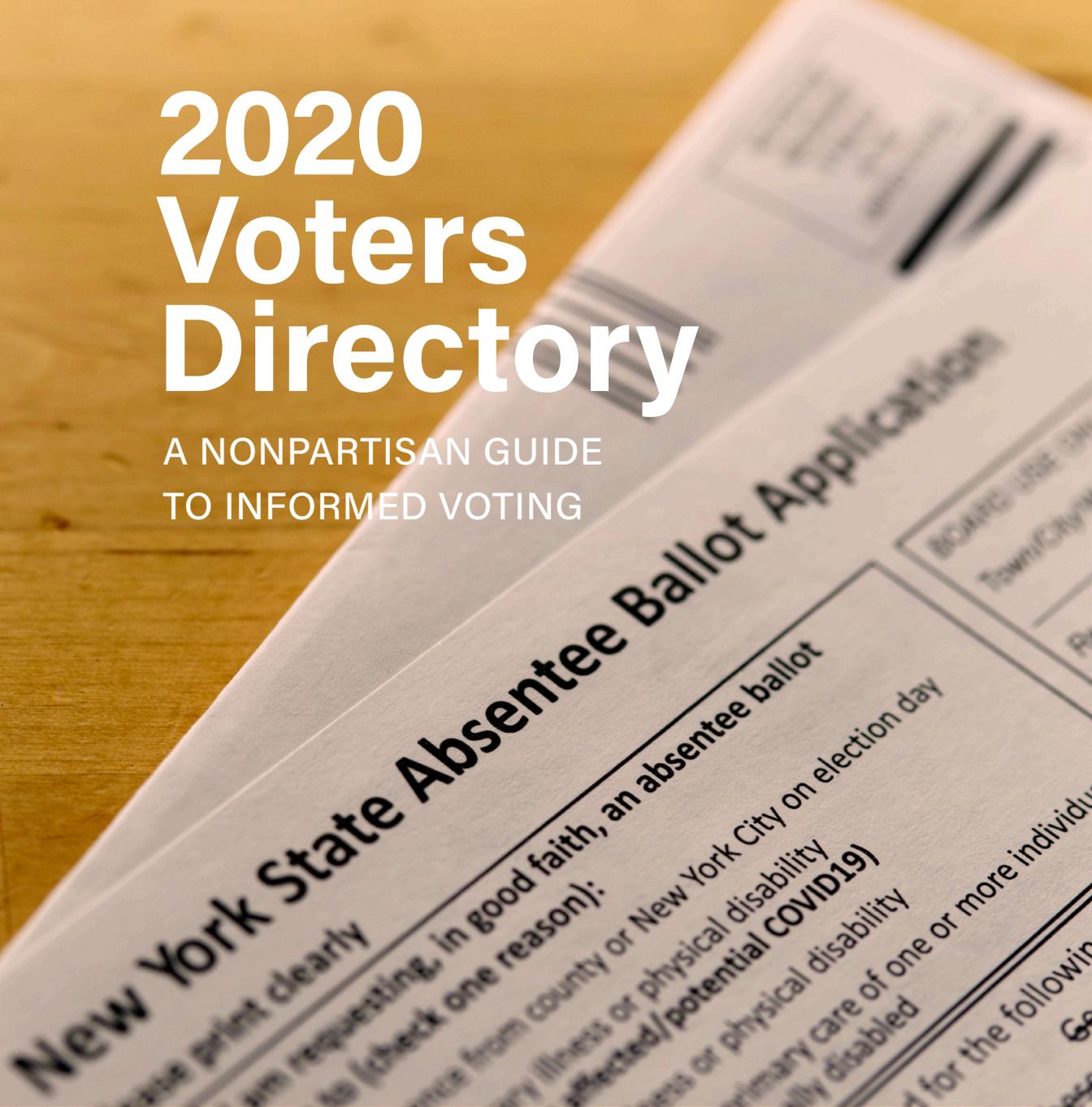


# 2020 Voters Directory

A NONPARTISAN GUIDE  
TO INFORMED VOTING



Vote on Tuesday, June 23 or Vote Early June 13 — 21



Primary Election



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# Citizens Union Preferred Candidates

## 2020 PRIMARY ELECTIONS

### Bronx

Assembly District 79

Elvis Santana (D)

Assembly District 81

Jeffrey Dinowitz (D)

### Brooklyn

Senate District 25

Jason Salmon (D)

Assembly District 50

Emily Gallagher (D)

Assembly District 56

Justin Cohen (D)

### Manhattan

Assembly District 65

Yuh-Line Niou (D)

Assembly District 68

Robert Rodriguez (D)

### Queens

Queens Borough President Donovan Richards (D)

Assembly District 31

Khaleel Anderson (D)

Assembly District 34

Jessica González-Rojas (D)

Assembly District 36

Aravella Simotas (D)

Assembly District 38

Jenifer Rajkumar (D)



# Letter from the Executive Director

## 2020 PRIMARY ELECTION VOTERS DIRECTORY

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The unprecedented turbulence of recent months has left New Yorkers with a dramatically different city than the one they have previously known. The COVID-19 pandemic hit the five boroughs harder than any other metropolis on the globe. Our subways, theaters, and office buildings have been closed. Over a million people filed for unemployment. Countless lives have been lost. The extreme measures that have been taken to protect the public's health, and the disruptions to the normal functioning of state government and the legislature, have forced us all to think about the leaders that we need.

Now, on top of the pandemic, mass demonstrations, sparked by the brutal murder of George Floyd, have made calls for change heard.

I want to remind readers of this Voters Directory that the legislature in Albany has tremendous power over all the cities in New York state, including New York City. It is, therefore, essential that voters elect people of experience, good character and serious concern about the communities they represent.

I hope this guide will assist you in conducting a similar assessment.

Sincerely,

Betsy Gotbaum  
*Executive Director, Citizens Union*

# The Reform Agenda in the Last Legislative Session

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The 2019-2020 legislative session was one of the busiest in history, with historic reforms finally passing after years of advocacy. Citizens Union was at the forefront of many of these legislative victories, ranging from election reform to census funding.

## VOTING AND ELECTIONS

Key election reforms that Citizens Union has been working towards for years were adopted and have begun to come into effect. The first of these packages, signed by Governor Cuomo in January of 2019, included early voting, the consolidation of local and federal primary elections into a single election day, voter registration mobilization, and the pre-registration of 16 and 17 year-olds. This package also made major strides towards two additional reforms by voting for the first passage for same day voter registration and no excuse absentee voting. Both require constitutional amendments, and they will need to pass through the legislature again in 2021 and then be approved through a statewide referendum. Additional 2019 voting reforms included a shortened party enrollment deadline, electronic poll books, implementation of new easy-to-use voter friendly ballots and online voter registration, which will begin in 2021. New York City saw a major election reform when voters adopted ranked choice voting for municipal elections in the November 2019 election.

However, election reform took one step back when the legislature decided to severely restrict ballot access as part of a political “deal” that allowed for campaign finance reform to be passed. The vote threshold to become a party and the petition requirements for independent candidates drastically increased, and parties are now required to win those votes every two years, including in presidential elections when they are naturally less involved. Citizens Union opposes this change, which will effectively eliminate small parties in the state, and will fight to reverse it in the next legislative session.

## CAMPAIGN FINANCE

The fight to reduce the corrosive impact of money in New York State politics saw significant changes this past year, with the

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passage of the biggest campaign finance reform in decades. Approved by the legislature in the 2021 budget following the recommendations of a 2019 blue-ribbon commission, the reform sets up a new public matching system on small donations, for candidates running for legislative and state-wide offices, and also significantly lowers individual contribution limits. Citizens Union has been deeply troubled by the flaws of the new system. Its administration has been assigned to the inadequate State Board of Elections, the option to make huge contributions and accumulate large “war chests” has not been curtailed, and no restrictions on donations from those doing business with the state have been included in the reform. Most of the changes will not take effect until the elections for the legislature in 2024 and for statewide offices in 2026.

Another important reform for our campaign finance system, and a longstanding Citizens Union legislative priority, was the closing of the so-called LLC loophole, by which Limited Liability Corporations were able to donate to political campaigns according to restrictions on individuals rather than corporations. The new legislation, signed by Governor Cuomo in January 2019, mandates that LLCs be treated as corporations and therefore face the same regulations, including an aggregate limit of \$5,000 a year, and a requirement that individuals who control LLCs have that corporation’s donations prorated to count towards their own individual contribution limits.

## ETHICS

In 2018, a special state commission instated limits on outside income for state lawmakers of up to 15% of their government salary, in conjunction with a pay raise for elected officials and state agency commissioners, to be phased over three years. However, a series of lawsuits ultimately struck down the outside-income cap, which the judges declared to be outside the commission’s purview, and invalidated the planned salary changes beyond the first year increase, as they were tied to the cap.

## CENSUS

Citizens Union successfully advocated for the city and state to fund the 2020 census, allocating \$40M in the NYC budget and \$30M



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in the state budget for census outreach and work. We also have been working with elected officials and civic leaders to create a comprehensive outreach plan to ensure that we have an accurate census count in 2020. While the COVID-19 pandemic upended many census advocacy plans, work has shifted and continues forward.

The 2020 census will determine—for the next 10 years—federal funding for such programs as food assistance to needy families, early childhood education for low-income children and maintenance for our bridges and roads, as well as the number of congressional seats the state has and how political districts are drawn. New York is filled with hard to count communities, including immigrants, non-English speaking New Yorkers and children.

## **COVID-19 CHANGES**

The nationwide outbreak of COVID-19 in early March of this year presented unique challenges to state government operations. After the budget was approved on April 3, the legislature did not reconvene, either remotely or in Albany, to review or pass any legislation until May 26. During this time, Governor Cuomo issued a series of Executive Orders related to the June Primary elections, including: reducing the signature threshold to get on the ballot, allowing absentee voting for all voters, making absentee ballot applications available electronically, and mailing the application to all registered voters. After reconvening, the Assembly did little on election reform, but did pass legislation to enable an electronic application for absentee voting through the end of 2020.

## **POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY**

The legislature took few steps to address police accountability and transparency over the past two years. However, at the time of writing, lawmakers announced they would reconvene to pass a package of legislation on the issue, amid widespread protests following the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis. One of the bills considered is a repeal to Section 50-a of the Civil Rights Law, which prevents disclosure of any documents relating to the disciplinary records of police officers. Citizens Union has advocated for this measure for years. It will not only bring much needed transparency and accountability to the state's police departments, but to the public as well.

# Candidate Evaluation

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## OVERVIEW

In this unprecedented election cycle, during a city, state, and national state of emergency, Citizens Union has evaluated 30 candidates in 13 races for state Senate and Assembly to determine who strongly support our issues, can advance a reform agenda, and can best fulfill the obligations of the position.

For the first time in over 100 years, the evaluation process was conducted entirely online. Due to the threat of the COVID-19 pandemic and NYS on PAUSE order, all interviews and meetings were held by video conference.

## 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 CU'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 CU'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.



# Candidate Evaluations

All are Democratic Party primaries

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## Bronx

### NY ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 79

#### Elvis Santana ★ Preferred Candidate

Age: 26 Occupation: Director, East House Settlement

Education: Albert Magnus College, B.A.

[Answers to candidate's questionnaire can be found online](#)

Elvis Santana is a Dominican American resident of the Bronx who advocates and organizes for local issues. He previously worked as a Community School Director at the East Side House Settlement in the South Bronx, serving communities throughout the Bronx and Northern Manhattan. Before that, he was a Program Manager and Job Developer at the Children's Aid Society. Santana's campaign prioritizes reforms related to education budget, affordable housing, and environmental racism. He also supports Citizens Union's reform agenda, including no-excuse absentee voting and having an independent body to ensure fair elections and prevent issues such as gerrymandering. He has demonstrated interest in further collaboration with Citizens Union to work towards good government and accountability. Citizens Union believes Santana will be an effective advocate for reform in Albany and prefers him in this race.

#### George Alvarez

Age: 46 Occupation: Founder, Apple Consultants

Education: PUCMM (Dominican Republic), B.A.; EADA (Barcelona, Spain), M.A.

[Answers to candidate's questionnaire can be found online](#)

George Alvarez is the founder of Apple Consultants, a political consulting firm. A computer scientist by training, he has worked at IT companies for a number of years. He has been active in local political clubs and currently serves as the Vice President of the Bronx Democratic Party. This is his third campaign for public office. Alvarez's platform prioritizes education and youth programs, quality affordable housing, and public safety. He also promises to create job training and placement programs for members of the community.



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Alvarez supports Citizen Union’s reform agenda, particularly online voter registration, limiting the maximum individual contributions, and rejecting donations from “big money.”

## Cynthia L. Cox

The candidate did not respond to Citizens Union’s questionnaire.

## Chantel Jackson

The candidate did not respond to Citizens Union’s questionnaire.

## Dion Powell

The candidate did not respond to Citizens Union’s questionnaire.

## Eric Stevenson

The candidate did not respond to Citizens Union’s questionnaire.

### NY ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 81

## Jeffrey Dinowitz ★ Preferred Candidate

Age: 65 Occupation: New York State Assembly Member

Education: Herbert H. Lehman College, B.A.; Brooklyn Law School, J.D.

Answers to candidate’s questionnaire can be found online

Jeffrey Dinowitz is the current Assembly Member for District 81, where he serves as Chair of the Committee on Judiciary and, among others, sits on the Committees on Ways and Means, Election Law, and Rules. A senior legislator who has held his seat since 1994, Dinowitz has had many legislative victories, including sponsoring legislation on MTA administration, tenant and landlord rights, and consumer protections. In this legislative session, he was the lead sponsor on two important voting rights bills – the “registration portability” bill, which allows New Yorkers who move to vote at their new address without having to re-register, and the SUNY/ CUNY voter empowerment bill, which requires the universities to provide voter registration forms and absentee ballots to students. Both bills have since been signed into law. He opposes several Citizens Union reforms, including special election reform, reducing the party vote threshold, simplifying campaign finance matching, restructuring the BOE, and court consolidation. However during his



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interview, Citizens Union was impressed by his knowledge of the issues and the clarity of thought put into his objections, which often included support for broader reform issues even when the details did not align with Citizens Union's proposals. Given his record on passing reform legislation, his effectiveness as a legislator, and his knowledge of and thoughtfulness about the issues of his district and the government, Citizens Union prefers Jeffrey Dinowitz in this race.

## George Diaz

The candidate did not respond to Citizens Union's questionnaire.

# Brooklyn

## NY SENATE DISTRICT 25

### Jason Salmon ★ Preferred Candidate

*Age: 34 Occupation: Community Organizer*

*Education: Hartt School of Music, University of Hartford*

*Answers to candidate's questionnaire can be found online*

Jason Salmon is a community organizer and lifelong resident of Fort Greene-Clinton Hill, Brooklyn. After studying music in college, Salmon opened his own recording studio where he worked with many Brooklyn-based artists. He served as a Community Liaison for the outgoing State Senator for this district, Velmanette Montgomery, from 2016 to 2019 where he worked on civic engagement initiatives. Salmon is running to advocate for his community in Albany with a particular focus on comprehensive criminal justice reform. He also prioritizes affordable housing, education reform, and tax reform. He supports all of Citizens Union's policy items, with an emphasis on police accountability and civic education in schools. During his interview, Salmon gave thoughtful, substantive answers and demonstrated that he had the necessary experience and qualifications. He also spoke about his efforts over the past three years, in particular, representing people in the district and bridging gaps between residents and government. Citizens Union prefers Salmon in this race because of his experience working in state government and alignment with reform issues.

### Jabari Brisport

*Age: 32 Occupation: New York Public School Teacher*

*Education: New York University, B.A.; Yale University, M.F.A.*

*Answers to candidate's questionnaire can be found online*

Jabari Brisport is a NYC public school teacher, union member, and third generation Caribbean-American from Prospect Heights, Brooklyn. Brisport is running to change the deep disinvestment and gentrification in his community and create a government that invests in everyday, working class people. He ran for City Council District 35 in 2017, which partially covers Senate District 25, but lost to the incumbent. Brisport supports criminal justice,

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housing, environmental justice, education, and health reforms. His platform prioritizes free and fair election measures, with a focus on public financing of state elections and strict donation limits. He also supports automatic voter registration, reinstating voting rights for incarcerated people, expanding vote-by-mail, and police accountability measures, including prohibiting police from lying to suspects and elected oversight of the police. Citizens Union admires Brisport’s dedication to political reform and his interest in continuing the conversation on policy and accountability.

## Tremaine Wright

The candidate declined to return Citizens Union Questionnaire

## NY ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 50

### Emily Gallagher ★ Preferred Candidate

Age: 36

Education: Ithaca College, B.A.; Baruch College, M.P.A.

Answers to candidate’s questionnaire can be found online

Emily Gallagher has been a local organizer and activist in North Brooklyn for 13 years. She served as Co-Chair of the Board of Neighbors Allied for Good Growth (currently North Brooklyn Neighbors) and founded the Greenpoint Sexual Assault Task Force, which advocates for reforms to NYPD protocol. She was recently laid off from her position in an educational nonprofit due to COVID-19. Gallagher previously ran for Female District Leader in the 50th Assembly, but lost by a narrow margin. Her legislative priorities include housing, criminal justice reform, environmental regulation, and transportation. She also dedicates a portion of her platform to democracy issues, including passing automatic voter registration, fixing the newly approved campaign finance system, and imposing term limits on state legislators. Gallagher also supports Citizens Union’s reform agenda. Citizens Union was impressed by her knowledge on reform issues and her specific plans to address them. She provided thoughtful responses about securing a better alternative to JCOPE, as well as concrete policies to address COVID-19 in the district. Citizens Union prefers Gallagher in this race because we believe she will bring fresh energy to Albany and be a champion of our issues.



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## Joseph Lentol

Age: 77 Occupation: New York State Assembly Member

Education: University of Dayton, B.A.; University of Baltimore, J.D.

[Answers to candidate's questionnaire can be found online](#)

Joseph Lentol was first elected to the State Assembly in 1973, and is one of the longest serving lawmakers in Albany. He is the third generation in his family to serve in this role in the past century. He has been Chair of the powerful Codes Committee since 1992, and serves on the Election, Rules, and Ways and Means Committees. In the past, he chaired the Committee on Governmental Employees and the Committee on Governmental Operations. His legislative priorities include criminal justice reform, housing, environmental regulation, and transportation. Lentol counts among his achievements sponsoring legislation to raise the age of criminal responsibility to eighteen and require courts to publish pretrial data. Lentol has a well-thought out platform and clear legislative record, but ultimately he is opposed to key reform issues. He opposes restructuring the Board of Elections, reforming the special election process, and repealing Section 50-a of the Civil Rights Law. He also voiced his concern for public financing of campaigns due to budget constraints. While he has dedicated many years of service to his community, Citizens Union does not prefer Lentol in this race because of his opposition to fundamental elements of our reform agenda.

### NY ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 51

NO PREFERENCE

## Marcela Mitaynes

Age: 23 Occupation: Tenant Organizer, Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Education: CUNY Kingsborough, A.A.

[Answers to candidate's questionnaire can be found online](#)

Marcela Mitaynes is a community organizer and has been a resident of Sunset Park since immigrating from Peru as a child. She became an activist through her work with tenants' rights organization, Neighbors Helping Neighbors. She worked with New York lawmakers to pass the Housing Stability and Tenant Protection Act of 2019, and housing has been a major focus of her campaign. Besides housing, her priorities include equitable tax policies, healthcare, immigration, climate change, and good governance.



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Citizens Union was impressed by Mitaynes' commitment to reform issues, such as same day voter registration, nonpartisan redistricting, and vote by mail access for all New Yorkers, as well as her dedication to the district.

## Felix Ortiz

*Age: 60 Occupation: New York State Assembly Member*

*Education: Boricua College, B.S.*

*Answers to candidate's questionnaire can be found online*

Felix Ortiz has served as the State Assembly Member for District 51 since 1994. He served as Chair of the Cities, Mental Health, Alcohol and Substance Abuse, and Veterans Affairs Committees, and in 2015 he was named Assistant Speaker of the Assembly – the first Hispanic legislator to hold that title. In 2017, he unsuccessfully ran for City Council in the same area. Ortiz prioritizes issues of housing, transit, gun violence, environmental sustainability, and LGBTQ+ rights. He emphasizes his work with the community in helping to pass bills that promote healthy diets in school lunches, obesity education, and eating disorder awareness. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he instituted a number of policies that have been instrumental in ensuring his district has access to social services, reliable information, and equitable treatment. Ortiz supports Citizens Union's reform agenda and stresses his commitment to voting reform, specifically with his proposed legislation to allow New Yorkers to vote anywhere in the state. Citizens Union is impressed by his years of service to his community and track record of advocacy, but issues no preference in this race because of campaign finance misconduct in his campaign account. Ortiz was not personally involved and has made it clear that he was shocked and disappointed to learn about what happened and took steps to prevent future occurrences, but Citizens Union believes representatives must prioritize the ethical manner of their public offices to maintain the public trust.

## Katherine Walsh

*Age: 36 Occupation: Urban Planner, CDP*

*Education: UC Santa Cruz, B.A.; Tufts University, M.A.*

*Answers to candidate's questionnaire can be found online*

Katherine Walsh is an urban planner working on environmental and sustainability issues. She currently works at CDP, a global



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environmental consulting group, where she oversees the company's engagement with cities, states, and regions in North America. She has worked for a number of governmental and nonprofit organizations, including the World Affairs Council of Northern California and Philadelphia's Mayor's Office. Walsh has prioritized the environment in her career and campaign, saying publicly that if elected, she will implement a green transition as part of her recovery plan for COVID-19. She is the co-chapter leader of the NYC branch of Women Investing in a Sustainable Economy. She has never held public office, but currently serves as the Chair of the Democratic County Committee in the district, is fluent in Chinese, and is a former Fulbright Scholar. Her legislative priorities include climate change, housing, immigration, education, healthcare, and transportation. Citizens Union commends her strong stance on executive powers in the state legislature, her focus on voter engagement and education, and her support of campaign finance transparency.

## Génesis Aquino

The candidate did not respond to Citizens Union's questionnaire.

## NY ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 56

### Justin Cohen ★ *Preferred Candidate*

*Age: 38 Occupation: Nonprofit Executive*

*Education: Yale University, B.A.*

*Answers to candidate's questionnaire can be found online*

Justin Cohen is a community organizer and nonprofit executive who focuses on issues of education and justice. Previously, he worked at D.C. Public Schools, served as President of Mass Insight Education, a Boston-based nonprofit that provides youth training and placement programs, and co-founded the Wayfinder Foundation. He is one of the founding members of Politicize My Death, an antigun-violence group, and an organizer with Racial Justice BK, an interfaith advocacy organization. This is Cohen's first time running for public office. Cohen's top priorities include education and criminal justice reform – he stresses ending the systemic violence that oppresses Black and Brown communities and seeks to divest from policing and incarceration to invest in infrastructure and social services that promote economic stability. He also plans to fight for education



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and housing equity. He promises to be an advocate of greater police accountability and transparency and plans to incorporate civic education into the education system in his district. Cohen also supports Citizens Union’s reform issues, and promises to be an active check on gubernatorial power. Citizens Union prefers Cohen in this race because of his clarity on reform issues, commitment to public service, and strong and comprehensive plans for the challenges facing his district.

## Stefani Zinerman

*Age: 55 Occupation: Director of Special Projects, NY State Senator Valmanette Montgomery*

*Education: Rochester Institute of Technology, B.A.*

*Answers to candidate’s questionnaire can be found online*

Stefani Zinerman is a life-long Brooklynite, management professional, and community activist. She currently serves as the Director of Special Projects for NY State Senator Montgomery, where she works with local institutional boards to improve their efficacy in serving the community. She has also held leadership positions in many local organizations, including the Brooklyn NAACP, the Age-Friendly Neighborhood Committee, and the Brooklyn Complete Count Committee. Her campaign focuses on improving the educational and professional opportunities for members of her community with high-quality schools and enrichment programs, school-based health clinics, healthy aging programs, and protections for affordable housing. Zinerman opposes a number of items on Citizens Union reform issues, including, among others, replacing JCOPE, limiting outside income for state legislators, same-day voter registration, reforming the special election process, and consolidating the New York State Court system. She did not explain her opposition to these issues with either a clear position against the principle behind them or objection to specific implementation details. Citizens Union was impressed by Zinerman’s comprehension of the needs of the district and her dedication to her local community, however, we were concerned by her opposition to so many reform policies and did not feel she offered strong alternatives to the measures in our agenda. As a result, Citizens Union does not prefer Zinerman in this race.



# Manhattan

## NY ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 65

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### **Yuh-Line Niou** ★ *Preferred Candidate*

*Age: 37 Occupation: New York State Assembly Member*

*Education: Evergreen State College, B.A.; Baruch College, M.P.A.*

*Answers to candidate's questionnaire can be found online*

Yuh-Line Niou has served as an Assembly Member since 2016, filling the seat once held by Sheldon Silver, and was the first Asian American to represent the district, which encompasses Chinatown. Chair of the Subcommittee on Catastrophic Natural Disasters and Co-Chair of the Asian Pacific American Task Force, she held a number of positions as an activist in and around government before being elected to office. A proudly progressive legislator, her priorities include housing equity, ethics reform, and racial justice. Niou has used her office to advocate for reform issues since her election and supports Citizens Union's reform agenda. She actively worked to help pass election reform, most recently vote-by-mail for all New Yorkers in the coming election and was unabashed in calling the legislature back into session during the COVID-19 pandemic and critiquing the expansive powers given to Governor Cuomo. Niou is both passionate and knowledgeable about reform issues and has been a vocal advocate for Citizens Union's reform agenda. Citizens Union prefers Yuh-Line Niou in this race.

### **Grace Lee**

*Age: 40 Occupation: Self-Employed*

*Education: Columbia University, B.A.; University of Chicago, M.B.A.*

*Answers to candidate's questionnaire can be found online*

Grace Lee is a community activist, business owner, and first-generation Asian American who has lived in lower Manhattan for 15 years. She co-founded Children First, a group which organizes parents who are opposed to the development at 250 Water Street and advocates for safe cleanup of toxic sites in southern Manhattan. Lee supports Citizens Union's reform agenda, and also prioritizes funding for public schools, environmental sustainability, and funding for NYCHA families. Lee emphasizes her advocacy work, the need for Albany lawmakers to convene and hold hearings, and the steps that



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must be taken to ensure food and healthcare needs of constituents are met. She also supports an independent regulatory body for the Board of Elections and eliminating outside salaries earned by the legislature. While Lee’s community activism is commendable and she supports our reform issues, her opponent has been a proven champion in the legislature. Citizens Union does not prefer Lee in this race.

## NY ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 68

### Robert J. Rodriguez ★ Preferred Candidate

Age: 44 Occupation: New York State Assembly Member

Education: Yale University, B.A.; New York University, M.B.A.

Answers to candidate’s questionnaire can be found online

Robert J. Rodriguez has been an Assembly Member since 2011 and currently chairs the Legislative Task Force on Demographic Research and Reapportionment. The son of former City Council Member Robert Rodriguez, Sr., Rodriguez was born and raised in District 68. He prioritizes increasing NYCHA funding, passing the NY Health Act, and increasing support for public schools. Rodriguez supports most of Citizens Union’s reform agenda, however he has qualified opposition to capping legislators’ outside income at 25%, as he believes that this percentage creates a barrier to entry for many candidates, and he is concerned about the role of the executive in appointing judges in the proposed court consolidation system. Additionally, he supports reducing the vote threshold for party registration and believes campaign finance reform should never have been coupled with the regulation of ballot access. He has been a co-sponsor of a number of voter reform bills including, among others, legislation for same day registration, voter friendly ballots, and consolidated state and federal primaries. Based on his familiarity with the issues, as well as his previous legislative record and capacity to advance a good government agenda, Citizens Union prefers Rodriguez in this race.

### Tamika Mapp

Age: 44 Occupation: President, East Harlem Tax Service

Education: Kaplan University, B.S.

Answers to candidate’s questionnaire can be found online

Tamika Mapp is a business owner, member of the Manhattan Chamber of Commerce, local community activist, and County

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Committee Member. She grew up in Pittsburgh, PA, and moved to East Harlem in 2008 after serving in the U.S. Army. In 2009, she opened the East Harlem Tax Service, a community tax and insurance company, which she now runs with her wife. She has run several campaigns for local political office over the past decade, but this is her first time on the ballot for State Assembly. Mapp supports Citizen Union's reform agenda, and also prioritizes sufficient and affordable housing through Community Land Trust funding, adjusting the median income of each neighborhood, and ensuring that the district's tax abatement programs do not expire. Citizens Union admires Mapp's dedication to serving the public and to her district, particularly her work to inform constituents about the current election and her community support during the current crisis.

## NY ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 73

NO PREFERENCE

### Cameron Koffman

*Age: 23 Occupation: Full-time Candidate*

*Education: Yale University, B.A.*

*Answers to candidate's questionnaire can be found online*

Cameron Koffman is a recent college graduate running on a platform of economic support for small businesses in his district, such as repealing the commercial rent tax, enforcing sales taxes for online transactions, and overhauling inspection systems. Koffman supports Citizens Union's reform agenda and devotes a substantial portion of his platform to ethics and good government issues, including capping outside income for legislators at 15%, introducing term limits for State Senators and Assembly Members, and replacing JCOPE with an independent body. In response to the current pandemic, Koffman developed a plan for civic participation during the crises which details measures to ensure absentee ballots are mailed and counted effectively. Koffman also supports significant campaign finance reform despite having raised a record-breaking amount of money for an Assembly seat, in part through very large individual donations. He acknowledges that he would not have been able to compete in the election without the fundraising he had, but indicates that, if elected, he would strongly prefer to use more equitable fundraising mechanisms going forward.



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Citizens Union found Koffman to be passionate, knowledgeable, and invested in the issues of his campaign; we were impressed by his well-developed reform platform as well as his campaign's consistent involvement with the local community. However, we are concerned about Koffman's lack of political experience, and therefore Citizens Union takes a position of no preference in this race.

## Dan Quart

*Age: 47 Occupation: New York State Assembly Member*

*Education: SUNY Binghamton, B.A.; St. John's University, J.D.*

[Answers to candidate's questionnaire can be found online](#)

Dan Quart is the Assembly Member for District 73 on the Upper East Side, a position he has held since a 2011 special election, and he currently serves as Chair of the Commission on Administrative Regulations Review. Since taking office, Quart has sponsored successful legislation on a variety of issues, including the legalization of gravity knives, transparency and accessibility of tax and financial information, and increasing the online availability of government processes and data. One of his most prominent successes was the passage of a bill requiring state authorities to conduct open meetings and provide internet broadcasts of proceedings in 2015. He supports Citizens Union's reform agenda and also supports an amendment to make the Legislature full-time and completely eliminate outside income. Quart is concurrently running for Manhattan District Attorney, and much of his campaign activity is dedicated to that race. If he wins this reelection, Quart would spend the first six to twelve months of his term campaigning for another office and, if elected to District Attorney, would vacate his seat mid-term. Though Citizens Union appreciates Quart's efficacy in office and his support for reform issues, we are concerned about his capacity to serve his community with his focus on a separate race. Citizens Union was also disappointed by his lawsuit to remove his opponent from the ballot. For these reasons, Citizens Union takes a position of no preference in this race.

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## QUEENS BOROUGH PRESIDENT

The following evaluation was conducted for the Special Election for Queens Borough President, scheduled for March 24, 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was first postponed and then canceled in an Executive Order issued by Governor Cuomo. Voters will choose between the same group of candidates, minus one, in the Primary Election. Citizens Union has maintained its evaluation for the Primary Election. [See candidates' questionnaires here.](#)

### Donovan Richards ★ Preferred Candidate

Age: 36 Occupation: New York City Council Member

Education: Aviation Management from Vaughn College of Aeronautics

Donovan Richards currently serves as the New York City Council Member for the 31st district, encompassing much of Southeast Queens, including the Rockaways. While a Council Member, Richards has been the chair of several committees, including the Committee on Public Safety, the Committee on Environmental Protection, and the Subcommittee on Zoning and Franchises. If elected, Richards's top priorities for the Queens Borough President's office are to improve affordable housing, advance criminal justice reform, protect and expand immigrant rights, and to fix public transport. While a Council Member, Richards' main accomplishments have been securing \$1.5 billion in sewer infrastructure funding for the district and securing \$288 million in investments for rezoning in Far Rockaway, a historically disenfranchised neighborhood in the city. Due to Richards' long list of accomplishments in his district, his use of data in problem-solving, and the depth of his understanding of land-use and vision for equitable development in Queens, Citizens Union endorses him for Queens Borough President.

### Costa Constantinides

Age: 45 Occupation: New York City Council Member

Education: Queens College, B.A.; Cardozo School of Law, J.D.

Costa Constantinides currently serves as the New York City Council Member for the 22nd district, which encompasses Astoria, East Elmhurst, Jackson Heights, and Woodside. Constantinides'



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campaign focuses on his work with climate change and environmental reform in Queens. He has been the Chair of the Environmental Protection Committee since 2015, and throughout his term as a Council Member championed initiatives on climate change, housing, and education. In 2016, he procured \$30 million to help renovate Astoria Park and has committed to creating 500 units of affordable senior housing by 2021. If elected, Constantinides' top priorities for the Queens Borough President's position are to appoint a Deputy Borough President for Sustainability, begin putting solar panels on all City buildings that could accommodate them, and fight the current MTA redesign of the current bus network in Queens. While Citizens Union has endorsed Council Member Constantinides in past elections and was inspired by his vision for a greener Queens, Citizens Union believed that other candidates were more suited to the position.

## Elizabeth Crowley

*Age: 42 Occupation: Former New York City Council Member*

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

Elizabeth Crowley is a former New York City Council Member for the 30th district, which encompasses Glendale, Maspeth, Middle Village, Ridgewood, Woodhaven, and Woodside. She lost her re-election in 2017 by a razor-thin margin of 137 votes. Crowley's campaign revolves around her experience as a Council Member and Queens native. During her time as a Council Member, Crowley was Chair of the Committee on Fire and Criminal Justice Services and led a citywide effort to save firehouses and improve the city's 911 call-taking system. She also called for the removal of 16 and 17 year-olds from Rikers Island. If elected, Crowley's top priorities for the Queens Borough President's office are to get a larger share of city funds for the borough, expand transportation options throughout the borough, and increase arts funding. While Citizens Union has preferred former Council Member Crowley in past elections, and is impressed by her long political career and commitment to Queens, we believe that there are other candidates who are more poised to lead in this position.

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## Anthony Miranda

*Age: 58 Occupation: Executive Chair, National Latino Officers Association; Retired Sergeant, NYPD Sergeant*

*Education: New York City College of Technology, A.A.; John Jay College of Criminal Justice B.A.*

Anthony Miranda is a retired NYPD sergeant running his fourth political campaign. If elected, this would be Miranda's first time holding a public office. Miranda's election campaign centers on his long history of law enforcement experience, affinity for progressive activist groups, and its grassroots style. Miranda is the founder and chairperson of the National Latino Officers Association, which aims to promote and amplify Latino culture in both public and private agencies, with an emphasis on law enforcement communities. Miranda's top priorities for the Queens Borough President office if elected are to expand public housing in the borough, ensure that Borough Presidents have a seat on the MTA board, reform and regulate taxis and Ride-Sharing companies, and advocate for NYC workers and public projects. While Citizens Union has evaluated and preferred Miranda in the past, and appreciates his commitment to reform and local issues, we believe that his level of experience is inadequate for this position.

## Dao Yin

Candidate could not be reached in time for this evaluation.

### NY ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 31

## Khaleel Anderson ★ Preferred Candidate

*Age: 23 Occupation: Non-Teaching Adjunct, CUNY*

*Education: Queens College, B.A. and M.A.*

*Answers to candidate's questionnaire can be found online*

Khaleel Anderson has been a community organizer in the district since his teenage years focusing on issues of food insecurity and environmental justice. Anderson strongly aligns with Citizen Union's reform agenda especially in regard to campaign and election finance laws. In an interview with Citizens Union, Anderson was very vocal about his qualms with JCOPE and the Board of Elections. He believes that the first step to deal with JCOPE is to make it an independent body and that the BOE has become a patronage mill and more measures need to be taken to ensure that the employees



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are qualified. Additionally, he called for a major reform of state campaign finance laws, describing them as, “the most archaic laws in this country.” Anderson pledges to address the transportation and unemployment problems in the district. A member of the Community Board 14, 101st Police Precinct Council, and Far Rockaway NAACP, he also co-chairs a Participatory Budgeting Project Youth Committee. Citizens Union was impressed by his deep understanding of reform policy, including election law and ethics, and by his long record of community activism. We believe he will be an excellent advocate for his community and prefer him in this race.

## Richard David

*Age: 34 Occupation: District Leader*

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

*Answers to candidate’s questionnaire can be found online*

Richard David is the District Leader of Assembly District 31, a position he was elected to last year, and an adjunct history professor at York College. He was previously the Executive Director of the NYC Department of Consumer Affairs, and has also worked in the City’s Administration for Children’s Services and at the New York City Economic Development Corporation. His campaign focuses on advocating for undocumented individuals and families, especially amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. David supports Citizen Union’s reform agenda, stressing the need for open primaries, lowering the voting age to 16, and increasing financial reporting for lobbyists. He promises to lead a clean, corruption-free term and push progressive legislation that prioritizes working-class families of color. He is currently a member of Queens Community Board 9 and the NAACP Jamaica Branch, and is the co-founder of the Indo-Caribbean Alliance. Citizens Union was impressed by David’s long history of local activism and the thought he has put into his policy positions, however we do not prefer him in this race.

## Lisa George

*Age: 52 Occupation: Office Manager, NY State Senator James Sanders Jr.*

*Education: Queens College*

*Answers to candidate’s questionnaire can be found online*

Lisa George has served as the Office Manager for NY State Senator James Sanders Jr. since 2013. In this role she has become a well-known presence amongst the community by addressing the needs



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of individual constituents seeking services from various government agencies. Her good government priorities include lower contribution limits for registered lobbyists and those who do business with the state. George supports a public bulletin (website) to detail each emergency action taken under the current crisis and the intended duration, and believes an ad hoc commission should be formed to address potential conflicts of interest and other ethical concerns. She is also a member of a few local associations, including the Far Rockaway NAACP and Arverne Visionary Lions Club. While Citizens Union was impressed by George’s long history of local activism and her deep knowledge and understanding of her community needs, we do not prefer her in this race.

## Shea Uzoigwe

*Age: 34 Occupation: Full-time Candidate*

*Education: Queensborough Community College, A.B.A.; Queens College, B.A.*

*Answers to candidate’s questionnaire can be found online*

Chiedu “Shea” Uzoigwe is a 34-year-old first-generation Nigerian-American from South East Queens. He most recently served as a Constituent Services Liaison for State Senator James Sanders, Jr. and worked on Melinda Katz’s recent bid for Queens District Attorney. He supports a Green New Deal in New York State and bringing sustainable careers through union jobs and apprenticeship trainings. Uzoigwe also prioritizes the district’s transportation issues and, if elected, hopes to sit on the transportation committee. Uzoigwe supports Citizens Union’s reform measures, in particular automatic voter registration and lowering the voting age to 17 year-old. He has pledged to reject contributions from corporations and lobbyists, and instead run a small donor campaign. An active member of the community, he is currently a member of NAACP Far Rockaway Chapter, Queens County Young Democrats, and New York Communities for Change. Citizens Union found Uzoigwe to be knowledgeable of the issues, with deep roots in the community, and was impressed with his understanding of the legislative system.

## Derrick DeFlorimonte

The candidate could not be reached and did not answer Citizen Union’s questionnaire.

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## Tavia Blakley

The candidate could not be reached and did not answer Citizen Union's questionnaire.

### NY ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 34

## Jessica González-Rojas ★ Preferred Candidate

Age: 34 Occupation: Full-time Candidate

Education: Boston University, B.A.; New York University, M.P.A.

[Answers to candidate's questionnaire can be found online](#)

Jessica González-Rojas has lived in Queens since 1999 and describes herself as a life-long activist working for social justice and liberation, particularly for people of color, immigrants, and LGBTQIA+ communities. She is running on a campaign of dignity, equality, and justice. She has held leadership positions on New Immigrant Community Empowerment (NICE), Jackson Heights' New Visions Democratic Club, New York City Transit Riders Council, and New York City Young Women's Initiatives, and served as an adjunct professor at CUNY City College and NYU's Wagner School of Public Service. From 2002-2006 González-Rojas served as a New York State Democratic Committee Member. She prioritizes key issues including: disability rights, healthcare and reproductive justice, public transit and the environment, immigrant rights, early education/higher education reform, and criminal justice reform. González-Rojas dedicates a section of her platform to "People Powered Reforms," which focuses on campaign finance and she advocates for increased voter turnout and civic engagement. Citizens Union was impressed by her proven dedication to the community and past accomplishments, as well as her captivating energy and thoughtfulness on a number of issues, particularly issues of importance to Citizens Union. If elected, we see her as a potential powerhouse in Albany. For these reasons, Citizens Union prefers González-Rojas in this race.

## Joy Chowdhury

Age: 32 Occupation: Taxi Driver

Education: LaGuardia Community College, A.A.; York College, in progress

[Answers to candidate's questionnaire can be found online](#)

Joy Chowdhury immigrated to New York a decade ago from Bangladesh where he was born and raised. Chowdhury became a



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U.S. citizen in 2014 and now lives in the Woodside neighborhood of Queens, where he has been involved in various community organizing and advocacy efforts. Here he first worked at a perfume warehouse in Staten Island and then drove a taxi, which he continues to do, to support his family and put himself through college. While in college, he was elected president of the student government – representing 50,000 students in the CUNY system. He is also a veteran of the U.S. Army. Most recently, he served as a Community Liaison for City Council Member Costa Constantinides. Chowdhury believes that as a taxi driver/immigrant with a language barrier and no healthcare, he knows the community's struggles most intimately and can best represent them in government. His top issues are immigrant rights, housing, workers' rights (particularly those in the gig economy), education and healthcare for all, and criminal justice reform. He supports all items on Citizen Union's questionnaire. Citizens Union was impressed by his energy and ability to build coalitions and while he has had an admirable career so far, he does not prioritize our campaign finance and ethics concerns. While Citizens Union does not prefer him in this race, we encourage him to continue dedicating his career to public service.

## Nuala O'Doherty Naranjo

*Age: 51 Occupation: Retired*

*Education: St. John's University, J.D.*

[Answers to candidate's questionnaire can be found online](#)

Nuala O'Doherty-Naranjo is a former prosecutor for the State of New York and long-time community activist. She has helped lead many local community groups, including Jackson Heights Beautification Group, District 30's Community Education Council, Queens Transportation Alternatives, and I.S. 230 and P.S. 222 PTAs among others. In the past, she has organized against the proposed LGA AirTrain and Queens Bus Network Redesign Plan, has advocated for greater community input in government, and has worked on numerous safer street and street beautification efforts. O'Doherty-Naranjo was impressive in both her accomplishments to date and her understanding of the issues – she was particularly passionate and knowledgeable about free and fair elections and campaign finance reform. While she is a proven, dedicated fighter for the community, O'Doherty-Naranjo has not received any major



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endorsements. Citizens Union does not prefer her in this race due to the strength of her opponent.

## Michael DenDekker

The candidate declined to return Citizen Union’s questionnaire.

## Angel Cruz

The candidate could not be reached.

### NY ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 36

## Aravella Simotas ★ Preferred Candidate

Age: 41 Occupation: New York State Assembly Member

Education: Fordham University, B.A. and J.D.

[Answers to candidate’s questionnaire can be found online](#)

Aravella Simotas was first elected to office in 2011, becoming the first Greek-American woman to represent her district in the State Assembly. She is the Chair of the Assembly Task Force on Women’s Issues and from 2017 to 2020 served as Chair of the Committee on Ethics and Guidance. As a legislator, she has been dedicated to women’s rights and fighting sexual harassment. She introduced and passed laws that extended the statute of limitations for certain sex crimes, added workplace protections from sexual harassment, and created a bill of rights for survivors of rape and sexual assault, among others. Simotas has signed on to several pieces of legislation pertinent to reform issues, including election reform, ethics reform, and police accountability. More recently, she sponsored a bill that would let voters apply for absentee ballots electronically, which was approved as part of the COVID-19 legislative package. She supports Citizens Union’s reform agenda and promises to work to replace JCOPE with an independent enforcement agency to investigate ethics complaints, and pledges to advocate for meaningful campaign finance reforms. Simotas’ main campaign issues include women’s rights, the Green New Deal, affordable housing, criminal justice reform, healthcare, unions, education, transportation, and economic justice. Citizens Union prefers Simotas in this race because she is an established and accomplished community leader and has a proven record of passing significant pieces of legislation.



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## Zohran Mamdani

Age: 28 Occupation: Foreclosure Housing Counselor, Advocacy Group Chhaya CDC  
Education: Bowdoin College, B.A..

[Answers to candidate's questionnaire can be found online](#)

Zohran Mamdani is an Indian-Ugandan Queens activist who works as a foreclosure housing counselor, assisting immigrant families facing eviction in Queens. He is also an organizer with the Democratic Socialists of America's NYC chapter, and previously worked on several local election campaigns for City Council, State Senate, and District Attorney. Mamdani prioritizes housing issues, ending corporate control of utilities, and passing criminal justice reform, among other objectives. He supports all of Citizens Union's questionnaire items, and notes that he seeks to expand the electorate by engaging communities that have been historically underrepresented, including the Muslim and South Asian communities in the district. Mamdani also promises to never accept corporate, big real estate, or big PAC money, and stresses that the legislature needs to keep the government in check. Citizens Union was impressed by Mamdani's concrete proposals for change and the clarity and conviction on issues. We encourage him to continue serving his community through public service, but we do not prefer him in this race due to the strength of his opponent.

### NY ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 38

## Jenifer Rajkumar ★ Preferred Candidate

Age: 37 Occupation: Lawyer  
Education: University of Pennsylvania, B.A.; Stanford University, J.D.

[Answers to candidate's questionnaire can be found online](#)

Jenifer Rajkumar is a civil rights attorney and a former District Leader with a background working in government. She served under Governor Cuomo as the Director of Immigration Affairs and as Special Counsel from 2017 to 2019. Rajkumar is on the board of Represent Women, on the Legal Advisory Council for Sanctuary for Families, and a member of a number of other organizations for social change. She also teaches at CUNY's Lehman College. She believes South Queens is underrepresented and promises to increase access to education and justice, improve public safety, and fight for affordable health care. Rajkumar dedicates a section of her platform to "Good, Honest Government & Campaign Finance Reform." She supports campaign



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finance reform by seeking to limit political donations and by focusing on conflicts of interest and ethics reform. Rajkumer encourages transparency by increasing oversight of elected officials and those doing business with the state. She believes Committee Chairs must have more power to shape policy in their topical areas and the ability to hire their own staff. A long time community activist, she ran in the 2016 primary for Assembly District 65 and was preferred by Citizens Union. She demonstrates exceptional understanding of reform issues and Citizens Union is impressed by her clear, detailed policy plans. We believe she will be an excellent community representative and an effective advocate and as such, prefer her in this race.

## Joey De Jesus

*Age: 32 Occupation: Poet; Adjunct Professor, BMCC*

*Education: Oberlin College, B.A.; Sarah Lawrence College, M.F.A.; New York University, M.A.*

[Answers to candidate's questionnaire can be found online](#)

Joey De Jesus is a poet and community activist focused on social justice initiatives. His poems have appeared in numerous journals and magazines, and he has published 3 books. He also holds teaching positions at FIT and the Borough of Manhattan Community College. This is his first time running for public office; he runs his campaign with no institutional support. De Jesus advocates for greater police accountability, decreasing campaign contribution limits, restoring voting rights of formerly incarcerated individuals, and extending the right to vote to all residents in local and statewide elections. He promises to decarcerate the state, fight for universal suffrage, and protect constituents from ICE. Citizens Union finds De Jesus' dedication to social justice admirable, but we do not prefer him in this race due to the strength of his opponent.

## Michael Miller

*Age: 59 Occupation: New York State Assembly Member*

*Education: Queens College, B.A.; CUNA Management School at the University of Georgia, M.A.*

[Answers to candidate's questionnaire can be found online](#)

Michael Miller has served as Assembly Member for District 38 since 2009, when he was elected in a special election. He is currently the Assistant Majority Whip and Chair of the Assembly Task Force for



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People with Disabilities. He is a sitting member of the Committees on Aging, Banks, Education, Labor, Racing and Wagering, and Veteran's Affairs. His priorities include protecting working families, improving the education system, and increasing services for seniors. Miller opposes two of Citizens Union's priorities – changing the new public finance system to make in- and out-of-district donations eligible and to eliminate the three tiers for matching, and repealing Civil Rights Law, Sec. 50-a which he believes would put police officers and their families at risk. Although Miller indicates he sees "room for reform," Citizens Union feels he demonstrates a lack of understanding on reform issues and does not have a promising record of legislative victories in office. Citizens Union is concerned about his unclear policy plans and agenda and has chosen not to prefer Miller in this race.

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Below each question, please find a tabulation of answers from all 46 Senate and Assembly primary candidates who responded to the questionnaire (not only from those candidates interviewed).

Questionnaire responses from all candidates can be found on [Citizens Union's website](#).

## ETHICS

- 1 Replace the Joint Commission on Public Ethics and the Legislative Ethics Commission with an effective and independent enforcement body (S594A/A1282A).  
Support - 45      Oppose - 1
- 2 Limit outside compensation earned by state legislators and statewide officials to 25% of their salaries and eliminate stipends  
Support - 42      Oppose - 4

## ELECTIONS AND VOTING

- 3 Do you support or oppose the following changes to the state's current registration and voting system?
  - a. No-excuse absentee voting (second passage of constitutional amendment)  
Support - 46      Oppose - 0
  - b. Election Day voter registration (second passage of constitutional amendment)  
Support - 45      Oppose - 1
  - c. Re-enfranchisement of people on parole automatically through legislation, without requiring a Certificate of Good Conduct or Relief  
Support - 46      Oppose - 0
  - d. Automatic voter registration, unless the potential voter opts out  
Support - 44      Oppose - 2
  - e. Mandating poll sites on college campuses  
Support - 44      Oppose - 1      Conditionally Support - 1

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- 4 Reform the special election process, utilizing a nonpartisan special election for state legislative seats and eliminate delays in filling vacancies.

Support - 41      Oppose - 4      No Answer - 1

- 5 Reduce the vote threshold to become a registered party back to 50,000 votes and keep the gubernatorial election as the qualifying election, and reduce the petition requirement for independent candidates back to 15,000 signatures.

Support - 42      Oppose - 2      No Answer - 2

## CAMPAIGN FINANCE

- 6 Amend the state's public campaign financing system, approved in the 2021 budget, by

a. Drastically reduce campaign contribution limits

Support - 45      Oppose - 1

b. Set even lower contribution limits for registered lobbyists and those who do business with the state

Support - 46      Oppose - 0

c. Move the campaign finance matching program to be administered by an independent, nonpartisan body outside of the NY Board of Election

Support - 44      Oppose - 2

d. Simplify the matching system by making both in- and out-of-district donations eligible and by eliminating the three different tiers for matching

Support - 39      Oppose - 7

## BUDGET PROCESS

- 7 Require full disclosure of grants and contracts issued by the state, including the budget lines from which the spending is made and reporting on the results of each grant or contract over a certain amount.

Support - 46      Oppose - 0

- 8 Provide for effective online disclosure and itemization of spending from elected officials' lump sum appropriations, including reporting on potential conflicts of interest and how the funds are spent.

Support - 45      Oppose - 1

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## POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY

- 9 Repeal Civil Rights Law, Sec. 50-a, which shields from public view the disciplinary records of police officers, correction officers, and firefighters.

Support - 41      Oppose - 4      No Answer - 1

## ELECTION ADMINISTRATION

- 10 Restructure the state Board of Elections to abolish the strict two-party division of governance and operation and put in place professional, nonpartisan administration.

Support - 42      Oppose - 4

- 11 Empower the attorney general to investigate and prosecute election law malfeasance and cases of public corruption.

Support - 46      Oppose - 0

## HOME RULE

- 12 Make mayoral control of city schools permanent, with a governance system that provides for accountability, transparency, parent engagement, and democratic participation

Support - 44      Oppose - 2

## COURT REFORM

- 13 13. Simplify and consolidate New York State's court system by passing the Chief Judge's proposed constitutional amendment to modernize the courts.

Support - 43      Oppose - 2      Conditionally Oppose - 1

## GOVERNMENT UNDER THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK

- 14 Adopt technological solutions and provisions that will allow the New York State legislature to convene and vote remotely if needed.

Support - 46      Oppose - 0

- 15 Provide public access to observe and participate in government proceedings, in meetings that would be public under the New York Open Meetings Law, via live and recorded video available on government websites.

Support - 45      Oppose - 0      No Answer - 1



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- 16 Implement immediate programs to facilitate absentee voting for all New York voters as long as the widespread contagion risk of COVID-19 continues, under current state constitutional limitations. This includes electronic submission of absentee ballot applications without a wet signature and a public information campaign.

Support - 44

Oppose - 1

No Answer - 1

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	SD 32	AD 79	AD 79	AD 81	AD 87	SD 18	SD 25	SD 25	AD 50	AD 50	AD 51	AD 51	AD 51	AD 56	AD 56	AD 57	SD 27	SD 31	AD 65	AD 65	AD 68	AD 68	AD 73	
	SD 32	AD 79	AD 79	AD 81	AD 87	SD 18	SD 25	SD 25	AD 50	AD 50	AD 51	AD 51	AD 51	AD 56	AD 56	AD 57	SD 27	SD 31	AD 65	AD 65	AD 68	AD 68	AD 73	
Q1	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Q2	O	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S
Q3a	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Q3b	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Q3c	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Q3d	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Q3e	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Q4	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Q5	S	S	S	O	S	S	NA	S	S	S	S	S	NA	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Q6a	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Q6b	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Q6c	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Q6d	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Q7	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Q8	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Q9	S	S	S	O	S	O	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Q10	S	S	O	O	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	O	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Q11	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Q12	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Q13	S	S	S	CO	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S
Q14	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Q15	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Q16	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S

	MANHATTAN					QUEENS										STATEN ISLAND								
	Koffman	Gottfried	Sanchez	Islam	George	David	Anderson	Uzoigwe	O'Doherty-Naranjo	González-Rojas	Chowdhury	Monserate	Mamdani	Simotas	Jobaida	Nolan	Brecker	Miller	Rajkumar	De Jesus	Cruz	Lee	Gowda	
	AD 73	AD 75	SD 13	AD 24	AD 31	AD 31	AD 31	AD 31	AD 34	AD 34	AD 34	AD 35	AD 36	AD 36	AD 37	AD 37	AD 37	AD 38	AD 38	AD 38	AD 39	AD 40	SD 23	
Q1	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Q2	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Q3a	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Q3b	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Q3c	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Q3d	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Q3e	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	CS	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Q4	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	NA	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Q5	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Q6a	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Q6b	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Q6c	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Q6d	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	O	S	S
Q7	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Q8	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Q9	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	NA	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Q10	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Q11	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Q12	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Q13	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Q14	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Q15	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	NA	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Q16	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	NA	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S

**KEY**  
 S Support  
 O Oppose  
 CO Conditionally Oppose  
 NA Nuanced answer

# Uncontested Incumbents

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Of the 91 seats in the NYS legislature (the state Senate and Assembly combined) representing New York City residents.

- 54 incumbents are uncontested in the primaries. That means that 59% of all of NYC's seats in the state legislature are held by incumbents who do not face any competition in their parties.
- In the state Senate, 17 of NYC's 26 seats—or 65%—are held by incumbents who are running for re-election without primary challengers.
- In the Assembly, 37 of NYC's 65 seats—or 57%—are held by incumbents who are running for re-election without primary challengers.

In comparison to previous years:

	2012	2014	2016	2018	2020
<b>Legislature</b>	69%	67%	56%	76%	59%
<b>Senate</b>	80%	54%	54%	77%	65%
<b>Assembly</b>	64%	74%	58%	75%	57%

## BRONX

**Senate District 33**  
J. Gustavo Rivera (D)

**Assembly District 77**  
Latoya Joyner (D)

**Assembly District 86**  
Victor M. Pichardo (D)

**Senate District 35**  
Andrea Stewart-Cousins (D)

**Assembly District 80**  
Nathalia Fernandez (D)

**Senate District 36**  
Jamaal T. Bailey (D)

**Assembly District 83**  
Carl E. Heastie (D)

## BROOKLYN

**Senate District 17**  
Simcha Felder (D)

**Assembly District 41**  
Helene Weinstein (D)

**Assembly District 46**  
Mathylde Frontus (D)

**Senate District 20**  
Zellnor Myrie (D)

**Assembly District 42**  
Rodneyse Bichotte (D)

**Assembly District 47**  
William Colton (D)

**Senate District 21**  
Kevin S. Parker (D)

**Assembly District 44**  
Robert C. Carroll (D)

**Assembly District 48**  
Simcha Eichenstein (D)

**Senate District 22**  
Andrew S. Gounardes (D)

**Assembly District 45**  
Steven Cymbrowitz (D)

**Assembly District 49**  
Peter J. Abbate, Jr. (D)



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**Assembly District 52**

Jo Anne Simon (D)

**Assembly District 53**

Maritza Davila (D)

**Assembly District 54**

Erik M. Dilan (D)

**Assembly District 55**

Latrice Walker (D)

**Assembly District 58**

N. Nick Perry (D)

**Assembly District 59**

Jaime R. Williams (D)

**Assembly District 60**

Charles Barron (D)

**MANHATTAN**

**Senate District 26**

Brian Kavanagh (D)

**Senate District 28**

Liz Krueger (D)

**Senate District 29**

Jose M. Serrano (D)

**Senate District 30**

Brian Benjamin (D)

**Assembly District 66**

Deborah J. Glick (D)

**Assembly District 67**

Linda B. Rosenthal (D)

**Assembly District 69**

Daniel O'Donnell (D)

**Assembly District 70**

Inez E. Dickens (D)

**Assembly District 72**

Carmen De La Rosa (D)

**Assembly District 74**

Harvey Epstein (D)

**Assembly District 75**

Richard N. Gottfried (D)

**QUEENS**

**Senate District 10**

James Sanders Jr. (D)

**Senate District 11**

John Liu (D)

**Senate District 14**

Leroy G. Comrie Jr. (D)

**Senate District 15**

Joseph P. Addabbo Jr. (D)

**Senate District 16**

Toby Ann Stavisky (D)

**Assembly District 23**

Stacey Pheffer Amato (D)

**Assembly District 25**

Nily Rozic (D)

**Assembly District 26**

Edward Braunstein (D)

**Assembly District 27**

Daniel Rosenthal (D)

**Assembly District 28**

Andrew Hevesi (D)

**Assembly District 29**

Alicia Hyndman (D)

**Assembly District 30**

Brian Barnwell (D)

**Assembly District 32**

Vivian E. Cook (D)

**STATEN ISLAND**

**Senate District 24**

Andrew Lanza (R)

**Assembly District 61**

Charles Fall (D)

**Assembly District 62**

Michael Reilly (R)

**Assembly District 63**

Michael J. Cusick (D)

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## Open Seats and Vacant Seats

There are also 7 open state legislative seats representing districts in New York City. Six of these are the result of incumbents not running for re-election. They are:

### BRONX

#### **Assembly District 79**

Currently held by Michael Blake (D) – running for U.S. Congress

#### **Assembly District 84**

Currently held by Carmen Arroyo (D) – removed from the ballot for petition fraud

#### **Assembly District 85**

Currently held by Marcos Crespo (D)

### BROOKLYN

#### **Senate District 25**

Currently held by Velmanette Montgomery (D)

#### **Assembly District 56**

Currently held by Tremaine Wright (D) – running for State Senate

### STATEN ISLAND

#### **Assembly District 64**

Currently held by Nicole Malliotakis (D) – running for U.S. Congress

Two seats had been vacated prior to the 2020 Primary and have not been filled by special elections, after those were canceled by Governor Cuomo in an Executive Order. They are:

### QUEENS

#### **Assembly District 31**

Previously held by Michele Titus – elected as a New York City Civil Court Judge

#### **Queens Borough President**

Previously held by Melinda Katz – elected to be Queens District Attorney



# Primary Election Snapshot

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This section lists primary election races that will take place in New York City, and does not include candidates who are unopposed for their party’s nomination. Unlike previous years, state and federal primaries will be held on the same day, the result of a 2019 bill that consolidated both primaries in New York.

Need help locating your polling site and information on the candidates? Visit [www.whosonyourballot.org](http://www.whosonyourballot.org) to find who you can vote for.

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† Incumbent

^ Denotes that the candidate submitted the Citizens Union questionnaire.

Blue denotes the candidate is preferred by Citizens Union in the Primary Election.

## Federal Elections

### PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

*Term of Office: 4 years (2 term-limit) Salary: \$400,000*

Pete Buttigieg  
Amy Klobuchar  
Joseph R. Biden  
Tulsi Gabbard

Bernie Sanders  
Michael R. Bloomberg  
Tom Steyer  
Michael Bennet

Elizabeth Warren  
Andrew Yang  
Deval Patrick

### UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Term of Office: 2 years (no term limit) Salary: \$174,000*

#### BRONX

##### District 14

Samuel H. Sloan  
Badrun N. Khan  
Michelle Caruso-Cabrera  
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez†

##### District 15

Tomas Ramos  
Samelys Lopez  
Frangell Basora  
Melissa Mark-Viverito  
Michael A. Blake  
Ruben Diaz  
Mark Escoffery-Bey  
Ritchie Torres  
Chivona R. Newsome  
Ydanis Rodriguez  
Julio Pabon  
Marlene J. Tapper

##### District 16

Christopher Fink  
Andom Ghebreghiorgis  
Jamaal Bowman  
Eliot L. Engel†  
Sammy Ravelo



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## BROOKLYN

### District 7

Nydia M. Velazquez†  
Paperboy Love Prince

### District 9

Isiah James  
Chaim M. Deutsch  
Adem Bunkeddeko  
Lutchi Gayot  
Yvette D. Clarke†

## MANHATTAN

### District 10

Jonathan Herzog  
Lindsey Boylan  
Jerrold L. Nadler†

### District 12

Suraj Patel  
Carolyn B. Maloney†  
Peter Harrison  
Lauren Ashcraf

### District 13

Ramon Rodriguez  
James Felton Keith II  
Adriano Espaillat†

## QUEENS

### District 3

Michael Weinstock  
Melanie D'Arrigo  
Thomas R. Suozzi†

### District 5

Shaniyat Chowdhury  
Gregory W. Meeks†

### District 6

Sandra Choi  
Melquiades R. Gagarin  
Grace Meng†

## STATEN ISLAND

### District 11

Joseph M. Caldarera  
Nicole Malliotakis

# State and City Elections

## Bronx

### NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

*Term of Office: 2 years (no term limit) Salary: \$110,000*

Democratic Primaries

### District 32

Luis R. Sepúlveda †^  
John Perez  
Pamela Stewart-Martinez

### District 34

Alessandra Biaggi †  
James B. Gisondi



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## NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY MEMBER

Term of Office: 2 years (no term limit) Salary: \$110,000

Democratic Primaries

### District 78

Jose Rivera †  
Francisco Spies

### District 79

Chantel Jackson  
George Alvarez ^  
[Elvis Santana](#) ^  
Eric Stevenson  
Cynthia L. Cox  
Dion Powell

### District 81

[Jeffrey Dinowitz](#) †^  
George Diaz

### District 82

Michael Benedetto †  
Egidio Sementilli

### District 85

Kenneth Burgos  
William Russell Moore

### District 87

Karines Reyes †^  
Garfield Holland

## CIVIL COURT JUDGE

Term of Office: 10 years (no term limit) Salary: \$193,500

Democratic Primaries

### District - 2nd Municipal Court

Linda Poust Lopez  
Wanda Y. Negron

# Brooklyn

## NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Term of Office: 2 years (no term limit) Salary: \$110,000

Democratic Primaries

### District 18

Julia Salazar †  
Andy J. Marte ^

### District 23

Diane J. Savino †  
Rajiv S. Gowda ^

### District 25

Tremaine S. Wright  
Jabari Brisport ^  
[Jason Salmon](#) ^

### District 19

Roxanne J. Persaud †  
Keron Alleyne

## NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY MEMBER

Term of Office: 2 years (no term limit) Salary: \$110,000

Democratic Primaries

### District 43

Diana Richardson †  
Jesse E. Hamilton

### District 50

Joseph R. Lentol †^  
[Emily E. Gallagher](#) ^



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**District 51**

Felix W. Ortiz †^  
Marcela Mitaynes ^  
Katherine P. Walsh ^  
Genesis E. Aquino

**District 56**

Stefani L. Zinerman ^  
[Justin Cohen](#) ^

**District 57**

Walter T. Mosley III †  
Phara Souffrant Forrest ^

**CIVIL COURT JUDGE**

*Term of Office: 10 years (no term limit) Salary: \$193,500*

Democratic Primaries

**County - Kings**

Maria Aragona  
Stephen Serge Burzio

# Manhattan

**NEW YORK STATE SENATOR**

*Term of Office: 2 years (no term limit) Salary: \$110,000*

Democratic Primaries

**District 27**

Brad M. Hoylman †^  
Elizabeth G. Glass

**District 31**

Robert Jackson †^  
Tirso Santiago Piña

**NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY MEMBER**

*Term of Office: 2 years (no term limit) Salary: \$110,000*

Democratic Primaries

**District 65**

[Yuh-Line Niou](#) †^  
Grace Lee ^

**District 71**

Alfred E. Taylor †  
Guillermo A. Perez

**District 68**

[Robert J. Rodriguez](#) †^  
Tamika Mapp ^

**District 73**

Dan Quart †^  
Cameron Alex Koffman^

**CIVIL COURT JUDGE**

*Term of Office: 10 YEARS (no term limit) Salary: \$193,500*

Democratic Primaries

**District - 1st Municipal Court**

Eric Schumacher  
John Zhuo Wang  
George Marc Santana

# Queens

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## QUEENS BOROUGH PRESIDENT

*Term of Office: 4 years (2-term limit) Salary: \$179,200*

Democratic Primaries

Costa Constantinides ^  
Anthony Miranda ^  
[Donovan J. Richards Jr.](#) ^  
Elizabeth S. Crowley ^  
Dao Yin

## NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

*Term of Office: 2 years (no term limit) Salary: \$110,000*

Democratic Primaries

### District 12

Michael N. Gianaris  
Ignazio S. Terranova

### District 13

Jessica Ramos †  
Diana S. Sanchez ^

## NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY MEMBER

*Term of Office: 2 years (no term limit) Salary: \$110,000*

Democratic Primaries

### District 24

David I. Weprin †  
Albert Baldeo  
Mahfuzul Islam ^

### District 31

Richard David ^  
Lisa George ^  
Tavia Blakley  
Chiedu Shea Uzoigwe ^  
Derrick DeFlorimonte  
[Khaleel Anderson](#) ^

### District 33

Clyde Vanel †  
Oster Bryan

### District 34

Michael G. DenDekker †  
Nuala O'Doherty Naranjo ^  
[Jessica González-Rojas](#) ^  
Angel Cruz  
Joy Chowdhury ^

### District 35

Jeffrion L. Aubry †  
Hiram Monserrate ^

### District 36

[Aravella Simotas](#) †^  
Zohran Mamdani ^

### District 37

Catherine Nolan †^  
Mary Jobaida ^  
Danielle Brecker ^

### District 38

Michael G. Miller †^  
Joseph De Jesus ^  
[Jenifer Rajkumar](#) ^

### District 39

Catalina Cruz †^  
Ramon A. Ramirez

### District 40

Ron Kim †  
Steven Lee ^



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## CIVIL COURT JUDGE

*Term of Office: 10 years (no term limit) Salary: \$193,500*

Democratic Primaries

### County - Queens

Jessica Earle-Gargan

John J. Ciafone

### District - 6th Municipal Court

Leigh K. Cheng

Juan Hong

## Staten Island

### NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

*Term of Office: 2 years (no term limit) Salary: \$110,000*

None.

### NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY MEMBER

*Term of Office: 2 years (no term limit) Salary: \$110,000*

Conservative Primary

#### District 63

Anthony M. DeGuerre

Abraham Monheit

Republican Primary

#### District 64

Marko Kepi

Michael Tannousis

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## CITIZENS UNION MISSION

Citizens Union (CU) is committed to reforming New York City and State government to foster accountability, accessibility, transparency, honesty, and the highest ethical standards. For the past 120 years, we at Citizens Union have devoted ourselves to holding our local governments accountable to do better in all of these areas, and we remain committed to enfranchising all New Yorkers. The many initiatives that we are currently advancing include ethics reform, court reform, increased civic engagement and youth voting, greater police accountability, and campaign finance. In all of these efforts, we have been — and will remain — nonpartisan.

Stay up to date with the latest happenings of the CU team and our work by liking our [Facebook page](#) and following us on [Twitter](#).

## THE VOTERS DIRECTORY

This June, New Yorkers will vote in primary elections to choose party nominees for New York State Legislature, Queens Borough President, as well as federal and judicial positions.

To help our supportive members prepare to vote, Citizens Union has been publishing an annual Voters Directory for over a century. The current edition provides an overview of the 2020 Primary Election, including voting and registration information and listings of every contest for all races that will be on the ballot in New York City this June. It also includes a roster of Citizens Union's preferred candidates in several key races, 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.

For more information, visit the NYC Board of Elections website at <https://vote.nyc/> or call (866) VOTE-NYC.



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## CANDIDATE EVALUATION PROCESS

In this unprecedented election cycle, during a city, state, and national state of emergency, Citizens Union has evaluated 30 candidates in 13 races for state Senate and Assembly to determine who strongly supports our issues, can advance a reform agenda, and can best fulfill the obligations of the position.

Interview teams made up of Local Candidates Committee members assessed the candidates based on their responses to Citizens Union's questionnaire (a prerequisite for interviews), research, first-hand knowledge of the candidates, and interviews with the candidates, which are approximately 30 minutes each. The interview teams then made advisory recommendations to the full Local Candidates Committee, which deliberated and made recommendations to the Citizens Union Board, which made the final decision.

For the first time in over 100 years, the evaluation process was conducted entirely online. Due to the threat of the COVID-19 pandemic and NYS on PAUSE order, all interviews and meetings were held by video conference.

A "Preferred" rating reflects a candidate that Citizens Union deems not only qualified for the office, but also a viable candidate, 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 in primary elections, and an "Endorsed" rating for 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.



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# 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 interns. 30 volunteer LCC members, 7 interns, and staff members formed nonpartisan interview teams and evaluated 30 candidates in 13 races for state Senate and Assembly. We thank them for contributing their time, energy, and expertise to interviewing and evaluating candidates, especially during this challenging moment. We thank you for your support, and hope you enjoy the latest edition of the Voters Directory.

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## How To Vote

### 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;
- 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.
- An application to change party enrollment must be received by the board of elections no later than February 14, 2020.

### APPLYING FOR AN ABSENTEE BALLOT FOR THE PRIMARY ELECTION

You may vote by absentee ballot if you are:

- Absent from New York City on Election Day.
- Unable to appear at the polls due to temporary or permanent illness or disability\*; or because you are the primary care giver of one or more individuals who are ill or physically disabled.
- A patient or inmate in a Veterans' Administration Hospital.
- Detained in jail awaiting Grand Jury action or confined in prison after conviction for an offense other than a felony.
- An individual who has been released from incarceration on parole.

*\*The definition of "Temporary Illness" has been temporarily expanded to include those affected by COVID-19 and/or the potential of contracting the virus to prevent community spread, by Executive Order No. 202.15 of the Governor*



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How to apply for an absentee ballot if you are a registered voter in NYC:

- Online at [nycabsentee.com](http://nycabsentee.com).
- Email a completed [application](#) to [AbsenteeJune2020@boe.nyc](mailto:AbsenteeJune2020@boe.nyc).
- Call 1-866-VOTE-NYC (1-866-868-3692) and request and absentee ballot.
- Mail a completed [application](#) to your borough's BOE office.
- Fax a completed [application](#) to 212-487-5349.

How to fill in absentee ballot application:

- Use blue or black ink.
- If you intend to vote absentee because of the COVID-19 pandemic, indicate that the reason is "temporary illness".
- You may request to have your absentee ballot sent to an address other than your home location.

How to fill in an absentee ballot:

- Once you receive the ballot, read and follow the instructions carefully. Avoiding mistakes will ensure your ballot is counted correctly.
- If someone assists you with completing the absentee ballot, that person must complete and sign the voter assistance form.
- If a mistake is made with a pencil, erase the mistake completely, and correct the mistake.
- If a mistake is made with a pen, mark your choice on the ballot, and circle the name of the candidate for whom you want to vote.
- Sign and date where indicated, usually marked with an X.
- When you are finished marking your ballot, double check to make sure your choices are correct.

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## SUBMITTING YOUR ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION AND VOTE

Deadlines for absentee ballot applications and submissions are as follows:

- Submit online or mail your Absentee Ballot Application or Letter of Application by **Tuesday, June 16th**.
- Apply for an Absentee Ballot in Person at your local county board of elections office by **Monday, June 22nd**.
- Mail in your Absentee Ballot with a postmark by **Tuesday, June 23rd** using the postage-paid envelope you will receive with the ballot and sign the back of the envelope as instructed.
- Drop off your Absentee Ballot in person by **Tuesday, June 23rd** to your local board of elections office – a friend or relative can drop it off.

### In person absentee voting

- Voting begins as soon as ballots are made available and ends on Election Day (June 23rd).
- Absentee ballots can be cast at the Board of Elections office in your borough from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.
- Extended voting in office hours will occur in every borough office on:
  - Tuesday, June 16th: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
  - Thursday, June 18th: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
  - Saturday, June 20th: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
  - Sunday, June 21st: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- On Election Day (June 23rd), absentee ballots can be cast until 9 p.m.

### Early Voting

- The early voting period is from June 13th to June 21st
- Find your pollsite here: <https://nyc.pollsitelocator.com/search>



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## VOTING ON ELECTION DAY

The Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, June 23rd. 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/>

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.

## EARLY VOTING

All New York State counties are now required to provide each registered voter with nine additional days to cast a ballot in person prior to Election Day. Voters will have an option to vote from Saturday, June 13th through Sunday, June 21st, in select polling sites across the five boroughs with differing hours. Each voter is assigned to a specific Early Voting Poll Site, which might be the same or different than their Election Day Poll Site. To locate your early voting site and its hours of operations, go to <https://nyc.pollsitelocator.com/search>. For more information on Early Voting, see <https://vote.nyc/page/early-voting-information>.

## 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



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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.

# Early Voting Sites for June 2020 Primary Election

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Bronx, NY 10470

**Harry S. Truman  
High School**  
750 Baychester Avenue  
Bronx, NY 10475

**St. Frances de  
Chantal Church**  
190 Hollywood Avenue  
Bronx, NY 10465

**InTech Academy  
(MS/High School 368)**  
2975 Tibbett Avenue  
Bronx, NY 10463

**Andrew Freedman Home**  
1125 Grand Concourse  
Bronx, NY 10452

**Christopher Columbus  
High School**  
925 Astor Avenue  
Bronx, NY 10469

**Monroe College**  
2501 Jerome Avenue  
Bronx, NY 10468

**Adlai E. Stevenson**  
Educational Campus  
1980 Lafayette Avenue  
Bronx, NY 10473

**Bronx County Supreme  
Court House**  
851 Grand Concourse  
Bronx, NY 10451

**Claremont Neighborhood  
Center**  
489 East 169th Street  
Bronx, NY 10456

**Justice Sonia Sotomayor  
Community Center**  
1000 Rosedale Avenue  
Bronx, NY 10472

**Butler Memorial United  
Methodist Church**  
3920 Paulding Avenue  
Bronx, NY 10466

**Church of St. Anselm &  
St. Roch**  
685 Tinton Avenue  
Bronx, NY 10455

**Thomas C. Giordano  
Middle School 45**  
2502 Lorillard Place  
Bronx, NY 10458

**Tremont United  
Methodist Church**  
1951 Washington Avenue  
Bronx, NY 10457

## QUEENS

**First Baptist Church of  
East Elmhurst**  
100-10 Astoria Boulevard  
East Elmhurst, NY 11369

**Queensborough Elks  
Lodge No. 878**  
82-20 Queens Boulevard  
Flushing, NY 11373

**Museum of the  
Moving Image**  
36-01 35th Avenue  
Astoria, NY 11106

**Variety Boys &  
Girls Club of Queens**  
21-12 30th Road  
Long Island City, NY 11102

**Rego Center  
Community Room**  
61-00 97th Street  
Rego Park, NY 11374

**Holy Trinity Parish Church**  
222-05 116th Avenue  
Cambria Heights, NY 11411

**Queens College**  
65-30 Kissena Boulevard  
Queens, NY 11367

**The Boys' Club of New  
York - Abbe Clubhouse**  
133-01 41st Road  
Flushing, NY 11355

**Korean Community  
Services**  
203-05 32nd Avenue  
Bayside, NY 11361

**Rockaway YMCA**  
207 Beach 73rd Street  
Arverne, NY 11692

**LaGuardia Community  
College**  
31-10 Thomson Avenue  
Long Island City, NY 11101

**Board of Elections -  
Queens Voting Machine  
Facility Annex**  
66-26 Metropolitan Avenue  
Middle Village, NY 11379



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**Queens Public Library  
at Jackson Heights**  
35-51 81st Street  
Jackson Heights, NY 11372

**Creedmoor Hospital**  
79-25 Winchester Boulevard  
Queens Village, NY 11427

**Helen Marshall Cultural  
Center at Queens  
Borough Hall**  
120-55 Queens Boulevard  
Jamaica, NY 11415

**Resorts World Casino  
New York City**  
110-00 Rockaway Boulevard  
Queens, NY 11420

**York College, Academic  
Core Building**  
94-20 Guy R Brewer  
Boulevard  
Jamaica, NY 11451

**Rochdale Village  
Community Center**  
169-65 137th Avenue  
Jamaica. NY 11434

**MANHATTAN**

**Taino Towers IV**  
240 East 123rd Street  
New York, NY 10035

**JHS 143 Eleanor Roosevelt**  
511 West 182nd Street  
New York, NY 10033

**Columbia University-  
Wien Hall**  
411 West 116th Street  
New York, NY 10027

**Jackie Robinson  
Education Complex**  
1573 Madison Avenue  
New York, NY 10029

**Hunter College  
Brookdale Dorms**  
440 East 26th Street  
New York, NY 10010

**Robert Wagner  
Middle School**  
225 East 75th Street  
New York, NY 10021

**PS 175 Henry H. Garnet**  
175 West 134th Street  
New York, NY 10030

**John Jay College  
North Hall**  
445 West 59th Street  
New York, NY 10019

**West Side High School**  
140 West 102nd Street  
New York, NY 10025

**Campos Plaza  
Community Center**  
611 East 13th Street  
New York, NY 10009

**The Church of  
St. Anthony of Padua**  
155 Sullivan Street  
New York, NY 10012

**Columbia University-  
Russ Berrie Medical  
Science Pavilion**  
1150 St. Nicholas Avenue  
New York, NY 10032

**BROOKLYN**

**Fort Hamilton High School**  
8301 Shore Road  
Brooklyn, NY 11209

**Red Hook Recreation  
Center**  
155 Bay Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11231

**Youth Center at Most  
Precious Blood**  
2739 Harway Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11214

**Carey Gardens  
Community Center**  
2315 Surf Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11224

**St. Dominic Church**  
2001 Bay Ridge Parkway  
Brooklyn, NY 11204

**Dance Atlantic Studio**  
2796 Fulton Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11207

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help**  
552 59th Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11220

**Bushwick Educational  
Campus**  
400 Irving Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11237

**Williamsburg  
Comm Center**  
195 Graham Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11206

**Brooklyn Masonic Temple**  
317 Clermont Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11205

**FDR High School**  
5800 20th Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11204

**Van Dyke Community  
Center**  
392 Blake Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11212

**Taylor Wythe Community  
Center**  
80 Clymer Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11249



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**IS 33 Mark Hopkins**

70 Tompkins Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11206

**Park Slope Armory YMCA**

361 15th Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11215

**Saratoga Village  
Community Center**

940 Hancock Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11233

**IS 68 Isaac Bildersee**

956 East 82nd Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11236

**NYC College of Technology**

**- Academic Complex  
Building**

285 Jay Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11201

**Council Center for  
Senior Citizens**

1001 Quentin Road  
Brooklyn, NY 11223

**St. John's Recreation  
Center**

1251 Prospect Place  
Brooklyn, NY 11213

**Vandalia Senior Center**

47 Vandalia Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11239

**God's Battalion Church**

661 Linden Boulevard  
Brooklyn, NY 11203

**Brooklyn Museum**

200 Eastern Parkway  
Brooklyn, NY 11238

**Brooklyn College**

2900 Bedford Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11210

**STATEN ISLAND**

**Church of Our Lady of Pity**

1616 Richmond Avenue  
Staten Island, NY 10314

**PS 8 Shirlee Solomon  
School**

112 Lindenwood Road  
Staten Island, NY 10308

**Holy Family Roman  
Catholic Church**

366 Watchogue Road  
Staten Island, NY 10314

**Staten Island Technical  
High School**

485 Clawson Street  
Staten Island, NY 10306

**Our Lady Help  
of Christians**

23 Summit Street  
Staten Island, NY 10307

**Calvary Presbyterian  
Church**

909 Castleton Avenue  
Staten Island, NY 10310

**Church of the Holy Child**

4747 Amboy Road  
Staten Island, NY 10312

**Ocean Breeze  
Athletic Complex**

625 Father Capodanno  
Boulevard  
Staten Island, NY 10305

**Central Family Life Center**

59 Wright Street  
Staten Island, NY 10304

**Saint Adalbert's  
Parish Hall**

337 Morningstar Road  
Staten Island, NY 10303



# Citizens Union Board of Directors

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Randy Mastro, <i>Chair</i>	Gail Erickson	Kenneth Seplow
Penelope L. Christophorou, <i>Vice-Chair</i>	Chris Giglio	Peter J.W. Sherwin
Nancy Bowe, <i>Treasurer</i>	Lorna B. Goodman	Gregory Silbert
Christina R. Davis, <i>Secretary</i>	Robert M. Kaufman	Anthony R. Smith
Eboné M. Bishop	Sandra Lespinasse	Hector Soto
Michael A. Cardozo	Alan Lubliner	Darryl C. Towns
Cliff Chenfeld	Malcolm MacKay	Jim Walden
Curtis Cole	Anthony S. Mattia	David W. Wang
Stacey Cumberbatch	Tom Osterman	Warren Wechsler
	Alan Rothstein	

## Local Candidates Committee

Anthony S. Mattia, Chair	Bill Herrlich	Bill Meehan
Tim Abraham	Mary Hines	Hal Phillips
Scott Avidon	Raymond Knowles	Richard Ropiak
David Brauner	Sandy Lespinasse	Kenneth Seplow
Stacey Cumberbatch	Matthew Levison	Alan Rothstein
Gail Erickson	Mark Lieberman	Tony Smith
Joseph Gapper	Alan Lubliner	Judy Stanton
Richard Gee	Grace Lyu Volckhausen	Ed Strauss
Robert Grant	Corinne Marcus	Martin Tandler
Robert Hallman	Bob Mascali	David Wang

## Staff

Betsy Gotbaum, <i>Executive Director</i>	Nelson Mallory, <i>Executive Assistant</i>	Ben Weinberg, <i>Policy and Program Manager</i>
Rachel Bloom, <i>Director of Public Policy &amp; Programs</i>	Sally McCullough, <i>Direct of Finance and Administration</i>	
Dakota Dula, <i>Development and Membership Associate</i>	W. JaVon Rice, <i>Technical Manager</i>	

## Interns

Giovanna Antoniazzi	Mariel McLeod
Adrian Brillantes-Stepper	Lidya Woldeyesus
Alejandra Carrillo	Caroline Wolinsky
Calypso Leonard	

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