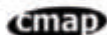




BRONX STATE SENATE DISTRICT MAP

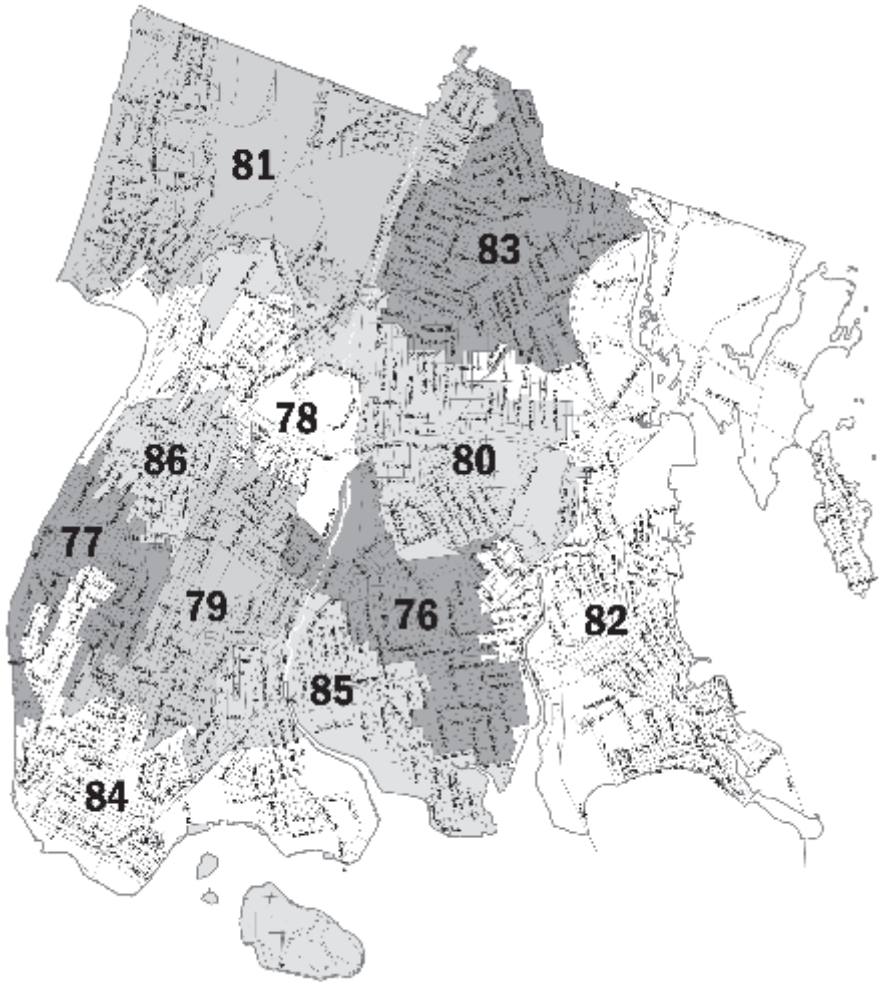


Sources: NYS Legislative Task Force on Demographic Research and Reapportionment, April 22, 2002;  
US Census Bureau TIGER Line files, 2000





BRONX STATE ASSEMBLY DISTRICT MAP



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





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## BRONX STATE LEGISLATIVE RACES

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### • BRONX STATE SENATE RACES •

#### District 28

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#### NO PREFERENCE

#### **JOSE M. SERRANO – DEM, WFP**

• *Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 13*

*Age: 32 Occupation: Member, NYC Council Education: Manhattan College (BA)*

Jose M. Serrano, the son of Congressman Jose E. Serrano, is currently serving his second term as representative to the New York City Council from the 17th Council District. Before running for City Council, Mr. Serrano worked for the New York Shakespeare Festival, a not-for-profit cultural institution. During his tenure as council member, he has sponsored bills to implement a living wage, curtail predatory lending practices and remove lead paint from residential dwellings. Mr. Serrano appears enthusiastic about reforming Albany, and believes as a member of the City Council that he has learned first hand how the state legislative gridlock in Albany harms the city. Should he reach Albany, Mr. Serrano's leadership on key issues of reform may very well hinge on his ability to demonstrate greater independence from party apparatus.

#### **AGUSTIN ALAMO-ESTRADA – CON**

• *Has NOT responded to questionnaire* • *Candidate declined to be interviewed.*

*Age: 57 Occupation: Retired Teacher*

*Education: Bronx Community College; Lehman College; City College (MA)*

#### **OLGA MENDEZ – REP, IND**

• *Has NOT responded to questionnaire* • *Candidate declined to be interviewed.*

*Age: 79 Occupation: Senator, NYS*

*Education: University of Puerto Rico (BS); Columbia University (PhD)*

#### District 31

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#### **★ PREFERRED CANDIDATE – ERIC SCHNEIDERMAN – DEM, WFP ★**

• *Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 13*

*Age: 49 Occupation: Senator, NYS Education: Amherst College (BA); Harvard Law School (JD)*

Eric Schneiderman, a practicing attorney, was first elected to the Senate in 1998. He has served as Counsel for the West Side Crime Prevention Program for over 10 years and as the legal advisor for Clean Elections New York, where he was instru-



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## BRONX STATE LEGISLATIVE RACES

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mental in the passage of New York City's public campaign finance program. As a legislator, Mr. Schneiderman fought to pass New York's managed health care Patients Bill of Rights, establishing a patient's right to file an appeal of an HMO's medical decision; and has a strong environmental record, introducing legislation to establish a clean energy fund to speed the development of clean energy technology and a bill that would reduce exposure to harmful pesticides. Mr. Schneiderman supports a host of Albany reform measures that include the creation of an independent redistricting commission to draw district lines after each census, more prohibitions on how and when a Governor can use "messages of necessity" in order to bypass the normal three day review period before a bill is voted on, and a more equitable distribution of resources and funds in Albany to relieve legislators from the fear of retribution from the leadership that controls those funds. In order to secure Senate Democrats allegiance to similar measures, and to create greater accountability, he has vowed to ask them to sign a "contract of reform." Citizens Union supports Mr. Schneiderman's bid for a fourth-term in the State Senate as well as his proactive approach to reforming the legislative process in Albany.

### **JOSÉ GORIS – REP**

• *Has NOT responded to questionnaire* • *Candidate did not appear for a scheduled interview.*  
*Occupation: Vice-Chairman, Corinthian Medical IPA*  
*Education: Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo (MD); Columbia University*

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### **District 34**

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### **NO PREFERENCE**

### **JOHN FLEMING – REP**

• *Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 13*  
*Age: 46 Occupation: Real Estate Education: Cornell University (BS)*

John Fleming, a former New York City Police detective who handled security for former Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, defeated Democratic Assemblymember Stephen Kaufman for the nomination on the Republican line in this year's primary election for Senate. Although he lacks a record of extensive community involvement, Mr. Fleming claims that his experience in mediating conflicts will make him an effective legislator if elected to office. Mr. Fleming's main issues of concern are lowering business taxes, imposing fiscal restraint on the budget process, and implementing closer inspection of Medicaid providers and possible cases of Medicaid fraud. Mindful of Albany's history



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## BRONX STATE LEGISLATIVE RACES

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of late budgets, Mr. Fleming is in favor of garnishing a legislators' wages as a consequence of a late budget. Mr. Fleming, who campaigned as an outsider and outspoken critic of Republican party leadership, has accepted over \$75,000 in campaign contributions from Republican leaders since his primary victory in September.

### **STEPHEN KAUFMAN – IND, CON**

• *Has NOT responded to questionnaire*

*Age: 60 Occupation: Member, NYS Assembly*

*Education: Hunter College; American University Law School; NYU School of Law (LLM)*

Stephen Kaufman, a former New York City Council member, was elected to the New York State Assembly in 1988. Mr. Kaufman takes pride in his efforts as a council member to implement the “Safe Streets, Safe City” program, which relied upon a temporary income tax to put more police officers on the street, as well as his efforts as an Assembly member to secure money for Bronx parks as part of the Van Cortlandt water filtration plant negotiations. Noting the public’s frustration with the gridlock in Albany, Mr. Kaufman contrasts himself with other Assembly members who stick to the party line, citing his effort to replace Speaker Sheldon Silver in 1999 as evidence of his independence. However, further evidence of a commitment to improving the legislative dysfunction in Albany is lacking. Mr. Kaufman’s candidacies on the Democratic, Republican, Conservative and Independence party lines during the Primary Election revealed the lack of political conviction that he has shown while in office.

### **JEFFREY KLEIN – DEM**

• *Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 13*

*Age: 44 Occupation: Member, NYS Assembly*

*Education: Queens College (BA); Columbia University (MPA); CUNY Law School (JD)*

Former Chief-of-Staff for Congressman James Scheuer, Senate candidate Jeffrey Klein has represented the 80th Assembly District since 1994. Mr. Klein decided not to run for re-election in the Assembly in order to pursue the vacancy in the Senate created by the resignation of Guy Velella, who pled guilty to accepting bribes from contractors seeking to do business with the state. As a member of the Assembly, he started a mobile asthma screening and testing program in order to help reduce skyrocketing hospitalization rates and help address one of the districts most persistent problems. As Chair of the Committee on Oversight, Analysis and Investigation, Mr. Klein investigated unsanitary conditions in New York City supermarkets and promoted a monitoring program to ensure higher standards. Mr. Klein decries the legislative budget process, and advocates for budget hearings in the states’ counties to promote greater transparency and accessibility. While he lends his support to a num-



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## BRONX STATE LEGISLATIVE RACES

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ber of key reform issues, Mr. Klein believes the best means of achieving reform in Albany is through the Democrats taking control of the Senate. This position gives pause to Citizens Union, as the Democratically-controlled Assembly is arguably no more transparent and democratic than the Republican-controlled Senate.

### • BRONX STATE ASSEMBLY RACES •

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#### District 80

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#### NO PREFERENCE

#### **ANTHONY CHIOFALO – REP, CON**

• *Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 13*

*Age: 43 Occupation: Attorney Education: Fordham College (BA); Fordham University School of Law (JD)*

Anthony Chiofalo is an attorney specializing in international corporate and real estate law. He is active on the Morris Park Community Association and the Alton Avenue Tenants and Homeowners Association, and he helped found the Bronx Italian American Political Action Committee. His major concerns are preserving property values for homeowners, placing new restrictions on development to prevent one- and two-family homes from being redeveloped to accommodate five or six families, and restricting unscrupulous use of the Section 8 housing program. In Albany, Mr. Chiofalo would like to see less power concentrated in party leaders, reform of the two-party dominated Board of Elections, and televised legislative sessions.

#### **NAOMI RIVERA – DEM**

• *Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 13*

*Age: 41 Occupation: Deputy Chief Clerk, Bronx Board of Elections*

*Education: Manhattan Community College*

A former aide to Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrión, Naomi Rivera has taken a leave of absence from her position as Deputy Chief Clerk of the Bronx County Board of Elections to run for office. She is the daughter of Assemblymember Jose Rivera and sister of council member Joel Rivera. Ms. Rivera cites school funding and overcrowding, as well as maintaining affordable housing, as the key issues in her district. While short on specific proposals, Ms. Rivera emphasizes the need for more citizen involvement in the legislative process to help bring reform to Albany. Citizens Union has not yet seen evidence of how Ms. Rivera would distinguish herself as a reformer given her strong family ties to the party, but holds out hope that she might should she be elected.



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## BRONX STATE LEGISLATIVE RACES

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### District 81

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#### ★ PREFERRED CANDIDATE – JEFFREY DINOWITZ – DEM, WFP ★

• *Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 13*

*Age: 49 Occupation: Member, NYS Assembly*

*Education: City University of New York (BA); Brooklyn Law School (JD)*

Currently serving as Chair on the Alcoholism and Drug Abuse committee, Jeffrey Dinowitz has represented the 81st Assembly District since 1994. Prior to being elected, he served as Vice President of the Riverdale Community Council and on the Board of Directors of the Bronx Council for Environmental Quality. Mr. Dinowitz has authored legislation that would require environmental impact statements to consider cumulative effects of an action for projects in communities already experiencing impacts by polluting facilities. As a member of the Election Law and Oversight committee, Mr. Dinowitz authored legislation that requires candidates to notify the Board of Elections on donations they receive from any donor with state contracts exceeding \$50,000. Mr. Dinowitz argues that the average Assembly member has little input in what he terms a ‘centralized’ bureaucracy in Albany, and that committees often serve little purpose other than rubber stamping pre-decided bills from the leadership. For these reasons, he is a sponsor of a current Assembly rules resolution proposal aiming to give individual legislators and committees a greater role in the legislative process, as well as a joint proposal that would require conference committees when bills of similar intent are signed by both houses. Mr. Dinowitz’s commitment to resolving the legislative gridlock and dysfunction in Albany, coupled with his record of accomplishments in the Assembly, make him a Citizens Union preferred candidate.

#### STEPHEN BRADIAN – REP, CON

• *Has NOT responded to questionnaire* • *Candidate could not be reached for an interview*

### District 82

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#### NO PREFERENCE

#### MICHAEL BENEDETTO – DEM

• *Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 13*

*Age: 57 Occupation: Retired Teacher Education: Iona College (BA, MA)*

Michael Benedetto taught special education at P.S. 160 for 27 years and has been the Democratic District Leader for 16 years. He is the founder of the Bronx Times Reporter and a perennial candidate for local office. Mr. Benedetto lists education as



## BRONX STATE LEGISLATIVE RACES

a top priority and would like to improve transportation in the district with a Metro North rail stop alongside Co-op City. Mr. Benedetto proposes an independent budget commission or a financial review board to help the legislature pass the state budget on time. Mr. Benedetto’s strong ties to party politics raise concerns of whether he can be an active and independent voice for reform in Albany.

### RAYMOND CAPONE – REP, CON

• Has NOT responded to questionnaire • Candidate could not be reached for an interview



*The following races in the Bronx have not been evaluated by Citizens Union:*

### SENATE

District 32	<b>Ruben Diaz Sr.</b> (D) Michael Walters (C)	District 36	<b>R. H. Thompson</b> (D,I,WF)* Andrew P. Osterczy (C)
District 33	<b>Efrain Gonzalez Jr.</b> (D) Jeff Steinberg (R,C)		

### ASSEMBLY

District 76	Denis Fidler (R,C) <b>P. M. Rivera</b> (D,WF)	District 83	<b>Carl E. Heastie</b> (D,WF)*
District 77	Anthony Curry (R,I,C)* <b>Aurelia Greene</b> (D,WF)	District 84	Agustin Alamo (C) <b>Carmen E. Arroyo</b> (D)
District 78	Richard Retcho (C) <b>Jose Rivera</b> (D)	District 85	<b>Ruben Diaz Jr.</b> (D,WF)* William Newark (RC)
District 79	<b>M. Benjamin</b> (D,WF) William Britt Jr. (C) Gina Demalitaj (R)	District 86	<b>Luis M. Diaz</b> (D) Aaron Justice (R) Sham Ninah (C)

*\* Candidate has responded to questionnaire, responses on page 13.  
Incumbent candidates in bold.*

