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Can't find your polling site? Visit the website, [www.GothamGazette.com](http://www.GothamGazette.com) or [www.whosontheballot.org](http://www.whosontheballot.org) for complete information about all contests on the ballot. Visit [nyc.pollsitereg.com](http://nyc.pollsitereg.com) to enter your address and find your site and ballot information, or call the Board of Elections at 1-866-VOTE-NYC.

The Citizens Union Voter Directory Online has all this information and more. Browse the online directory, candidates' questionnaires, and CU position statements at [www.CitizensUnion.org](http://www.CitizensUnion.org).

Stay up to date with the latest happenings of the CU team and our work by liking our Facebook Page ([facebook.com/citizensunion](https://facebook.com/citizensunion)) and following us on Twitter ([@citizensunionny](https://twitter.com/citizensunionny)).



# About Citizens Union

## MISSION

Citizens Union brings New Yorkers together to strengthen our democracy and create a better New York. The health of our democracy and the effectiveness of our government have a direct bearing on the quality of life for New Yorkers. Non-partisan and independent, Citizens Union goal is to build a political system that is fair and open to all, that values each voice, and that engages every voter. As New York's democratic reform organization, we inform, empower and organize citizens to strengthen the integrity of our political institutions. We fight against corruption; work to reform our voting and electoral systems; and press for city and state governments that are transparent, accountable and effective. We welcome everyone, of any political or professional background, who wants to work with other New Yorkers to create a cleaner, healthier democracy for our city and state.


In keeping with our mission, Citizens Union aims to promote a competitive and diverse political culture, a fair and open political process, and accountable and responsible governance.

## 2017 YEAR in REVIEW

Over the past year, Citizens Union has made notable progress in making our city and state government more open and accountable our politics cleaner, and our elections fairer. Highlights of our successful efforts to "Make Democracy Work for All New Yorkers" include:

**Constitutional Convention** | This fall, all New Yorkers will vote on a ballot question that occurs every 20 years about whether or not to convene a state Constitutional Convention. The once-in-a-generation chance to reform our state government and strengthen our democracy is a historic moment. Amending our Constitution could reduce rampant corruption found throughout state government, boost voter turnout with a slate of reforms, increase competition for elected offices by holding fairer elections and removing the stain of big money in our campaigns, and make justice more accessible for all by streamlining our state's byzantine court system. We won't have another chance until 2037, so we must win a YES vote this year. We have begun a comprehensive campaign of public education, grassroots organizing, earned and social media, and paid advertising, urging New Yorkers to vote YES. When our elected leaders don't act, New Yorkers must. A Convention is the best way to amend the constitution and create a democracy that values every voice and engages every voter. Citizens Union formally launched the campaign in Albany on June 27. It will continue through Election Day.

**Gotham Gazette** | An autonomous publication of Citizens Union Foundation, Gotham Gazette serves the public as an important source of news and investigative reporting. Its



focus on holding government officials accountable and reporting on the main issues often overlooked elsewhere is sharper than ever, and it has been recognized more and more as a powerful force for meaningful, insightful, and investigative reporting. As city elections approach in November, Gotham Gazette is a trusted, sought-after resource for information on candidates and races. Its reach has grown significantly this year, including through two new podcasts, one of which is produced in partnership with Citizens Budget Commission. Readership is now nearly 100,000 page views per month, which is up 5% over last year and builds on a 20% increase in 2016.

**Voting Reform** | Citizens Union engaged in an aggressive lobbying campaign to push forward key bills in Albany in 2017, aimed at making voting more accessible and improving voter turnout. In the end, our efforts resulted in the passage of eight bills—the first in many years to clear both houses and await the governor’s signature. We held a forum in partnership with the Civic Engagement Collaborative on voting reform and its impact on immigrant and new American communities in NYC, training attendees how to press lawmakers to enact reform through phone and social media campaigning.

**Spending in the Shadows** | We released another Spending in the Shadows report, our twice-yearly analysis of nonspecific lump sum spending in New York State’s Executive Budget and Enacted Budgets. The report for FY 2018 showed NY state budgets increasingly have few spending criteria, few constraints, and little accountability. Citizens Union identified nearly \$13 billion in opaque funds that lack criteria for spending and do not specify any official as having authority.

**Mayoral Control of City Schools** | We worked with the Mayor’s office to successfully secure two more years of mayoral control of city schools, advancing Citizens Union’s interest in local control over such matters.

**Police Oversight and Accountability** | We co-sponsored a community forum entitled “Safety and Justice: How Should Communities Reduce Violence?” where New Yorkers discussed policing policy and its impact on NYC communities. We met with Judge Ariel Belen, who oversees the response to *Floyd v. City of New York* and the practice of “stop and frisk” and presented our policy positions on police oversight and accountability to inform Judge Belen’s final report.

**Clean Contracting** | In partnership with other good government groups, CU pushed the state legislature and the governor to enact measures related to public procurement and clean contracting contained in the Comptroller’s Clean Contracting Bill, which includes many reforms we have been championing. The bill passed the Senate but did not receive a vote in the Assembly.

**Annual Members Meeting** | Citizens Union hosted the Annual Members Meeting on May 3 at the CUNY Graduate Center with close to 100 people in attendance. The civic conversation featured Assembly Member Rodneyse Bichotte, Senator Michael Gianaris, City Council Member Cory Johnson, and Assembly Member Nicole Malliotakis. We live-streamed the event for the first time.



# About the Voters Directory

## PURPOSE

On Tuesday, September 12, New Yorkers registered with a political party will vote in the primary election to select party candidates for New York City Mayor and Public Advocate, as well as New York City Council, candidates for Brooklyn District Attorney, and Bronx Borough President.

To help our supportive Citizens Union members prepare to vote in the upcoming primary election, we bring you our 2017 Primary Election Voters Directory. The Voters Directory provides:

- An overview of the 2017 elections, including voting and registration information and listings of every contest for all races that will be on the ballot in New York City on September 12, 2017.
- A roster of Citizens Union's preferred candidates in several key districts, and information about the rigorous evaluation process and assessments of candidates.

We caution voters that there may be last minute elimination or reinstatement of candidates on the ballot, so the list contained in this directory may have changed since this document was printed.

Please also note that this directory does not contain candidates for District Leader, Delegate to Judicial Convention, or County Committee. To obtain this information, visit the NYC Board of Elections website at <http://vote.nyc.ny.us> or call (866) VOTE-NYC.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This Voters Directory would not be possible without the hard work of members of the Citizens Union Board, Local Candidates Committee (LCC), staff and our summer interns.

34 volunteer LCC members, 6 interns, and 4 staff members formed nonpartisan interview teams and evaluated 51 candidates in 17 races for New York City Council and Brooklyn District Attorney. We thank them for contributing their time, energy, expertise and commitment this summer to interviewing and evaluating candidates.

We thank you for your support, and hope you enjoy the latest edition of the Voters Directory.



# Primary Election Snapshot

This section lists races in the primary election that will take place on September 12, and does not include elections where candidates running for municipal office are unopposed. In the 2017 primary elections for New York City Council, a third of the Council's 51 seats are held by incumbents who are running uncontested for reelection. A list of the Council primary candidates begins on page 7.

This section also lists candidates running for New York City Mayor, New York City Public Advocate, Brooklyn District Attorney, Bronx Borough President, Queens Borough President, Civil Court Judge for Kings County, and Civil Court Judge for the 6th Municipal Court District.

For information about the races in which incumbents face no primary election opposition, please turn to page 10.

† Incumbent

^ Denotes that the candidate submitted the Citizens Union questionnaire. Responses from Council candidates can be found on page 18. Questionnaire responses for candidates running in other municipal races can be found at [www.CitizensUnion.org](http://www.CitizensUnion.org).

**Bold** denotes that the candidate is preferred by Citizens Union in the primary election.

\* Denotes that the district overlaps boroughs. Note: These races are repeated in each borough that they fall into.

## CITYWIDE OFFICES

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### New York City Mayor

*Term of Office: 4 years (2-term limit)*

*Salary: \$225,000*

#### **Democratic Primary**

Sal F. Albanese^

Ricahrd S. Bashner

Bill de Blasio^†

Robert Gangi

Michael Tolkin^

### New York City Public Advocate

*Term of Office: 4 years (2-term limit)*

*Salary: \$165,000*

#### **Democratic Primary**

David Eisenbach^

Letitia James^†

## BOROUGHWISE OFFICES

---

### Brooklyn District Attorney

*Term of Office: 4 years (No term limit)*

*Salary: \$198,000*

#### **Democratic Primary**

Ama Dwimoh^

Marc Fliedner^

Patricia L. Gatling^

Vincent J. Gentile^

**Eric Gonzalez**^†

Anne J. Swern^

### Bronx Borough President

*Term of Office: 4 years (2-term limit)*

*Salary: \$179,200*

#### **Democratic Primary**

Ruben Diaz, Jr.†

Camella D. Price^

Avery Selkridge

## CIVIL COURT JUDGES

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*Term of Office: 4 years (Mandatory retirement at 70 years old)*

*Salary: \$179,500*

#### **Kings County** (Vote for 5)

Frederick C. Arriaga

Ellen E. Edwards

Patria Frias-Colon

Patrick J. Hayes

Thomas J. Kennedy

Connie M. Melendez

John K. O'Hara

David C. Pepper

Sandra Elena Roper

Robin K. Sheares

#### **6th Municipal Court District**

Derefim B. Neckles

Rupert V. Barry

Hemalee J. Patel

Elena Baron

Isiris Isela Isaac

# NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL

*Term of Office: : 4 years (2-term limit)*  
*Salary: \$148,500*

## BRONX

### Democratic Primary

#### *District 8\**

Diana Ayala^  
Tamika Mapp^  
Israel Martinez  
Robert J. Rodriguez

#### *District 12*

Karree-Lyn R. Gordon  
Pamela A. Hamilton-Johnson  
Andy L. King†

#### *District 13*

John C. Doyle  
Mark Gjonaj^  
Victor R. Ortiz  
Egidio Sementilli  
**Marjorie Velazquez^**

#### *District 14*

Randy D. Abreu^  
Fernando Cabrerat  
Felix A. Perdomo

#### *District 17*

Helen Hines  
Rafael Salamanca, Jr. †

#### *District 18*

Michael Beltzer ^  
Ruben Diaz, Sr.  
**Amanda C. Farias ^**  
Elvin Garcia^  
William Russell Moore

## BROOKLYN

### Democratic Primary

#### *District 34\**

Antonio Reynoso^†  
Tommy Torres

#### *District 35*

Laurie A. Cumbo ^†  
**Ede S. Fox^**

#### *District 38*

Sara M. Gonzalez^  
**Carlos Menchaca^†**  
Chris Q. Miao  
Felix W. Ortiz  
Delvis Valdes

#### *District 40*

Jennifer M. Berkley  
Brian-Christopher A. Cunningham^  
Mathieu Eugenet  
Pia Raymond

#### *District 41*

Royston Antoine  
Henry L. Butler^  
Leopold Cox  
Victor Jordan  
Moreen A. King  
David R. Miller  
Deidre Olivera^  
Cory Provost^  
**Alicka Ampry Samuel^**

#### *District 42*

Inez D. Barront  
Mawuli K. Hormeku^

#### *District 43*

**Justin L. Brannan^**  
Kevin P. Carroll^  
Vincent Chirico  
Khader El-Yateem^  
Nancy Tong^

*District 45*  
Lou Cespedes  
Jumaane D. Williams^†

*District 48*  
Chaim M. Deutsch†  
Marat Filler

**Green Primary**

*District 35*  
Jabari Brisport  
Scott Hutchins

**Republican Primary**

*District 43*  
Robert P. Capano^  
Liam A. McCabe^  
**John F. Quaglione**^  
Lucretia Regina-Potter

**MANHATTAN**

**Democratic Primary**

*District 1*  
**Margret Chin**^†  
Aaron Foldenauer  
Dashia Imperiale  
Christopher Marte^

*District 2*  
Ronnie Sung Cho^  
Erin Hussein^  
**Carlina Rivera**^  
Jasmin Sanchez  
Mary Silver^  
Jorge L. Vasquez

*District 4*  
Vanessa Aronson^  
Maria Castro  
Alec Hartman  
Rachel Honig^  
Jeffery S. Mailman^  
**Keith Powers**^  
Bessie R. Schachter^  
Barry Shapiro^  
Marti Speranza^

*District 5*  
Patrick A. Bobilin^  
Gwen Goodwin  
Ben Kallos^†

*District 6*  
Cary M. Goodman^  
**Helen K. Rosenthal**^†  
Mel Wymore^

*District 7*  
**Mark D. Levine**^†  
Thomas Lopez – Pierre

*District 8\**  
Diana Ayala^  
Tamika Mapp^  
Israel Martinez  
Robert J. Rodriguez

*District 9*  
Cordell Cleare  
Tyson-Lord Gray^  
Marvin Holland  
Bill Perkins^†  
Marvin Spruill  
Julius Tajiddin

*District 10*  
Francesca M. Castellanos  
Josue Perez^  
Ydanis Rodriguez †



## QUEENS

### Democratic Primary

#### *District 19*

Paul D. Granziano^  
Paul A. Vallone^†

#### *District 20*

Peter A. Koo^†  
Alison Tan^

#### *District 21*

Hiram Monserrate^  
**Francisco P. Moya^**

#### *District 23*

Barry S. Grodenchik†  
Benny Itteera

#### *District 24*

Rory I. Lancmant  
Mohammad T. Rahman

#### *District 27*

I. Daneek Miller^†  
Anthony Rivers

#### *District 28*

Richard David^  
Hettie V. Powell  
Adrienne E. Adams

#### *District 30*

**Elizabeth S. Crowley^†**  
Robert F. Holden^

#### *District 32*

William Ruiz  
Michael G. Scala^  
Helal A. Sheikh

#### *District 34\**

Antonio Reynoso^†  
Tommy Torres

## STATEN ISLAND

### Democratic Primary

#### *District 49*

Kamillah Hanks^  
Deborah L. Roset

## INDEX OF UNCONTESTED INCUMBENTS

Of the 51 seats in the New York City Council, 18 incumbents are uncontested for their party's nomination. Surprisingly, there is even one non-incumbent candidate running unopposed in the Democratic Primary for the open seat in CD 44 (not listed below). That means more than a third of the city's legislative body is held by incumbents who do not face competition in their parties. In a city where the winner of the Democratic Party primary is almost assured to win the Council seat, this lack of competition amounts to a serious erosion of representative democracy.

Of the 5 incumbent Borough Presidents in New York City, only 1 is facing competition in his party, while all for 4 others are uncontested in the primaries. In addition, the City Comptroller and the Manhattan District Attorney are both uncontested in their party primaries. The names of candidates who are uncontested in the primary election will not appear on the primary election ballot.

The following incumbents are running uncontested in their primary elections for New York City Council, Borough President, District Attorney, and Comptroller:

### **CITYWIDE - UNCONTESTED**

*City Comptroller*  
Scott M. Stringer (D)

### **BRONX - UNCONTESTED**

*Council District 11*  
Andrew Cohen (D)

*Council District 15*  
Ritchie Torres (D)

*Council District 16*  
Vanessa L Gibson (D)

### **BROOKLYN - UNCONTESTED**

*Borough President*  
Eric Adams (D)

*Council District 33*  
Stephen Levin (D)

*Council District 36*  
Robert E. Cornegy, Jr. (D)

*Council District 37*  
Raphael Espinal (D)

*Council District 39*  
Brad S. Lander (D)

*Council District 46*  
Alan N. Maisel (D)

*Council District 47*  
Mark Treyger (D)



**MANHATTAN - UNCONTESTED**

*Borough President*  
Gale A. Brewer (D)

*Council District 3*  
Corey D. Johnson (D)

*District Attorney*  
Cyrus Vance, Jr. (D)

**QUEENS - UNCONTESTED**

*Borough President*  
Melinda Katz (D)

*Council District 22*  
Costa Constantinides (D)

*Council District 25*  
Daniel Dromm (D)

*Council District 26*  
James G. Van Bramer (D)

*Council District 29*  
Karen Koslowitz (D)

*Council District 31*  
Donovan J. Richards (D)

*Council District 32*  
Erich A. Ulrich (R)

**STATEN ISLAND - UNCONTESTED**

*Borough President*  
James S. Oddo (R)

*Council District 50*  
Steven Matteo (R)

*Council District 51*  
Joseph C. Borelli (R)

## OPEN SEATS IN THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL

This year marks the first municipal elections in which the three-term limit, enacted in a 2008 local law, is resulting in a number of vacancies: 7 of the 10 open seats in the New York City Council are vacant due to term limits. Because of the political dynamics of the city and state, incumbents face significantly less competition in elections than competitors for vacant seats; this year the 7 vacancies due to term limits have yielded far more competitive primaries than contests in which incumbents were challenged. At the time of the publication of this booklet, on average, seats open due to term limits attracted twice as many candidates (6) as contested primaries with incumbents running (3). While there are only 7 Council Members reaching term limits this year, in the municipal elections of 2021 a majority of Council seats will be vacated as a result.

In addition to the 7 term-limited vacancies, there are 3 other open seats where no incumbent is running due to either personal reasons or, in the case of Council Member Ruben Wills (District 28), criminal conviction related to the misuse of public funds. Notably, one open seat – that of Council Member David Greenfield (District 44), who announced plans not to seek reelection this year after the petition-filing deadline for candidates to get on the ballot had passed – has a Democratic Party primary candidate with no other challengers.

### **BRONX – OPEN SEATS**

*Council District 8*

Melissa Mark-Viverito (D) – Term Limit

*Council District 13*

James Vacca (D) – Term Limit

*Council District 18*

Anabel Palma (D) – Term Limit

### **BROOKLYN – OPEN SEATS**

*Council District 41*

Darlene Mealy (D) – Term Limit

*Council District 43*

Vincente Gentile (D) – Term Limit

*Council District 44*

David Greenfield (D) – New Job Opportunity

### **MANHATTAN – OPEN SEATS**

*Council District 2*

Rosie Mendez (D) – Term Limit

*Council District 4*

Dan Garodnick (D) – Term Limit

### **QUEENS- OPEN SEATS**

*Council District 21*

Julissa Ferreras-Copeland (D) – Personal Reasons

*Council District 28*

Ruben W. Wills (D) – Convicted of fraud and grand larceny related to the misuse of public funds



# Candidate Evaluations

## EVALUATION PRINCIPLES AND PROCESS

In this packed election cycle, Citizens Union has evaluated 17 races and 51 candidates for office in the New York City Council and Brooklyn District Attorney races to determine who strongly supports our issues, can advance a reform agenda, and can best fulfill the obligations of the position.

Interview teams of the Local Candidates Committee volunteers assess the candidates based on their responses to the following: Citizens Union's questionnaire (a pre-requisite for interviews), research, first-hand knowledge of the candidates, and interviews with the candidates, which are approximately 30 minutes each. The interview teams then make advisory recommendations to the full Local Candidates Committee, which deliberates and makes recommendations to the Citizens Union Board, which makes the final decision.

A "Preferred" rating reflects a candidate that Citizens Union deems not only qualified for the office with a viable candidacy, but also committed to an agenda of positive reform. Please note that candidates not preferred may nevertheless be highly regarded, which is generally reflected in the commentary. Citizens Union issues a "Preferred" rating during the Primary Election, and an "Endorsed" rating applies only to General Election contests. A "No Preference" rating may result when there is insufficient information available, it is believed that the candidates are of equal merit, or if no candidate interviewed by Citizens Union is believed to be effective or capable of representing the district.

### **OUR CRITERIA**

The following guidelines are used by the Local Candidates Committee and Citizens Union Board of Directors in the evaluation of candidates:

- Support for Citizens Union's reform agenda shall be the primary criteria used in deciding its support for a candidate.
- Evidence of ability to wage an effective and competitive campaign shall be considered, but not be determinative.
- Ability to advance Citizens Union's goals, if elected, shall be considered, but not determinative. Incumbents will be held accountable for their record of reform in office and shall be judged accordingly on the basis of their demonstrated support for Citizens Union's issues.
- State, local, or community issues specific to the race's jurisdiction shall be considered as will candidates' ability to grasp these issues and propose thoughtful solutions to represent their constituents' interests.
- Evaluation of the candidates and the decision to support a particular candidate shall be made without regard to political party and in a nonpartisan manner.

## CITIZENS UNION PREFERRED CANDIDATES

### BRONX

*Council District 13*  
Marjorie Velázquez (D)

*Council District 18*  
Amanda Farias (D)

### BROOKLYN

*District Attorney*  
Eric Gonzalez (D)

*Council District 35*  
Ede Fox (D)

*Council District 38*  
Carlos Menchaca (D)

*Council District 41*  
Alicka Ampry Samuel (D)

*Council District 43 (Dem.)*  
Justin Brannan (D)

*Council District 43 (Rep.)*  
John Quaglione (R)

### MANHATTAN

*Council District 1*  
Margaret Chin (D)

*Council District 2*  
Carlina Rivera (D)

*Council District 4*  
Keith Powers (D)

*Council District 6*  
Helen Rosenthal (D)

*Council District 7*  
Mark Levine (D)

*Council District 8*  
No Preference

*Council District 9*  
No Preference

### QUEENS

*Council District 21*  
Francisco Moya (D)

*Council District 30*  
Elizabeth Crowley (D)

# QUESTIONNAIRE: CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES

Below each question, please find a tabulation of answers from all 81 primary candidates who responded to the questionnaire – and not only from those candidates whom Citizens Union interviewed. Questionnaires for Brooklyn District Attorney, Public Advocate, and Borough Presidents can be found at [www.citizensunion.org](http://www.citizensunion.org).

## VOTING AND ELECTIONS REFORM

1. What is your position with respect to eliminating party primaries and establishing a non-partisan election system in which all candidates and all voters participate in the first round and the top two candidates advance to the second round?  
*Support: 54 Conditional Support: 1 Undecided or No Answer: 2 Oppose: 23 Conditional Oppose: 1*
2. What is your position on instituting Instant Runoff Voting for all citywide offices and for all special elections for city offices?  
*Support: 72 Conditional Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 3 Oppose: 5 Conditional Oppose: 1*
3. What is your position on creating a voluntary municipal poll worker program to supplement poll worker recruitment by district leaders?  
*Support: 77 Conditional Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 2 Oppose: 2 Conditional Oppose: 0*
4. What is your position on requiring the Board of Elections to report performance metrics to the City Council that conform to the Mayor's Management Report?  
*Support: 75 Conditional Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 5 Oppose: 1 Conditional Oppose: 0*
5. What is your position on modifying the City Charter to require that laws enacted by referendum only be changed through approval by the voters?  
*Support: 68 Conditional Support: 1 Undecided or No Answer: 6 Oppose: 6 Conditional Oppose: 0*

## CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

6. What is your position on prohibiting participants in the city's campaign finance program from using public matching funds to purchase strategic campaign consulting services from firms that also provide lobbying services?  
*Support: 69 Conditional Support: 1 Undecided or No Answer: 4 Oppose: 7 Conditional Oppose: 0*
7. What is your position on increasing the Campaign Finance Board's public matching grants from a partial match of 55% to a full match of funds raised (Int. 1130-A)?  
*Support: 67 Conditional Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 6 Oppose: 8 Conditional Oppose: 0*

## CITY COUNCIL REFORM

8. How do you feel the reformed bill drafting process is going under the enacted 2014 Council Rules Reforms and do you think we need a more independent process similar to New York State Legislature's bill drafting commission?  
*Responses available online at [www.citizensunion.org](http://www.citizensunion.org)*
9. What is your position on the following proposals enabling Council committees to function more effectively and independently of the speaker:
  - a. Should committee chairs have the ability to hire at least one committee staffer?  
*Support: 78 Conditional Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 1 Oppose: 2 Conditional Oppose: 0*
  - b. Should committee hearings and votes be scheduled at the direction of the chairs?  
*Support: 76 Conditional Support: 1 Undecided or No Answer: 1 Oppose: 3 Conditional Oppose: 0*



c. Should committees be able to issue subpoenas by a vote of their members?

*Support: 77 Conditional Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 1 Oppose: 3 Conditional Oppose: 0*

d. Now that committee chair stipends have been eliminated what is your position on reducing the overall number of committees so members can participate more meaningfully in fewer issues?

*Support: 63 Conditional Support: 2 Undecided or No Answer: 3 Oppose: 13 Conditional Oppose: 0*

10. What is your position on greater disclosure of council members' outside income?  
*Support: 76 Conditional Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 3 Oppose: 2 Conditional Oppose: 0*
11. When the Quadrennial Compensation Commission is reconvened, what is your position on requiring that any future increase in councilmember compensation only apply prospectively to the following term?  
*Support: 76 Conditional Support: 1 Undecided or No Answer: 2 Oppose: 2 Conditional Oppose: 0*
12. What is your position on ensuring a more equitable and needs-based distribution of discretionary funding?  
*Support: 75 Conditional Support: 3 Undecided or No Answer: 3 Oppose: 0 Conditional Oppose: 0*
13. What is your position on increasing transparency of discretionary funding by requiring the list of capital and expense funds and their sponsors be provided to council members and the public three days in advance of any vote, and expanding the online searchable database of expense funds to include all capital fund recipients and applicants?  
*Support: 80 Conditional Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 1 Oppose: 0 Conditional Oppose: 0*
14. What is your position on extending term limits from two four-year terms to three four-year terms?  
*Support: 23 Conditional Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 3 Oppose: 53 Conditional Oppose: 2*
15. What is your position on making all actions designed to influence any City Council outcome, including the choice of Speaker, reportable as a lobbying expense?  
*Support: 67 Conditional Support: 3 Undecided or No Answer: 5 Oppose: 6 Conditional Oppose: 0*

## **PUBLIC SAFETY AND OVERSIGHT OF POLICE MISCONDUCT**

16. What is your position on establishing the Commission to Combat Police Corruption (CCPC) as a permanent commission in the City Charter while empowering the CCPC to issue subpoenas?  
*Support: 63 Conditional Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 6 Oppose: 12 Conditional Oppose: 0*
17. What is your position on enhancing the Civilian Complaint Review Board's (CCRB) authority to initiate an investigation into reported or known incidents of police misconduct without receipt of a formal complaint?  
*Support: 65 Conditional Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 3 Oppose: 13 Conditional Oppose: 0*
18. What is your position on granting the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) with the authority to prosecute officers found guilty of lying during CCRB investigations?  
*Support: 70 Conditional Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 4 Oppose: 7 Conditional Oppose: 0*
19. What is your position on reinstating the zero tolerance penalty for false official statements by public officers?  
*Support: 76 Conditional Support: 1 Undecided or No Answer: 3 Oppose: 1 Conditional Oppose: 0*



20. What is your position on requiring the Police Commissioner to explain divergence from NYPD trial judge and CCRB disciplinary recommendations and to make the explanation public?  
*Support: 74 Conditional Support: 1 Undecided or No Answer: 2 Oppose: 4 Conditional Oppose: 0*
21. What is your position on requiring the NYPD to publish a regular report of use of force incidents with data disaggregated by race?  
*Support: 67 Conditional Support: 1 Undecided or No Answer: 2 Oppose: 10 Conditional Oppose: 1*

### **BUDGET REFORM**

22. What is your position on establishing independent budgeting for:
- a. the borough presidents?  
*Support: 72 Conditional Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 2 Oppose: 7 Conditional Oppose: 0*
  - b. Conflicts of Interest Board?  
*Support: 72 Conditional Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 3 Oppose: 6 Conditional Oppose: 0*
  - c. the Public Advocate?  
*Support: 71 Conditional Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 3 Oppose: 7 Conditional Oppose: 0*
  - d. community boards?  
*Support: 69 Conditional Support: 1 Undecided or No Answer: 3 Oppose: 8 Conditional Oppose: 0*
23. What is your position on making the budget process more transparent by clearly defining and limiting units of appropriation?  
*Support: 81 Conditional Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 0 Oppose: 0 Conditional Oppose: 0*
24. What is your position on release of revenue projections (other than property taxes) prior to Council hearings on the Executive budget?  
*Support: 81 Conditional Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 0 Oppose: 0 Conditional Oppose: 0*

### **LAND USE AND COMMUNITY BOARD REFORM**

25. What is your position on designating urban planners for use by community boards and requiring borough president's report to the Council the manner in which they advertise and make community board appointments?  
*Support: 73 Conditional Support: 1 Undecided or No Answer: 3 Oppose: 3 Conditional Oppose: 1*
26. What is your position on establishing a formal standardized and transparent process for community board appointments including written applications, interviews of candidates, and filling vacancies within 30 days?  
*Support: 77 Conditional Support: 1 Undecided or No Answer: 2 Oppose: 1 Conditional Oppose: 0*

### **CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION**

27. In November, voters in New York will be asked whether they wish to hold a Constitutional Convention to amend the New York State Constitution. What is your position on holding such a convention?  
*Support: 20 Conditional Support: 0 Undecided or No Answer: 8 Oppose: 53 Conditional Oppose: 0*
28. If you support a Constitutional Convention, what actions, if any, will you take to ensure that it takes place? If you oppose the convention, what will you do to defeat it?  
*Responses available online at [www.citizensunion.org](http://www.citizensunion.org)*

# QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES: CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES

District/Name	Major Party Affiliation	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q9A	Q9B	Q9C	Q9D	Q10	Q11
<b>BRONX</b>														
CD8/Ayala	D, WF	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
CD8/Mapp	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
CD13/Doyle	D	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
CD13/Gjonaj	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S
CD13/Velázquez	D, WF, WEP	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
CD14/Abreu	D, WF	O	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
CD14/Sanchez	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
CD15/Torres†	D, WF	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
CD15/Cancel	R	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	O	S	S	S	S
CD17/Santana	D	O	O	S	S	O	O	S	S	S	S	O	NA	S
CD17/Delices	D	O	O	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
CD18/Beltzer	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	NA	S	S	S	S	S	S
CD18/Farias	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	O	S	S
CD18/Garcia	D	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
<b>BROOKLYN</b>														
CD34/Reynosot	D, WF	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
CD35/Brisport	Green	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S
CD35/Cumbo†	D	O	S	S	S	S	NA	S	S	S	S	O	S	S
CD35/Fox	D	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
CD36/Joyner	D	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	S	S	NA	O	S	S
CD38/Gonzalez	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
CD38/Menchaca†	D, WF	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
CD38/Ortiz	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S		S	S	S	S
CD39/Landert	D, WF	O	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
CD40/Cunningham	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S
CD41/Olivera	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O
CD41/Provost	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S
CD41/Butler	D	O	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S
CD41/Samuel	D, WF	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
CD41/Henderson	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S
CD42/Hormeku	D, REF	O	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
CD43/Capano	R	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S
CD43/McCabe	R	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	O	S	O	O	S
CD43/Quaglione	R	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S
CD43/Brannan	D, WF	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
CD43/Carroll	D	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
CD43/Tong	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
CD43/El-Yateem	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
CD44/Yeger	D	O	O	S	S	S	S*	O	S	S	S	S*	S	S
CD45/Williamst	D, WF	S	S	S	S	NA	NA	NA	S	S	S	S	S	NA

\*Questionnaires for Brooklyn District Attorney, Public Advocate, and Borough Presidents can be found at [www.citizensunion.org](http://www.citizensunion.org)."

Q12	Q13	Q14	Q15	Q16	Q17	Q18	Q19	Q20	Q21	Q22A	Q22B	Q22C	Q22D	Q23	Q24	Q25	Q26	Q27
S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O
S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O
NA	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O
S	S	O*	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O
S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O
S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O
S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O
S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O
S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
S	S	O	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O
S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	O	O	O	S	S	S	S	S
S	S	O	NA	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O
S	S	O	O	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O
S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O
S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O
S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O
S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O
S	S	O	O	NA	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	NA	S	NA
S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O
S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O
NA	S	S	S*	NA	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	NA
S	S	O	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O
S	S	O	S	S	O	S	NA	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O
S	S	O	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O
S	S	O	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O
S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O
S	S	O	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O
S	NA	O	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
S	S	O	S	O	O	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
S	S	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	S	S	O	NA	O
S	S	O	S	O	O	S	S	O	O	O	O	O	O	S	S	S	S	O
S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O
NA	S	O	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	O	O	O	O	S	S	S	S	O
S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S*	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O
S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	NA	O	S	S	S	S	O
S*	S	O	S	O	O	O	S	S*	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S*	O	NA
S	S	S	NA	S	S	S	NA	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	NA

**KEY**

Citizens Union preferred candidates in bold. ^ Incumbent legislator S Support O Oppose NA No answer or undecided \* Nuanced answer

District/Name	Major Party Affiliation	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q9A	Q9B	Q9C	Q9D	Q10	Q11
CD47/Treygert	D	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
<b>MANHATTAN</b>														
CD1/Chint	D, WF	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
CD1/Marte	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
CD2/Cho	D	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
CD2/Husein	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
CD2/Rivera	D, WF	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
CD2/Silver	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S*
CD3/Johnsort	D, WF	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	NA
CD4/Harary	R	S	S	S	S	S*	S	O	S	S*	S	S	S	S
CD4/Mailman	D	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
CD4/Powers	D	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
CD4/Schachter	D	O	S	S	NA	NA	S	S	NA	S	O	S	NA	S
CD4/Honig	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	NA	S	S	S	NA	NA	S
CD4/Aronson	D	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
CD4/Speranza	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
CD4/Shapiro	D	O*	O*	S	NA	S	S	O	S	O	S	S*	S	S
CD5/Boblin	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
CD5/Kallost	D, WF	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
CD6/Goodman	D	S	NA	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S
CD6/Rosenthal	D, WF	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
CD6/Wymore	D	S	S	S	S	NA	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
CD6/Raudenbush	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	NA	S	S	S	S	S	S
CD7/Levinet	D, WF	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
CD9/Gooding	D, REF	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
CD9/Perkinst	D	O	O	S	NA	S	S	S	S	S	S	NA	S	S
CD9/Gray	D	S	S	S	S	NA	S	S	S	S	S	NA	O	S
CD10/Perez	D	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
<b>QUEENS</b>														
CD19/Graziano	D, REF	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
CD19/Vallonet	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
CD20/Koot	D	S*	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S
CD20/Tan	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
CD21/Furlong	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O
CD21/Monserrate	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
CD21/Moya	D	O	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S
CD27/Millert	D	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	S	S	S	S	S	S
CD28/David	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
CD30/Crowleyt	D, WF	O	S	O	S	O	O	O	S	S	S	S	S	S
CD30/Holden	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
CD32/Scala	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
<b>STATEN ISLAND</b>														
CD49/Hanks	D	O	O	S	O	S	O	S	S	S	S	O	S	S
CD49/Marius	D	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
CD51/Schwartz	D, WF	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S

Q12	Q13	Q14	Q15	Q16	Q17	Q18	Q19	Q20	Q21	Q22A	Q22B	Q22C	Q22D	Q23	Q24	Q25	Q26	Q27
S	S	O	S	S	O	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O
S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O
S	S	O	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O
S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S
S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O
S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O
S*	S	S	S*	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O
S	S	O	S*	NA	O	O	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	O*	S	S
S	S	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O
S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O
S*	S	NA	S	O	S	S	S	S	O*	O	NA	O	O	S	S	O	S	O
S	S	NA	NA	S	S	S	S	S	NA	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O
S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O
S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	NA	NA	NA	NA	S	S	S	S	S
S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
S	S	O*	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
S	S	O	S	O	O	O	S	S	O	S	S	S	NA	S	S	S	S	S
S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O
S	S	O	S	S	NA	S	S	S	S	O	O	O	O	S	S	S	S	NA
S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
S	S	S	NA	NA	S	NA	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O
S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O
S	S	O	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	NA	NA	NA	NA	S	S	S	S	S
S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	NA	S	O
S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O
S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O
S	S	O	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O
S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O
S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O
S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O
S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O
S	S	O	S	NA	O	NA	S*	O	O	S	S	O	S*	S	S	O	S*	NA
S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O

**KEY**

Citizens Union preferred candidates in bold. ^ Incumbent legislator S Support O Oppose NA No answer or undecided \* Nuanced answer

# Municipal Candidate Evaluations

## BRONX

### NYC COUNCIL DISTRICT 13

#### Democratic Primary

#### ★ Preferred Candidate - Marjorie Velázquez - Dem ★

*Has returned questionnaire, responses p. 18*

*Age: 31 Occupation: Full-time Candidate*

*Education: Stern School of Business at New York University, B.A.*

Marjorie Velázquez is a former senior accountant at DIRECTV Latin America, treasurer of Council Member Ritchie Torres's first election campaign, and currently serves as treasurer and executive board member of Community Board 10 and as a Democratic District Leader. Velázquez wants to improve quality of life in her district by removing inefficiencies in government spending and expanding public services. Her priorities include increasing funding for public schools, securing a moratorium on school closures, and expanding transit options by expediting construction of new Metro-North stations in Morris Park and Parkchester/Van Nest. Lastly, she aims to fight for women's rights by strengthening paid family leave laws, ensuring equal pay for equal work, and enabling women to make their own healthcare choices. In this line, she wishes to improve access to healthcare and preemptive treatments, especially for seniors. In terms of Citizens Union reform issues, Velázquez supports increasing the Campaign Finance Board's public matching funds program and she emphasized her commitment to sound government processes and the responsible and transparent allocation of public resources. She deviates from Citizens Union position most notably on the issue of holding a Constitutional Convention, which she opposes. Citizens Union has decided to prefer Marjorie Velázquez because she demonstrated significant knowledge and understanding of the issues facing her district, has a strong background in accounting that she argues will allow her to champion transparency and fairness in budget negotiations, and is in line with a vast majority of Citizens Union reform priorities.

#### John C. Doyle - Dem

*Has returned questionnaire, responses p. 18*

*Age: 31, Occupation: Associate Director of Public Relations at NYC Health + Hospitals.*

*Education: Le Moyne College, B.A.*

John C. Doyle is the Associate Director of Public Relations at NYC Health + Hospitals. Prior to this role, he was the District and Community Affairs Director for state Senator Jeff Klein. His priorities are to transform the appearance of Pelham Bay Station and improve public transportation in the district, improve the accessibility and affordability of public hospitals, and implement resiliency measures to preserve the district's coastal residential communities. Doyle is a strong proponent of Citizens Union's campaign finance reform priorities. However, Doyle opposes a nonpartisan, top-two primary system, and holding a

Constitutional Convention, two issues that Citizens Union supports. Citizens Union has decided not to prefer Doyle because of the strength of his competitor, but commends his commitment to the needs of his district.

## **Mark Gjonaj - Dem**

*Has returned questionnaire, responses p. 18*

*Age: 48, Occupation: NY State Assemblyman*

*Education: St. John's University, B.A.*

Mark Gjonaj is a state Assembly Member, representing Assembly District 80 since 2013. Prior to holding that office, he was a small business owner in the Bronx, and had served as the Bronx Commissioner of the NYC Taxi and Limousine Commission. Gjonaj seeks to improve quality of life in his district by improving transportation options, public school resources, and treatment services for opioid addiction. He also wants to reduce water and sewer rates, as well as property tax assessments. In terms of Citizens Union issues, Gjonaj supports transparency in the budget and was a supporter of redistricting. However, Gjonaj does not support increasing the Campaign Finance Board's public matching grants to a full match of funds raised, nor holding a Constitutional Convention. Citizens Union has decided not to prefer Mark Gjonaj because, while his presence in Albany has been noted, he has not made a reputation for himself as a reformer and Citizens Union is concerned about outside interests dominating his campaign fundraising.

## **Victor Ortiz - Dem**

*Has not returned questionnaire*

## **Egidio Sementelli - Dem**

*Has not returned questionnaire*

### **NYC COUNCIL DISTRICT 18**

#### **Democratic Primary**


### **★ Preferred Candidate - Amanda Farias - Dem ★**

*Has returned questionnaire, responses p. 18*

*Age: 27 Occupation: Full-time Candidate*

*Education: St. John's University, B.A., M.A.*

Amanda Farias is former aide to Council Member Elizabeth Crowley in District 30 (Queens), and is a New American Fellow at the New American Leaders Project. On Council Member Crowley's staff she served a number of roles, including Legislative Aide, Participatory Budget Liaison, Director of Special Projects, Women's Caucus Liaison, and Councilmanic Aide. Farias's top priorities are improving public transportation in the district, expanding green markets, establishing job readiness programs and training for youth and adults, and empowering small businesses. In terms of Citizens Union reform issues, Farias expressed especially strong support for improving police accountability. However, she opposes a number of Citizens Union's other reform goals including enabling Council committees to issue subpoenas by a vote of their members, making all actions designed to influence any city Council outcome, including the choice of Speaker, reportable as a lobbying expense, and holding a Constitutional Convention. While she



is currently opposed to a Constitutional Convention, she said she would take an active role in pushing for reform through the Convention in the steps following the referendum, should one be called for by voters in November. Despite deviating from Citizens Union's positions on a number of issues, Citizens Union prefers Amanda Farias because she presents as the candidate most able to advance the reform issues that she supports in the Council thanks to her experience serving under Councilmember Crowley.

## **Michael Beltzer - Dem**

*Has returned questionnaire, responses p. 18*

*Age: 31 Occupation: Full-time Candidate*

*Education: Stony Brook University, B.A.; Zicklins School of Business at Baruch College, M.B.A.*

Prior to running for office, Michael Beltzer has been a compliance analyst for JPMorgan Chase, a Bond Servicer for the Development Corporation for Israel, and a Director of Financial and Merchant Services at the Bronx Chamber of Commerce. Beltzer's top priorities are passing a comprehensive community-based development plan for Council District 18 and a 197-a plan to avoid spot re-zonings; improving public safety and police-community relations, and modernizing transportation. He also wants to bring participatory budgeting to the district. Beltzer supports all of Citizens Union's police accountability reform priorities and believes that members of the Civilian Complaint Review Board should be elected, not appointed. He does not support holding a Constitutional Convention. While he is aligned with many Citizens Union reform goals, Citizens Union believes that his opponent will be more effective in achieving such reforms.

## **Elvin Garcia - Dem**

*Has returned questionnaire, responses p. 18*

*Age: 30 Occupation: Full-time Candidate*

*Education: Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, B.A.*

Prior to running for office, Elvin Garcia was the Bronx Borough Director for Mayor de Blasio. He has also been a Fellow at the New Leaders Council, the Community Affairs Representative for State Senator Gustavo Rivera, and Regional Field Director for Former city Council Speaker Christine Quinn's 2013 Mayoral Campaign, and then for Mayor de Blasio's Campaign that same year. Garcia's top priorities are improving public safety, expanding public school resources, ensuring that the Soundview Ferry and other transportation improvements are carried out with community input, empowering small businesses, and create support programs for residents of public housing. Garcia supports all of Citizens Union's police accountability reform measures. However, Garcia does not support Citizens Union's stance on prohibiting candidates from using public matching funds to purchase strategic campaign consulting services from firms that also provide lobbying services, nor holding a Constitutional Convention. Citizens Union has decided not to support Garcia because of the strength and appeal of his competitors.

## **Ruben Diaz, Sr. - Dem**

*Has not returned questionnaire*



## William Russell Moore - Dem

*Has not returned questionnaire*

## BROOKLYN

### **BROOKLYN DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

#### **Democratic Primary**

### **★ Preferred Candidate – Eric Gonzalez – Dem ★**

*Has returned questionnaire, responses available online at [www.CitizensUnion.org](http://www.CitizensUnion.org)*

*Age: 48 Occupation: Acting District Attorney, Kings County*

*Education: Cornell University, B.A.; University of Michigan Law School, J.D.*

Eric Gonzalez has been the acting District Attorney since the death of D.A. Kenneth Thompson in October 2016, after serving as his deputy for several years. Under Thompson, Gonzalez was involved in the launch of a number of the administration's signature initiatives, including the creation of the Conviction Review Unit and the policy not to seek prosecution for low-level marijuana possession. As acting District Attorney, Gonzalez has continued Thompson's work creating a fairer and more equitable criminal justice system in Brooklyn by scrutinizing allegations of wrongful convictions and avoiding prosecution for low-level crimes that have historically led to disproportionate levels of incarceration among communities of color. Gonzalez told Citizens Union that he views the position as a nonpolitical office and would strive to fulfill its responsibilities independently of other interests or personal aspirations. He supports bail reform and will reduce the number of cases in which A.D.A.s request bail; minimizing immigration-related collateral consequences; videotaping police interrogations; and will pursue cases related to public corruption and "pay-to-play" impropriety. In line with his belief that the District Attorney's office should avoid overtly political stances, he has not taken a position on holding a Constitutional Convention but told Citizens Union that he does not believe it is the only strategy to achieve meaningful criminal justice reform. Citizen's Union prefers Gonzalez in this race because of his experience in the D.A.'s office, his commitment to ameliorating inequality in the criminal justice system through greater conviction integrity, inaugurated by his predecessor, and to pursue cases of public corruption.

### **Ama Dwimoh – Dem**

*Has returned questionnaire, responses available online at [www.CitizensUnion.org](http://www.CitizensUnion.org)*

*Occupation: Special Counsel to Brooklyn Borough President*

*Education: Barnard College, B.A.; Columbia Law School, J.D.*

Ama Dwimoh is the Special Counsel to the Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams, and had previously worked in the Brooklyn D.A.'s office for twenty years as a senior trial attorney and head of the Crimes against Children Bureau. If elected, Dwimoh will focus on stronger punishment of police misconduct, especially in instances of excessive use of force, and would appoint a special prosecutor to handle such cases; take a hard stance against the practice of Stop, Question, and Frisk; and create units to support vulnerable populations like seniors, workers, tenants, and children. She supports police body cameras

and videotaping police interrogations, closing Rikers Island, and she opposes holding a Constitutional Convention. Citizens Union does not prefer her in the race for District Attorney because of concerns about her ability to lead the office based on allegations of friction with subordinates, and because of the relative appeal of her competitors.

## **Marc Fliedner – Dem**

*Has returned questionnaire, responses available online at [www.CitizensUnion.org](http://www.CitizensUnion.org)*

*Age: 55 Occupation: Civil Rights Attorney*

*Education: American University, B.A.; George Washington Law School, J.D.*

Marc Fliedner is a civil rights attorney who began his legal career as an Assistant District Attorney in the Brooklyn District Attorney's office in the late eighties. If elected, Fliedner says he would move away from a statistics-driven criminal justice model of arrest and prosecution and would focus more resources on investigating and preventing gun and drug trafficking; expand the Public Integrity Bureau; prosecute hate crimes and domestic terrorism; and improve the Early Case Assessment Bureau, which determines whether prosecution is appropriate after arrest. He supports holding a Constitutional Convention and closing Rikers Island, and like his opponents supports videotaping police interrogations. Citizens Union does not support Fliedner in this race because, while supportive of many of the organization's positions on police accountability and criminal justice reform, there is concern that he would not develop a relationship with police that would be conducive to the work of District Attorney.

## **Patricia Gatling – Dem**

*Has returned questionnaire, responses available online at [www.CitizensUnion.org](http://www.CitizensUnion.org)*

*Occupation: Attorney at Windels Marx Lane & Mittendorf*

*Education: Johns Hopkins University, B.A.; University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, J.D.*

Patricia Gatling is currently an attorney at Windels Marx Lane & Mittendorf, specializing in transportation equity, employment, and civil rights issues. She began her legal career as an Assistant District Attorney in the Brooklyn D.A.'s office, and has since served as the Commissioner and Chair of the New York City Commission on Human Rights and the Deputy Secretary for Civil Rights under Governor Andrew Cuomo. One of Gatling's primary goals is to create a unit composed of attorneys, social workers and investigators to educate and protect seniors from exploitation. If elected, she would also implement a Prosecutor's Integrity Bureau (PIB) that will audit cases and complaints concerning members of the District Attorney's staff in order to increase accountability. Her views on transparency and police accountability are in line with those of Citizens Union, but she opposes holding the Constitutional Convention. Citizens Union was impressed by Gatling's record but felt that she may be motivated by loftier political aspirations and that the incumbent would serve as a more balanced District Attorney.

## **Vincent Gentile - Dem**

*Has returned questionnaire, responses available online at [www.CitizensUnion.org](http://www.CitizensUnion.org)*

*Age: 58 Occupation: NYC Council Member, District 43*

*Education: Cornell University, B.A.; Fordham University, J.D.*

Vincent Gentile has served as a New York lawmaker for the last two decades, first as a state Senator from 1997 to 2002, and then as a member of the Council, a position he held since 2003 but will leave at the end of this year, due to term limits. Prior to his political involvement, Gentile worked for 11 years in the Queens County District Attorney's office as a prosecutor and A.D.A. His priorities for the office are to expand the Conviction Review Unit, establish a narcotics investigations bureau, seriously pursue gun-possession prosecutions, and establish a unit to protect seniors from financial fraud schemes. Citizens Union commends Gentile's service as a legislator, but does not prefer him in this race because he appears to view the responsibilities of the District Attorney from a political perspective, as though it were a legislative office, rather than from a criminal justice lens concerned with pursuing justice through the law.

## **Anne Swern – Dem**

*Has returned questionnaire, responses available online at [www.CitizensUnion.org](http://www.CitizensUnion.org)*

*Age: 61 Occupation: Attorney, Adjunct Professor at Brooklyn Law School*

*Education: University of Buffalo, B.A.; Brooklyn Law School, J.D.*

Anne Swern is a former Assistant District Attorney in Brooklyn, serving for over thirty years, many of which as deputy to District Attorney Charles Hynes, and is an adjunct professor at Brooklyn Law School. Her priorities for the District Attorney's office are to address the disproportionate contact of minorities with the criminal justice system through comprehensive statistical analysis; implement better assessment of when prosecution is appropriate, with an eye toward avoiding penalizing poverty; curb the sources of drugs; and address public corruption and police oversight. Swern also supports videotaping police interrogations, improving police accountability through comprehensive data collection, and mitigating a "pay-to-play" culture by stringently enforcing campaign finance rules and regulations. Despite her priorities, which align closely with Citizens Union's, Citizens Union does not prefer Swern in this race because of her close association with Hynes's tenure in office, and questions about her role in the ongoing controversy related to wrongful convictions, especially during his final years in office. Citizens Union believes it is time for Brooklyn to affirmatively end this sad chapter in the city's history.

## **NYC COUNCIL DISTRICT 35**

### **Democratic Primary**

## **★ Preferred Candidate - Ede Fox - Dem ★**

*Has returned questionnaire, response p. 18*

*Age: 46 Occupation: Full-time Candidate*

*Education: University of Michigan, B.A.; University of California, Los Angeles, M.A.*

Ede Fox is a co-founder of Prospect Heights Democrats for Reform and has been a longtime activist in her community. She currently serves as the Environmental/Sanitation Chair for Brooklyn Community Board 8, and has served as a top aide and the Legislative and Budget Director for NYC Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito. Her top priority issues include creating affordable housing based on the district's median income, creating new local jobs, and ensuring that District 35 residents and schools have clean, lead-free drinking water. Fox has emphasized the importance of openness and transparency in government, especially as a means of curbing "pay-to-play" politics in New York City. She

is a strong proponent of civic engagement on the local level and will promote participatory budgeting in the district, which was introduced by the incumbent. On Citizens Union's issues, Fox is opposed to establishing a nonpartisan, top-two primary system, and holding a Constitutional Convention. Citizens Union prefers Fox because she has demonstrated a deep knowledge of and commitment to the issues in her district, has the legislative and political experience to be an effective reformer and representative in the Council, and is supportive of many of Citizens Union's municipal level advocacy goals. Her interest in and ability to represent the entire district is another factor in her favor, unlike the incumbent who created unnecessary controversy during her first term related to the racial dynamics of the district. Fox acknowledges some of the good work of the incumbent, such as allocating funding for women's issues, senior centers, and NYCHA improvements in the district, and has committed to continuing those efforts.

## **Laurie Cumbo - Dem**

*Has returned questionnaire, response p. 18*

*Age: 42 Occupation: NYC Councilmember, District 35*

*Education: Spelman College, B.A.; New York University, M.A.*

Laurie Cumbo was elected to the New York City Council to represent District 35 in 2013, and is currently seeking reelection. In the Council, she has been a champion of women's issues including expanding the budget for services to address domestic violence and sex education, an advocate against gun violence, and a promoter of public art and landmarking. Her top priorities for a second term include improving housing stock and creating affordable housing, improving schools, protecting social services, protecting women's rights, and preventing gun violence. Cumbo expressed support for most of Citizens Union's reform goals, however, like her opponent, she opposes establishing non-partisan, top-two primaries, and holding a Constitutional Convention. She is also opposed to reducing the overall number of committees in the Council so that members can participate more meaningfully, a measure that Citizens Union supports. She provoked controversy in her first term after comments she made about the racial dynamics of the district. Laurie Cumbo has a good record of service in the Council, but the strength of her challenger and the specificity of Fox's ideas to improve the district and city government lead us to prefer Cumbo's challenger.

## **NYC COUNCIL DISTRICT 38**

### **Democratic Primary**

## **★ Preferred Candidate - Carlos Menchaca - Dem ★**

*Has returned questionnaire, response p. 18*

*Age: 36 Occupation: NYC Council Member, District 38*

*Education: University of San Francisco, B.A.*

Carlos Menchaca was elected to the New York City Council in 2013 and was the only candidate to defeat an incumbent, in a Democratic Primary upset, that year. Menchaca serves as the chair of the City Council Committee on Immigration and is a member of the Black, Latino, and Asian Caucus, the L.G.B.T. Caucus and the Progressive Caucus. Representing a district with a large Asian and Latino community, Menchaca has prioritized, among others, immigration issues: he co-sponsored and was heavily involved in IDNYC

legislation, and has secured funds for public defenders of undocumented immigrants and for adult literacy services. In his first term he also increased the number of public school seats in his district and introduced participatory budgeting. If re-elected he would prioritize criminal justice reform, including passing the Right to Know Act, public housing issues like implementing the Right to Counsel initiative, civic engagement of immigrant and youth communities, protecting the working waterfront, and expanding access to legal representation, education, and healthcare for immigrants. Menchaca supports almost all of Citizens Union agenda points, but for holding a Constitutional Convention, and said that he would seek novel approaches to reforming city government processes such as reducing the county political committees' strong influence on the choice of Council Speaker. Menchaca has proven himself to be an independent actor in the Council and an ambitious advocate for his community. Citizens Union prefers him in this race because of his support for the organization's values and reform goals and for his courage in speaking his mind.

## **Sara Gonzalez - Dem**

*Has returned questionnaire, response p. 18*

*Age: 67 Occupation: Consultant*

*Education: CUNY College of Staten Island, B.A.*

Sara Gonzalez is a political consultant who previously represented District 38 from the 2002 special election and until she was defeated in the 2013 Democratic Primary by the current incumbent. She was defeated in 2013 after coming under scrutiny for her poor attendance record in the Council and lack of legislative accomplishments, which she disputes. Gonzalez is running for the same seat because, she claims, she was asked to by members of the community who feel their concerns—especially on immigration issues and senior services—are not being addressed. If elected, she would focus on supporting local immigrant communities, addressing displacement and preserving affordable housing, expanding senior services, and funding more public school seats. Gonzalez did not mention any reform issues on her websites, literature, or questionnaire, but when asked in the interview she stated she would like to serve on the ethics committee if elected. Citizens Union does not prefer Gonzalez's candidacy due to her previous record in the Council, and her lack of a clear vision for reform and how she would improve as a Councilmember.

## **Félix Ortiz - Dem**

*Has returned questionnaire, response p. 18*

*Age: 57 Occupation: New York State Assembly Member, 51<sup>st</sup> District*

*Education: Boricua College, B.A.; New York University, M.P.A.*

Félix Ortiz is a Member of the New York State Assembly, representing the 51<sup>st</sup> Assembly District for the last 23 years. He serves on a number of committees and in 2015 was named Assistant Speaker of the Assembly. He began his long tenure by addressing sweatshops in Sunset Park and harmful labor practices in manufacturing jobs; he later focused on public health issues, initiating programs and legislations on childhood obesity, eating disorder centers, menu labeling, and nutrition standards for schools. He was instrumental in instituting the nation's first ban on hand-held cell phone use while driving in early 2000's. Other issues Ortiz supported are single-payer healthcare, criminal justice reform, environmental protection, and LGBT rights. Ortiz is seeking to leave the Assembly for a Council seat following, he says, requests from local community members who are

dissatisfied with the incumbent. While his platform does not highlight specific Citizens Union issues, he expressed support to almost all of Citizens Union questionnaire items and in his interview proposed changes to campaign finance rules and using the Home Rule. While Citizens Union commends Ortiz's work in the state Assembly and has preferred him in the past, the organization does not prefer him because of his incumbent opponent's record in the Council and support for Citizens Union's reform goals.

### **Chris Q. Miao - Dem**

*Candidate did not receive questionnaire.*

### **Delvis Valdes - Dem**

*Has not returned questionnaire.*

## **NYC COUNCIL DISTRICT 41**

### **Democratic Party**

### **★ Preferred Candidate - Alicka Ampry Samuel - Dem ★**

*Has returned questionnaire, response p. 18*

*Occupation: Full-time Candidate*

*Education: North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, B.A.; City of New York School of Law at Queens College, J.D.*

Alicka Ampry Samuel was a Senior Advisor at NYCHA, after serving as the chief of staff for Assembly Member Latrice Walker. She has also worked as a child protective specialist for ACS, a human rights coordinator for the U.S. State Department, and a legislative aide and constituent services manager to two different members of the New York City Council. Her top priority is to improve housing in the district through homeowner protections against predatory speculation, new affordable housing development, and improving the quality of shelters in the district. Samuel expressed support for almost every reform goal on the Citizens Union questionnaire and is a strong supporter of oversight reforms to curb "pay-to-play" politics. She does not, however, support holding a Constitutional Convention. Samuel is the preferred candidate in this race because as she will likely be among the most effective reformers in the Council given her experience in local government and her alignment with Citizens Union's reform agenda.

### **Henry Butler - Dem**

*Has returned questionnaire, response p. 18*

*Age: 50 Occupation: District Manager, Community Board 3*

*Education: Hunter College, B.A.*

Henry Butler is the District Manager for Community Board 3 in Brooklyn. He previously worked as a train conductor for 15 years and was a union representative at TWU Local 100, and Chairman of the Labor Committee of the Brooklyn NAACP. His top priorities are to secure resources for public schools and college readiness programs, improve preventative care in the community, introduce participatory budgeting to the district, and work with the Small Business Administration to bring jobs and career training to the district. Butler is opposed to establishing a nonpartisan, top-two election system, reducing the number of

Council committees, and holding a Constitutional Convention. Citizens Union does not prefer Butler in this race because of a lack of alignment with Citizens Union's reform priorities.

## **Cory Provost - Dem**

*Has returned questionnaire, response p. 18*

*Age: 31 Occupation: Community Organizer*

*Education: CUNY Brooklyn College, B.A., M.A.*

Cory Provost is the Democratic District Leader of the 58<sup>th</sup> Assembly District. His priorities are to require greater affordability standards in the creation of new housing in the district, allocate funding for senior housing and transportation, closing Rikers Island, introducing participatory budgeting, and ameliorating police issues like ending the school-to-prison pipeline and broken windows policing. Provost supports most of Citizen Union's reform issues, especially in the area of voting and elections, but he opposed reducing overall number committees in the Council and holding a Constitutional Convention. Citizens Union does not prefer Provost because of his relative inexperience in local government, but appreciates his knowledge of the issues facing his district.

## **Deidre Olivera - Dem**

*Has returned questionnaire, response p. 18*

*Age: 46 Occupation: Small business employee*

*Education: The College of New Rochelle, B.A.*

Deidre Olivera is a member of Community Board 16 and a Council Executive Member of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Precinct, and is the editor-in-chief of the Brownsville Collective Community Newspaper. Her priority issues are affordable housing, preventative healthcare, women's rights such as pay equality, and affordable childcare. Olivera is opposed to enhancing the Civilian Complaint Review Board's authority to initiate investigations without receipt of a formal complaint, and holding a Constitutional Convention. On her questionnaire, she did not indicate whether or not she supports reinstating the zero tolerance penalty for false official statements by public officers. Citizens Union does not prefer Olivera because of doubts that she will be an effective and strong supporter of reform.

## **Royston Antoine - Dem**

*Candidate did not receive questionnaire.*

## **Moreen King - Dem**

*Has not returned questionnaire.*

## **Leopold Cox - Dem**

*Has not returned questionnaire.*

## **Victor Jordan - Dem**

*Candidate did not receive questionnaire.*

## **David R. Miller - Dem**

*Candidate did not receive questionnaire.*

## NYC COUNCIL DISTRICT 43

### Democratic Primary

#### ★ Preferred Candidate - Justin Brannan - Dem ★

*Has returned questionnaire, responses p. 18*

*Age: 38 Occupation: Full-time Candidate*

*Education: Fordham University and College of Staten Island, B.A.*

Justin Brannan is currently a full-time candidate and has previously served as Chief of Staff for Council Member Vincent Gentile, and is the founder of Bay Ridge Cares, a nonprofit to address quality of life issues in Bay Ridge. Brannan's top priorities in the district are to improve public transportation options, address overcrowding in classrooms, support small businesses, increase funding for senior services, and increase community-police interaction. He supports almost all of Citizens Union's reform priorities and is especially supportive of Council rules reforms to make the process of policymaking more fair, efficient, and external to the political dynamics of the Council. Brannan splits notably with Citizens Union's agenda on the subject of holding a Constitutional Convention, which he opposes. Citizens Union prefers Brannan because, in addition to his knowledge of the issues facing his district, he is the candidate most versed in reform issues and presents as the candidate with the greatest ability to successfully negotiate the dynamics of the Council.

#### Khader El-Yateem - Dem

*Has returned questionnaire, responses p. 18*

*Age: 48 Occupation: Founder of Salam Arabic Lutheran Church and Clergy Liaison for the NYPD*

*Education: Evangelical Theological Seminary, B.A.; Lutheran Theological Seminary, M.Div.*

Khader El-Yateem is currently the Clergy Liaison for the NYPD and is the founder of the Salam Arabic Lutheran Church. He is also the Treasurer of the Arab American Association of New York. El-Yateem is focused on addressing the opioid epidemic in District 43, creating more affordable housing, increasing funding to public schools, fully funding CUNY, and improving the MTA. Of Citizens Union's issues, El-Yateem supports electoral reform, independent budgeting, and police reform. He is a strong supporter of the latter, advocating to pass the Right to Know Act and end broken windows policing. He does not, however, support establishing independent budgeting for community boards, nor holding a Constitutional Convention. Citizens Union does not prefer El-Yateem because of the appeal of his competitor, but does acknowledge his commitment and efforts to improve his district.

#### Kevin Peter Carroll - Dem

*Has returned questionnaire, responses p. 18*

*Occupation: Democratic District Leader of the 64<sup>th</sup> Assembly District and aide to Council Member Stephen Levin*

*Education: College of Staten Island, B.A.*

Kevin Peter Carroll currently serves as the Democratic District Leader of the 64<sup>th</sup> Assembly District and is a staffer of Councilmember Stephen Levin. His priorities include addressing overcrowding in schools, improving the wheelchair accessibility of public transportation in the district, protecting the waterfront environment, and preserving housing for seniors. In terms of Citizens Union's issues, Carroll most supports reforming



the city's campaign finance system. On the other hand, he opposes establishing a nonpartisan election system in New York City, enhancing the authority of the Civil Complaint Review Board to initiate investigations without a formal complaint, establishing independent budgeting for a number of public offices and agencies, and holding a Constitutional Convention. Citizens Union does not prefer Carroll because of his opposition to a number of democratic reform measures championed by the organization.

## **Nancy Tong - Dem**

*Has returned questionnaire, responses p.*

*Age: 62 Occupation: Democratic District Leader of the 47<sup>th</sup> Assembly District and the Public Relation Director for Assembly Member William Colton*

*Education: High School*

Nancy Tong is currently the Democratic District Leader of the 47<sup>th</sup> Assembly District and the Public Relations Director for Assembly Member William Colton. Her top priorities are to address overcrowding in schools and expand extra-curricular support services, block the construction of the Southwest Brooklyn garbage transfer station, create more affordable housing, and having a responsive district office. As for Citizens Union's issues, she is a proponent of campaign finance and Council rules reforms. However, she does not support holding a Constitutional Convention. Tong also believes that requiring the NYPD to publish a regular report of use of force incidents with data disaggregated by race would be "divisive" and would oppose the measure. Citizens Union does not prefer Tong because of concerns that she will not be an effective reformer in the Council and because of her opposition to parts of the organization's police accountability reform agenda, and the Constitutional Convention.

## **Vincent Chirico - Dem**

*Has not returned questionnaire.*

### **NYC COUNCIL DISTRICT 43**

#### **Republican Primary**


### **★ Preferred Candidate - John Quaglione - Rep ★**

*Has returned questionnaire, response p. 18*

*Age: 38 Occupation: Deputy Chief of Staff and Press Secretary for Senator Martin Golden*

*Education: American University, B.A.*

John Quaglione is currently the Deputy Chief of Staff and Press Secretary for state Senator Martin Golden, and serves as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Saint Anselm Catholic Academy. Quaglione's top priorities are creating a city-wide database of cellphone videos and pictures taken by civilians to assist NYPD investigations, increasing the presence of police in District 43, introducing participatory budgeting, improving public transportation, and increasing funding for senior services like the SCRIE and EPIC programs. Quaglione supports a number of Citizens Union's reform goals, but deviates on the subject of police accountability, holding a Constitutional Convention, and independent budgeting for certain public offices and agencies. He does, however, believe that the Civilian Complaint Review Board, an independent police oversight agency, should be empowered to prosecute officers found lying during their investigation. Citizens Union



prefers Quaglione because he presents as the primary candidate best able to represent the diverse communities and political ideologies of the district, and for his alignment with many of Citizens Union's reform priorities, especially elections and Council reform.

## **Liam McCabe - Rep**

*Has returned questionnaire, response p. 18*

*Age: 38 Occupation: Full-time Candidate*

*Education: St. Francis College, B.S.*

Liam McCabe is currently a full-time candidate, but has previously served as an aide to U.S. Representative Dan Donovan. McCabe's priorities if elected are to stop illegal home conversions, improve public transportation options, expand educational resources for special needs students, and encourage economic development in his district. McCabe supports all of Citizens Union's voting and election reform objectives, including adopting a nonpartisan election system. However, he opposes numerous other Citizens Union democratic reform goals in the areas of public oversight of police misconduct, Council reform, budget reform, and holding a Constitutional Convention. Citizens Union does not prefer McCabe because of his opposition to so many Citizens Union reform priorities.

## **Robert Capano - Rep**

*Has returned questionnaire, response p. 18*

*Age: 42 Occupation: Grestides Supermarket's Store Manager; Adjunct Professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice*

*Education: SUNY New Paltz, B.A.; Brooklyn College, M.A.*

Robert Capano is a store manager and an adjunct professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Capano's top priorities are to reduce regulations on small businesses, introduce legislation to curb illegal home conversions, keeping Riker's Island open, and creating more youth recreational programs in District 43. Capano finds voting and election accessibility to be the most important Citizens Union issue, but opposes other Citizens Union reforms like expanding the public matching fund program (his campaign participates in the program), and requiring the police department to publish a regular report on use of force incidents with data on race. He is also opposed to granting the Civilian Complaint Review Board the authority to initiate an investigation into reported incidents of police misconduct without receipt of a formal complaint, which Citizens Union supports. Citizens Union does not prefer Capano because of doubts that he will be an effective reformer and representative of his district in the Council.

## **Lucretia Regina-Potter - Rep**

*Candidate did not receive questionnaire.*

## MANHATTAN

### NYC COUNCIL DISTRICT 1

#### Democratic Party

#### ★ Preferred Candidate - Margaret Chin – Dem ★

*Has returned questionnaire, response p. 20*

*Age: 64 Occupation: NYC Council Member, District 1*

*Education: City College of New York, B.A.*

Margaret Chin was elected to the New York City Council in 2010, after a career in education and as the deputy executive director of Asian Americans for Equality. Her top priorities are to create and preserve affordable housing and strengthen tenant protections; increase funding for senior services; increase public notification and transparency in the land use decision-making process; and create mechanisms to increase transparency and ensure the timely completion of capital projects. Chin expressed support for nearly all of Citizen Union's reform goals, but she is opposed to holding a Constitutional Convention. During her time as a Council Member, Chin has worked on numerous issues such as expanding paid sick leave and the NYC Rent Freeze Program. She is the Chair of the Council's Committee on Aging and Co-Vice Chair of the Black, Latino, and Asian Causus, and is a member of the Progressive Caucus. Citizens Union prefers Chin in this race because of her commitment to government transparency, her demonstrated tenacity in the Council, and her dedication to key issues impacting her district.

#### Christopher Marte – Dem

*Has returned questionnaire, response p. 20*

*Age: 28 Occupation: Full-time Candidate*

*Education: Long Island University Global, B.A.*

Christopher Marte is a financial analyst and legal researcher, and is a founding member of the Residential Green Committee of NYCHA's LES Infill 1 and 2. His top priorities are to improve communication between residents and the Council Member through regular town hall meetings; create "community-based" zoning policies to prevent overdevelopment; implement participatory budgeting; enact policy to empower small businesses in lease negotiations; and implement waterfront resiliency measures. Like the incumbent, Marte expressed support for almost all of Citizen Union's reform goals, except for holding a Constitutional Convention. Citizens Union found Marte to be an intelligent, involved, and committed community advocate, but does not prefer him because of his relative lack of experience working with city government when compared to the able incumbent.

#### Aaron Foldenauer

*Has not returned questionnaire*

#### Dashia Imperiale

*Has not returned questionnaire*

## NYC COUNCIL DISTRICT 2

### Democratic Primary

#### ★ Preferred Candidate - Carlina Rivera – Dem ★

*Has returned questionnaire, response p. 20*

*Age: 33 Occupation: Full-time Candidate*

*Education: Marist College, B.A.*

Carlina Rivera is a former Legislative Director for Council Member Rosie Mendez, representing District 2, where she started in 2015. She has served as a Democratic District Leader and the Director of Programs and Services at Good Old Lower East Side, Inc. (GOLES), which is a community-based and member-led housing preservation organization. Rivera's top priority issues are affordable housing, senior citizen services, better-funded public education, after-school programs and job opportunities for youth, and assistances for small local businesses. Rivera has expressed support for a range of Citizens Union advocacy goals, emphasizing community board and budget reform as the areas where she is most aligned with Citizens Union. On her questionnaire, Rivera supported every reform measure except holding a Constitutional Convention. Citizens Union prefers Carlina Rivera because she is the candidate with the broadest knowledge of issues in the district, has significant legislative experience relative to her opponents, and will be a champion of Citizens Union's reform priorities in the Council.

#### Ronnie Cho – Dem

*Has returned questionnaire, response p. 20*

*Age: 34 Occupation: Vice President and Head of Public Affairs at MTV*

*Education: Arizona State University*

Ronnie Cho is currently the Vice President and Head of Public Affairs at MTV, and has previously served at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Cho's priorities are improving NYCHA services, advancing a single-payer health care system, supporting public schools, funding transportation solutions, and assisting small businesses. He is aligned with a number of Citizens Union issues, but deviates on a few reform measures that Citizens Union supports: requiring laws enacted by referendum only be changed through approval by the voters, enhancing the Civilian Complaint Review Board's authority to initiate investigations without a formal complaint, and holding a Constitutional Convention. Citizens Union does not prefer Cho because of his relatively limited experience in the district and a belief that his opponent will be a more effective reformer in the Council.

#### Erin Hussein - Dem

*Has returned questionnaire, response p. 20*

*Age: 47 Occupation: Writer/Filmmaker*

*Education: Columbia College, B.A.; Columbia Law School, J.D.*

Erin Hussein is a writer and filmmaker, and has served as President and on the Board of Directors for Stewart Tenant's Corp and the Central Village Coop Alliance. Hussein's priorities include passing the Small Business Jobs Survival Act and commercial rent tax reform, promoting housing preservation in her district, and supporting school desegregation, among

others. Hussein emphasized campaign finance reform as the most important reform issue to her, and spoke about the continued need to make elections cheaper and more accessible for candidates. While Erin Hussein is a committed and passionate advocate in her community and a champion of Citizens Union's reform agenda, Citizens Union supports her opponent in this race.

## **Mary Silver - Dem**

*Has returned questionnaire, response p. 20*

*Age: 58 Occupation: Attorney*

*Education: Hofstra University, B.A.; New York University, J.D., Ph.D.*

Mary Silver is an attorney and education advocate. Silver has served for six years as an elected member and officer of the Community Education Council for New York City School District 2, and is an appointed member of Community Board. Silver's top priorities include reducing public school class sizes, desegregating public schools, and promoting affordable housing, among other issues. Silver has stated that campaign finance reform and improving ballot access are the most important reform issues to her. She supports nearly all of Citizens Union's reform goals except for extending term limits from two to three four-year terms and holding a Constitutional Convention. Despite being impressed by her commitment to educational reform, Citizens Union does not prefer Mary Silver.

## **Jasmin Sanchez**

*Has returned questionnaire, response p. 20*

*Candidate could not be scheduled for an interview*

## **Jorge L. Vasquez**

*Has not returned a questionnaire*

### **NYC COUNCIL DISTRICT 4**

#### **Democratic Primary**

### **★ Preferred Candidate - Keith Powers - Dem ★**

*Has returned questionnaire, response p. 20*

*Age: 33 Occupation: Full-time Candidate*

*Education: University of Dayton, B.A.; CUNY Graduate Center, M.A.*

Keith Powers is a former Vice President at Constantinople & Vallone Consulting L.L.C., a lobbying firm in New York City and State. He has worked as a campaign manager for state Senator Liz Krueger and a chief of staff for Assembly Member Jonathan Bing. Powers' top priorities are protecting and creating affordable housing; improving public education in terms of funding, diversity, and quality; and fixing public transportation's functionality and affordability. Powers is the only candidate in the race to include a detailed plan for reforming city government as part of his platform. His "Sunlight in the City" agenda includes reforms to campaign finance, budget allocations, voting and elections, Council operations, and new restrictions on lobbyist activity. In addressing his own work as a lobbyist, he has pledged to disclose his former client list, refrain from contact with former clients or the firm, and to seek an advisory opinion on the matter from the Conflict of Interest Board, which he will make public. Although this primary race features several

highly qualified candidates, Citizens Union prefers Powers due to his ambitious and wide-ranging reform agenda, and believes his knowledge of city government and deep familiarity with the constituency will make him an excellent representative of District 4.

## **Vanessa Aronson - Dem**

*Has returned questionnaire, response p. 20*

*Age: 32 Occupation: Full-time Candidate*

*Education: University of Chicago, B.A.; Harvard Kennedy School of Government, M.P.P.; Relay Graduate School of Education, M.A.*

Vanessa Aronson has worked as a math and science teacher in sixth and seventh grade at a public school in Washington Heights, prior to which she spent ten years working as a diplomat for the U.S. State Department. Aronson's priority issues are affordability in housing and small businesses, efficient and transparent budgeting, public transportation accessibility, and improving education programs for students with special needs. Aronson has emphasized the importance of ethics reforms, including more restrictions on lobbyists, exposing conflicts of interest, and increased transparency, and said she will seek to be on the Council Finance Committee because of the importance of budget oversight. While Citizens Union was impressed by her professional experience in public policy and her support for democratic reform, the organization does not prefer her due to the appeal of her opponent.

## **Rachel Honig - Dem**

*Has returned questionnaire, response p. 20*

*Age: 45 Occupation: Public Relations and Communications Consultant*

*Education: Smith College, B.A.*

Rachel Honig has been working in marketing and public relations for the past twenty years in various capacities. A self-defined "socially liberal and fiscally responsible" candidate, she is running for office to bring "non-partisan competency" to City Hall, and points to the city's shortcomings in supporting small businesses as her top priority issue. Honig is also concerned with preserving waterways and parks, pressuring Albany to create significant transportation improvements, addressing overdevelopment in the district, and lead-contaminated drinking water. She is the only candidate interviewed in the race who supports a Constitutional Convention. Citizens Union does not prefer Honig in this election because of appeal of one of her opponents.

## **Jeffery Mailman - Dem**

*Has returned questionnaire, response p. 20*

*Age: 35 Occupation: Legislative Director to Council Member Elizabeth Crowley*

*Education: SUNY Binghamton, B.A.; Cardozo School of Law, J.D.*

Jeffrey Mailman has worked in City Hall for the last five years as counsel and Legislative Director to Council Member Elizabeth Crowley (Queens), and was previously an adjunct assistant professor of law at Cardozo Law School. Mailman's top priorities are pedestrian safety and quality of life issues such as excessive noise, traffic, and rodent infestation; and senior programs and accessible transit, among others. Though agreeing with most of Citizens Union agenda, he was hesitant to support several police oversight reforms, saying he would first like to review the specific roles of numerous police oversight entities.

Mailman has legislative experience in the Council, but he could be stronger on police reform and, as a result, is not preferred by Citizens Union.

## **Bessie Schachter - Dem**

*Has returned questionnaire, response p. 20*

*Age: 35 Occupation: Full-time Candidate*

*Education: University of Texas at Austin, B.A.; New York University, M.A.*

Bessie Schachter is a former director of community outreach at Senator Liz Krueger's Manhattan office—a position she left to join the race—and has been working with Democratic candidates in New York since 2009. She is a board member and past program director of Immigrant Action. Schachter's signature proposal if elected would be to promote a full audit of affordable housing units and tax-break programs to find unaccounted rent-regulated units. She would also work to preserve essential services for residents like education, transportation and local businesses. She promises to promote changes in campaign finance rules, like closing the L.L.C. loophole and increase reporting requirements for political clubs, and proposed limiting the council Speaker's power to control bills and debate. She opposed various Citizens Union agenda proposals, among them establishing independent budgeting for Borough Presidents, the Public Advocate, and community boards. Schachter is an eloquent speaker with good knowledge on the issues facing the district and local government generally, and has promised to advocate for political reform. Citizens Union was impressed by Schachter's candidacy but prefers her opponent because of his prioritization of good government reform.

## **Marti Speranza - Dem**

*Has returned questionnaire, response p. 20*

*Occupation: Full-time Candidate*

*Education: University of Pennsylvania, B.A.; Harvard University, M.B.A.*

Marti Speranza was the director of Women Entrepreneurs NYC, a public-private partnership based out of the NYC Department of Small Business Services that promotes and assists female business owners. Speranza's top priorities include expanding affordable housing, protecting and preserving small businesses, and increasing early S.T.E.M. education programs, among others. Her platform also addresses police oversight and criminal justice reform, including issues of importance for Citizens Union such as empowering the Civilian Complaint Review Board and passing the Right to Know Act, and her answers through the interview and questionnaire were almost completely aligned with Citizens Union agenda points. Citizens Union was impressed by Speranza's strong message and wide field-based support campaign. She is not preferred in this race because Citizens Union felt that, while she is an advocate for reform, one of her opponents would be a stronger reform advocate.

## **Maria Castro - Dem**

*Has not returned questionnaire*

## **Alec Hartman - Dem**

*Has not returned questionnaire*

## Barry Shapiro - Dem

*Has returned questionnaire, response p. 20*

*Candidate could not be scheduled for an interview.*

### NYC COUNCIL DISTRICT 6

#### Democratic Primary

## ★ Preferred Candidate - Helen Rosenthal - Dem ★

*Has returned questionnaire, response p.*

*Age: 56 Occupation: NYC Council Member, District 6*

*Education: Michigan State University, B.A.; Yale University, M.P.H.*

Helen Rosenthal was elected to the New York City Council in 2013 and is currently seeking reelection. Before her election to the Council, Rosenthal served on Community Board 7 for several years, including as Chair and she served as the Assistant Director of the New York City Office of Management and Budget under Mayors Koch, Dinkins, and Giuliani. Rosenthal's top priorities are protecting affordable housing through the Stand for Tenant Safety legislative package, addressing the underfunding of human service workers, integrating schools, and reforming energy codes to increase sustainable energy in New York City. Regarding Citizens Union's issues, Rosenthal supports filling community board vacancies within 30 days and establishing a formal standardized and transparent process for community board appointments. She also supports Citizen Union's voting and election reform measures and wants to offer same-day voter registration and early voting options for New Yorkers. Rosenthal does not support extending Council term limits or holding a Constitutional Convention. Citizens Union prefers Rosenthal, finding her to be an effective council member who advocates strongly on a wide range of issues in City Hall, and who supports many of Citizens Union's key reform platforms.

## Cary Goodman - Dem

*Has returned questionnaire, response p. 20*

*Age: 66 Occupation: Executive Director of the 161<sup>st</sup> Street Business Improvement District*

*Education: Colgate University, B.A.; Teacher's College of Columbia University, M.A.;*

*Union Institute and University, Ph.D.*

Cary Goodman is the Executive Director of the 161<sup>st</sup> Street Business Improvement District, and previously taught in New York public schools. Goodman's top priority issue is preventing the expansion of the Museum of Natural History into Theodore Roosevelt Park. Goodman favors increasing transparency in government and seeking out community input in more direct ways, especially regarding the museum expansion. Goodman opposes a number of Citizens Union's reform policies, including giving Council committees the ability to issue subpoenas by a vote of their members, and a number of police accountability reforms. Citizens Union prefers one of his opponents because Goodman has too narrow a focus on the museum expansion issue and lack of sensitivity to other reform areas.

## Mel Wymore - Dem

*Has returned questionnaire, response p. 20*

*Age: 55 Occupation: Writer, Executive Director of TransPAC*



*Education: University of Arizona, M.S.*

Mel Wymore is a long-time community organizer and the Executive Director of TransPAC, a political action committee dedicated to achieving full and equal rights for transgender people. He was also recently Executive Director of IOTA, a consulting firm for small businesses, nonprofits, and government agencies. Wymore has served as a two-term Chair of Community Board 7, Chair at the West Side Y, and Chair of the Ethical Cultural Fieldston School PTA. Wymore's priority issues are to restrict as-of-right development by requiring public review and disclosure of all sales of air rights and lot mergers, supporting small businesses, and pushing for a comprehensive citywide school desegregation plan. Regarding Citizens Union priorities, Wymore supports expanding the public matching funds program and establishing the Commission to Combat Police Corruption as a permanent commission in the City Charter. Wymore opposes establishing independent budgeting for the borough presidents, the Conflicts of Interest Board, Public Advocate and community boards, extending term limits, and holding a Constitutional Convention. While impressed with Wymore's long standing commitment to his community and knowledge of city politics, and though Citizens Union preferred him in 2013 for this seat, we find his opponent, Helen Rosenthal, to be an effective representative of her district currently, and a thoughtful reformer in the Council.

## **NYC COUNCIL DISTRICT 7**

### **Democratic Primary**

#### **★ Preferred Candidate - Mark Levine – DEM ★**

Has returned questionnaire, response p. 20

Age: 48 Occupation: NYC Council Member, District 7

Education: Haverford College, B.A.; Harvard University, M.A.

Mark Levine was elected to the New York City Council in 2013, and serves as the Chair of the Committee on Parks and Recreation, and as a member of Committees on Education, Finance, Governmental Operations, Housing and Buildings, and Rules, Privileges and Elections. Levine considers affordable housing to be the most important issue the city and his district face, from defending current tenants to developing new projects. He also stresses greater equity for low- and moderate-income communities in terms of access to public resources. On reform issues, he stresses the importance of police accountability (he co-sponsored the Right to Know Act) and campaign finance rules regulating activity surrounding the Speaker's race. He did not indicate his position on empowering the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) to prosecute officers found guilty of lying during CCRB investigations, and making all actions designed to influence Council outcomes, including the choice of Speaker, reportable as a lobbying expense. He is opposed to holding a Constitutional Convention. Citizens Union prefers Levine in this race because of his positive vision for his district and for the city, and the contributions to reform that he has already made in office. His support for reform issues has been consistent, with disagreements discussed reasonably and adequately.

#### **Thomas Lopez-Pierre - Dem**

*Has not returned questionnaire.*

## **NYC COUNCIL DISTRICT 8**

### **Democratic Primary**

#### **Tamika Mapp - Dem**

*Has returned questionnaire, response p. 20*

*Age:41 Occupation: East Harlem Tax Service, Self-Employed*

*Education: Kaplan University, B.A.*

Tamika Mapp is an entrepreneur and president of East Harlem Tax Service. Mapp's priority issues are wage equality and raising the minimum wage, expanding services for immigrants, and family court reform. As for Citizens Union issues, Mapp is a proponent of police accountability reforms and is against allowing public funds to be used to pay political consultants. She does not, however, support a Constitutional Convention. The organization was not able to interview other candidates in this race and, as a result, has not issued any preference for Council District 8.

#### **Diana Ayala - Dem**

*Has returned questionnaire, responses p. 20*

*Candidate declined to be scheduled for an interview.*

#### **Isabel Martinez – Dem**

*Has not returned questionnaire.*

#### **Robert J. Rodriguez - Dem**

*Has not returned questionnaire.*

## **NYC COUNCIL DISTRICT 9**

### **Democratic Primary**

NO PREFERENCE

#### **Tyson-Lord Gray - Dem**

*Has returned questionnaire, response p. 20*

*Age: 37 Occupation: Professor at Pace University*

*Education: Boston University, S.T.M.; Vanderbilt University, Ph.D.; Pace University*

*Elisabeth Haub School of Law, J.D.; Morehouse School of Religion, M.Div.*

Tyson-Lord Gray is currently a professor at Pace University and provides pro bono services through the Legal Aid Society in New York City. In addition, Gray is involved in a number of Harlem-based social justice and advocacy organizations and is the founder of Green Community Vision, Inc., a nonprofit aimed at increasing awareness about environmental justice in Harlem. Gray's top priorities include mitigating rising rent and cost of living in Harlem, pushing for greater funding of public schools, and addressing food insecurity in the district. When it comes to reform issues, Gray is especially supportive of election reform including measures to make it easier to vote and get on the ballot. Gray also opposes some of Citizens Union's issues, including greater disclosure of council members' outside income and making all actions designed to influence any City Council

outcome, including the choice of Speaker, reportable as a lobbying expense. He also did not indicate his position on a number of issues, but is among a minority of candidates who supports holding a Constitutional Convention. While Citizens Union was very impressed with his knowledge of and sensitivity toward important issues and with his demonstrable competence in a number of fields, Citizens Union has decided not to prefer Gray because of his relative lack of recognition in the district compared to his competitors.

## **Bill Perkins**

*Has returned questionnaire, response p. 20*

*Age: 68 Occupation: NYC Council Member, District 9*

*Education: Brown University, B.A.*

Bill Perkins has represented District 9 in the Council since a special election in February to fill the seat vacated by Inez Dickens, who was elected to the state Assembly last year. Perkins held the same office from 1998 to 2005, and from 2007 to 2017 he served in the state Senate representing the 30<sup>th</sup> district, covering much of the same area. Perkins' top priorities are improving public schools, protecting affordable housing, enacting police and jail reform, and protecting immigrants. When interviewed by Citizens Union, however, he failed to provide sufficient detail on his approach to a number of these issues. When it comes to Citizens Union issues, Perkins recognizes the importance of fighting the "pay-to-play" culture in city politics and has said the matching funding program is a big step forward on this issue. However, Perkins does not support establishing a nonpartisan, top-two primary system, instituting Instant Runoff Voting for all citywide offices and for all special elections for city offices, and opposes holding a Constitutional Convention. Citizens Union commends Perkins's public service in the Council and state Senate, but does not prefer him in this race because of his lack of specificity on a number of issues and because of what has become a revolving door of representation in the district, between City Hall and Albany.

## **Cordell Cleare**

*Candidate could not be reached.*

## **Marvin Holland**

*Has not returned questionnaire.*

## **Marvin Spruill**

*Has not returned questionnaire.*

## **Julius Tajiddin**

*Candidate could not be reached.*

## QUEENS

### ★ Preferred Candidate - Francisco Moya - Dem ★

*Has returned questionnaire, responses p.20*

*Age: 43 Occupation: NYS Assembly Member, District 39.*

*Education: St. John's University, B.A.; Baruch College of Public Administration, M.A.*

Francisco Moya has been a New York State Assembly Member for District 39 since 2010, after defeating former state Senator Hiram Monserrate. One of his most notable pieces of legislation is the DREAM Act, which broadens educational opportunities for immigrant students, and which passed the Assembly in 2016. If elected to the Council, Moya's priorities would be to strengthen tenant protections and improve the affordability of homeownership; ensure that senior centers and programing are operational and well-funded; expand pre-K and afterschool programing; reform the criminal justice system to be tailored to the needs and realities of local communities; and champion immigrants' rights. He closely aligns with Citizens Union positions on closing the LLC loophole and supports fighting "pay-to-play" politics in New York City. Moya does, however, deviate from Citizens Union's positions on several key issues including creating a nonpartisan election system in New York, requiring that all laws enacted by referendum be changed with voter approval, reducing the number of Council committees, and holding a Constitutional Convention. Citizens Union prefers Moya in the race to represent District 21 because of his qualifications as a legislator and his ability to advance those reforms that he does support, and because of the checkered history of his opponent.

### Hiram Monserrate – Dem

*Has returned questionnaire, responses p. 20*

*Age: 50 Occupation: Full-time Candidate*

*Education: Queens College, B.A.*

Hiram Monserrate is a former Member of the New York City Council, representing District 21, and state Senator representing District 13. Though an experienced and politically fluent legislator, he has become a pariah after being convicted of assault for abusing his then-girlfriend and serving prison time for the misuse of public funds related to his campaign. He has built his policy goals around addressing affordable housing, public school funding, public safety, and transparency in the spending of public funds. Monserrate broadly supports Citizens Union's questionnaire items, but did not indicate his position on empowering the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) to investigate police misconduct with a formal complaint, and requiring the Police Commissioner to publically explain divergences from NYPD trial judge and CCRB disciplinary recommendations. Citizens Union does not support Monserrate because of his history of domestic violence and corruption serving in local government.

## NYC COUNCIL DISTRICT 30

### Democratic Primary

#### ★ Preferred Candidate - Elizabeth Crowley - Dem ★

*Has returned questionnaire, response p. 20*

*Age: 39 Occupation: NYC Council Member, District 30*

*Education: SUNY Fashion Institute of Technology, B.A.; Pratt Institute Graduate School of Architecture, M.S.*

Elizabeth Crowley was elected to the New York City Council in a special election in 2008, and is currently seeking reelection. The top priority issues of her campaign are improving public transportation, building more high schools in District 30, creating more senior centers, building more affordable housing, and encouraging local businesses. Crowley expressed support for a number of Citizens Union's public policy goals, especially in the area of police accountability Council rules reform. In 2016, she was the lead sponsor on a bill that placed political contribution limits and disclosure requirements on nonprofits that are formed by, or affiliated with, elected officials, which closely reflected a Citizens Union proposal issued earlier that year. Crowley is opposed to establishing a nonpartisan, top-two primary system in New York, creating a voluntary municipal poll worker program to supplement poll worker recruitment by district leaders, modifying the City Charter to require that laws enacted by referendum only be changed through approval by the voters, and holding a Constitutional Convention – all of which Citizens Union supports. Despite these deviations from Citizens Union's agenda, Crowley is the preferred candidate in this race because she has proven herself to be an effective member of the New York City Council with an eye toward important reforms in key areas of city government. In her interview with Citizens Union, she expressed an understanding that, as a council member, her role is to represent the interests of New York City as a whole, as well as of her district.

#### Robert Holden - Dem

*Has returned questionnaire, response p. 20*

*Age: 65 Occupation: Professor at New York City College of Technology (CUNY)*

*Education: Hunter College, M.F.A.*

Robert Holden is a graphic designer and a professor at the New York City College of Technology. Holden also serves as the president of the Juniper Park Civic Association and Managing Editor and Art Director of the Juniper Berry Magazine. He has been a longtime community activist, and has served on Community Board 5 since 1988. Holden's top priority issues include creating a satellite police precinct in District 30, protecting the environment, and improving public transportation. Holden expresses support for all but one of Citizens Union's questionnaire policies; he is opposed to extending Council term limits from two to three four-year terms. Despite being aligned with many Citizens Union priorities, Holden appears to take a narrow view of the community that would make up his constituency, which Citizens Union feels would undermine his commitment to serving the needs of every resident in his district, including homeless individuals and families. For this reason, and in light of her accomplishments during her first term, Citizens Union prefers the incumbent.

# Voting and Registration Information

## REGISTERING TO VOTE

You are eligible to vote in municipal, federal and state elections if you are:

- 18 years of age (on the date of the election. You can register at 17 if you will be 18 before the election – Send your voter registration card in the year you turn 18 and it will be filed on your 18th birthday);
- United States citizen; AND
- Registered to vote 25 days before the election.

To vote in a party primary:

- You must be a registered member of that party.
- You cannot change your party registration to vote in a primary during that same year.
- Party registration changes must be filed 25 days before the previous year's General Election

## APPLYING FOR AN ABSENTEE BALLOT FOR THE PRIMARY ELECTION

You may vote by absentee ballot if you are:

- absent from New York City (or your county, if you live outside of New York City) on Election Day;
- ill or disabled, or serve as primary caregiver for an ill or disabled individual;
- a patient or inmate in a Veterans' Administration Hospital; OR
- detained in jail awaiting Grand Jury action or are confined in prison for an offense other than a felony.

Deadlines for absentee ballot applications and submissions are as follows:

- Mail your Absentee Ballot Application or Letter of Application by Tuesday, September 5.
- Apply for an Absentee Ballot in Person at your local county board of elections office by Monday, September 1.
- Mail in your Absentee Ballot with a postmark by Monday, September 11 – it also must be received by the local board of elections no later than September 19.
- Drop off your Absentee Ballot in person by Tuesday, September 12 to your local board of elections office – a friend or relative can drop it off.

## TO OBTAIN A VOTER REGISTRATION FORM OR ABSENTEE BALLOT:

- Go in person to your local county Board of Elections office;
- Call the Board of Elections at **1.866.VOTE-NYC**; OR
- Visit the Board of Elections website at <http://www.vote.nyc.ny.us/html/voters/voters.shtml>



## VOTING ON ELECTION DAY

The Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, September 12th. Polls will be open from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. If you have general questions regarding eligibility or the location of your polling place, please call 1-866-VOTE-NYC. You can also locate your polling place online, including handicap entrances, at <https://nyc.pollsitelocator.com/search> or [www.whosontheballot.org](http://www.whosontheballot.org).

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.

At the polls, if you are not on the voter registration list, it may be because your registration form was not received in time or was filled out incorrectly. If you believe that you are eligible to vote, you can still vote by requesting 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.

## CASTING YOUR BALLOT


Paper ballots will be used for casting votes, which can be marked using either a pen or a ballot marking device (BMD) as described below. Ballots are counted after they are inserted into an electronic scanner. The scanner will then be used to count the votes after the polling place has closed at the end of Election Day. A bin attached to the scanner will capture and keep the paper ballots as a record of all votes. This new process began in 2010 with New York's adoption of a new voting system to meet federal accessibility requirements.

The process works as follows:

- Enter the poll site, sign in, and receive your paper ballot from the poll worker.
- Mark your ballot through one of two means:
  - Go to a privacy booth and fill out your ballot with a pen by marking the appropriate ovals; or
  - Use a Ballot Marking Device (BMD), which is available for those who are in need of assistance (see below for more information).
- Once done, place your ballot in the privacy sleeve, proceed to the scanner area, and insert the marked ballot into the scanner to cast your vote. Your ballot can be inserted in any direction.
- If you make a mistake you can request a new ballot. If you mark your ballot incorrectly by marking more choices for one contest than you are supposed to, the scanner will notify you of an "overvote." To have your vote count, you must obtain a new ballot and mark your choices correctly before submitting your ballot.

## BALLOT MARKING DEVICE

Voters will be able to use the Election Systems & Software (ES&S) AutoMARK ballot marking device (BMD), which is mandated to be available at each polling location. Any



voter, including voters with disabilities, may use the BMD to view or listen to the ballot in any of the required languages for that poll site (which may include English, Spanish, Chinese - Mandarin, Chinese – Cantonese or Korean). Voters may use the BMD to complete a paper ballot independently and privately on Election Day by using its ATM-style touch screen, Braille-enhanced keypad, sip and puff device or its rocker paddle. More information on the new process is available at the New York City Board of Elections website: <http://vote.nyc.ny.us/html/voters/voters.shtml>

## RESOURCES FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

### TO RESEARCH CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS

NYS Board of Elections  
(800) 458-3453  
[www.elections.ny.gov](http://www.elections.ny.gov)

### TO RESEARCH CANDIDATES AND ISSUES

Citizens Union  
(212) 227-0342  
[www.CitizensUnion.org](http://www.CitizensUnion.org)

Gotham Gazette  
(212) 227-0342  
[www.GothamGazette.com](http://www.GothamGazette.com)

NYPIRG  
(212) 349-6460  
[www.nypirg.org](http://www.nypirg.org)

League of Women Voters of NYS  
(518) 465-4162  
[www.lwvny.org](http://www.lwvny.org)

Project Vote Smart  
(888) VOTE-SMART  
[www.VoteSmart.org](http://www.VoteSmart.org)