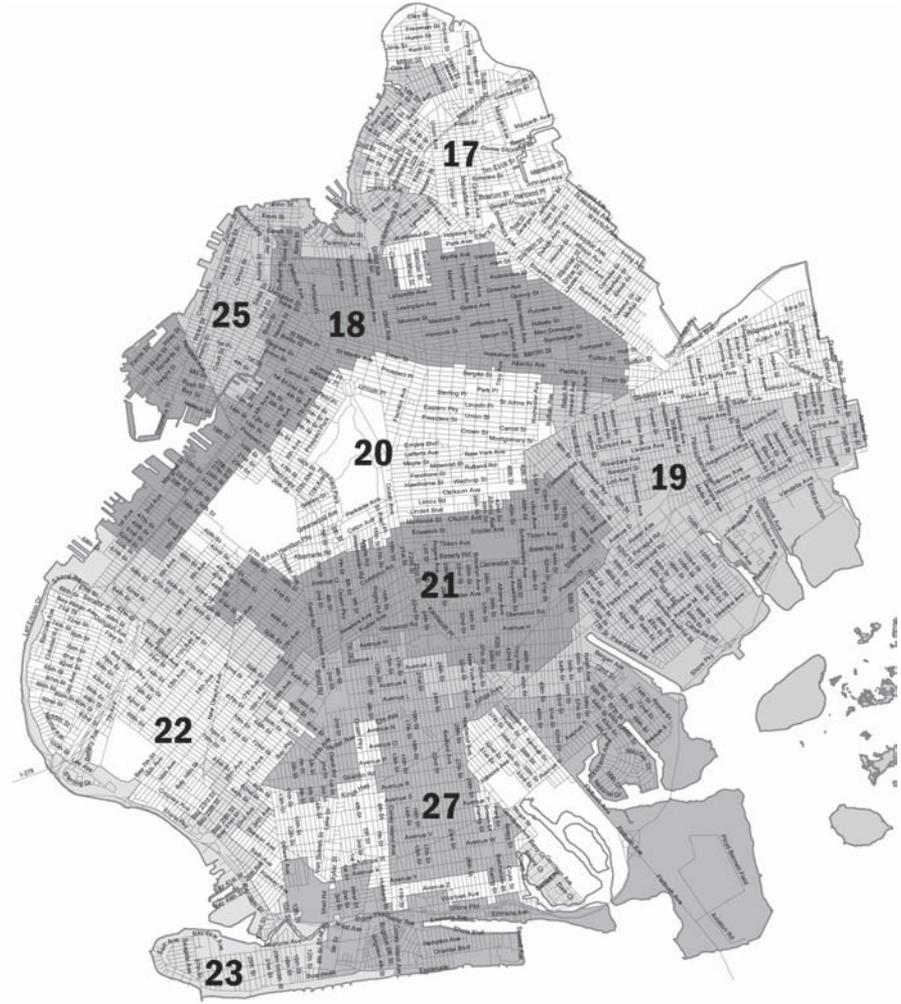




# BROOKLYN STATE SENATE DISTRICT MAP

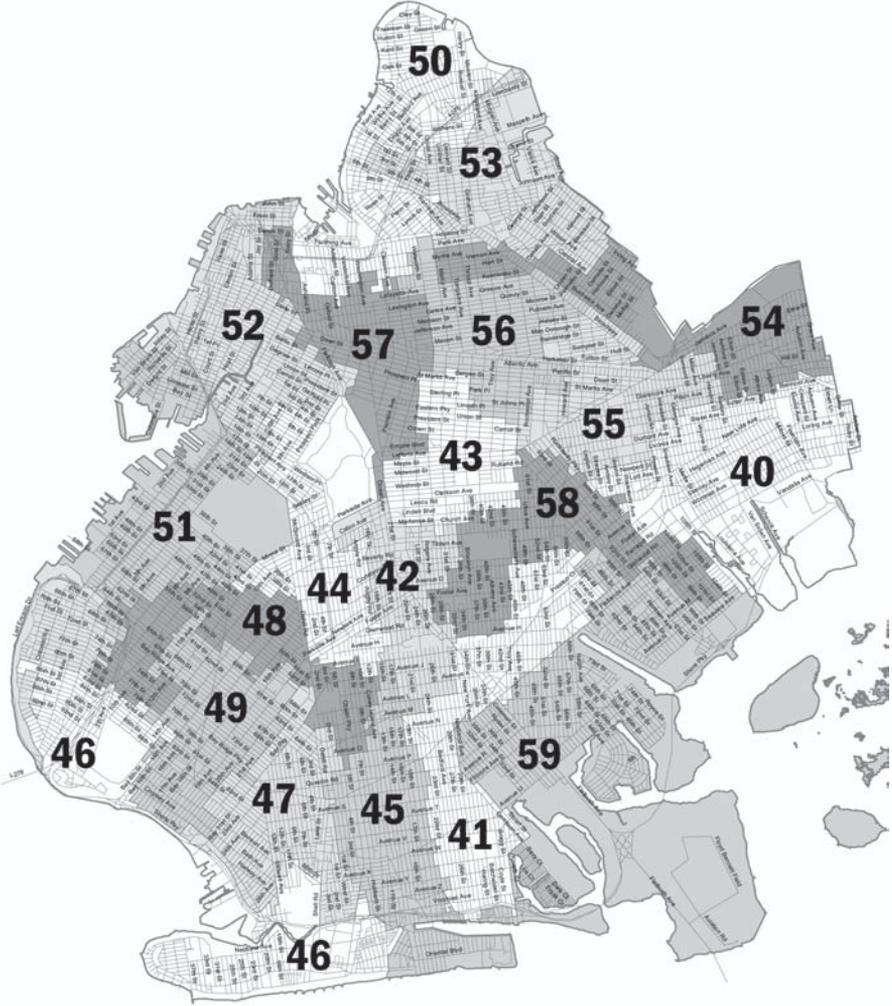


Sources: NYS Legislative Task Force on Demographic Research and Reapportionment, April 22, 2002;  
US Census Bureau TIGER Line files, 2000





# 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

---

#### **H ENDORSED CANDIDATE – VELMANETTE MONTGOMERY – DEM, WFP H**

*Has returned questionnaire; responses on page 14*

*Occupation: Senator, NYS Senate*

*Education: University of Accra (Ghana); New York University (MA)*

A State Senator since 1984, Velmanette Montgomery is a former teacher, daycare 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 concerned it could 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 underrepresented, 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 from 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 barber or cosmetologist applicants 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 Yards, specifically the possibility that the massive development project would price long term residents and business owners out of their communities. 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 endorse her.

#### **VIVIANA VAZQUEZ-HERNANDEZ - REP, CON**

*Has returned questionnaire; responses on page 14*

*Occupation: Homemaker*

*Education: Collegel Ministerial- Chaplains Training*

A chaplain and executive committee member of Community Board 7, Vazquez-Hernandez ran for City Council in 2005. She does not support lowering contribution limits for state campaigns because she feels it would disadvantage chal-



---

## BROOKLYN STATE LEGISLATIVE RACES

---

lengers who need strong support from individuals for successful campaigns. Before supporting a public financing system for state campaigns, Vazquez-Hernandez would like to see improvements to the city system which is understaffed and whose penalties for even small errors are too burdensome. She has made restoring accountability to schools her main campaign issue, though she was not clear on specific actions she would take in the legislature to advance her agenda. Like many critics of the Atlantic Yards development plan, she would like to see the size of the project reduced. Additionally, she emphasized the importance of employing local residents, maintaining the affordable housing stock and ensuring that local infrastructure (traffic, police, etc.) is equipped to handle the district's increased needs. Vazquez-Hernandez is a strong and committed advocate on important issues who brings good will and dedication to her run for office.

### District 20

---

#### H ENDORSED CANDIDATE – ERIC ADAMS – DEM, WFP H

*Has returned questionnaire; responses on page 14*

*Occupation: Retired (former NYPD Captain)*

*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. 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 to minimize waiting. Adams has raised concerns over the lack of adequate infrastructure in the current plan for development of the Atlantic 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. Adams is a thoughtful and outspoken candidate whose dedication to community issues and proposals for statewide legislation earn him Citizens Union’s endorsement.



---

## BROOKLYN STATE LEGISLATIVE RACES

---

### **JAMES M. GAY- CON**

*Has NOT returned questionnaire.*

*Candidate could not be reached for an interview.*

### **District 21**

---

### **H ENDORSED CANDIDATE – KEVIN PARKER – DEM, WFP H**

*Has returned questionnaire; responses on page 14*

*Occupation: Senator, NYS Senate*

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

Kevin Parker, former special assistant to Comptroller H. Carl McCall, 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” 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. 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 member of the minority party, Citizens Union has endorsed him.

### **SALVATORE GRUPICO- REP, CON**

*Has NOT returned questionnaire.*

*Candidate could not be reached for an interview.*



## BROOKLYN STATE LEGISLATIVE RACES

### • BROOKLYN STATE ASSEMBLY RACES •

#### District 43

---

#### NO ENDORSEMENT

##### **KARIM CAMARA – DEM, WFP**

*Has returned questionnaire; responses on page 14*

*Occupation: Member, NYS Assembly*

*Education: Xavier University of Louisiana (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 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. Camara supports the current proposal to develop the Atlantic 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.

##### **KENNETH COOK – REP, CON**

*Has NOT returned questionnaire.*

*Candidate could not be reached for an interview.*



---

## BROOKLYN STATE LEGISLATIVE RACES

---

### District 44

---

#### H ENDORSED CANDIDATE – JAMES F. BRENNAN – DEM, WFP H

*Has returned questionnaire; responses on page 14*

*Occupation: Member, NYS Assembly*

*Education: Baruch College (MBA); Yale; Brooklyn Law school (JD)*

A member of the State Assembly since 1984, James Brennan has one of the longest tenures in the Assembly from New York City. He currently sits on several committees including the Committee on Education, the Committee on Real Property Taxation, and acts as chair to the newly formed Cities Committee. During his time in the Assembly, he has sponsored a myriad of reform bills including one that would create public financing of statewide election campaigns and the Public Authorities Accountability Act of 2005, which has now become law and will help ensure greater accountability, transparency and professional standards for the state's public authorities. Brennan also supports stricter and more explicit limitations of the use of campaign funds for activities not related to campaigns. As chair of the Cities Committee, Brennan helped design a state urban revitalization fund, which directs tax incentives and provides funds for depressed areas or "empire zones" in need of economic development. Brennan has also worked to end the current practice of allowing architects and developers to "self-certify" their construction projects for safety, instead giving that responsibility to the Department of Building. Brennan sponsored and helped pass legislation to help the disabled go back to work while keeping the Medicaid services upon which they rely. He also has introduced legislation that would effectively reduce the size of the Atlantic Yards project, require the inclusion of more affordable housing, and require that business owners and residents receive higher than market rate compensation should eminent domain be used to seize private property. Brennan's conscientious, and deliberative approach to his responsibilities as a legislator, as well as his commitment to reform measures, has earned him Citizens Union's endorsement.

#### YVETTE VELAZQUEZ-BENNETT – REP, CON

*Has returned questionnaire; responses on page 14*

*Occupation: Retired (Former Information Systems Engineer); Home-Schooling Parent*

*Education: City College of New York (BA)*

Yvette Velásquez-Bennett has been an active member of her community church and is a former Young Republican. Velásquez-Bennett argues that the many advantages of incumbency on the campaign trail prohibit competitive elections in the state. She



---

## BROOKLYN STATE LEGISLATIVE RACES

---

supports legislative reforms to reduce this power of incumbency, such as removing the authority to draw state district lines from legislators, and creating a public finance program for campaigns. Velásquez-Bennett is vocally opposed to abortion and currently supports efforts to require minors to receive parental consent before being able to obtain an abortion. Concerned with the use of eminent domain to seize property as part of the Atlantic Yards development, Velásquez-Bennett supports legislation that would limit the seizing of property at the city and state level to projects that would serve the public good instead of private projects. Velásquez-Bennett believes that aggressively targeting Medicaid fraud would save the state billions and enable the state to cut taxes, especially for the middle class and families.

---

### District 46

---

#### H ENDORSED CANDIDATE – ALEC BROOK-KRASNY – DEM, WFP H

*Has returned questionnaire; see responses on page 14*

*Occupation: Exec. Director, Council of Jewish Émigré Community Organization*

*Education: Columbia University (BA)*

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,” a cultural, educational and entertainment center in Brooklyn, that is now closed. Brook-Krasny made a bid for the State Assembly once before and set a citywide record as a “write-in” candidate for City Council in 2001. 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 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 already 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-\$1,000 for candidates running for state Assembly. Brook-Krasny believes the number of signatures needed to get on the ballot, which is 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’s endorsement.



---

## BROOKLYN STATE LEGISLATIVE RACES

---

### **PATRICIA LAUDANO – REP, CON**

*Has NOT returned questionnaire.*

*Candidate declined to be interviewed.*

### **District 47**

---

### **H ENDORSED CANDIDATE – WILLIAM COLTON – DEM, WFP H**

*Has returned questionnaire; responses on page 14*

*Occupation: Member, NYS Assembly*

*Education: St. John's University (BA, JD); Brooklyn College (MA)*

First elected to the Assembly in 1996, William Colton is the Chair of the Legislative Commission on Solid Waste Management and the Vice Chair of the Majority Conference. Colton believes that the abuse of campaign funds for non-campaign related activities is widespread in Albany and needs to be addressed legislatively. He also supports reforming campaign finance laws by instituting public financing of campaigns or a voluntary public matching fund program for those that agree to limit their spending and abide by contribution limits. Colton also supports changes to the election process, such as allowing voters to register to vote on Election Day to increase voter participation (as long as voter fraud could be effectively prevented), and more accessible poll sites for those with disabilities and language difficulties. Colton supports incentives to encourage students to pursue higher education and measures to make it affordable, like discounted public transportation passes. To help protect the environment and city funds, Colton is working to persuade manufacturers to accept liability for the disposal of electronic components. Colton has been committed to constituent services during his time in the Assembly and his office has been active in enrolling citizens in public rebate programs offered by energy companies. He also set up a life-guarding program at a local high school in collaboration with the parks department to help alleviate the city's shortage of certified life-guards. Colton's support of significant reform in Albany along with his commitment and involvement in community affairs have earned him the endorsement of Citizens Union.

### **PHYLLIS CARBO – REP, CON**

*Has NOT returned questionnaire.*

*Candidate could not be reached for an interview.*



---

## BROOKLYN STATE LEGISLATIVE RACES

---

### District 52

---

#### H ENDORSED CANDIDATE – JOAN L. MILLMAN – DEM, WFP H

*Has returned questionnaire; responses on page 14*

*Occupation: Member, NYS Assembly*

*Education: Brooklyn College (BA); Pratt Institute (MLS)*

A former librarian, school teacher and educational consultant, Joan Millman was first elected to office in a 1997 special election. As a member of the Assembly Steering Committee, Millman was involved in creating and passing legislation in the Assembly to reform campaign finance laws that would provide public matching funds for statewide and legislative candidates. The one house bill, not yet supported in the Senate, also includes measures to establish stricter contribution limits. Millman neither accepts donations from developers nor holds fundraisers in Albany, and believes her ability to successfully fundraise in her district allows her to act independently in the legislature. Millman supports the adoption of statewide Election Day voter registration contingent upon the creation of a reliable and accurate statewide voter database to track voter activity accurately. Millman is a supporter of a non-partisan redistricting commission to draw state district lines, and argues that prisoners incarcerated upstate are being inaccurately counted for the purpose of reapportionment in the prison district, and not in their home district, to preserve upstate Republican seats in the legislature. During her tenure in the Assembly, she sponsored legislation to reform the Rockefeller Drug Laws and voted against the repeal of the commuter tax. Millman has worked to pass “Billy’s Law,” legislation aimed at improving educational opportunities and tracking of children with disabilities that are sent out of state to receive services. Citizens Union has chosen to endorse her and hopes that she will work to become a more active leader on policy issues in Albany.

#### ROSEMARY MARKGRAF – REP, CON

*Has returned questionnaire; responses on page 14*

*Occupation: Adjunct Professor*

*Education: University of Wisconsin (MS)*

Real estate broker and Republican District Leader, Rosemarie Markgraf unsuccessfully ran for the U.S. House of Representatives in 1998 and 2000. Markgraf supports stricter prohibitions on the use of campaign contribution, and reform of the Wicks Law that requires state government entities to award multiple contracts for major components of construction projects, which she believes is a burdensome regulation that unnecessarily increases the cost of public construction projects. As an



## BROOKLYN STATE LEGISLATIVE RACES

ethics course instructor at the Real Estate Institute, Markgraf believes ethics training should be required for all of the state's justices. If elected, Markgraf pledges to work to improve the level of accountability in the legislature and advance the interests of senior citizens.

### District 55

---

#### H ENDORSED CANDIDATE – WILLIAM F. BOYLAND, JR. – DEM H

*Has returned questionnaire; responses on page 14*

*Occupation: Member, NYS Assembly*

*Education: Virginia State Univesrity (BS)*

William Boyland, Jr. was elected to the New York State Assembly in January, 2003, by special election after his father, William Boyland, Sr., gave up his seat. He co-sponsored the Public Authorities Accountability Act of 2005, aimed at increasing efficiency and transparency, and providing greater oversight of the state's numerous public authorities. Boyland has also signed onto legislation to enact campaign finance reform, which includes providing optional public campaign funding for statewide offices and state legislative offices, and reducing campaign contribution limits, and to create an independent redistricting commission. Although a supporter of the Atlantic Yards project he is concerned that large construction projects will drive poorer residents out of Brooklyn, and so proposes housing subsidies to help residents cope with rent inflation, as well as the construction of six state-subsidized assisted living homes by next year for seniors living in Brooklyn. He is willing to support charter schools with increased autonomy and accountability provided they do not draw funding from existing public schools, and would also like to reinstate mandatory civic classes in all public schools to educate New York's youth about local government. He also recently drafted a bill, currently in committee, which would register anyone who bought ammunition into a statewide database, allowing the police to link individuals to specific crime scenes. Boyland continues to demonstrate his commitment to service and willingness to work towards reform, earning him Citizens Union's endorsement.

#### ROSE LANEY – REP

*Has NOT returned questionnaire.*

*Candidate could not be reached for an interview.*



---

## BROOKLYN STATE LEGISLATIVE RACES

---

### District 57

---

#### H ENDORSED CANDIDATE – HAKEEM JEFFRIES – DEM H

*Has returned questionnaire; responses on page 14*

*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 community activism. 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” 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 Rail 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 reduction of the overall density of the project, as he fears the scale of the current plan will place a heavy strain on community services. 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 percent of units be set aside for lower-income families through 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 reform ideas make him a refreshing candidate for State Assembly, earning CU’s endorsement.

#### HENRY P. WEINSTEIN – REP, CON

*Has NOT returned questionnaire.*

*Candidate could not be reached for an interview.*



---

## BROOKLYN STATE LEGISLATIVE RACES

---

### District 58

---

#### NO ENDORSEMENT

##### **N. NICK PERRY – DEM, WFP**

*Has returned questionnaire; responses on page 14*

*Occupation: Member, NYS Assembly*

*Education: Brooklyn College (BA)*

First elected in 1992, Nick Perry is the current Assembly Majority Whip in the Assembly. He claims he was given this position solely because of seniority, and mainly because it is the position with the least power. He attributes this, as well as the fact that he has never held chairmanship of any committee during his tenure, to his independent voting habits and reluctance to compromise his views, such as his vote against the repeal of the commuter tax. Perry does not support reforming the rules of the Assembly to permit the open election of chairs or limits on how long committee chairs can serve in that position, believing the Speaker should have the ability to determine those items. Nor does he support lowering the number of members needed to request a hearing for a bill largely because he thinks there needs to be a strong Speaker to ensure the strength of the majority party. Perry is extremely proud of his efforts as a freshman legislator to keep Brookdale Hospital from closing in 1992 and his role in passing legislation that limited the ability of HMOs to redirect referrals to the detriment of hospitals. Fourteen years into his tenure in public office, Perry says he became aware of the high HIV rate in his district while he was preparing to run for Congress earlier this year. He attests that he is committed to fighting the problem and will introduce legislation in the near future to bring more resources to combat the illness. During his fourteen years in office Perry has shown an admirable independent streak, but his leadership and effectiveness have been less than inspiring.

##### **ROBERT GAFFNEY – CON**

*Has NOT returned questionnaire.*

*Candidate could not be reached for an interview.*



# BROOKLYN STATE LEGISLATIVE RACES



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

## SENATE

<b>District 17</b>	<b>Martin M. Dilan</b> (D,WF) Victor F. Guarino (R,C)	<b>District 22</b>	<b>Martin J. Golden</b> (R,C)
<b>District 19</b>	<b>John Sampson</b> (D,WF) Mary J. Vicino (R)	<b>District 23</b>	<b>Diane Savino</b> (D,WF,I)*
		<b>District 27</b>	<b>Carl Kruger</b> (D) Mildred R. Mahoney (C)

## ASSEMBLY

<b>District 40</b>	<b>Diane Gordon</b> (D) Godfrey Jelks (R,C)*	<b>District 50</b>	<b>Joseph R. Lentol</b> (D) Richard Trainer (R,C)
<b>District 41</b>	Jack Benton (R) Jonathan Testaverde (C)	<b>District 51</b>	Washington Artus (R,C)* <b>Felix W. Ortiz</b> (D)
<b>District 42</b>	<b>Helene Weinstein</b> (D,WF)	<b>District 53</b>	Ameriar Feliciano (R,C) <b>Vito J. Lopez</b> (D,WF)
<b>District 45</b>	<b>Rhoda S. Jacobs</b> (D) Harriet Katz (R)	<b>District 54</b>	Khoshed Chowdhury (R,C) <b>Darryl C. Towns</b> (D,WF)
<b>District 48</b>	<b>Steven Cymbrowitz</b> (D,R)* <b>Dov Hikind</b> (D,R) Herbert F. Ryan (C)	<b>District 56</b>	<b>Annette M. Robinson</b> (D)
<b>District 49</b>	<b>Peter Abbate Jr.</b> (D,WF) Lucretia Regina-Potter (R,C)*	<b>District 59</b>	<b>Alan N. Maisel</b> (D) Stephen Walters (C)

*\* Candidate has responded to questionnaire; responses on page 14  
Incumbent candidates in bold.*

