. To bring down crime rates in the district, Kagan supports not only more enforcement, but more after-school programs in dance, arts, music and sports, and pledges to direct member item funds to those programs if elected. Kagan believes the Attorney General’s office and the Comptroller should assume more responsibility for oversight of the state’s public authorities, but does not support the creation of an independent body to do so. He favors lower campaign contribution limits for statewide candidates, but believes that the \$3400 limit for Assembly is acceptable. Kagan is a thoughtful and passionate candidate for office and the district would be well served if he were elected.

District 57 – Democratic Primary

★ PREFERRED CANDIDATE – HAKEEM JEFFRIES – DEM, WFP ★

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 13

Occupation: Attorney

Education: SUNY Binghamton (BA); Georgetown University (MPA); New York University Law School (JD)

Having worked with the Crown Heights Youth Organization to educate children about their civil rights, and on a public education campaign to encourage participation in the census, Hakeem Jeffries has a history of being active in his community. After a strong showing in the 2000 Democratic primary for this seat, Jeffries found himself living one block outside of the district after its lines were redrawn in 2002. Now having moved back into the district, Jeffries is a vocal proponent of redistricting reform and argues for the creation of an independent redistricting commission to draw district lines to guard against manipulation of the process to gain partisan advantage or to protect the seats of entrenched incumbents. Jeffries also proposes the use of a “commonality of interest”



BROOKLYN STATE LEGISLATIVE RACES

standard, which could include respect for police precincts and school districts, to prevent the division of communities in the redistricting process. He believes that the rationale of the recent court ruling that the judicial selection process for Supreme Court is unconstitutional also applies to special elections, and has promised to study that decision and propose a new special election system. Jeffries sees great potential in the plan to develop the Atlantic Yards, but has some serious concerns with the proposal. He would like to see the project include a greater proportion of housing for low- and middle-income families, and a scaling back of the overall density of the project. Jeffries is also opposed to the use of eminent domain to seize privately owned land for a private development interest and would like to see more transparency in the process. To provide more affordable housing units in the district, Jeffries also would like to see the addition of a guarantee that 30% of units be set aside to be made affordable for lower-income families into the 421-a affordable housing program. Jeffries' strong grasp of the issues facing his district and the state, and his willingness to build coalitions around fresh reform ideas, make him a refreshing and needed candidate for State Assembly, earning CU's preference.

BILL BATSON – DEM

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 13

Occupation: Former Director of Public Relations, Office of NYS Senate Democratic Leader David Paterson Education: Pratt University (no degree)

A former member of Community Board 8 and director of community relations for State Senator David Paterson, Bill Batson is running for this seat to preserve the neighborhoods and history of Brooklyn that he believes give it its character. Batson supports removing redistricting efforts from legislative leaders and believes that the permitted 10% deviation from the mean in the number of residents in each district is far too lenient. He also supports reforming campaign contribution limits, proposing that politicians rely more on small donations from their constituents and that all candidates be provided with an equal amount of free media access. Batson is opposed to the plan to develop the Atlantic Rail Yards. He believes the project's supporters are short-sighted in their belief that this project will help alleviate Brooklyn's affordable housing crisis. Batson is outraged with the public comment period that has been scheduled since the Draft Environmental Impact Statement has been released. He argues that the 60-day period is inadequate for a project of this scale, and that the hearings that are scheduled are inaccessible, one during the last week of August when community boards are in recess, and many New Yorkers are taking summer vacation, and the other on September 12, primary election day. He has joined with others in calling to expand the public comment period an additional 60 days. Batson believes that the Department of Housing and Community Renewal has been negligent in investigating suspicious fires that are plaguing certain portions of Brooklyn. He proposes legislation that would require that if catastrophic neglect or arson by landlords can be proved in such cases, that the property would then become public domain. Batson



BROOKLYN STATE LEGISLATIVE RACES

has fought to protect historical sites within the Atlantic Yards project area and beyond, particularly culturally significant sites like former stops on the Underground Railroad, including a site on Duffield Street that he takes credit for preserving.

FREDDIE HAMILTON – DEM

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 13

Occupation: Retired Education: BA

A Democratic committeeperson and district leader, Freddie Hamilton is running for statewide office for the first time. Hamilton has signed onto a Community Benefits Agreement with Forest City Ratner, the developer of the Atlantic Yards proposal, on behalf of the Downtown Brooklyn Educational Consortium, a coalition of groups that she admits is made up mainly of health care groups with a limited educational agenda. She is also concerned with the polarizing nature of the project and expressed the need for continuous dialogue between vested opponents, supporters, and the vast number of people that find themselves somewhere in between. Hamilton points out that her district is losing valuable community programs like public health care and subsidized child care, and would like to see city agencies focus on these services. Hamilton is understandably skeptical of both appointments and elections of Supreme Court justices, and while she did not articulate any specific plans to remedy this problem, she did say she hopes to see a new system adopted with a formula that would invite more diversity among state judges.

District 60 – Republican Primary

District encompasses portions of Brooklyn and Staten Island.

Please see District 60 evaluation in Staten Island section on page 57.



The following primary races in the Brooklyn have not been evaluated by Citizens Union:

ASSEMBLY

District 40-Dem **Diane Gordon**
Kenneth Evans
Winchester Key

District 59-Dem **Alan Maisel**
Abraham Levy

District 56-Dem **Annette M. Robinson**
Richard Taylor

Incumbent candidates in bold.

