



MANHATTAN STATE SENATE DISTRICT MAP

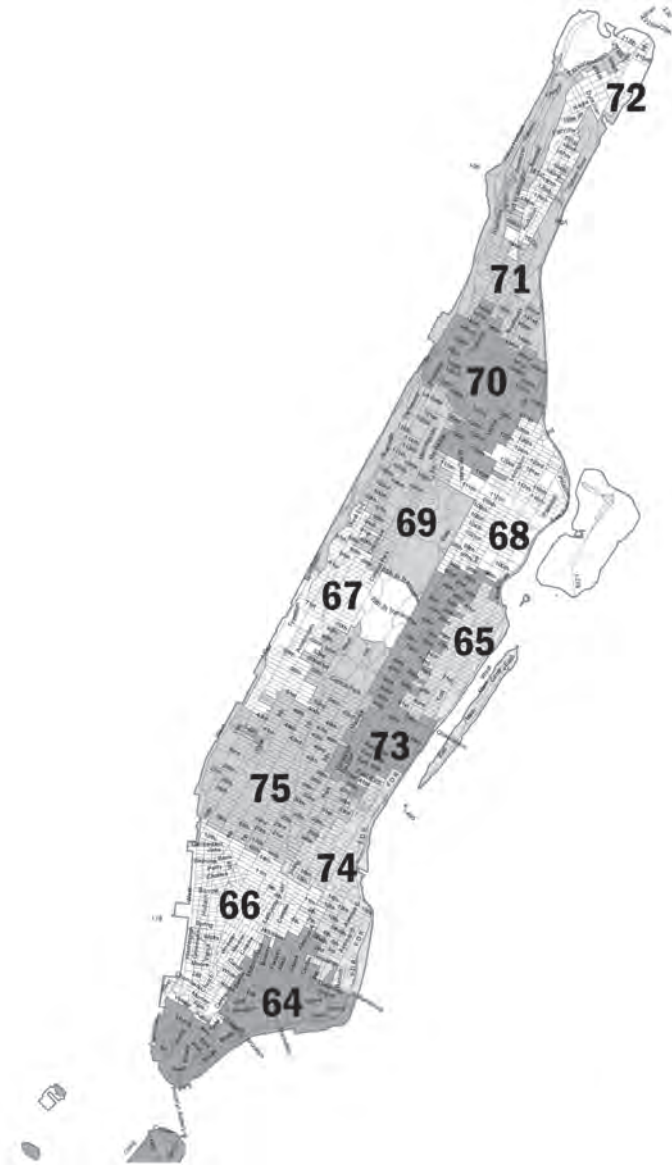


Sources: NYS Legislative Task Force on Demographic Research and Reapportionment, April 22, 2002;
US Census Bureau TIGER Line files, 2000





— MANHATTAN STATE ASSEMBLY DISTRICT MAP —



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





MANHATTAN STATE LEGISLATIVE RACES

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District 25 – Democratic Primary

NO PREFERENCE

MARTIN CONNOR - DEM

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 14

Occupation: Senator, NYS Senate Education: Catholic University of America (BA, JD)

Martin Connor, a practicing election law attorney, was first elected to the New York State Senate in 1978 in a special election. Connor lists as his accomplishments his role in the passage of an increase in the Earned Income Tax credit and in making New York's school tax relief program more equitable for seniors and homeowners. Because lower Manhattan is increasingly attracting young families and single residents, Connor proposes construction of new playgrounds, schools, day care centers and parks to meet the growing needs of his changing district. Connor believes that instituting four-year staggered legislative terms, instead of the current two, would allow the members to act more independently and be more attentive to their legislative duties as it would reduce the burden placed on legislators to fundraise and campaign every two years. Connor co-sponsored Senator Liz Krueger's bill that advocates tighter controls on how campaign contributions can be spent, but has himself been embroiled in an ethical discussion over the use of campaign funds to purchase a car that he reportedly uses primarily for business and then reimburses when it is used for personal reasons. Connor's continued personal pursuit to kick his opponent off the ballot after the courts have certified him as eligible is one example of how incumbents use ballot access requirements to create obstacles to competitive challengers thereby draining their competitors' campaign resources by fighting to stay on the ballot. Senate District 25 would better be served by a candidate who raises the ethical bar and adheres to a strict set of principles, instead of enforcing troubling aspects of current law that are in need of reform.

KEN DIAMONDSTONE - DEM, WFP

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 14

Occupation: Housing Developer Education: Queens College (BA); New York University (MPA)

Having recently moved into the district to run for this particular seat, this is Ken Diamondstone's first campaign for the State Senate. As a housing developer, Diamondstone states that the creation of affordable housing would be one of his top priorities if elected. His plan to do so includes fighting for the repeal of the Urstard



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Law in order to return control over rents, now currently in state hands, to the city; legislation that would make a public hearing mandatory before the demolition order for a residential building could be approved by the state; withholding 421a tax benefits from developers who do not reserve 30 percent of all new units for low- and middle-income residents; and introducing a tax on the sale of any Mitchell Lama units to remove the incentive for the buildings to go private. Diamondstone does not support the current plan to develop the Atlantic Rail Yards, citing concerns about the lack of community input in the formation of the project proposal. Diamondstone supports a nonpartisan Board of Elections because, he says, his residency in the district was challenged this year as a result of the two-party system. He supports Assemblyman Brodsky's bill to establish more transparency and accountability in public authorities, and also supports a mandatory three-year waiting period before any former legislator can become a lobbyist. Diamondstone's deliberate move into the district to run for the Senate seat, while still owning his original home outside the district, raises concerns about his motivations to represent district constituents.

District 30 – Democratic Primary

★ PREFERRED CANDIDATE – BILL PERKINS – DEM, WFP ★

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 14

Occupation: Former Member, New York City Council Education: Brown University (BA)

A former member of the New York City Council and candidate for Manhattan Borough President, this is Bill Perkins' first campaign for State Senate. Perkins was the former chair of the council's Government Operations committee, a position he handled very ably during his tenure. As chair, he presided over matters related to the city's model campaign finance system, and now supports the adoption of such a system for statewide elections as well. Perkins advocates a repeal of the Urstadt Law to allow for greater "home rule" over rent increases, and criticizes the Mayor's office for not using the same amount of political capital to push for this as he did for the 2012 Olympics bid and the West Side Stadium. Perkins hopes to be able to work with the new gubernatorial administration to reform the state's criminal justice system, particularly in re-examining what crimes are classified as felonies and further reform of the Rockefeller Drug Laws. Perkins would like to see an increase in the frequency of public hearings in the State Legislature, noting their success in the City Council in engaging the public in policy debates. Perkins' leadership in his community and on the City Council have earned him Citizens Union's preferred candidate rating for this open seat.

RUBEN DARIO VARGAS – DEM

Has NOT returned questionnaire.

Candidate could not be reached for an interview.



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District 68 – Democratic Primary

★ PREFERRED CANDIDATE – JOHN RUIZ – DEM ★

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 14

Occupation: Retired (former firefighter, FDNY)

A firefighter with the FDNY for nearly twenty years before retiring, John Ruiz is also the Democratic District Leader for the 68th Assembly District, and is fighting once again to unseat the incumbent for this East Harlem seat. Ruiz founded the Rappin' Fireman Safety Program to educate children about fire safety, and also founded Our Firefighter's Children's Foundation, which provides food and gifts to low-income families. Ruiz views education as a top priority for his district, and is particularly interested in helping immigrant families secure a means for educating their children without over-burdening local schools. He expresses concern for the exceptionally high asthma rates in this part of Manhattan, and pledges if elected, to help develop more healthcare options for low-income families. Ruiz supports reforming the state's judicial convention nomination system for Supreme Court justices, and would get behind the creation of an independent panel to select judges on the basis of merit if the issue made its way to the legislature. While Ruiz has not revealed himself to be a leader for government reform, he supports many of the central elements of Citizens Union's reform agenda and if elected, holds out the potential to be more effective on this front than the current officeholder.

ADAM CLAYTON POWELL IV – DEM, WFP

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 14

Occupation: Member, NYS Assembly

Education: Howard University (BA); Fordham University Law School (JD)

Adam Clayton Powell IV served on the New York City Council for six years, and then worked at the Federal Emergency Management Agency before being elected to the New York State Assembly in 2000. Powell is proud of his efforts to help strengthen the Senior Citizens Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) which protects seniors with low income from rent inflation. Powell cites education and unemployment as the most pressing issues in his district, and points to his role in securing a grant for a local not-for-profit to train small business owners. Powell, like most of his colleagues, would like to reinstate the commuter tax which the Assembly bargained away several years back, as well as create a stock transfer tax to raise funds to fund key public projects. Powell believes that elections would be more competitive, and



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candidates more independent, if the state were to adopt a system of public financing for elections. Quite surprisingly, Mr. Powell was unaware of a federal courts ruling that the current judicial convention system for the selection of party nominees for Supreme Court in New York is unconstitutional, perhaps an indicator of his lack of engagement in current legislative affairs in Albany. Citizens Union was troubled by Powell's admitted ethical misconduct in the past and continues to look for signs that Mr. Powell has developed into a well informed and dedicated public servant.

EDWARD GIBBS – DEM

Has NOT returned questionnaire.

Candidate could not be reached for an interview.

District 72 – Democratic Primary

★ PREFERRED CANDIDATE – ADRIANO ESPAILLAT – DEM, WFP ★

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 14

Occupation: Member, NYS Assembly Education: Queens College (BS)

First elected to the Assembly in 1996, Adriano Espaillat is the founder of Project Remain, an effort to identify landlords engaging in unfair practices, and the current chair of the Legislative Task Force on Reapportionment and the Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic and Asian Legislative Caucus. Espaillat is a co-sponsor of Assemblymember Gianaris' bill establishing an independent redistricting commission, and as the newly appointed Chair of the Reapportionment Committee, will be presiding over statewide hearings on redistricting, with Senator Destito, that are expected to be held this fall. Espaillat also supports the creation of an Independent Budget Office to provide revenue estimates for the state that would serve to reduce the struggle that slows the budget process as all parties typically argue over how much the state actually has to spend each year. Espaillat opposes the open election of judges, because he believes winners would be determined by the amount of money each candidate raises and spends, and not their actual qualifications for the position. Instead, he proposes the use of a screening panel for Supreme Court judicial candidates, which he believes will yield more qualified and diverse candidates. Espaillat has shown himself to be an effective Assembly member and has again earned Citizens Union's preference.

FRANCESCA CASTELLANOS - DEM

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 14

Candidate could not be scheduled for an interview.

Occupation: Spanish Interpreter Education: Herbert H. Lehman College (BA)



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MIGUEL ESTRELLA - DEM

Has NOT returned questionnaire.

Candidate could not be reached for an interview.

District 74 – Democratic Primary

★ PREFERRED CANDIDATE – BRIAN KAVANAGH – DEM ★

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 14

Education: Princeton University (AB); New York University Law School (JD)

Brian Kavanagh served as chief-of-staff for City Council member Gale Brewer and as an aide to Mayors Koch and Dinkins from 1989-1993. He recently worked on a nationwide effort to secure the voting rights of low-income citizens with Demos, a national good-government organization. To address the affordable housing crisis in the city, Kavanagh would like to broaden the Senior Citizens Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) program and fight for state funding of new Mitchell Lama-style affordable housing units. Kavanagh supports the creation of an independent redistricting commission to take the power to draw district lines out of the hands of those that benefit from how they're drawn and argues that redistricting guidelines must ensure that ethnically distinct neighborhoods are not divided during the redistricting process. After having run for City Council last year, Kavanagh would like to see the city's campaign finance regulations adopted at the statewide level. He believes that candidates should be encouraged to abide by spending caps and disclosure requirements in exchange for public matching funds. Kavanagh has displayed a commitment to addressing critical district issues and a strong resolve to tackle the daunting task of government reform. His thoughtful and assertive approach to leadership would make him a welcome addition to the State Legislature and has earned him the CU preferred candidate status.

SYLVIA FRIEDMAN – DEM, WFP, IND

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 14

Occupation: Member, NYS Assembly Education: Columbia University (BA, MA, MPhil)

A former school teacher, Sylvia Friedman was elected to the New York State Assembly in February 2006 after long-time Assembly member Steve Sanders decided to step down. Prior to her election to the Assembly, Friedman was a State Democratic Committeewoman and chair of the Reform Caucus. Friedman currently serves on the Housing Committee and Election Law Committees in the Assembly. Friedman was initially elected through a flawed special election process that uses a committee nomination process that circumvents a party primary, resulting in an all-but-assured victory for the



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anointed Democratic nominee in a district with such a large voter enrollment disparity. While Friedman is not to be held accountable for this process, it is a process that is in need of reform. Friedman cites the lack of affordable housing as the most pressing issue in her district and would like to see construction of new affordable units, particularly at the former Con Edison Plant where a new development of luxury housing, retail stores and offices is planned. If re-elected, Friedman pledges to push for the construction of new schools and youth centers in her district, as well as for the modernization of classrooms and the preservation of green space. Friedman believes that all judicial candidates should be screened and approved by an independent citizens committee, and then be given the opportunity to run in primary and general elections. Friedman is a thoughtful and committed leader with strong support in the community. The Assembly district is well served by having multiple good candidates in this race.

ESTHER YANG – DEM

Has returned questionnaire, responses on page 14

Occupation: Private Practice in Mind/Body healthcare Education: Fashion Institute of Technology (BA)

Esther Yang is a former PTA treasurer and practitioner of holistic healthcare. If elected, she pledges to pressure developers to build more affordable housing and green space in the district, and she would seek to establish low-cost medical clinics and legal offices to help the poor in lower Manhattan. Yang believes that campaign contribution limits should be greatly reduced and contributions from lobbyists should be completely banned. If elected, Yang would seek to collaborate closely with media outlets to bring more sunshine to the operations of the State Legislature. Yang stresses the need to clean house in Albany and brings vigor to this competitive race for State Assembly.

JUAN PAGAN – DEM

Has NOT returned questionnaire.

Candidate could not be reached for an interview.



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

ASSEMBLY

District 69-Dem **Daniel J. O’Donnell**
Francisco A. Spies

Incumbent candidates in bold.

