

Citizens Union
VOTERS DIRECTORY
A Non-Partisan Guide to Informed Voting

PRIMARY ELECTION

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2004



CITIZENS UNION
OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

299 Broadway, New York NY 10007
www.citizensunion.org



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LETTER FROM CITIZENS UNION

Dear Fellow New York Voter,

All of us have read with increasing bewilderment about the growing dysfunction of the way in which the State Legislature in Albany operates. Legislators have created an entrenched system that preserves the balance of power with a majority of Republicans in the state Senate and a majority of Democrats in the state Assembly and an overabundance of power invested in the leaders of these two houses. This arrangement has resulted in legislative gridlock and the failure of the state to pass on-time budgets and timely legislation that addresses the pressing issues of the state and its citizens. Most importantly, it has created a system which is undemocratic and serves to further fuel public cynicism about the political process.

To begin bringing about better government, this year Citizens Union has changed the way in which it evaluates and prefers candidates for state legislative office, which it has done continuously since 1910. Rather than judging state legislative candidates on the basis of their positions on a range of public policy issues, we will offer 'preferences' based largely on whether candidates support a series of far reaching reforms aimed at changing the way the New York State Legislature functions.

Citizens Union seeks a more democratic and representative process that places greater responsibility for legislating in the hands of individual legislators. Regardless of talent and service, we can no longer evaluate candidates without considering the overall quagmire that passes for the legislative process in Albany. There are many fine individual legislators in Albany, and Citizens Union has preferred some of them for many years. But we will no longer do so if they continue to support a legislative system that is broken and does not meet the needs of New Yorkers.

Citizens Union has been fortunate to benefit from the good work of the members of the all-volunteer local candidates committee, who contributed many hours during this summer to interview candidates and gather in meetings to share information and evaluate the candidates. We have considered many sources of information in making our preference decisions, but none more important than candidates' positions and actions on issues of reform.

We hope that you not only find this guide useful, but helpful in making it clear what "good-government" reforms are needed in order for our State Legislature to operate as New Yorkers deserve.

Sincerely,

Rich Davis
Chair, Board of
Directors

John Horan
Chair, Local
Candidate Committee

Dick Dadey
Executive Director

Doug Israel
Local Candidates
Staff Director



ABOUT THIS DIRECTORY

This directory lists every contest for public office that will be on the ballot in the City of New York on Tuesday, September 14, 2004. Voters should be aware that New York's tangled election laws often result in the last minute elimination (or reinstatement) of candidates. Information as of August 20, 2004 is contained herein.

Many key contests for State Assembly and State Senate seats have been evaluated by nonpartisan interview teams from Citizens Union's Local Candidates Committee. Citizens Union does not evaluate candidates for federal office or candidates for the judiciary, though in this directory we have listed simply the candidates who are running for those offices.

This year's interview teams were charged with soliciting candidates' views on key proposals aimed at reforming the legislative process and changing the governing rules in Albany, assessing the candidates' general experience, and their knowledge of district, city, and statewide issues. No single answer by a candidate ensures - or rules out - a preference. The questions and the candidates' responses are summarized in the pages that follow.

Recommendations for a "Preferred" rating are made by the Local Candidates Committee on the basis of the interview, research, an issues questionnaire, and first-hand knowledge of the candidate. These recommendations are reviewed by the Citizens Union Board, which makes the final decision. The "Preferred" rating reflects a candidate that Citizens Union deems not only qualified for the office being sought, but committed to an agenda of positive reform in Albany. Candidates not preferred may nevertheless be highly regarded by Citizens Union. These distinctions are generally reflected in the commentaries. Only candidates who were interviewed were eligible for a preferred rating.

A "No Preference" rating may result when there is insufficient information available, when one or more of the candidates has not been interviewed, or when a determination has been made that the candidates are of equal merit.

All maps were supplied by the Community Mapping Assistance Project (CMAP), a service of the New York Public Interest Research Group.

Cover Photo by Claudio Papapietro



CONTESTED PRIMARIES

NEW YORK STATE SENATE

TERM OF OFFICE: TWO YEARS • SALARY: \$79,350

BRONX

District 28* - Dem	Agustin Alamo-Estrada Nelson Antonio Denis Jose M. Serrano	District 34 - Rep	John Fleming Stephen Kaufman
District 32 - Dem	Enrique Diaz Ruben Diaz Sr. Pedro Espada Jr.	District 34 - Con	John Fleming Stephen Kaufman
District 34 - Dem	Stephen Kaufman Jeff Klein Egidio Sementilli	District 36 - Dem	Ruth Hasell-Thompson Crystal Wade

BROOKLYN

District 17 - Dem	Ronald Clinton Martin Malave-Dilan	District 22 - Rep	Martin Golden Jessica Sutliff
District 21 - Dem	Noach Dear Kevin Parker Wellington Sharpe	District 23* - Dem	Kelvin Alexander Cole Ettman Rodney Knight Diane Savino

MANHATTAN

District 28*- Dem	Agustin Alamo-Estrada Nelson Antonio Denis Jose M. Serrano
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QUEENS

District 13 - Dem	Luis Rosero John D. Sabini
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STATEN ISLAND

District 23* - Dem	Kelvin Alexander Cole Ettman	Rodney Knight Diane Savino
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** District includes portion of more than one borough
Incumbent candidates in bold*



CONTESTED PRIMARIES

NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY

TERM OF OFFICE: TWO YEARS • SALARY: \$79,350

BRONX

District 76 - Dem	Elizabeth Bones Henry Pelayo Peter M. Rivera	District 80 - Dem	Anthony Chiofalo Anthony Friedman Naomi Rivera Joseph Thompson
District 77 - Dem	Anthony Curry Aurelia Greene	District 82 - Dem	Michael Benedetto Jeannette Graves Rodney Saunders
District 79 - Dem	Michael Benjamin Sigfredo Gonzalez Claudia Nisbett Eric Stevenson	District 84 - Dem	Agustin Alamo Carmen Arroyo David Rosado
		District 85 - Dem	Ruben Diaz Jr. Jerry Love

BROOKLYN

District 42 - Dem	Michelle Adolphe Rhoda Jacobs Zacary Lareche	District 54 - Dem	Heriberto Santiago Darryl C. Towns
District 43 - Dem	Clarence Norman Jr. Edward Roberts	District 55 - Dem	Reginald Bowman William F. Boyland Jr.
District 46 - Dem	Adele Cohen Inna Kaminsky	District 56 - Dem	Annette Robinson Richard Taylor

MANHATTAN

District 68 - Dem	Eddie Baca Adam Clayton Powell IV John Ruiz
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QUEENS

District 22 - Dem	Barry Grodenchik Jimmy Meng Benjamin Singer
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STATEN ISLAND

District 61 - Dem	John W. Lavelle Charles McLean Jr.	District 62 - Rep	Mario Bruno Jr. Vincent Ignizio
District 61 - Ind	John Johnson Charles McLean Jr.		Robert A. Straniero



CONTESTED PRIMARIES

CIVIL COURT JUDGESHIPS

TERM OF OFFICE: 10 YEARS • ELECTED COUNTYWIDE OR BY DISTRICT
• SALARY: \$125,600

ELECTED COUNTYWIDE

BRONX

Vacancy 1 - Dem Marc J. Whiten John H. Wilson

BROOKLYN

Vacancy 4 - Dem	Johnny Lee Baynes Joanne Minsky Cohen April A. Newbauer	Vacancy 5 - Dem	Harley D. Diamond Gerald Dunbar Richard Izzo Evelyn J. Laporte
		Vacancy 6 - Dem	Charles Finkelstein Saul Needle

ELECTED BY DISTRICT

BROOKLYN

District 2		District 6	
Vacancy 7- Dem	Geraldine Pickett Robin K. Sheares	Vacancy 9- Dem	Maxine L. Archer Pamela Elisofon Bernard J. Graham Ingrid Joseph

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TERM OF OFFICE: TWO YEARS • SALARY: \$150,000

BRONX

District 17 - Dem	Eliot L. Engel Jessica Flagg Kevin M. McAdams	District 7* - Dem	Curtis Brooks Dennis Coleman Joseph Crowley Aniello Grimaldi
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** District includes portion of more than one borough
Incumbent candidates in bold*



CONTESTED PRIMARIES

BROOKLYN

District 11 - Dem Tracy L. Boyland
Yvette D. Clarke
Major R. Owens
Gabriel Pearse

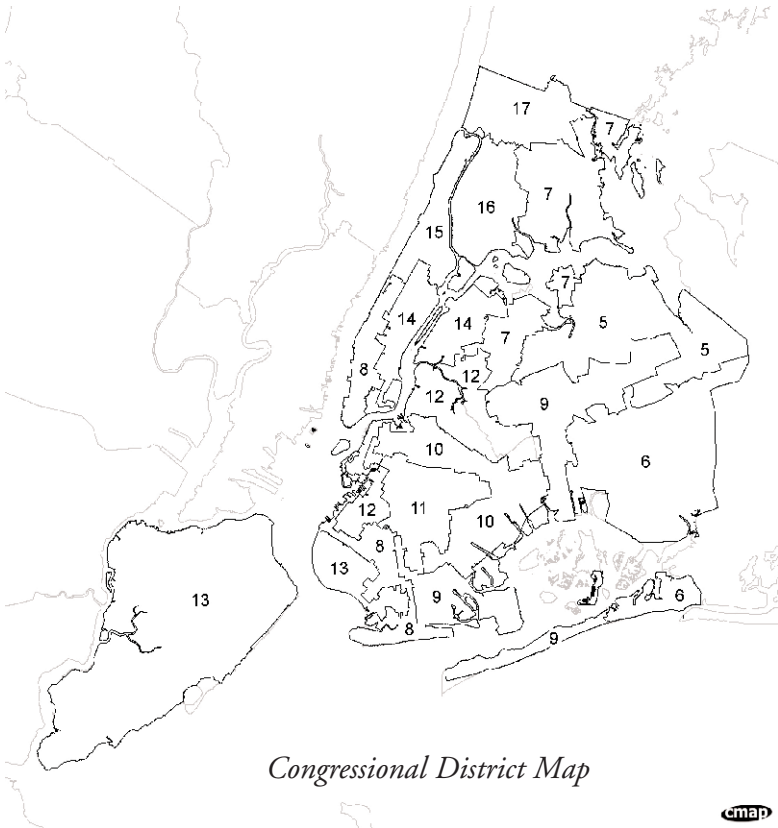
MANHATTAN

District 15* - Dem Geoffrey G. Johnson
Charles B. Rangel
Ruben Dario Vargas

QUEENS

District 5 - Rep Stephen Graves
Gonzalo Policarpio
District 7* - Dem Curtis Brooks
Dennis Coleman
Joseph Crowley
Aniello V Grimaldi

District 15* - Dem Geoffrey G. Johnson
Charles B. Rangel
Ruben Dario Vargas





STATE LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

The following list of questions were sent to each candidate running for state Senate and Assembly. Candidates were asked to answer each question, with a yes or no, and were given the opportunity for further elaboration at the end of the questionnaire. The yes or no answers are compiled in the following pages. These answers, as well as their additional comments, were a part of our candidate evaluation process. Only responses of those candidates that have primaries and returned the questionnaire are included in this directory.

GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. Do you believe that the way in which the State Legislature operates overall is in need of reform to make it more open, transparent, accountable, and efficient?

ELECTORAL REFORM

2. Do you support the establishment by statute of an Independent Citizens Legislative District Commission charged with drawing congressional and state legislative lines, and adopting strict redistricting rules, that would ensure every district is equal in population, contiguous and compact, formed without regard for incumbency protection, mindful of the need to keep neighborhoods intact, and drawn not to undermine racial, linguistic, and ethnic representation?

3. Do you support a public financing system for state legislative campaigns, similar in design and function to the one in place for the City of New York?

4. Do you support abolishment of the bipartisan structure of the Board of Elections, and the creation of a more independent entity in its place?

5. Do you support removal of cumbersome ballot access measures aimed at preventing challengers from running against incumbents allowing easier access for candidates to appear on the ballot?

6. Do you support adoption of statewide Election Day voter registration legislation?

LEGISLATIVE REFORM

7. Do you support stricter requirements for the use of “messages of necessity” often used to rush through legislation by either requiring two-thirds of the members of either the Assembly or Senate to make such a request or that the Governor has personally reviewed and signed the messages, so that more bills (including budget bills) exist on the calendar for three days, thus allowing for greater public review?



————— STATE LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE —————

8. Do you support allowing bills placed on the calendar be brought to the floor within 60 days or before the end of session and relaxing the restrictions on discharge motions so as to allow consideration of a greater number of bills by the full Assembly or Senate?
9. Do you support allowing bills to be reported directly to the legislative calendar from the jurisdictional committee without having to go through the Committee on Rules or Ways and Means?
10. Do you support open floor votes on legislation, in which the outcome is not pre-determined by leadership?
11. Do you support open election of committee chairs in both the Assembly and Senate?
12. Do you support term limits for Assembly and Senate committee chairs, the Speaker, and the majority leader?
13. Do you support providing opportunities for the public to provide testimony at committee meetings and hearings?
14. Do you support allowing public hearings to be held on bills if a majority of committee members so request?
15. Do you support allowing minority members to co-sponsor legislation with majority members?
16. Do you support abolishing proxy voting in committee, and requiring a legislator's presence in chamber in order for their vote to be counted?
17. Do you support establishing routine conference committees when similar bills addressing the same issue are passed by each house, and allowing prime sponsors to request that a conference committee be convened to advance legislation?
18. Do you support televising the proceedings of the legislature in their entirety?
19. Do you support full disclosure of all "member items" or those funding items to constituent groups that are provided by the Leaders at the request of the member?
20. Do you support requiring all lobbying activity, including procurement-based activity, involving state agencies and public authorities be reported and available for public scrutiny?



STATE LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

District/Name	Party Affiliation (s)	Overall More Transparent	Independent Redistricting Commission	Public Campaign Financing	Replace Board of Elections	Remove Ballot Access Obstacles	Election Day Voter Registration	Stricter "Messages of Necessity" Rules	Move Bills To Floor More Easily	Move Bills Direct to Legislative Calendar	Open Floor Votes	Open Election of Committee Chairs	Term Limits for Committee Chairs & Leaders	Public Testimony at Hearings and Meetings	Public Hearings at Members Request	Bipartisan Sponsorship of Legislation	Abolish Proxy Voting	Routine Conference Committees	Televising Legislative Proceedings	Full Disclosure of "Member Items"	Report All Lobbying Activity
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q11	Q12	Q13	Q14	Q15	Q16	Q17	Q18	Q19	Q20	
BRONX																					
A76/Bones	D	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
A76/Pelayo Jr.	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
A77/Curry	D,R,I,C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
A79/Nisbett	D	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	NA	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	NA	Y
A80/Chiofalo	R,C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
A80/Friedman	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
A80/Rivera	D	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
A80/Thompson	D	Y	NA	Y	NA	Y	NA	Y	Y	NA	Y	Y	NA	Y	Y	Y	NA	Y	Y	NA	Y
A82/Benedetto	D	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
A82/Saunders	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
A84/Rosado	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
A85/Diaz Jr.	D,WF	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NA	Y	Y	Y
A85/Love	D	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
S28/Denis	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NA	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
S28/Serrano	D,WF	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
S32/Espada, Jr.	D	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
S34/Fleming	R,C	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
S34/Klein	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
BROOKLYN																					
A43/Norman	D,WF	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
A43/Roberts	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
A46/Kaminsky	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NA	NA	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
A54/Santiago	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
A55/Bowman	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
S17/Malove-Dilan	D,WF	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
S21/Parker	D,WF	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
S21/Sharpe	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
S23/Alexander	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NA	Y
S23/Ettman	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
S23/Savino	D,WF	Y	Y	Y	NA	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y



STATE LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

District/Name	Party Affiliation(s)	Overall More Transparent	Independent Redistricting Commission	Public Campaign Financing	Replace Board of Elections	Remove Ballot Access Obstacles	Election Day Voter Registration	Stricter "Messages of Necessity" Rules	Move Bills To Floor More Easily	Move Bills Direct to Legislative Calendar	Open Floor Votes	Open Election of Committee Chairs	Term Limits for Committee Chairs & Leaders	Public Testimony at Hearings and Meetings	Public Hearings at Members Request	Bipartisan Sponsorship of Legislation	Abolish Proxy Voting	Routine Conference Committees	Televising Legislative Proceedings	Full Disclosure of "Member Items"	Report All Lobbying Activity
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q11	Q12	Q13	Q14	Q15	Q16	Q17	Q18	Q19	Q20	
MANHATTAN																					
A68/Baca	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
A68/Powell	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
A68/Ruiz	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
S28	<i>See Bronx on Opposite Page</i>																				
QUEENS																					
A22/Grodzchik	D,WF	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	NA	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
A22/Meng	D,I,C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
A22/Singer	D	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
S13/Sabini	D,WF	Y	Y	Y	N	NA	NA	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
S13/Rosero	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
STATEN ISLAND																					
A62/Ignizio	R	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
A62/Straniere	R,I,WF	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
S23	<i>See Brooklyn on Opposite Page</i>																				

- Q1-Q20 correlates with the Citizens Union 2004 State Legislative Candidate Questionnaire found on page 10 and 11.
- Letters and numbers that appear before candidates' last names signify the district number and the legislative house S = Senate A = Assembly
- Incumbent candidates in bold

Candidate Responses

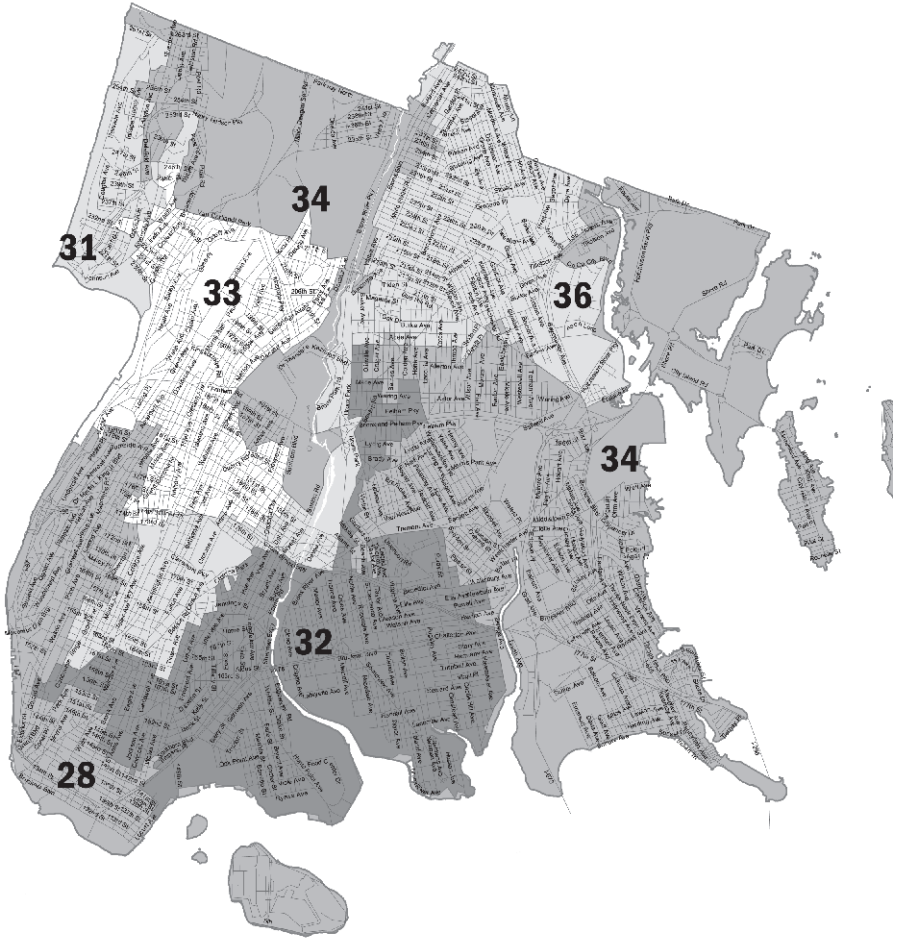
Y = Yes
 N = No
 NA = No answer or qualified answer

Party Affiliations

C = Conservative
 D = Democrat
 I = Independence
 R = Republican
 WF = Working Families Party



BRONX STATE SENATE DISTRICT MAP

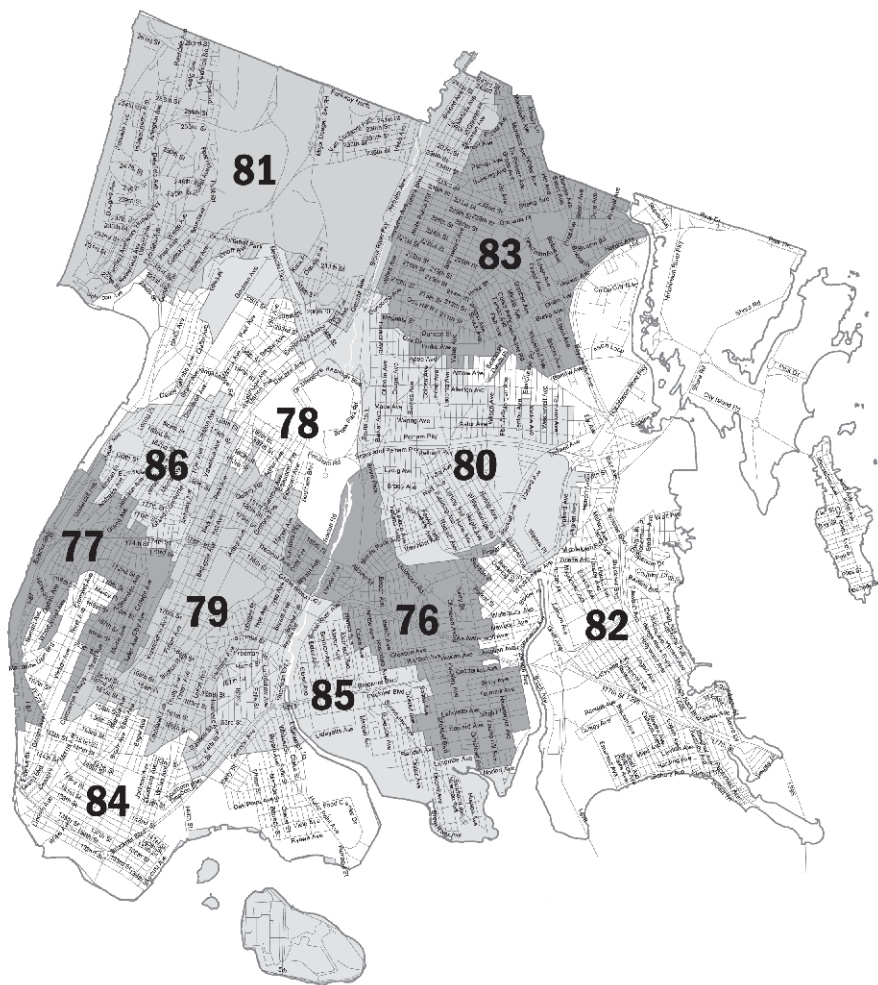


Sources: NYS Legislative Task Force on Demographic Research and Reapportionment, April 22, 2002;
US Census Bureau TIGER Line files, 2000





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





BRONX STATE LEGISLATIVE RACES

• BRONX STATE SENATE RACES •

District 28-Democratic Primary

NO PREFERENCE

NELSON ANTONIO DENIS

Age: 49 Occupation: Attorney Education: Harvard University (BA); Yale Law School (JD)

Nelson Denis represented the 68th Assembly District in the New York State Assembly from 1996-2000. He served as member of Community Board 11 from 1990-1996 and as an editorial writer for El Diario/La Prensa. Mr. Denis feels strongly that a Medicaid funding formula and the Campaign for Fiscal Equity mandate for increased education funding need to be settled legislatively. While Mr. Denis supports the majority of good government reforms proposed by Citizens Union, he does not support the open election of committee chairs as he believes the jockeying for position would reduce the amount of time that legislators spend on issues important to the state; he suggests a rotating chair instead. When he served in the Assembly, both Mr. Denis' attendance record in Albany and his constituent services were seen as lacking. If elected, improving in these areas will be tantamount to becoming a better representative for the district.

JOSE M. SERRANO

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

Jose M. Serrano is currently serving his second term as representative to the New York City Council from the 17th Council District. Mr. Serrano, the son of Congressman Jose E. Serrano, worked for the New York Shakespeare Festival, a not-for-profit cultural institution, before running for City Council. During his tenure, 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 he believes that as a member of the City Council he has learned first hand how 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.

AGUSTIN ALAMO-ESTRADA

Candidate declined to be interviewed.

Age: 57 Occupation: Retired Teacher

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



BRONX STATE LEGISLATIVE RACES

District 34-Democratic Primary

NO PREFERENCE

Citizens Union will consider evaluating this race again for the general election.

STEPHEN KAUFMAN

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 when he was 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. He trumpets 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 candidacy on the Democratic, Republican, Conservative and Independence party lines reveal his opportunistic political philosophy and reflect a lack of conviction that he has shown while in office.

JEFFREY KLEIN

Age: 44 Occupation: Member, NYS Assembly

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

Jeffrey Klein, former Chief-of-Staff for Congressman James Scheuer, 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. Mr. Klein is a former Democratic State Committeeman and District Leader who decries the legislative budget process and advocates for budget hearings in the states’ counties to make it more transparent. Mr. Klein 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 believes the best



BRONX STATE LEGISLATIVE RACES

means of achieving reform in Albany is through the Democrats taking control of the Senate, a position that gives pause to Citizens Union, as the Democratically-controlled Assembly is no more transparent and democratic than the Republican-controlled Senate.

EGIDIO SEMINTILLI

Citizens Union was unable to schedule an interview with this candidate.

Age: 39 Occupation: Publisher, Bronx Advocate Education: College of New Rochelle (BA)

District 34-Republican Primary

NO PREFERENCE

JOHN FLEMING

Age: 46 Occupation: Real Estate Education: Cornell University (BS)

John Fleming is a former New York City Police detective who handled security for former Mayor Rudolph Giuliani. Although he lacks a record of extensive community involvement, Mr. Fleming claims that his experience in mediating conflicts will make him an effective legislator. 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. Mr. Fleming exhibited a principled approach to local politics.

STEPHEN KAUFMAN *Please see District 34 Democratic Primary on previous page.*

District 34-Conservative Primary

NO PREFERENCE

JOHN FLEMING *Please see District 34 Republican Primary above.*

STEPHEN KAUFMAN *Please see District 34 Democratic Primary on previous page.*



BRONX STATE LEGISLATIVE RACES

• BRONX STATE ASSEMBLY RACES •

District 80-Democratic Primary

★ PREFERRED CANDIDATE - JOSEPH THOMPSON ★

Age: 65 Occupation: Retired NYC Detective

Education: University of Maryland; New York Institute of Technology

Joe Thompson, a retired police detective, served in the U.S. Air Force and has lived in the 80th Assembly District for 35 years. In those years, Mr. Thompson has become keenly aware of the issues affecting his neighbors by chairing the parks and economic development committees of Community Board 11, serving as President of the 49th Police Precinct Council and as Vice-President of the Pelham Parkway Little League. Mr. Thompson's list of priorities includes working to solve the affordable housing crisis, preventing the proposed water filtration plant from being placed in the Bronx, and reforming the Board of Elections. Mr. Thompson believes the current process of getting on the ballot favors wealthy candidates and is hampered by egregious and expensive challenges to candidate petitions, which he claims has prevented viable candidates from pursuing elected office. Mr. Thompson's experience as a community advocate and his approach to leadership have prepared him well to represent District 80.

ANTHONY CHIOFALO

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 Board of Elections, and televised legislative sessions.



BRONX STATE LEGISLATIVE RACES

NAOMI RIVERA

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

Education: Manhattan Community College

Naomi Rivera, a former aide to Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrión, 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 Councilmember 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.

ANTHONY FRIEDMAN

Citizens Union was unable to schedule an interview with this candidate.

Age: 34 Occupation: Director, Sue Ginsburg Senior Center, NYC Housing Authority

Education: Lehman College (BA)

District 82-Democratic Primary

★ PREFERRED CANDIDATE - RODNEY SAUNDERS ★

Age: 55 Occupation: Architectural and Engineering Planning Consultant

Education: High School Diploma

Rodney Saunders is a former President of Community School Board 11 and sits on the board of directors of the Campaign for Fiscal Equity. Mr. Saunders lists his priorities as better access to healthcare and the creation of jobs and job training programs. He advocates for a minimum wage of \$8.50 hour. Mr. Saunders displays a grasp of broader issues such as emerging alternative energy technologies and regional transportation solutions. Mr. Saunders advocates for a “point system” funding formula for state schools that incorporates population, property tax structure, performance and capital assessments, among other factors, to provide a more equitable distribution of state education dollars. Experience with the Campaign for Fiscal Equity, years working within the district, and knowledge of the greater statewide issues have prepared Rodney Saunders to be a new and effective voice in Albany.



BRONX STATE LEGISLATIVE RACES

MICHAEL BENEDETTO

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 the Bronx Times Reporter and a perennial candidate for local office. Mr. Benedetto lists education as 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 raises concerns of whether he can be an active and independent voice for reform in Albany.

JEANETTE GRAVES

Citizens Union was unable to schedule an interview with this candidate.

Occupation: Director of Constituent Services, NYC Councilmember Larry Seabrook

Larry Seabrook collected signatures for his candidacy for this seat and withdrew after he filed them with the Board of Elections. Through a process that is in need of reform, Jeanette Graves has been named by Larry Seabrook’s Committee on Vacancies to replace him on the ballot.



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

SENATE

District 32-Dem	Enrique Diaz Ruben Diaz Sr. Pedro Espada Jr.	District 36-Dem	Ruth Hasell-Thompson Crystal Wade
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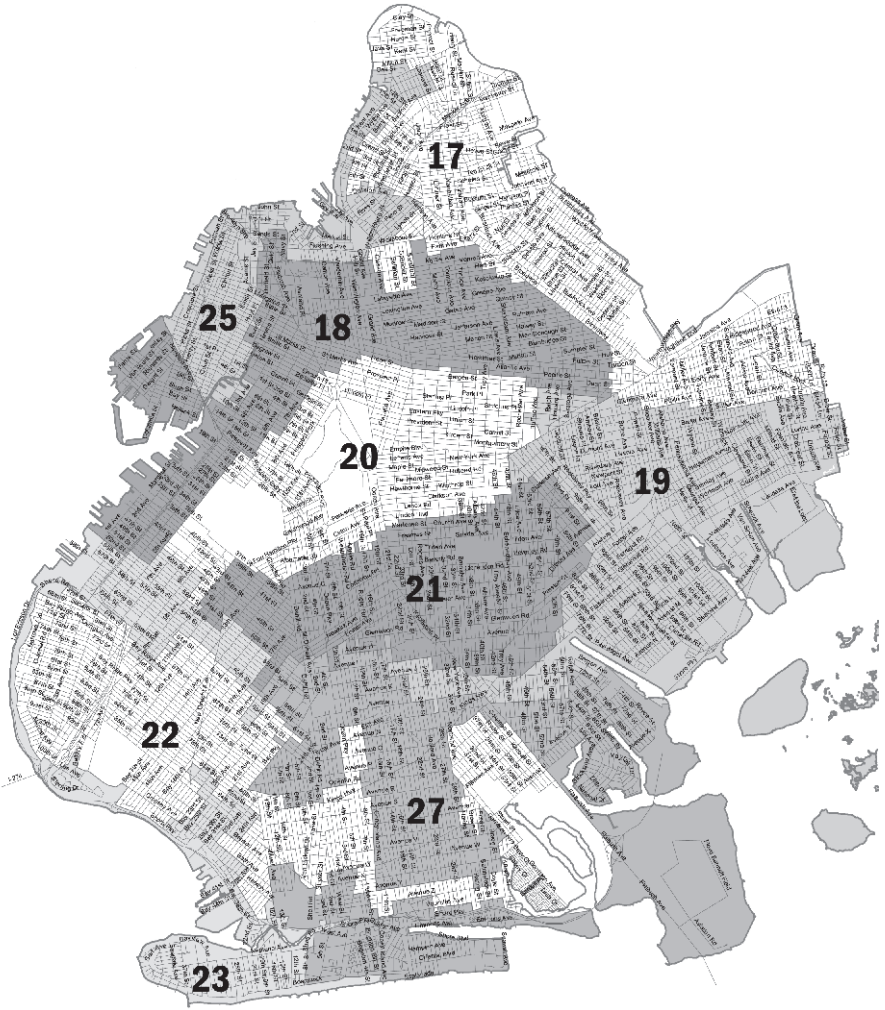
ASSEMBLY

District 76 -Dem	Elizabeth Bones Henry Pelayo Peter M. Rivera	District 77-Dem	Anthony Curry Aurelia Greene
District 79-Dem	Michael Benjamin Israel Martinez Claudia Nisbett Eric Stevenson	District 84-Dem	Carmen E. Arroyo David Rosado Agustin Alamo
		District 85-Dem	Ruben Diaz Jr. Jerry Love

Incumbent candidates in bold.



BROOKLYN STATE SENATE DISTRICT MAP

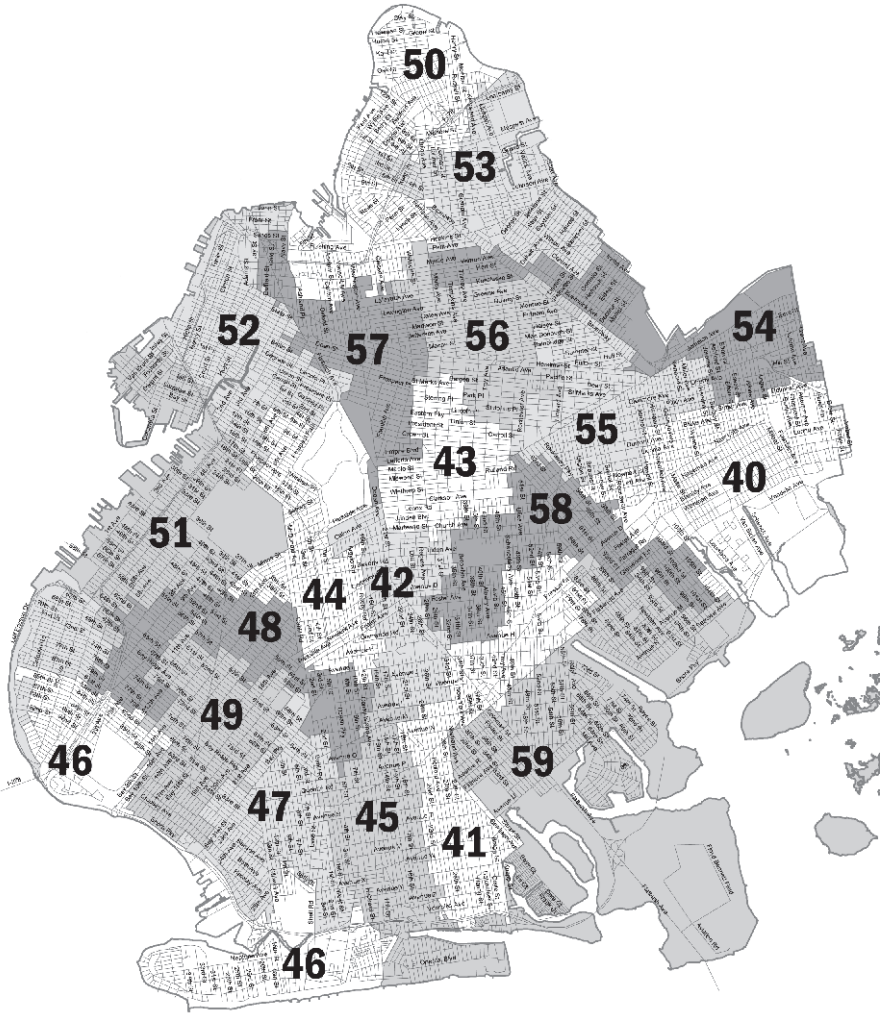


Sources: NYS Legislative Task Force on Demographic Research and Reapportionment, April 22, 2002;
US Census Bureau TIGER Line files, 2000





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 17-Democratic Primary

★ PREFERRED CANDIDATE - MARTIN MALAVE-DILAN ★

Age: 53 Occupation: Senator, NYS Senate Education: Brooklyn College

Martin Malave-Dilan, a freshman Senator, served 10 years in the New York City Council and 14 years as a member of Community School Board 32, seven as Chair. Mr. Dilan is also a former legislative assistant for the U.S. House of Representatives and has served as a Democratic District Leader and Democratic State Committeeman. As a minority member in the Senate, Mr. Dilan was able to pass a bill that supports disability claims filed under the social security program. Mr. Dilan believes that power needs to be reapportioned to provide rank-and-file legislators a more active role in the legislative process, and he supports limits on terms for Speaker, Majority Leader and Committee Chair positions to accomplish that. In spite of Mr. Dilan's ties to party politics, Citizens Union supports Mr. Dilan in his bid for re-election and encourages the Senator to continue to advocate with greater intensity for a more inclusive legislative process.

RONALD CLINTON

Citizens Union was unable to schedule an interview with this candidate.

*Age: 33 Occupation: Executive Director, Helping Hands Unlimited
Education: Boricua College (BA); Yeshiva University (MA)*

District 21-Democratic Primary

★ PREFERRED CANDIDATE - KEVIN PARKER ★

*Age: 37 Occupation: Senator, NYS Senate
Education: Penn State University (BS); New School For Social Research (MS)*

Kevin Parker, a first-term Senator and former Special Assistant to Comptroller H. Carl McCall served under former Councilmember Una Clarke, Assemblymember Nick Perry and former Manhattan Borough President Ruth Messinger. Mr. Parker helped start a local development corporation in Brooklyn to increase housing stock throughout the district as well as encourage improvements in commercial areas. Mr. Parker has not only chosen to speak out against the dysfunction in Albany, he has also found ways to be an effective legislator. He co-sponsored a Republican energy bill that would allow parochial schools to buy energy at the same discounted rate that



BROOKLYN STATE LEGISLATIVE RACES

public schools do, and his small but significant stand as a freshman Democrat at a committee nomination hearing in 2003 where he questioned a political appointee to the Public Service Commission was an act worthy of praise by good government groups and the New York Times. Citizens Union expects Mr. Parker to carry the torch of reform in Albany and lends our full support to his efforts to do so.

WELLINGTON SHARPE

Occupation: President & CEO, Nerak Child Development Center

Education: NY Technical College (BS, MA)

Wellington Sharpe is a longtime community activist and previous candidate for Brooklyn Borough President and the New York City Council. He operates his own day care business, which he says gives him unique insight into issues of early childhood education. Mr. Sharpe emphasizes the need for leadership that is acutely aware to the diverse needs of the district's various ethnic communities and believes that his Caribbean-American background, as well as his outreach efforts to other ethnic constituencies, will make him successful in this area. He cites education, unemployment, and predatory lending practices aimed at the immigrant community as the district's most pressing concerns. Mr. Sharpe expressed support for Citizens Union's legislative reform agenda.

NOACH DEAR

Citizens Union was unable to schedule an interview with this candidate.

Age: 50 Education: Brooklyn Law School (JD); Yeshiva University (MSW); Brooklyn College (BA)

District 23-Democratic Primary

★ PREFERRED CANDIDATE - DIANE SAVINO ★

Age: 40 Occupation: Vice President for Political Action and Legislature Affairs, SSEU Local 371 Education: St. John's University (BA); Cornell School of Industrial and Labor Relations

Diane Savino is the Political Director for Local 371 of the Social Service Employees Union. Ms. Savino displays a vast knowledge of her district's geography, communities, and key issues. Her priorities include: on Staten Island, controlling overdevelopment and improving sanitation and infrastructure; in Coney Island, providing affordable housing for the rapidly-growing Russian population and expanding youth programs to combat teen crime and gang violence; in Sunset Park, lowering asthma rates; in Borough Park, working with the local Jewish community to fund education



BROOKLYN STATE LEGISLATIVE RACES

and security measures, especially for Yeshivas; in Bensonhurst/Dyker Heights/Bath Beach, improving quality of life and keeping streets safe and clean. Ms. Savino is critical of Albany's current political system and cites entrenched leadership and lack of voter participation as the main impediments to a healthy legislature. While Ms. Savino opposes several reform measures championed by Citizens Union, such as term limits and Election Day voter registration, her positions are well-reasoned and reflect a genuine concern for improving the political process. Citizens Union believes Ms. Savino's experience and desire to become an effective legislator make her a sound choice to replace the departing Senator.

KELVIN ALEXANDER

*Age: 47 Occupation: National Field Director, National Action Network
Education: Hunter College (BA); Dale Carnegie School of Leadership*

Kelvin Alexander is a retired police sergeant who spent 20 years as a member of the New York Police Department. He is currently taking a leave from his position as the National Field Director for Reverend Al Sharpton's National Action Network as he campaigns for the open Senate seat. Mr. Alexander favors residency requirements for new police officers in order to ensure a more representative force and greater sensitivity and knowledge of the communities they serve. Mr. Alexander is a strong supporter of Election Day voter registration and believes that associated concerns over voter fraud can be mitigated with stringent identification requirements.

COLE ETTMAN

*Age: 27 Occupation: Managing Member, Cole Communications
Education: SUNY at Buffalo; SUNY Empire State College*

Cole Ettman was Deputy Chief-of-Staff for former City Councilmember Howard Lasher and served as public affairs director of the Council for Unity, a violence prevention program for youth located at John Dewey High School. Mr. Ettman displays a wide-range of knowledge of the 23rd District, although his focus appears to be mostly on the Brooklyn portion. Within the district, he highlights the need for more affordable housing, better funding for education and health care and measures to combat teen crime and gang violence. He cites Albany's failure to pass a budget as a source of many of these problems. Mr. Ettman is a knowledgeable and earnest candidate and a much-needed voice for Brooklyn's under-represented Russian constituency.



BROOKLYN STATE LEGISLATIVE RACES

RODNEY KNIGHT

Citizens Union was unable to schedule an interview with this candidate.

Occupation: former Community Aide, NYC Councilmember Domenic Recchia

• BROOKLYN STATE ASSEMBLY •

District 43-Democratic Primary

★ **PREFERRED CANDIDATE - EDWARD ROBERTS** ★

Age: 56 Occupation: Attorney

Education: City College of New York (BA); St. John's University School of Law (JD)

Edward “Ed” Roberts, a Vietnam veteran and community lawyer, has the distinct pleasure, and misfortune, of running against one of the most powerful men in Brooklyn politics. Mr. Roberts’ commitment to issues of fairness and justice are evident in his work as a tenant advocates lawyer for the New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal and in his private practice where he specializes in cases of civil rights, job discrimination, and predatory lending. Mr. Roberts also has a commitment to a positive agenda for reform in Albany that includes empowering a non-partisan commission to oversee redistricting to ensure that challengers are not cut off from their bases of support by incumbents. Mr. Roberts has impressive qualifications and would offer a fresh change from the current interests that have dominated Brooklyn politics for so many years.

CLARENCE NORMAN, JR.

Age: 52 Occupation: Member, NYS Assembly

Education: Howard University (BA); St. John's University School of Law (JD)

Clarence Norman has served the 43rd Assembly District in Brooklyn since 1982. Mr. Norman is the Chairman of the Executive Committee for the Kings County Democratic County Committee and is the current District Leader of the 43rd Assembly District. His ties to the political establishment in Brooklyn and Albany have brought great benefits to Mr. Norman. Mr. Norman enjoys political support from party apparatus and constituents despite four criminal indictments currently pending. In addition to being investigated for improper accounting of campaign expenditures, Mr. Norman has been accused of conspiracy and coercion for his role



BROOKLYN STATE LEGISLATIVE RACES

in selecting judges for the Brooklyn bench. Mr. Norman has taken the position that much of what the public and investigators are claiming are corruption and coercion is actually politics as usual. In Brooklyn, that appears to be the case. In his interview with Citizens Union, Mr. Norman stated that the State Legislature is not in need of reform, further evidence of his desire to keep in place a dysfunctional legislature and party apparatus. Citizens Union believes it is time for new leadership in the 43rd Assembly District.



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

SENATE

District 22-Rep **Martin Golden** Jessica Sutliff

ASSEMBLY

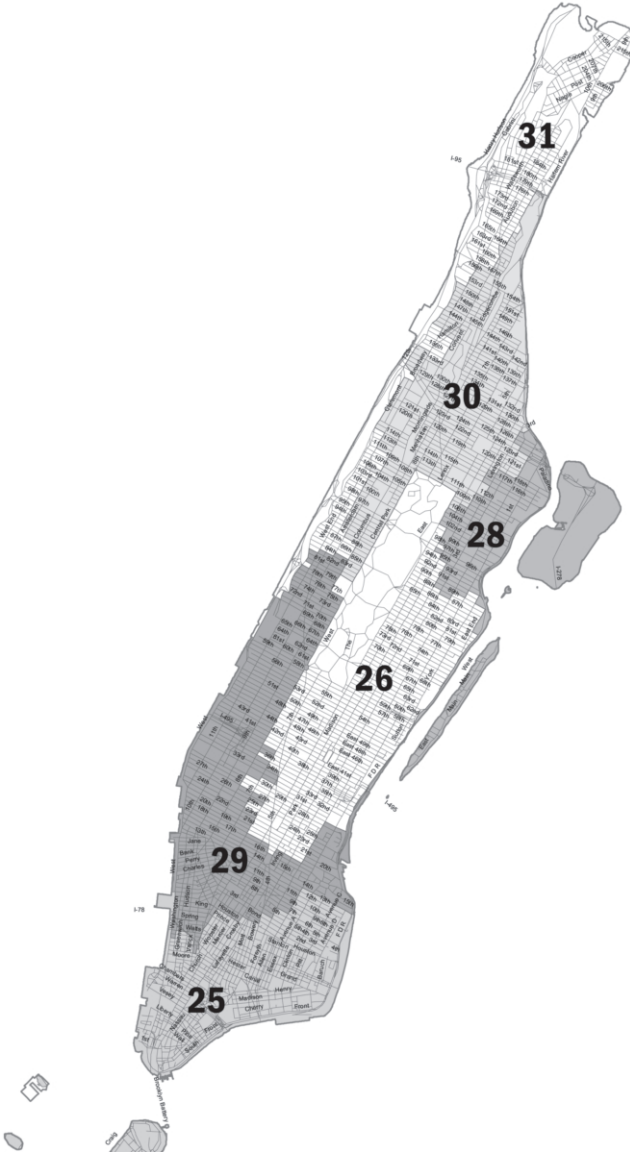
District 42-Dem	Michelle Adolphe Rhoda Jacobs Zachary Lareche	District 55-Dem	Reginald Bowman William F. Boyland Jr.
District 46-Dem	Adele Cohen Inna Kaminsky	District 56-Dem	Annette Robinson Richard Taylor
District 54-Dem	Heriberto Santiago Darryl C. Towns		

Incumbent candidates in bold





MANHATTAN STATE SENATE DISTRICT MAP

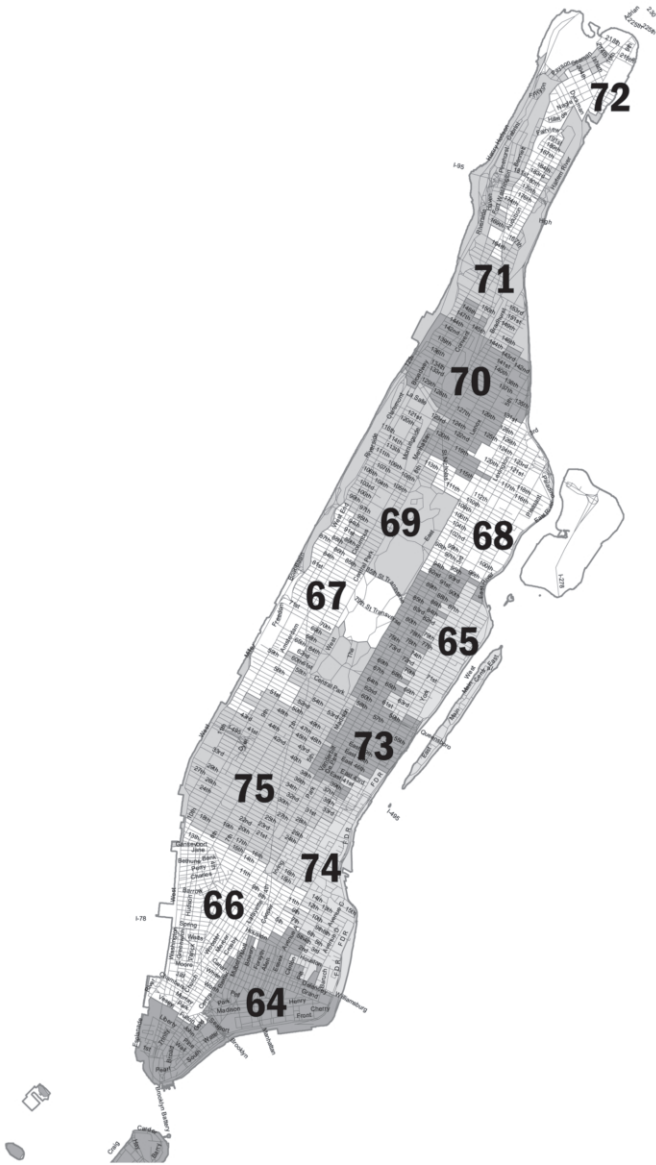


Sources: NYS Legislative Task Force on Demographic Research and Reapportionment, April 22, 2002;
US Census Bureau TIGER Line files, 2000





— 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

• MANHATTAN STATE SENATE RACES •

District 28-Democratic Primary

Please see District 28 in the Bronx on page 16. District encompasses portions of Manhattan and the Bronx.

• MANHATTAN ASSEMBLY RACES •

District 68-Democratic Primary

★ PREFERRED CANDIDATE - EDDIE BACA ★

*Age: 51 Occupation: Director, Association of Community Architecture and Businesses
Education: California State University, San Bernardino (BA)*

Eddie Baca is Director of the Association of Community Architecture and Businesses, an organization that develops low-income housing, and served as Chair of Community Board 11 from 1994 to 1997. Mr. Baca's top legislative priorities are reforming the foster care system and ensuring that East Harlem's HIV positive residents and teen parents receive better health services. Mr. Baca strongly supports the reform of the partisan Board of Elections and favors legislation that would prohibit former candidates for office or party position holders from serving on the Board. If elected, Mr. Baca states that he is willing to take risks and push Assembly members to open up the process in Albany. Citizens Union believes Eddie Baca can be a positive force for change.

JOHN RUIZ

Age: 50 Occupation: Retired NYC Firefighter Education: John Jay College of Criminal Justice

John Ruiz served as a firefighter for nearly 20 years in East Harlem, Washington Heights, and Lower Manhattan and was elected Democratic District Leader in the 68th Assembly District in 2003. As a firefighter, Ruiz founded the Rappin' Fireman Safety Program to educate children about fire safety. He also founded Our Firefighter's Children's Foundation, which provides food and gifts to low-income people. Mr. Ruiz lists the creation of affordable housing as one of his main priorities, and offered several creative ideas to do so. Mr. Ruiz believes his community is distrustful of elected officials at the present and hopes to restore a level of trust between government and citizens. He has called for the resignation of the district's current Assembly member who admitted to having sexual relations with a 19-year-old



MANHATTAN STATE LEGISLATIVE RACES

intern. Mr. Ruiz agrees that reform of the legislative process in Albany is imperative and if elected would be a welcome alternative to the current representative.

ADAM CLAYTON POWELL IV

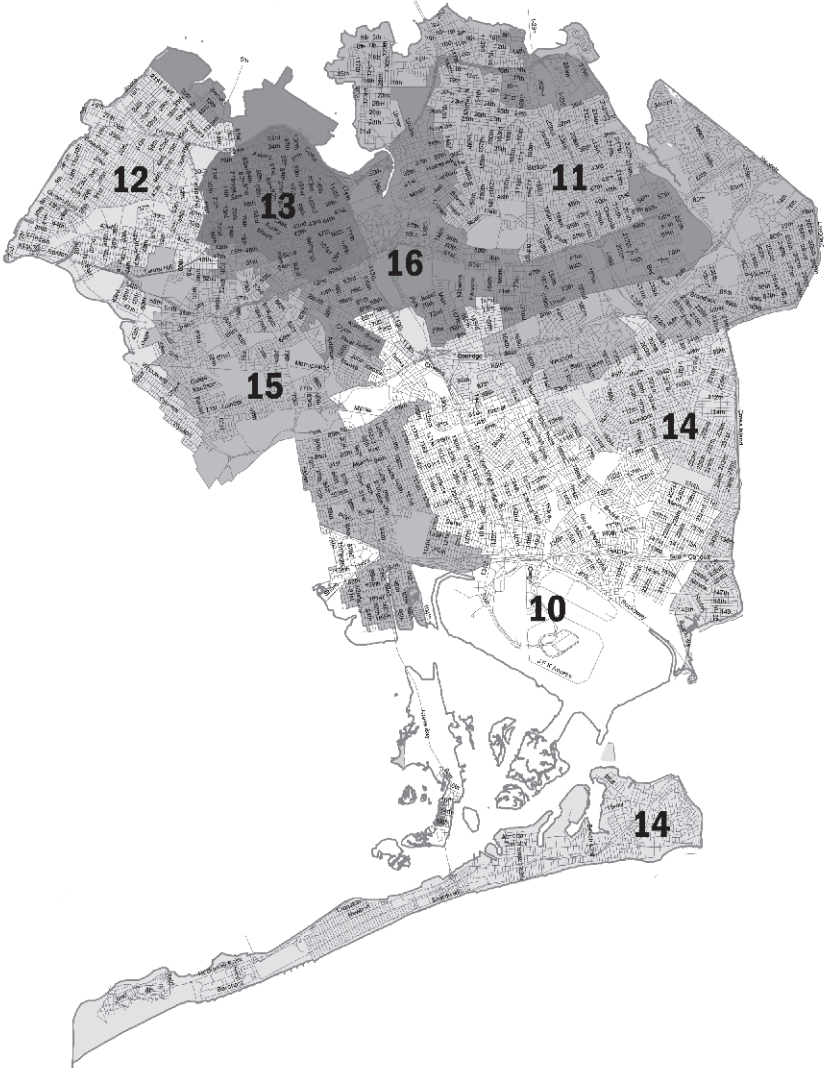
Age: 42 Occupation: Member, NYS Assembly

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

Adam Clayton Powell IV is currently in his second term as Assembly member for District 68. Prior to his election, Mr. Powell served as a New York City Council member representing East Harlem and parts of the Upper West Side and the South Bronx. He cites education as the most important issue to his district, and attributes the legislative gridlock in Albany to deep divisions between upstate and downstate legislators. Mr. Powell claims to support Citizens Union's legislative reform agenda, yet has not displayed leadership in that direction during his tenure in Albany. While Citizens Union finds Mr. Powell to be an informed and engaging candidate, Citizens Union is troubled by his own admission that he provided alcohol to and had sexual relations with a 19-year-old intern. While Mr. Powell's actions have not been found to be criminal, the behavior and decision-making that Mr. Powell has displayed raises serious questions about his ability to uphold the ethical standards expected of our elected officials.



QUEENS STATE SENATE DISTRICT MAP

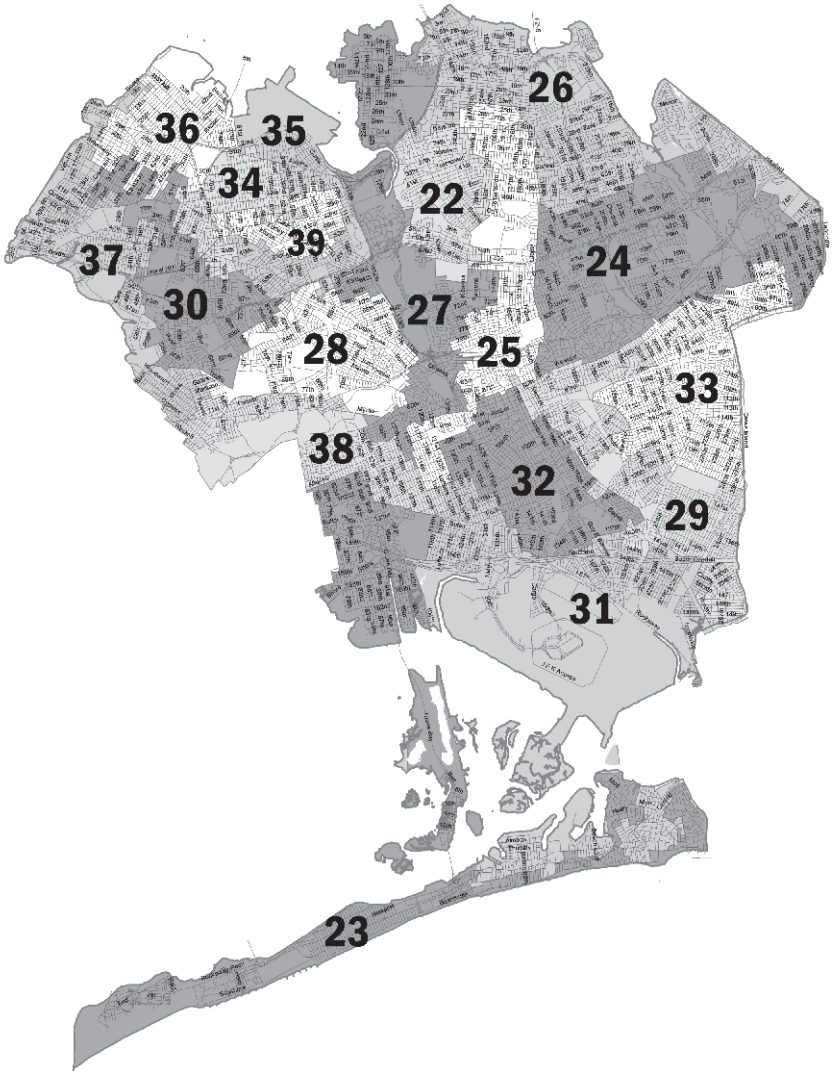


Sources: NYS Legislative Task Force on Demographic Research and Reapportionment, April 22, 2002;
US Census Bureau TIGER Line files, 2000





— QUEENS STATE ASSEMBLY DISTRICT MAP —



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





QUEENS STATE LEGISLATIVE RACES

• QUEENS STATE SENATE RACES •

District 13-Democratic Primary

★ PREFERRED CANDIDATE - JOHN SABINI ★

Age: 47 Occupation: Senator, NYS Senate Education: New York University (BS)

John Sabini, a freshman Senator elected in 2002, is a former New York City Council member and lifelong resident of Jackson Heights. His public service career began when he was elected to Community Board 3 in Queens when he was only 19. Mr. Sabini is proud of his efforts to pass the “Aggressive Panhandling” bill which was signed into law in 1996 and is working with Senate Republicans on a bill to ban the sale of motorized mini-scooters and skateboards. Mr. Sabini believes that proxy voting, whereby legislators are automatically marked “yes” for legislative votes, even if they are not present, needs to be abolished. He is a vocal advocate for budget reform and voted against every budget extension this past legislative session to express his displeasure with the procedure. In general, Mr. Sabini supports the legislative reforms proposed by Citizens Union but has reservations about several. He is opposed to limiting the terms for the leaders of the Assembly and Senate as well as removing cumbersome obstacles to candidates seeking to appear on the ballot. Nevertheless, Mr. Sabini has proven to be a thoughtful legislator who has performed well during his time in office. Citizens Union supports Mr. Sabini’s candidacy and encourages him to continue to push the state Senate in the direction of reform.

LUIS ROSERO

Occupation: Public Policy Analyst

Education: SUNY at Purchase (BA); George Washington University

Luis Rosero has been active in local and national politics since beginning his public service career with Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez in 1993. Mr. Rosero was appointed by President Bill Clinton to serve with the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans in 1998 and most recently worked as the Northeast Communications Director for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. Mr. Rosero lists as the district’s top priorities strengthening neighborhood schools, expanding and developing new day care centers, fixing roads, and building more bus shelters. Mr. Rosero is ardent in his support for simplifying access to the ballot for candidates running for state and local office and proposes the abolition of the petition signature process. Mr. Rosero is in favor of four-year terms for legislators instead of the current two-year term to reduce the time legislators



QUEENS STATE LEGISLATIVE RACES

spend campaigning. He also support term limits of 12 years for those same seats. Mr. Rosero’s active voter registration efforts in his district and his support for Citizens Union’s agenda of reform lead us to believe he would be a vocal advocate for change in Albany.

• QUEENS STATE ASSEMBLY RACES •

District 22-Democratic Primary

★ PREFERRED CANDIDATE - BARRY GRODENCHIK ★

Age: 44 Occupation: Member, NYS Assembly Education: SUNY at Binghamton (BA)

Barry Grodenchik is currently serving his first term as Assembly member for District 22. Prior to his election, Mr. Grodenchik served as a top aide for Queens Borough Presidents Claire Shulman and Helen Marshall. He cites a lack of cleanliness as a major issue facing his district, and education and health care as top statewide priorities. Mr. Grodenchik has worked with Councilmember John Liu and State Senator Toby Ann Stavisky to establish a Business Improvement District in the area and secured money for early childhood development in the education budget. Mr. Grodenchik advocates for a computerized system for redistricting to ensure the creation of competitive and fair districts. He also advocates for the elimination of proxy voting whereby legislators are automatically counted as a “yes” vote if they have clocked in for a work day in Albany, regardless if they are on the floor. While Mr. Grodenchik opposes term limits, he sees increased voter participation as an important step to weed out the complacent legislators in Albany. Mr. Grodenchik has signaled a fresh and bold willingness to challenge the leadership and the body politic in the Democratic-controlled house in the Assembly, and Citizens Union supports him in that effort.

JIMMY MENG

Age: 61 Occupation: Owner/Operator, Queens Lumber Company, Inc. Education: BA, MS

Jimmy Meng is the owner and operator of the Queens Lumber Company in Flushing. Mr. Meng was the former president of the Flushing Chinese Business Association and a board member of Queens Public Library, the Queensboro Community College and the local Boy Scouts. Mr. Meng believes the biggest issue in his district is a lack of parking and advocates converting underutilized properties into municipal parking lots. He also points to a lack of opportunities for young people and would like to see a new recreation center in the district as well as increased



QUEENS STATE LEGISLATIVE RACES

after-school programs. Mr. Meng supports a more inclusive legislature and advocates for term limits for all public offices, yet his grasp of specific reform measures and his knowledge of greater statewide issues is not particularly strong.

BENJAMIN SINGER

Age: 75 Occupation: Retired Businessman Education: City College of New York

Benjamin Singer is a veteran of the Korean War and a retired businessman who worked in the clothing industry. Mr. Singer is an active member in the Flushing Democratic Club and local Veterans of Foreign Wars chapter. Maintaining affordable housing for seniors and immigrants, and improving his district's parking and garbage pickup services are his priorities. While Mr. Singer feels that the concentration of power within party leadership stifles independent thought and honest debate in Albany, he lacked concrete proposals to address these issues.



STATEN ISLAND STATE SENATE DISTRICT MAP

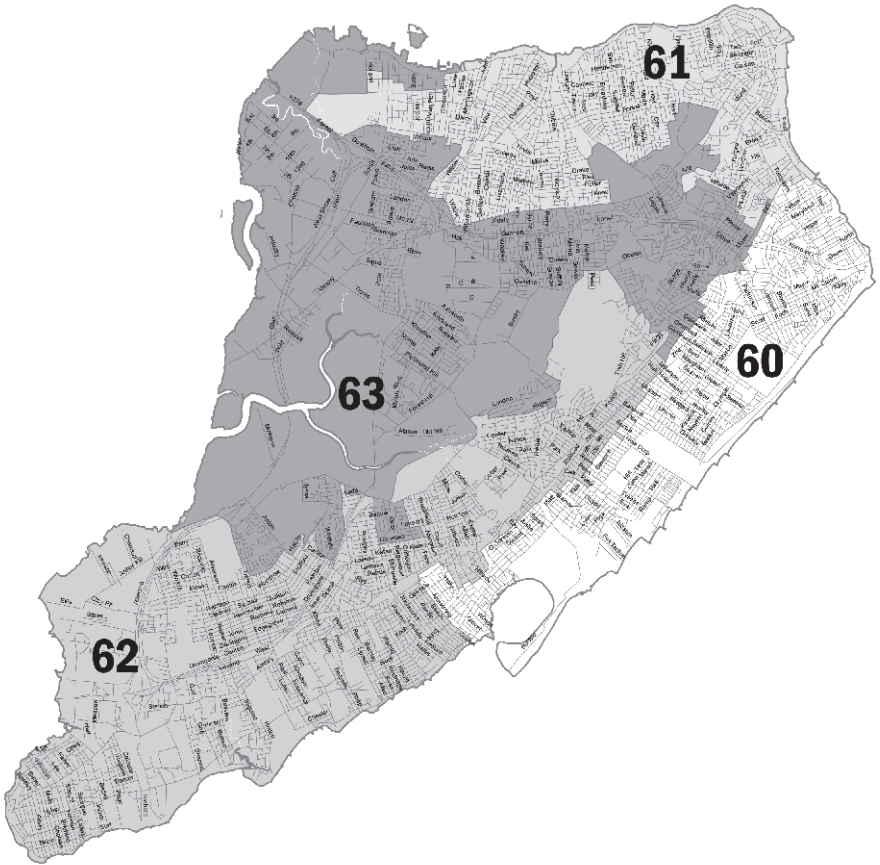


Sources: NYS Legislative Task Force on Demographic Research and Reapportionment, April 22, 2002;
US Census Bureau TIGER Line files, 2000





— STATEN ISLAND STATE ASSEMBLY DISTRICT MAP —



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





STATEN ISLAND STATE LEGISLATIVE RACES

• STATEN ISLAND STATE SENATE RACES •

District 23-Democratic Primary

Please see evaluation of District 23 in Brooklyn on page 25. District encompasses portions of Staten Island and Brooklyn.

• STATEN ISLAND STATE ASSEMBLY RACES •

District 62-Republican Primary

★ PREFERRED CANDIDATE - ROBERT STRANIERE ★

Age: 63 Occupation: Member, NYS Assembly

Education: Wagner College (BA); New York University School of Law (JD)

Robert Straniere, the Assembly's senior Republican member, has represented Staten Island in the State Legislature for the past 24 years. Through his position on the Environmental Conservation Committee, Mr. Straniere has been successful in helping secure funding for the purchase of Mt. Loretto and the St. Francis Friary - both now protected as parkland - and is presently pursuing funds to acquire Camp St. Edwards as well. Mr. Straniere is a vocal opponent of efforts to bring a NASCAR speedway to Staten Island and vows to continue the fight to prevent the proposal. Mr. Straniere believes the leadership of both houses has too much power and that individual legislators need to take responsibility for ceding them this power. Mr. Straniere's independent voice in the Assembly and his commitment to his constituents as well as the ideals of good government, have been his greatest assets while in office. Citizens Union supports Mr. Straniere's re-election efforts.

VINCENT IGNIZIO

Age: 29 Occupation: Chief of Staff, NYC Councilmember Andrew Lanza

Education: Rider University (BA)

Vincent Ignizio has served as the Chief-of-Staff for Councilmember Andrew Lanza and former Councilmember Stephen Fiala for the past seven years. Mr. Ignizio held the council seat for five months after the resignation of Mr. Fiala. Mr. Ignizio is passionate and well-versed on development issues facing Staten Island. He advocates for a more stringent review process to acquire permits to develop wetlands as he believes too many permits are issued in sensitive areas. Mr. Ignizio proposes that state funds allocated for district use should be distributed equally to all members, instead of at



STATEN ISLAND STATE LEGISLATIVE RACES

legislative leaders' discretion. Mr. Ignizio is a promising public servant that appears to be caught in the midst of a political grudge match waged by Republican party leadership against the incumbent. Mr. Ignizio will make a strong candidate in future races and the city will stand to benefit if Mr. Ignizio declares his independence from party bosses.

MARIO BRUNO, JR

Citizens Union was unable to schedule an interview with this candidate.



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

ASSEMBLY

District 61-Dem	John W. Lavelle Charles McLean Jr.	District 61-Ind	John Johnson Charles McLean Jr.
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Incumbent candidates in bold





FURTHER RESOURCES

TO LEARN ABOUT THE POLITICAL PARTIES

Conservative	(718) 921-215	www.cpnys.org
Democratic	(212) 725-8825	www.nydemocrats.org
Green	(888) NY4-GREENS	www.gpnys.org
Independence	(212) 923-2100	www.ipny.org
Liberal	(212) 213-1400	www.liberalparty.org
Libertarian	(800) ELECT-US	www.ny.lp.org
Republican	(518) 462-2601	www.nygop.org
Right to Life	(631) 732-2890	www.nysrighttolifeparty.org
Working Families	(718) 222-3796	www.workingfamiliesparty.org

TO REGISTER & VOTE

NYC Board of Elections	(212) VOTE-NYC	www.vote.nyc.ny.us
NYPIRG	(212) 349-6460	www.nypirg.org
League of Women Voters of NYC	(212) 725-3541	www.lwvnyc.org

TO RESEARCH CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS

NYS Board of Elections	(800) FOR-VOTE	www.elections.state.ny.us
NYC Campaign Finance Board	(212) 306-7100	www.cfb.nyc.ny.us
FEC Federal Database	(202) 628-0617	www.tray.com/fecinfo

TO RESEARCH CANDIDATES AND ISSUES

Gotham Gazette	(212) 227-0342	www.gothamgazette.com
Project Vote Smart	(888) VOTE-SMART	www.vote-smart.org
New York Wired		www.newyorkwired.com
NY1		www.ny1.com

TO RESEARCH INCUMBENT RECORDS

NYC Council	(212) 778-7100	www.nyccouncil.info
NYS Assembly	(518) 445-4100	www.assembly.state.ny.us
NYS Senate	(518) 455-2800	www.senate.state.ny.us

HOW TO FIND OUT ABOUT YOUR DISTRICT

Eye On Albany, a subsite of GothamGazette.com, is a key source of information about NYS election contests and legislative districts. To find out about your district - or any other one that interests you - log on to www.gothamgazette.com/eyeonalbany. GothamGazette.com is published by Citizens Union Foundation, the education and research affiliate of Citizens Union.



VOTER INFORMATION

The primary election will be held on Tuesday, September 14. Polls will be open from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. If you have questions about eligibility, the district in which you live, or your polling place, call 212-VOTE-NYC, or go to www.vote.nyc.ny.us

If there is no entry for you on the poll list, it may be because your registration form was not received. If you believe that you are eligible, you can still vote. Ask for an affidavit ballot. After the election, the Board of Elections will check its records and your vote will be counted if you are indeed eligible to vote.

Under federal law, if you are disabled and choose to vote in person rather than by absentee ballot, you are entitled to assistance. You can rely on the election employees for help.

BECOME A POLL WORKER

The New York City Board of Elections is looking for good citizens to join its Election Day poll worker teams. Poll workers receive \$200 for a rewarding day of work, plus a \$35 bonus if you work both the primary and general election. Hours are from 5:30 AM to 9:30 PM each Election Day. All poll workers are assigned as close to their home as possible. All poll workers will also receive a three-hour training session in either August or October. Trainees receive a \$25 stipend to attend the class and take the exam.

Sign up today by calling the Board of Elections and asking for the Poll Worker Department or by calling 1-800-VOTE-NYC.

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Bronx	(718) 299-9017	Queens	(718) 730-6730
Brooklyn	(718) 797-8800	Staten Island	(718) 876-0079
Manhattan	(212) 886-2100		

REGISTER TO VOTE

To be eligible to vote in municipal, federal and state elections you must be 18 years of age, a citizen of the United States and registered 25 days before the election. If you are not yet 18, as long as you will be 18 before the election you are eligible to vote. Send your voter registration card in January of the year you turn 18 and it will be filed on your 18th birthday!

To register to vote, call 1-800-VOTE-NYC, or visit www.vote.nyc.ny.us/register.jsp