



2021 Voters Directory

A NONPARTISAN GUIDE
TO INFORMED VOTING

Vote on Tuesday, June 22 or Vote Early June 12 — 20



*For the first time!
Ranked Choice Voting*

Primary Election



Contents

2021
PRIMARY
ELECTION
VOTERS
DIRECTORY

Citizens Union Preferred Candidates3

Letter from the Executive Director4

Candidate Evaluation5

 New York City Mayor6

 New York City Comptroller..... 14

 Brooklyn Races..... 21

 Manhattan Races34

 Queens Races56

Questionnaire60

About the Voters Directory64

Acknowledgments66

Citizens Union Preferred Candidates

2021 PRIMARY ELECTIONS

Citywide Democratic Primaries

Mayor

1. Kathryn Garcia
2. Eric Adams
3. Scott Stringer

Comptroller

1. Brian Benjamin
2. Corey Johnson
3. Brad Lander

Brooklyn Democratic Primaries

Brooklyn Borough President

1. Jo Anne Simon
2. Antonio Reynoso
3. Khari Edwards

City Council District 33

1. Lincoln Restler

City Council District 35

1. Crystal Hudson

City Council District 39

1. Brandon West

Manhattan Democratic Primaries

Manhattan District Attorney

Alvin Bragg & Tali Farhadian
Weinstein (Dual preference)

Manhattan Borough President

1. Brad Hoylman
2. Mark Levine

City Council District 3

1. Erik Bottcher

City Council District 5

1. Julie Menin

City Council District 6

1. Gale Brewer
2. Jeffrey Omura

City Council District 7

1. Shaun Abreu

Queens Democratic Primaries

City Council District 26

1. Julie Won
2. Amit Bagga
3. Brent O'Leary

2021
PRIMARY
ELECTION
VOTERS
DIRECTORY

*Click on buttons
below to skip to:*

Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates

Letter from the
Executive Director

Candidate
Evaluation

New York City
Mayor

New York City
Comptroller

Brooklyn Races

Manhattan Races

Queens Races

Questionnaire

About the Voters
Directory

Acknowledgments



Letter from the Executive Director

2021
PRIMARY
ELECTION
VOTERS
DIRECTORY

*Click on buttons
below to skip to:*

[Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates](#)

[Letter from the
Executive Director](#)

[Candidate
Evaluation](#)

[New York City
Mayor](#)

[New York City
Comptroller](#)

[Brooklyn Races](#)

[Manhattan Races](#)

[Queens Races](#)

[Questionnaire](#)

[About the Voters
Directory](#)

[Acknowlegments](#)

This is our most consequential local election in decades. Because so many elected officials are term-limited, the election will usher in a considerable turnover in city government. Voters will elect a new Mayor, Comptroller, Borough Presidents, and two-thirds of the City Council. It couldn't come at a more important time for New York City, as we look to recover from the devastation caused by the coronavirus pandemic. The stakes are high. At this crucial moment in our city's history, it is important that voters elect candidates who show the competence and capability to bring the city together, and are committed to transparency, accountability, and accessibility in government.

This primary election will also see a new way to vote: Ranked Choice Voting. Voters can now rank up to five candidates in order of preference instead of choosing just one. Or they can vote for just one if they want. If no one wins a majority of the votes and your first-choice candidate gets the least amount of votes, your next choice is counted instead. With Ranked Choice Voting, which was approved by voters with 73.5% support, New Yorkers have more choices, and candidates need to go beyond their base and appeal to a broader spectrum of voters.

Citizens Union advocated for years to introduce Ranked Choice Voting in New York City. Now, we are excited to offer our members and supporters ranked preferences in races in all levels of city government, from Mayor to City Council. Voters should notice that the primary election for Manhattan District Attorney, also on the ballot this year, will not use a ranked choice voting method.

There are hundreds of candidates running in this election. To read more about them and their campaigns, go to [ElectNYC.org](#), the most comprehensive information hub about the 2021 election.

Sincerely,

Betsy Gotbaum

Executive Director, Citizens Union



Candidate Evaluation

2021
PRIMARY
ELECTION
VOTERS
DIRECTORY

*Click on buttons
below to skip to:*

Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates

Letter from the
Executive Director

Candidate
Evaluation

New York City
Mayor

New York City
Comptroller

Brooklyn Races

Manhattan Races

Queens Races

Questionnaire

About the Voters
Directory

Acknowledgments

OVERVIEW

Citizens Union has evaluated 12 races for New York City Government and 1 race for District Attorney to determine what candidates strongly support 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, independent research, first-hand knowledge of the candidates, and interviews with the candidates. The result of that evaluation is detailed in this Voters Directory, which Citizens Union has been publishing as a guide to its supportive members for over a century. All interviews and meetings were held by video conference.

To encourage voters to use ranked choice voting in the upcoming primary election, Citizens Union issued ranked choices in many of the races.

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.

Candidate Evaluations

All candidates questionnaires can be found online at citizensunion.org.

2021
PRIMARY
ELECTION
VOTERS
DIRECTORY

Click on buttons
below to skip to:

Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates

Letter from the
Executive Director

Candidate
Evaluation

New York City
Mayor

New York City
Comptroller

Brooklyn Races

Manhattan Races

Queens Races

Questionnaire

About the Voters
Directory

Acknowledgments

CITYWIDE RACES

New York City Mayor

DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

This is our most consequential Mayoral election in decades and the first under Ranked Choice Voting. In the upcoming primary election, Citizens Union is therefore expressing its preference for multiple candidates in rank order. Out of a crowded field of 13 Democratic candidates, Citizens Union prefers Kathryn Garcia and Eric Adams, who received, by far, the most support among our Citizens Union Board members. But in a close vote, Garcia outpolled Adams (with Scott Stringer well behind them in third place). As explained here, Citizens Union prefers Kathryn Garcia for her proven track record of managing City agencies through crises, and Citizens Union prefers Eric Adams for his inspiring leadership and impressive agenda emphasizing public safety and economic recovery.

Kathryn Garcia ★ *Preferred Candidate, Ranked 1st*

Age: 51 Occupation: Former New York City Sanitation Commissioner

Education: University of Wisconsin at Madison (B.A. economics and history)

Born in Brooklyn and raised in Park Slope, Kathryn Garcia joined the New York City Sanitation Department as an intern at 22. She worked in the private sector, but returned to New York City Government in 2006, where she worked in the Department of Finance and the Department of Environmental Protection. Mayor de Blasio appointed her to be the Commissioner of Sanitation in March 2014. She left the position in September 2020 over disagreements about budget cuts and management. Shortly after, she announced her bid to replace her former boss. She has never held an elected office.

In her quest to become the City's next Mayor, Garcia has articulated a vision that many find appealing after the last eight years -- namely, that City government needs to be managed effectively to solve problems. She promises to identify the programs that work, eliminate

Click on buttons
below to skip to:

Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates

Letter from the
Executive Director

Candidate
Evaluation

New York City
Mayor

New York City
Comptroller

Brooklyn Races

Manhattan Races

Queens Races

Questionnaire

About the Voters
Directory

Acknowledgments

redundancy in government operations, and invest in the programs that bring results. She is known as a strong manager who leads by organizing and steering teams through to completion. It is these capabilities that led Mayor de Blasio to ask her to assume leadership positions during times of crisis. She was appointed temporary interim CEO and Chair of NYCHA amid the lead paint scandal, and a “food czar” in charge of food distribution during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Garcia’s priorities for recovery include supplying the most vulnerable New Yorkers with meaningful economic relief and pathways for economic mobility, and providing support for small businesses by increasing access to credit, streamlining regulations, and cutting red tape for permits. She also has an ambitious climate plan. She wants to electrify 10,000 school buses and install 3,000 electric car chargers citywide.

Although reform issues do not take center stage in her campaign agenda, she does promise to prioritize transparency as a pillar of her administration. She wants to make measurements and performance data public to hold agencies accountable and keep residents informed. And she promises to maintain tough and fair discipline at the NYPD, touting her experience managing a uniformed, largely male agency. A public servant most of her life, she lacks the political ties that bind many elected officials who attempt to push for reforms.

While an accomplished manager, Garcia is not as inspirational as some of the other candidates. If elected, she will need to develop a leadership style that reaches beyond City Hall, that lifts New Yorkers and brings them together post-pandemic.

Garcia’s proven track record of managing City agencies through crises and her common-sense approach to the challenges facing the City coming out of the pandemic are the reasons why Citizens Union prefers her in this race.

Eric Adams ★ *Preferred Candidate, Ranked 2nd*

Age: 60 Occupation: Brooklyn Borough President

Education: New York City College of Technology (associate degree), John Jay College of Criminal Justice (B.A), and Marist College (M.P.A.)

Eric Adams is currently Brooklyn’s Borough President, a position he has held for the last eight years. He served in the State Senate

*Click on buttons
below to skip to:*

[Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates](#)

[Letter from the
Executive Director](#)

[Candidate
Evaluation](#)

[New York City
Mayor](#)

[New York City
Comptroller](#)

[Brooklyn Races](#)

[Manhattan Races](#)

[Queens Races](#)

[Questionnaire](#)

[About the Voters
Directory](#)

[Acknowlegments](#)

between 2006 and 2013, representing Central Brooklyn. Citizens Union supported his elections to both of those positions. Prior to becoming an elected official, Adams served for 22 years in the New York Police Department, leaving the force as a Sergeant after he was targeted in a shooting. He has a compelling personal story and is considered by many to be an inspiring leader.

Adams emphasizes public safety and economic recovery as his priorities. He plans to battle what he calls the dysfunctionality of the City, which he sees as “the root of all its problems.” He wants to balance the public safety needs of all communities, while assuring that the NYPD becomes a role model for accountability, and believes that as a former police officer of color he can accomplish that ambitious agenda. He promises to make the current discipline process in cases of police misconduct fairer and faster, and to recruit well-skilled, professional investigators. He seeks to move investigations conducted by the Internal Affairs Bureau (IAB) to an outside body like the Department of Investigations. To improve community-police relations, he wants community members to have a say in the appointment of precinct commanders.

On the economy, Adams promises to eliminate fees and reduce fines for small businesses, to provide direct cash assistance for New Yorkers in need, and invest significantly in green jobs. As Brooklyn Borough President, he has proven track record of advancing economic development in his borough, while responding to the needs of communities affected by new development.

Adams might have ranked even higher in our preference poll but for the questions that have hounded him around fundraising and conflicts of interest. For example, as Borough President, he set up a nonprofit, One Brooklyn Fund, to solicit funds from donors who did business with the City and, in doing so, was able to raise money in higher denominations than would otherwise have been permissible to a candidate under local campaign finance laws. While legal for Adams to do so, it was reminiscent of Mayor de Blasio’s Campaign for One New York, which Citizens Union criticized and became the subject of multiple investigations. Adams claims he has been unfairly scrutinized, and says he intends to establish a compliance team at City Hall, if elected.

Click on buttons
below to skip to:

Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates

Letter from the
Executive Director

Candidate
Evaluation

New York City
Mayor

New York City
Comptroller

Brooklyn Races

Manhattan Races

Queens Races

Questionnaire

About the Voters
Directory

Acknowledgments

Adams's inspiring leadership and vision for our City promoting public safety and economic recovery are the reasons Citizens Union prefers him in this race. Citizens Union urges him to embrace its good government agenda with the same passion he brings to so many other areas where he has succeeded in public life.

Scott Stringer ★ Preferred Candidate, Ranked 3rd

Age: 61 Occupation: New York City Comptroller

Education: John Jay College of Criminal Justice (B.A. in Government Studies)

Scott Stringer is currently the New York City Comptroller. He served as Manhattan Borough President prior to that, and before that, served as an Assembly Member for 13 years, representing Manhattan's West Side. Citizens Union has supported him in multiple election cycles as he ran for these three positions.

Stringer takes pride in his long career as a reformer. He was instrumental in ethics reforms in the State Assembly to end empty seat voting and abolish rules that gave lobbyists special access to lawmakers. In his role as Manhattan Borough President, he changed the process for appointments, ending patronage and implemented an independent screening panel to vet Community Board candidates.

In his bid for mayor, Stringer has focused on police accountability and ethics reform. On police accountability, he wants to create independent oversight by stripping the NYPD of its power as the sole arbiter of discipline, and empowering the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) and the Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings (OATH) to have final authority to impose discipline. He also supports a thorough review and reform of the Patrol Guide, with a process of public review. His ethics plan includes proposals to tighten campaign finance restrictions on people doing business with the city and lobbyists, and appointing an Ethics Czar.

His other priorities include housing. He wants to construct a "new generation" of social housing using the 2,900 vacant lots already owned by the city. He also wants to create a tenant bill of rights to ensure the safety and fair treatment of all tenants in NYC.

For decades, Stringer has served in state and local government, been a constructive force, and developed pertinent experience,



Click on buttons
below to skip to:

Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates

Letter from the
Executive Director

Candidate
Evaluation

New York City
Mayor

New York City
Comptroller

Brooklyn Races

Manhattan Races

Queens Races

Questionnaire

About the Voters
Directory

Acknowledgments

including, now, as City Comptroller. However, allegations about his personal conduct decades ago have adversely affected his campaign at this critical time. Taking all of these factors into consideration, Stringer ranked third in Citizens Union’s preference polling.

Other Candidates Interviewed

Citizens Union interviewed four other Democratic primary candidates, all of whom made a positive impression. Here’s feedback on those other candidates (listed in alphabetical order below).

Art Chang

Age: 57 Occupation: Businessman

Education: Yale University (B.A. Women’s Studies), New York University (M.B.A.)

Art Chang, a former JPMorgan Chase managing director, has worked to promote civic participation and improve the City government for many years. He helped build Queens West with climate change infrastructures in mind, which was one of only two waterfronts to not lose power during Hurricane Sandy. He helped develop a software platform called CaseBook for child welfare services. He was one of the creators of NYC Votes, the city’s voter engagement program, and was appointed to the Campaign Finance Board. Citizens Union honored Chang at the 2012 Spring for Reform.

Chang plans to focus his policies on health reform, policing, and housing solutions. He wants to provide immediate relief for the homeless and those that are affected by mental illness by creating a mental health crisis management team and creating 10,000 beds in supportive housing. He also plans to cut \$1.3 billion from the NYPD by cutting wasteful spending on unproductive training..

To improve police accountability, he proposes structural changes: moving final authority over discipline to a newly created Office of Police Discipline, with authority over CCRB and IAB cases, and merging the CCRB into a new Office of Police Accountability, which would include OIG-NYPD and the Mayor’s Commission to Combat Police Corruption. The new offices would receive new investigation powers.

Citizens Union was impressed by Chang’s experience and the breadth of his policies, and appreciates his commitment to serve the City.

Click on buttons
below to skip to:

Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates

Letter from the
Executive Director

Candidate
Evaluation

New York City
Mayor

New York City
Comptroller

Brooklyn Races

Manhattan Races

Queens Races

Questionnaire

About the Voters
Directory

Acknowledgments

Shaun Donovan

*Age: 55 Occupation: Former Director of the U.S. Office of Management and Budget
Education: Harvard University (A.B. engineering sciences, M.P.A., Master of Architecture)*

Shaun Donovan served in President Barack Obama's cabinet as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and Director of the U.S. Office of Management and Budget. Prior to that, he worked for five years as Mayor Michael Bloomberg's housing commissioner. He led HUD from 2009-2014 during the worst housing crisis in decades, where he helped reduce veteran homelessness by half.

Donovan points to his successes as HUD Secretary as well as his role as OMB Director as key points of experience that will help him lead New York City government. Using his relationships with the previous administration, he says he will provide a strong voice for New York City in the White House.

His plans for office include improvements on housing, education, and climate change initiatives. Donovan plans to launch a downpayment assistance program to offer prospective homeowners assistance, as well as the establishment of a security deposit guarantee program to help low income individuals secure the funds, which are large hurdles in the search for homes in NYC. On police accountability, Donovan proposes moving authority over discipline from the NYPD to the CCRB.

Donovan has made a strong case for his ability to navigate and lead city government, get buy-in from Albany powerbrokers, the City Council, and the White House, and achieve practical solutions for recovery. Citizens Union believes he is well-prepared for the job, and would be an effective Mayor.

Raymond McGuire

*Age: 64 Occupation: Former Global Head of Corporate and Investment Banking, Citigroup
Education: Harvard College (B.A.), Harvard Business School (M.B.A.), Harvard Law School (J.D.)*

Ray McGuire is a former Vice Chairman at Citigroup, a position he held for 15 years. He left his job - one of the most important positions on Wall Street - to run for Mayor.



Click on buttons
below to skip to:

Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates

Letter from the
Executive Director

Candidate
Evaluation

New York City
Mayor

New York City
Comptroller

Brooklyn Races

Manhattan Races

Queens Races

Questionnaire

About the Voters
Directory

Acknowledgments

His platform focuses on economic recovery. He proposes bringing back 50,000 jobs through wage subsidies, a large infrastructure program, and low interest loans for businesses that need an infusion of capital to remain open.

McGuire shares many of Citizens Union's positions on police reform. He is the only candidate among those interviewed who promises to appoint a Deputy Mayor for Public Safety with direct oversight of the NYPD. He says that if the police commissioner is not in sync with CCRB recommendations, he will be prepared to come in and "take additional actions," though the nature of those actions remain unclear. McGuire stresses that he would be accountable to any issue under his command.

McGuire brings to the campaign extensive management experience and an ambitious agenda. Citizens Union commends him for seeking to serve the public as an elected official, and hopes he will continue to be involved in government, but remains concerned that what the City really needs right now coming out of the crisis of COVID-19 is someone who has a proven track record of success managing within City government.

Maya Wiley

Age: 57 Occupation: Professor, The New School

Education: Dartmouth College (B.A. Psychology), Columbia Law School (J.D.)

Maya Wiley is a professor at The New School and a former MSNBC legal analyst. She chaired the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) from 2016 to 2017 and, prior to that, served as Mayor de Blasio's Counsel.

Wiley is running on a progressive agenda, with a signature plan she calls New Deal New York. It would invest billions of dollars in a public works program covering anything from infrastructure to art.

She proposes one of the most ambitious police reform agendas in the race. Her plan to improve police accountability involves creating a Commission on Public Safety Oversight



*Click on buttons
below to skip to:*

[Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates](#)

[Letter from the
Executive Director](#)

[Candidate
Evaluation](#)

[New York City
Mayor](#)

[New York City
Comptroller](#)

[Brooklyn Races](#)

[Manhattan Races](#)

[Queens Races](#)

[Questionnaire](#)

[About the Voters
Directory](#)

[Acknowledgments](#)

and Accountability, which will make binding decisions on priorities for policing, review NYPD procedures, and ensure the information coming to the mayor is comprehensive and neutral. That commission would also have the final authority on discipline over cases coming in from IAB (NYPD Internal Affairs) and the CCRB.

Wiley also dedicates part of her platform to ethics, promising to expand the ban on “revolving door” lobbying, and to prohibit staff from being paid to do personal or political work for electeds, among other suggestions. But Wiley’s record in office counseling Mayor de Blasio on ethics issues is troubling. She was involved in devising and implementing the protocols regarding fundraising for the Mayor’s Campaign for One New York, which Citizens Union criticized and multiple investigations probed. And she counseled Mayor de Blasio when he refused to disclose communications with his outside political consultants and was then ordered by courts to do so. Wiley has since contended that her advice was not followed—a curious claim on multiple levels—yet she continued to serve in the de Blasio Administration. Thus, her actual record on ethics issues remains concerning.

Candidates Not Interviewed

Other Democratic primary candidates -- including Dianne Morales and Andrew Yang -- did not submit themselves to Citizens Union’s evaluation process and, therefore, were ineligible for preference consideration, per Citizens Union policy. While Morales was unable to appear for her interview because of scheduling conflicts and other campaign issues, Yang simply never responded to repeated invitations to be interviewed, leaving Citizens Union unable to explore whether concerns about Yang’s lack of government experience and unfamiliarity with City issues are warranted.

Aaron Foldenauer
Dianne Morales
Paperboy Love Prince

Joycelyn Taylor
Isaac Wright Jr.
Andrew Yang

Click on buttons
below to skip to:

[Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates](#)

[Letter from the
Executive Director](#)

[Candidate
Evaluation](#)

[New York City
Mayor](#)

[New York City
Comptroller](#)

[Brooklyn Races](#)

[Manhattan Races](#)

[Queens Races](#)

[Questionnaire](#)

[About the Voters
Directory](#)

[Acknowlegments](#)

REPUBLICAN PRIMARY

None of the Republican primary candidates submitted themselves to Citizens Union's evaluation process, so Citizens Union is unable to express a preference in the Republican primary.

New York City Comptroller

DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

In the race for Comptroller, it was again a close vote between the top two candidates, with Citizens Union's Board issuing a preference for Brian Benjamin and Corey Johnson, in that order, and Brad Lander well behind them in third place. As our City recovers from the economic impacts of the pandemic, the role of the Comptroller takes on added importance. Citizens Union prefers Brian Benjamin because his track record, both in the private sector and as a State Senator, will allow him to effectively serve as the City's chief fiscal officer. And Citizens Union prefers Corey Johnson because his service as Speaker of the City Council has provided him experience in managing the budget process that has also prepared him for this important position.

Brian Benjamin ★ *Preferred Candidate, Ranked 1st*

Age: 44 Occupation: New York State Senate (District 30), Chair of Budget and Revenue

Education: Brown University (B.A. Public Policy), Harvard University (M.B.A.)

Brian Benjamin is a State Senator representing Harlem since 2017. He serves as the Chair of the State Senate's Budget and Revenue Committee. Prior to that, he was the Chair of Community Board 10. Previously he worked in investment banking and real estate development.

Benjamin wants to use the Comptroller's office to dramatically increase oversight over the New York Police Department. He promises to prioritize auditing the NYPD, evaluating the fiscal performance of programs, as well their impact on communities. He would hire an Assistant Comptroller for Public Safety who would focus on all public safety related agencies, and their interactions. With the support of two other assistant comptrollers,



Click on buttons
below to skip to:

Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates

Letter from the
Executive Director

Candidate
Evaluation

New York City
Mayor

New York City
Comptroller

Brooklyn Races

Manhattan Races

Queens Races

Questionnaire

About the Voters
Directory

Acknowledgments

Benjamin wants to invest more in tracking how the Comptroller’s recommendations are being implemented.

As a fiduciary of the public pension funds, Benjamin would continue Comptroller Stringer’s work on reducing redundancies and costs associated with the different funds, but he would also work with each fund individually to develop an investment strategy that will maximize its returns. To improve returns further, he says he can attract top level investment managers who want to give back to New York City.

Benjamin’s financial background makes him qualified to achieve these goals. He worked as an investment advisor at Morgan Stanley, and he currently serves as a Trustee at Brown University. He was also a top executive at the Harlem-focused development firm Genesis Companies.

Benjamin’s financial background, relevant experience in the private sector, and constructive service as a State Senator are the reasons why Citizens Union prefers him in this race.

Corey Johnson ★ Preferred Candidate, Ranked 2nd

Age: 39 Occupation: New York City Council Speaker, City Council Member (District 3)

Education: Masconomet Regional High School

Corey Johnson is the New York City Council Speaker, and has represented Chelsea and the west side of Manhattan in the Council since 2014. Citizens Union supported him in his 2013 bid for City Council.

Under his leadership, the City Council has passed substantial reforms on election and voting, campaign finance, police accountability, and other good government issues. He was a major force behind the 2019 Charter Revision Commission which led to the introduction of Ranked Choice Voting, and the recent expansion of the city’s campaign matching funds program. He has also put his weight behind important measures that strengthened oversight of the police department. His proposal for a comprehensive city planning reform is a testament to his coherent vision for the future needs of New York.



Click on buttons
below to skip to:

Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates

Letter from the
Executive Director

Candidate
Evaluation

New York City
Mayor

New York City
Comptroller

Brooklyn Races

Manhattan Races

Queens Races

Questionnaire

About the Voters
Directory

Acknowledgments

Over the public career, Johnson has shown leadership, offering New Yorkers words of encouragement and important updates in times of crisis. He was originally running for Mayor, but dropped out of that race last summer. He later announced he would seek to become Comptroller in March.

Johnson says he will be a watchdog for COVID-19 relief funds, making sure the billions of dollars received from the federal government are spent wisely and effectively. To achieve that, he plans to create a new recovery and rebuilding unit that will monitor spending, and make the information public. He also cites the need for more frequent audits for key agencies to address affordable housing and reducing policing costs and misconduct.

Johnson’s service as Speaker of the City Council and relevant experience in managing the budget process are the reasons why Citizens Union prefers him in this race.

Brad Lander ★ Preferred Candidate, Ranked 3rd

Age: 51 Occupation: New York City Council Member (District 39)

Education: University of Chicago (B.A.), University College London (Master’s in social anthropology), Pratt Institute (Master’s in city planning)

Brad Lander has served as a New York City Council Member since 2010, representing Park Slope and the surrounding area in Brooklyn. He is the Council’s Deputy Leader for Policy, and a co-founder of its Progressive Caucus. Before his election to the Council, he was an Executive Director of the Fifth Avenue Committee and a director of the Pratt Center for Neighborhood Development. Citizens Union supported his election for City Council when he first ran for office.

As a Council Member, Lander played an important role in passing several good government reforms. He chaired the Rules Committee when the Council overhauled its rules to ensure greater equity in the allocation of discretionary funding and to ban outside income. And he was one of the lead sponsors of the legislation that created the Office of the NYPD Inspector General (OIG-NYPD).

Lander offers a detailed plan for the office of comptroller, combined in his broader vision for the city. He wants to be a budget watchdog to ensure thoughtful spending of the funds coming into the city from the federal American Rescue Plan, and he would create a spending



Click on buttons
below to skip to:

Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates

Letter from the
Executive Director

Candidate
Evaluation

New York City
Mayor

New York City
Comptroller

Brooklyn Races

Manhattan Races

Queens Races

Questionnaire

About the Voters
Directory

Acknowledgments

tracker to provide clear goals and measure progress. To protect pension funds from long term risks, he proposes incorporating environmental, social, and governance (ESG) investing into a multi year strategic plan for responsible fiduciary investing. To improve auditing, he wants to use data analytics to identify areas that need deeper audits.

While Lander ranked below the top two candidates in Citizens Union’s ranked choice vote, he earned a third place preference for offering a unique perspective on what the Comptroller can do for the City.

Michelle Caruso-Cabrera

Age: 54 Occupation: Journalist, author

Education: Wellesley College (B.S. Economics)

Michelle Caruso-Cabrera is a former reporter and anchor with CNBC. She won multiple awards in her journalism career and often focused on economics. She authored a popular 2010 book that called to significantly reduce the size of government, including the elimination of government pension plans like Social Security. She first ran for an elected office last year when she challenged Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez in the Democratic Primary.

Caruso-Cabrera says her background as an investigative journalist prepares her to conduct high-quality audits. She would begin by auditing Health and Hospitals and the NYPD. Early in her term, she would also focus on examining delayed procurement payments to nonprofits, a common practice by City agencies. As an outsider to politics, she says she can bring a truly independent voice to the Comptroller office.

Citizens Union believes Caruso-Cabrera brings a commitment to independence and an interesting perspective to the office.

Zach Iscol

Age: 43 Occupation: Entrepreneur/Nonprofit Executive

Education: Cornell University (B.A. government)

Zach Iscol was a Captain in the U.S. Marine Corps. He served in Iraq and was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for bravery in combat in the Second Battle of Fallujah. An entrepreneur, after he returned from



Click on buttons
below to skip to:

[Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates](#)

[Letter from the
Executive Director](#)

[Candidate
Evaluation](#)

[New York City
Mayor](#)

[New York City
Comptroller](#)

[Brooklyn Races](#)

[Manhattan Races](#)

[Queens Races](#)

[Questionnaire](#)

[About the Voters
Directory](#)

[Acknowlegments](#)

service he founded several nonprofits and companies, including one that provides veterans and their families with free mental health care and another that offers a hiring platform for former military service members. This is Iscol's first run for office, although he first sought the mayor's position before shifting to the comptroller race.

He wants to ensure a quick and equitable economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic. As Comptroller, he would use seed funds for small businesses in the hardest hit sectors, like restaurants, theaters, and the arts. To improve auditing, he would introduce a grade initiative that ranks every agency from A-F based on government waste levels. Iscol would also stress fiscal responsibility. He thinks the Comptroller can do much more to find savings in the City's large budget, and he promises to focus his office on that task.

Citizens Union is impressed by Iscol's years of public service and leadership.

Terri Liftin

Age: 52 Occupation: Attorney

Education: Barnard College (A.B. Economics), New York University (M.A. Economics), Brooklyn Law School (J.D.)

Terri Liftin is a chief compliance officer at a private investment firm that deals in commercial real estate debt and equity investments. She has served as a counsel and compliance officer throughout her career. She believes this unique background in finance and law makes her the most qualified candidate to be a Comptroller. Liftin would increase the rates of audits, including surprise audits. As a pension fund fiduciary, she wants to reform the way investment managers and mandates are selected. She would seek to streamline the process and bring more control to the investment teams inside the Comptroller's office, and would remove screening based on priorities like divestment, instead prioritizing return on investments.

Alex Pan

Age: 18 Occupation: Student at Denison University

Education: Current undergraduate student

Alex Pan is the youngest person ever to be in the race for Comptroller, let alone make a citywide ballot in the city. Pan is from



Click on buttons
below to skip to:

[Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates](#)

[Letter from the
Executive Director](#)

[Candidate
Evaluation](#)

[New York City
Mayor](#)

[New York City
Comptroller](#)

[Brooklyn Races](#)

[Manhattan Races](#)

[Queens Races](#)

[Questionnaire](#)

[About the Voters
Directory](#)

[Acknowlegments](#)

New York, but is currently based in Ohio, where he goes to college. Some of his plans are to reduce the budget of the NYPD and to reinvest that money into mental health services, community based trusted messengers, and restorative justice programs. He also seeks to desegregate the education system and give power to schools, students, and parents.

Reshma Patel

Age: N/A Occupation: Investment banker, public finance advisor

Education: Massachusetts Institute of Technology (B.S.)

Reshma Patel has an extensive background in public finance and investments, including serving as an advisor to the New York City Comptroller's office for eight years. Although this is Patel's first run for office, she is not new to local politics. She serves as the President of the Eleanor Roosevelt Democratic Club, a Co-Chair of the Chhaya Community Development Corporation, and sits on her local community board. Patel brings impressive experience to the office, having worked at Bear Stearns, Lehman Brothers, and Barclays, and a deep understanding of the job. She wants to use that background to help New York recover from the pandemic, with a particular focus on generating job growth and budgetary savings. To help support small businesses and nonprofits, she would create a new streamlined process for procurement.

David Weprin

Age: 65 Occupation: State Assembly Member (District 24)

Education: SUNY Albany (B.A. political science), Hofstra Law School (J.D.)

David Weprin is a five-term state Assembly Member representing the 24th district in Queens. Prior to the Assembly, he sat on the City Council for eight years, where he served as chair of the Finance Committee. He was the Deputy Superintendent of Banks and the Secretary of the New York State Banking Board under Governor Mario Cuomo. Citizens Union supported him in his Council elections, and did not have a chance to evaluate his Assembly races. He ran for Comptroller before.

Weprin points to his successes as a City Council Member in securing \$2.5 billion during the 2008 financial crisis, for future retirees to ensure they have access to healthcare. He also stresses



20

2021
PRIMARY
ELECTION
VOTERS
DIRECTORY

*Click on buttons
below to skip to:*

[Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates](#)

[Letter from the
Executive Director](#)

[Candidate
Evaluation](#)

[New York City
Mayor](#)

[New York City
Comptroller](#)

[Brooklyn Races](#)

[Manhattan Races](#)

[Queens Races](#)

[Questionnaire](#)

[About the Voters
Directory](#)

[Acknowlegments](#)

his background in public and private finance, and his familiarity with the inner workings of Wall Street. His plans are focused on small businesses, green policies, and affordable living for seniors. Weprin plans to institute a Red-Tape Reduction Commission to eliminate fees, fines, and regulations that harm local small businesses. Furthermore, he plans to ensure the City of New York pension portfolio invests in stocks that have “green” practices and promote environmental justice. He further plans to create affordable housing for seniors so that they need not worry about being able to afford housing, medication, and food. Citizens Union appreciates his long history of effective service in New York.

Kevin Parker

This candidate was not available for an interview

Brooklyn Races

BROOKLYN BOROUGH PRESIDENT

DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

Jo Anne Simon ★ *Preferred Candidate, Ranked 1st*

Age: 68 Occupation: New York State Assembly Member, (District 52)

Education: Iona College (B.A. Speech Pathology), Gallaudet University (M.A. Deaf Education), Fordham University School of Law (J.D.)

Jo Anne Simon is a State Assembly Member who has represented the 52nd District (northwest Brooklyn) since 2015. In the Assembly, Simon has sponsored legislation on gun control and campaign finance regulation; and served as chair of the Committee on Ethics and Guidance, the Subcommittee on Workplace Safety, and the Legislative Ethics Commission. Previously, she was a district leader and the president of the Boerum Hill neighborhood association. Before entering politics, Simon founded a disability civil rights law firm in Downtown Brooklyn. Citizens Union preferred her in her first campaign for the Assembly.

Simon's foremost campaign priorities are reforming the roles of the Borough President in land use review procedures and community board appointments, and using the office's capital funds to improve and augment eco-friendly transportation infrastructure. She has spoken about the need to "reset" the city's land use paradigm, which she says is "fundamentally unfair to communit[ies]" and "developer-driver," in order to build more affordable housing. As a replacement for ULURP, she envisions a long term planning process driven by local community boards and diverse leadership. Additionally, Simon wants to make Brooklyn's 30 miles of waterfront environmentally resilient.

Simon has a long record in advocating for voting rights, government and police transparency (she was a co-sponsor of the repeal of section 50-a, which had shielded police records from public scrutiny), and campaign finance reform. She was also a Citizens Union member in the early 2000s. If elected, she would be the first ever female Brooklyn Borough President.

2021
PRIMARY
ELECTION
VOTERS
DIRECTORY

Click on buttons
below to skip to:

Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates

Letter from the
Executive Director

Candidate
Evaluation

New York City
Mayor

New York City
Comptroller

Brooklyn Races

Manhattan Races

Queens Races

Questionnaire

About the Voters
Directory

Acknowledgments

Click on buttons
below to skip to:

[Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates](#)

[Letter from the
Executive Director](#)

[Candidate
Evaluation](#)

[New York City
Mayor](#)

[New York City
Comptroller](#)

[Brooklyn Races](#)

[Manhattan Races](#)

[Queens Races](#)

[Questionnaire](#)

[About the Voters
Directory](#)

[Acknowlegments](#)

Simon has an impressive track record as an Assembly Member, civil rights attorney and community activist. She has a strong grasp of the powers of the office, and would make an excellent Borough President for Brooklyn, which is why Citizens Union prefers her in this race.

Antonio Reynoso ★ *Preferred Candidate, Ranked 2nd*

Age: 38 Occupation: City Council Member (District 34)

Education: Lemoyne College (Bachelor's)

Antonio Reynoso is a second-term Council Member representing the 34th District, which includes the neighborhoods of Williamsburg and Bushwick in Brooklyn and Ridgewood in Queens. Citizens Union preferred Reynoso in his 2013 campaign for Council, in which he defeated Vito Lopez, a longtime State Assemblyman who had been forced to resign from the Assembly due to accusations of sexual harassment.

Reynoso serves as the chair of the city's Committee on Sanitation, and has passed legislation on waste equity (setting limits to the amount of trash processing that can be done in any particular area of the city) and heightened environmental standards for private waste management companies. He has sponsored numerous police reform bills, such as the "Right to Know" Act, which, among other provisions, mandated that NYPD officers inform civilians that they may refuse a voluntary search. He also fought against--and defeated--the de Blasio administration's plan to rezone 300 blocks in Bushwick.

Reynoso's biggest priorities as Borough President would be "truly" affordable housing and "real" police accountability. He says that he will introduce council bills on city-wide composting and commercial rent relief, and use capital funding to procure state-of-the-art birthing centers for every Brooklyn hospital (in order to combat the disproportionate mortality rate of Black women giving birth). Additionally, Reynoso promises to fight to provide each community board with a comprehensive planner, and has outlined a plan to reform the Board of Elections by making state and county boards nonpartisan, rather than bipartisan (hiring must be made based solely on qualification, and measures of professionalism and impartiality should be implemented at every level of the board).

Click on buttons
below to skip to:

Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates

Letter from the
Executive Director

Candidate
Evaluation

New York City
Mayor

New York City
Comptroller

Brooklyn Races

Manhattan Races

Queens Races

Questionnaire

About the Voters
Directory

Acknowledgments

Citizens Union believes Reynoso to be an energetic candidate who can build broad coalitions, and who would use the Borough President's office to bring a diverse range of voices into the planning process. We prefer him as our second choice in the Brooklyn Borough President democratic primary.

Khari Edwards ★ Preferred Candidate, Ranked 3rd

Age: 47 Occupation: Former Vice President at Brookdale Hospital

Education: Thomas Edison State University (BASc Liberal Arts and Sciences/Liberal Studies)

From 2013 until 2020, when he resigned in order to focus full-time on his Borough President campaign, Khari Edwards was vice president of external affairs at Brookdale University Hospital and Medical Center in eastern Brooklyn. He acted as an advocate for residents in nearby communities and as a liaison between the hospital and local government. Edwards sees that experience as ideal preparation for the role of Borough President: "I represented 1.3 million Brooklyn residents for Brookdale."

But Edwards also has more conventional political experience. Before Brookdale, he worked for four years as a special advisor to the Democratic Leader of the NYS Senate, and for two as a regional representative for the Governor's office. Edwards has also served as the Brooklyn Council President for the Make a Wish Foundation, and founded "It Starts Here," a Brookdale Hospital-based program to combat gun violence.

Edwards says that his top priorities are reforming community boards and the ULURP process in order to build more affordable housing. Additional priorities include using capital funding to invest in education, and reinvigorating small businesses. He also says that he intends to introduce legislation to make resiliency building guidelines mandatory, rather than "advisory," that he favors giving community boards binding up/down votes on ULURP applications, and that he would appoint a "Director of Community Boards" to support and coordinate District Managers.

Edwards would bring to the office strong administrative leadership, political experience, and a real commitment to strengthen the communities of Brooklyn. Citizens Union prefers him as a third choice in the Brooklyn Borough President democratic primary.



24

2021
PRIMARY
ELECTION
VOTERS
DIRECTORY

Click on buttons
below to skip to:

[Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates](#)

[Letter from the
Executive Director](#)

[Candidate
Evaluation](#)

[New York City
Mayor](#)

[New York City
Comptroller](#)

[Brooklyn Races](#)

[Manhattan Races](#)

[Queens Races](#)

[Questionnaire](#)

[About the Voters
Directory](#)

[Acknowlegments](#)

Robert Cornegy

Age: 55 Occupation: New York City Council Member, (District 36)

*Education: Mercy College (Bachelor's degree in Organizational Management),
Mercy College (Master's in Organizational Management)*

Robert Cornegy has represented Brooklyn's 36th District (Bedford-Stuyvesant, northern Crown Heights) in the City Council since 2014. He chairs the Council's Committee on Housing and Buildings, and the Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Task Force. Citizens Union supported his election to the City Council.

Cornegy has sponsored numerous pieces of legislation throughout his time in the Council, including the "Kalief Browder Re-Entry Success Act," which requires that the Department of Corrections provide vocational, educational, and therapeutic services for anyone detained in a city jail for more than 10 consecutive days; commercial tenant anti-harassment legislation; and a lactation law, which mandates that all public buildings maintain rooms for women to use for breastfeeding. He was instrumental in the establishment of NYC's "Chamber on the Go" program, which provides mobile support services to small businesses.

Cornegy's campaign priorities are affordable housing, economic development "with an emphasis on creating more jobs that pay family-sustaining wages," and affordable healthcare. Job creation would also be the guiding principle he would follow when evaluating development projects. He is in favor of community boards playing an increased role in ULURP, and says he will provide them with additional resources. He would like to see borough presidents more involved in legislation at the City Council. Citizens Union was impressed by Cornegy's thoughtful comments on the future of the Borough President office and appreciates his years of service at the City Council.

Kimberly Council

Age: 49 Occupation: Senior Reference Law Librarian

Education: North Carolina Central University (B.A.), Pratt Institute (M.S.)

Kimberly Council is an associate minister at the Historic Berean Baptist Church and a senior reference librarian at the law firm Sullivan & Cromwell. She has run for public office twice before, unsuccessfully (for City Council in 2013 and the State Assembly in 2014), and Citizens Union supported her in both those bids.



25

2021
PRIMARY
ELECTION
VOTERS
DIRECTORY

Click on buttons
below to skip to:

Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates

Letter from the
Executive Director

Candidate
Evaluation

New York City
Mayor

New York City
Comptroller

Brooklyn Races

Manhattan Races

Queens Races

Questionnaire

About the Voters
Directory

Acknowledgments

Council has also served as President of the East New York Housing Development Corporation and a member of State Senator Velmanette Montgomery’s working group on juvenile justice.

Council says her priorities are COVID-19 recovery, affordable housing, and healthcare. She wants to turn City Hall into a “one-stop-shop” to help Brooklynites take advantage of all the programs that the city, state, and federal government have to offer; and she wants to create a “Mobile Borough Hall” to further increase accessibility. In terms of transparency, Council has said she wants to track and publicize city spending habits to show inequities among neighborhoods--and she promises to spend accordingly, in order to “level the playing field..”

Robert Elstein

Age: 42 Occupation: Teacher

Education: Sarah Lawrence (B.A. Liberal Arts and Sciences/Liberal Studies), Brooklyn College (M.A. Secondary Education and Teaching)

Robert Elstein has taught high school English and theater at Edward R. Murrow High School in Midwood for fifteen years. He is the founder of Beautify Brooklyn, a community clean-up coalition. Elstein says that his campaign’s three priorities are “save our schools,” “save our community,” and “save our earth.” His primary objective is to eliminate mayoral control of the city’s public schools (he favors a system which would provide more community oversight). He also supports a Green New Deal for New York City and reforms to ULURP.

Mathieu Eugene

This candidate was not available for an interview

Pearlene Fields

This candidate was not available for an interview

Anthony Jones

This candidate was not available for an interview

Trisha Ocona

This candidate was not available for an interview



26

Robert Ramos

This candidate was not available for an interview

Lamor Whitehead-Miller

This candidate was not available for an interview

2021
PRIMARY
ELECTION
VOTERS
DIRECTORY

COUNCIL DISTRICT 33

DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

Lincoln Restler ★ Preferred Candidate

Age: 37 Occupation: Full-time candidate, Formerly Chief Strategic Officer at St. Nicks Alliance

Education: Brown University (B.A.)

Lincoln Restler is a longtime reformer who had made a name for himself when he first challenged the powerful Brooklyn Democratic machine, winning a fierce election for District Leader in 2010. He later co-founded the now-influential and reform-minded New Kings Democrats club, and has been involved in several campaigns for transparency and accountability in the county party. He worked in the de Blasio administration, including at the mayor's office, and was involved in the implementation of IDNYC, the city's municipal identification program. He believes the greatest potential for reforms in the next City Council will be around issues of police accountability, and would prioritize that work if elected. He promises to continue advocating for changes in spaces where county parties still exert control, including the election of judges, the selection of the next Speaker, and the appointment of commissioners to the Board of Elections. Outside reform issues, Restler offers a detailed agenda that focuses on mitigating the effects of climate change and building resiliency in this waterfront district, and on tackling the housing crisis in the area. A key proposal would aim to add more affordable housing by forcing landlords to lower rents if their units stay empty for more than three months. This would require the Legislature to act. Restler's years of activism and service have earned him the support of a broad spectrum of community leaders and local elected officials. Citizens Union prefers Restler due to his long term commitment to good government, his experience in politics and local government, and his deep knowledge of the reform

Click on buttons below to skip to:

Citizens Union Preferred Candidates

Letter from the Executive Director

Candidate Evaluation

New York City Mayor

New York City Comptroller

Brooklyn Races

Manhattan Races

Queens Races

Questionnaire

About the Voters Directory

Acknowledgments

Click on buttons
below to skip to:

Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates

Letter from the
Executive Director

Candidate
Evaluation

New York City
Mayor

New York City
Comptroller

Brooklyn Races

Manhattan Races

Queens Races

Questionnaire

About the Voters
Directory

Acknowledgments

agenda. We believe he will be an effective lawmaker and a trusted ally in the fight for an accountable, open, and honest government.

Elizabeth Adams

Age: 33 Occupation: Legislative Director for Council Member Stephen Levin

Education: University of California at Santa Cruz (B.A. Sociology)

Elizabeth Adams is the Legislative Director for the outgoing Council Member in this district, Stephen Levin. Prior to that position, she worked as director of government relations at Planned Parenthood NYC. She takes pride in incorporating legislative work with constituent services, pushing for reforms connected to voters' daily lives. If elected, she would follow that approach by establishing community advisory groups for her office and expanding participatory budgeting to involve constituents in the budget process. Her priorities include COVID-19 recovery and relief for small businesses, access to transportation, and green spaces. She wants to secure funding for the Bushwick Inlet Park and for toxic soil remediation. Citizens Union was impressed by her experience and knowledge of the office.

Stu Sherman

Age: 39 Occupation: Senior Staff Attorney at New York Legal Assistance Group

Education: Wesleyan University (B.A. Psychology), Boston University School of Public Health (M.P.H.), Boston University School of Law (J.D.)

Stu Sherman is a legal aid attorney working to provide free legal services for people struggling with healthcare, housing, and other needs. He currently works for the New York Legal Assistance Group, and has previously served on a state "Task Force on Life and the Law," as a legal consultant for the New York State Department of Health and a budget analyst for the New York State Legislature. If elected, he would continue his career-long interest in improving healthcare in the council. For example, he wants to open city-run community pharmacies that would provide access to affordable life-saving medication. He also wants to make the current public health program, NYC Care, into a comprehensive health coverage plan that would cover all New Yorkers. Other priorities include giving relief to small businesses hurt by the pandemic. Citizens Union values his career long service to the public.

Victoria Cambranes

Click on buttons
below to skip to:

Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates

Letter from the
Executive Director

Candidate
Evaluation

New York City
Mayor

New York City
Comptroller

Brooklyn Races

Manhattan Races

Queens Races

Questionnaire

About the Voters
Directory

Acknowledgments

This candidate was not available for an interview

Sabrina Gates

This candidate was not available for an interview

Toba Potosky

This candidate was not available for an interview

Benjamin Solotaire

This candidate was not available for an interview

April Somboun

This candidate was not available for an interview

COUNCIL DISTRICT 35

DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

Crystal Hudson ★ Preferred Candidate

Age: 38 Occupation: Former Deputy Public Advocate, City Council staffer

Education: George Washington University (M.T.A. Sports Management), Spelman College (B.A. Economics)

Crystal Hudson is a third generation Brooklynite and former Deputy Public Advocate. She became known in the community as the person behind Greater Prospect Heights Mutual Aid, a volunteer network that provided food and material support for thousands of people in need during the worst months of the COVID-19 pandemic. Hudson is no stranger for public service. She was in charge of community engagement in Public Advocate Jumaanee Williams' office, and has worked as a central staffer in the City Council, and a Chief of Operations for the outgoing council member, Laurie Cumbo. She supports a strong reform agenda on elections and policing, and has worked with advocates and good government groups to promote Ranked Choice Voting and reduce police misconduct. If elected, her top priority would be access to education. She wants to expand the current pre-K education program to implement universal, free childcare from 0 to 3. Hudson is the only candidate in this race with government experience, and her campaign and

*Click on buttons
below to skip to:*

[Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates](#)

[Letter from the
Executive Director](#)

[Candidate
Evaluation](#)

[New York City
Mayor](#)

[New York City
Comptroller](#)

[Brooklyn Races](#)

[Manhattan Races](#)

[Queens Races](#)

[Questionnaire](#)

[About the Voters
Directory](#)

[Acknowlegments](#)

interview with Citizens Union demonstrated that. She presented a very thorough policy agenda, broke down goals to specific actions, and showed she knows the nuts and bolts of the system but is still able to envision creative plans to achieve substantial changes. At one point she noted she would like to see an all female budget negotiating team in the City Council. Citizens Union believes Crystal Hudson will be an excellent advocate for her community and an effective lawmaker that can hit the ground running, and we prefer her in this race.

Renee Collymore

Age: N/A Occupation: Educator, small business owner

Renee Collymore has deep roots in this district. Her family has called Clinton Hill home since the 1940s—they owned several important small businesses in the community—and she has continued that work as an active community member. A former district leader, president of block association, and a civically engaged educator, Collymore has an intimate understanding of the district and the needs of the community. If elected, she would work to promote broader civic engagement through a new civic education plan. She also wants to create New York City's first Tiny House Village for the homeless in the district. Citizens Union believes Collymore would be a true advocate for her community, and would put constituent services as a top priority.

Curtis Harris

Age: 62 Occupation: Executive Director of the Green Earth Poets Cafe

Education: Medgar Evers College (B.S. Accounting), Bernard Baruch College (M.P.A.)

Curtis Harris, an accountant and parent, is running because he is "sick and tired of being sick and tired." Harris runs a local Crown Heights organization that uses poetry to engage youth and incarcerated individuals. A member of Community Board 8, he focuses his campaign on providing COVID-19 relief, securing real affordable housing for his district, and fighting for more healthcare options for his future constituents.



30

2021
PRIMARY
ELECTION
VOTERS
DIRECTORY

Click on buttons
below to skip to:

Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates

Letter from the
Executive Director

Candidate
Evaluation

New York City
Mayor

New York City
Comptroller

Brooklyn Races

Manhattan Races

Queens Races

Questionnaire

About the Voters
Directory

Acknowledgments

Hector Robertson

Age: N/A Occupation: Associate Director of Data Management at Progenics Pharmaceuticals

Education: Universidad de Panama; Hunter College

Hector Robertson has been a community organizer for over 20 years, serving on the local community board since 2000, and leading a block association. Experiencing his neighborhood changed and gentrified, and seeing his neighbors struggle with rising housing prices, he wants to organize tenants, and fight to stop their abuse and neglect by landlords. If elected, he would also seek to make sure community boards have a larger voice in rezoning. Robertson expressed a special interest in reforming the Board of Elections to make it more accountable and professional, and has proposed to overhaul the Campaign Finance Board, which he says is in need of reform.

Michael Hollingsworth

This candidate was not available for an interview

Regina Kinsey

This candidate was not available for an interview

Deirdre Levy

This candidate was not available for an interview

COUNCIL DISTRICT 39

DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

Brandon West ★ Preferred Candidate

Age: 36 Occupation: Campaign Manager for the Center for Popular Democracy Education: Haverford College (B.A.), NYU Wagner School of Public Service (M.P.A.)

Brandon West worked most recently as campaign manager for the Center for Popular Democracy's National Voting Rights and Democracy program, where he worked to advance voting rights at the state, local, and national levels. Previously, he has served as a legislative aide in the State Assembly, a financial analyst at the City Council, and a budget analyst for the mayor's Office of Management and Budget. West has also served as president of New Kings



Click on buttons
below to skip to:

Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates

Letter from the
Executive Director

Candidate
Evaluation

New York City
Mayor

New York City
Comptroller

Brooklyn Races

Manhattan Races

Queens Races

Questionnaire

About the Voters
Directory

Acknowledgments

Democrats, a reform-minded political club, and a member of several other community groups.

West says his top priority, if elected to the Council, will be the pursuit of what he calls “Budget Justice.” With a background in budgeting, he wants to cut the resources spent on NYPD’s headcount, overtime, and capital projects. Another priority will be to push for an overhaul of the land use process through a revision of the city’s charter, to create a comprehensive process that balances citywide needs with neighborhood priorities.

West is well-versed in the issues, challenges, and needs of democratic reform and government accountability. He has worked with Citizens Union on several campaigns, from the referendum for a Constitutional Convention, to the latest achievements with statewide election reforms, and the introduction of a campaign finance matching funds program. He has also been a member of Citizens Union in the first half of the last decade. He speaks fluently on complex issues like police accountability and rules reform, and balances a sweeping vision with needed short term policy goals.

Citizens Union found West to be the most experienced and qualified of the candidates interviewed. Given his career-long commitment to election reform and democratic values and his background in city and state government, we prefer him in this race

Shahana Hanif

Age: 30 Occupation: Director of Organizing and Community Engagement for Council Member Brad Lander

Education: Brooklyn College (B.A. Women’s and Gender Studies)

Shahana Hanif currently works as Director of Organizing and Community Engagement for Council Member Brad Lander. She previously worked in Lander’s office as Bangladeshi Community Liaison, and as a public housing organizer. Many of her plans on reform issues focused on participatory budgeting, a topic she worked on at Lander’s office. Her other priorities include housing justice, language justice, and the defunding of the NYPD. More specifically, she supports a Feminist Green New Deal for NYC Public Housing, and distributing NYPD funds to the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Department of Homeless Services, and

Click on buttons
below to skip to:

Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates

Letter from the
Executive Director

Candidate
Evaluation

New York City
Mayor

New York City
Comptroller

Brooklyn Races

Manhattan Races

Queens Races

Questionnaire

About the Voters
Directory

Acknowledgments

NYC Health + Hospitals. If elected, Hanif would be the first Muslim woman and the first South Asian in the New York City Council, as well as the 39th District's first female Council member.

Mamnun Haq

Age: 58 Occupation: Program Associate at the NYU School of Medicine

Education: University of Chittagong (B.A. Liberal Arts), Kingsborough Community College (Associate's Accounting and Finance)

Mamnun Haq is a Community Health Worker and Program Associate at the NYU School of Medicine. A fifteen-year veteran driver with the NYC Taxi & Limousine Commission, Haq was a co-founder of the New York Taxi Workers Alliance, before becoming a National Vice President of the Alliance of South Asian American Labor. Haq spent nine years organizing in support of the "Taxi Drivers Protection Act," which the City Council passed in 2014, after a passenger stabbed him with a hunting knife. Haq's top campaign priorities are expanding education by promoting accessible Wi-Fi for students, and supporting affordable housing. Citizens Union believes that Haq would bring an important voice to a community underrepresented in this district and the Council.

Justin Krebs

Age: 43 Occupation: National Director of Campaigns MoveOn

Education: Harvard University (Bachelor's)

Justin Krebs is the national campaigns director for MoveOn, a progressive public policy advocacy group. He was a co-founder of Living Liberally, a network of progressive social communities around the country which has grown to hundreds of chapters, and tens of thousands of members since 2003. A former improv comedian, he also co-founded a non-profit theater called The Tank. Krebs' top priorities are investing in cultural spaces, such as parks and neighborhood mainstreets; facilitating schools to invest more in the ways they "interact with parents, support teachers, and recognize the individuality of students"; and confronting the climate crisis. He supports most of the Citizens Union agenda, and has experience working on voting rights campaigns and other reform issues on a national and state level. Citizens Union found him to have a clear understanding of the office and thoughtful policy plans, and believes he is well qualified to serve on the City Council.



Click on buttons
below to skip to:

[Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates](#)

[Letter from the
Executive Director](#)

[Candidate
Evaluation](#)

[New York City
Mayor](#)

[New York City
Comptroller](#)

[Brooklyn Races](#)

[Manhattan Races](#)

[Queens Races](#)

[Questionnaire](#)

[About the Voters
Directory](#)

[Acknowlegments](#)

Briget Rein

*Age: 53 Occupation: Assistant to Staff Director of the United Federation of Teachers
Education: Hunter College (Bachelor's), College of Staten Island (Master's)*

Briget Rein serves as the Assistant to the Staff Director of the United Federation of Teachers. Previously, Rein has worked as a lobbyist and Deputy Political Director at UFT, and as a teacher at PS104 and PS109. She has also served on Community Board 6. The centerpiece of Rein's campaign is her promise to build more high schools in this district. She also plans to carve out a section of Carroll Park as a dedicated dog area, and hold hearings with developers, the EPA, the DEC, and the Mayor's Office "to ensure no one will be sickened by the pollutants in the Gowanus Canal." If elected, Rein says that her first piece of legislation would be a bill establishing a COVID-19 registry and compensation fund. She has represented the UFT before the City Council for over two decades, and knows the job she is seeking inside and out.

Douglas Schneider

*Age: 45 Occupation: Civil rights attorney, Democratic district leader for Brooklyn's
44th Assembly District
Education: Union College (B.A.), Cardozo (J.D.)*

Douglas Schneider is an attorney at Schneider PLLC, and a Democratic District Leader for Brooklyn's 44th Assembly District. He has served on the steering committee for current Council Member Brad Lander's participatory budgeting initiative, and was a legislative aide to Congresswoman Shelley Berkley of Nevada from 1999 to 2001. Additionally, he serves as a lay leader at Congregation Beth Elohim.

Schneider's top campaign priority is to fully open schools and help students recover, psychologically and educationally, from remote learning. Other key priorities for Schneider are street safety and economic recovery. Citizens Union appreciates his commitment to his community and civic participation.

Jessica Simmons

This candidate was not available for an interview

Manhattan Races

MANHATTAN DISTRICT ATTORNEY

DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

Alvin Bragg and Tali Farhadian Weinstein

★ *Dual Preference*

Alvin Bragg Age: 47 Occupation: Attorney, former Chief Deputy for the New York State Attorney General

Education: Harvard University (B.A.)

Tali Farhadian Age: 45 Occupation: Attorney, former General Counsel for Kings County District Attorney

Education: Yale University (B.A. Humanities), Magdalen College School, Oxford (M.Phil), Yale Law School (J.D.)

The race to succeed Cy Vance, who has served as Manhattan District Attorney since 2010, features two talented and extremely well-qualified candidates who stand out in this crowded field — Alvin Bragg and Tali Farhadian Weinstein.

Alvin Bragg served most recently as Chief Deputy Attorney General for New York State, where he prosecuted Harvey Weinstein and challenged the Trump administration over the citizenship question that it attempted to include in the 2020 census. Previously, Bragg served as Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Criminal Division of the Southern District of New York, under Preet Bharara, and as the Chief of Litigation & Investigations for the New York City Council. Bragg is currently a Visiting Professor of Law and the Co-Director of the Racial Justice Project at New York Law School, and a Sunday school teacher at the Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem.

Bragg says that his foremost priority - if elected District Attorney - will be to end racial disparities and mass incarceration. He intends to pursue those objectives by changing the structure, policies, and culture of the office to increase transparency and accountability. Bragg's other priorities include creating new sex crimes and police accountability units, which will report directly to the District Attorney, be "victim-centered and trauma-informed," and publish

2021
PRIMARY
ELECTION
VOTERS
DIRECTORY

*Click on buttons
below to skip to:*

Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates

Letter from the
Executive Director

Candidate
Evaluation

New York City
Mayor

New York City
Comptroller

Brooklyn Races

Manhattan Races

Queens Races

Questionnaire

About the Voters
Directory

Acknowledgments



2021
PRIMARY
ELECTION
VOTERS
DIRECTORY

*Click on buttons
below to skip to:*

Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates

Letter from the
Executive Director

Candidate
Evaluation

New York City
Mayor

New York City
Comptroller

Brooklyn Races

Manhattan Races

Queens Races

Questionnaire

About the Voters
Directory

Acknowledgments

real time public data to monitor their success; as well as stopping gun violence by tracking the origins of guns used in shootings.

Bragg has put out a plan to reform the Conviction Integrity Unit (CIU), which has underperformed in comparison to its counterpart in Brooklyn. He says he will abolish the current CIU and start a new unit, which will be monitored by an independent review board and have total independence. Bragg also intends to make "alternative sentencing," rather than incarceration, the "default" outcome for most cases prosecuted by the office. As he puts it, "incarceration will become the 'alternative.'" Bragg has shown a strong understanding of community concerns through the district, and a thorough and cogent policy platform, particularly on dealing with police accountability and misconduct.

Tali Farhadian Weinstein served most recently as General Counsel to Kings County District Attorney Eric Gonzalez, where she supervised the nation's first Post-Conviction Justice Bureau. Previously, she spent six years as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Eastern District of New York, and three years as counsel in the office of Attorney General Eric Holder, after clerking for Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. Farhadian is currently an Adjunct Professor of Law at NYU Law School.

Farhadian's three central priorities are combating gender-based violence, reducing gun violence, and furthering post-conviction justice. She intends to establish a new Bureau of Gender Based Violence, which will house the Sex Crimes and Domestic Violence units, as well as the units handling human trafficking, elder abuse, stalking, and gender-based hate crimes. In terms of gun violence, Farhadian proposes a new "Gun Violence Coordinator," who will work across divisions and bureaus, directing and monitoring firearms-related cases and initiatives. Finally, Farhadian says she will draw on her experience in the Brooklyn DA's Office to reform Manhattan's Conviction Integrity Program--which will include walling it off from the rest of the office and adding specific defense and exoneration experts. Farhadian views incarceration as a "last resort," and says she will both instruct prosecutors to seek the minimum sentence as a default rule, and require them to receive supervisory approval to go beyond that minimum.

Click on buttons
below to skip to:

[Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates](#)

[Letter from the
Executive Director](#)

[Candidate
Evaluation](#)

[New York City
Mayor](#)

[New York City
Comptroller](#)

[Brooklyn Races](#)

[Manhattan Races](#)

[Queens Races](#)

[Questionnaire](#)

[About the Voters
Directory](#)

[Acknowlegments](#)

Citizens Union believes both Bragg and Farhadian Weinstein are talented and extremely well-qualified candidates, with impressive backgrounds as experienced prosecutors at multiple levels of government. Bragg emphasized that he would pursue fundamental reforms in the criminal justice system and address community concerns, including safety. Farhadian Weinstein emphasized that she would focus on public safety as the core mission of the office, sees it as essential to the city's recovery, and is also committed to ensuring fairness. For these reasons, Citizens Union issued a rare dual-preference for the Democratic nomination for Manhattan District Attorney.

Tahanie Aboushi

Age: 35 Occupation: Human Rights Attorney at The Aboushi Law Firm

Education: St. John's University (B.A. Legal Studies), Syracuse Law School (J.D.)

Tahanie Aboushi is a founder and partner at The Aboushi Law Firm where she has been practicing civil rights law for over 10 years. In response to President Trump's 2017 Muslim Ban, Aboushi co-led a legal team at JFK Airport which offered assistance to Muslims who had been affected by the ban. For this work, Aboushi was awarded the Shirley Chisholm Women of Excellence Award. Aboushi's firm has also sued the NYPD on behalf of Muslim women who had been forced to remove their hijabs when taking mugshots, and again sued the Department after an officer pushed a woman during the Black Lives Matter protests in March 2020. Beyond her legal work, Aboushi is an active community member, serving on the board of the New York Civil Liberties Union, the president of the Muslim Democratic Club of New York, and is a member of Manhattan Community Board 10. Aboushi has pledged that her top priority as District Attorney would be to dramatically reduce prosecutions stemming from social inequities and stop the office's criminalization of poverty. Aboushi has stated that as District Attorney she would devote increased resources to prosecuting white collar crimes, sexual assaults, and police misconduct. Aboushi hopes to dramatically reduce the number of incarcerated New Yorkers by establishing a conviction review board, eliminating charges for most low-level offenses, and investing more resources into communities. Citizens Union commends her for her career fighting for justice and her inspiring campaign.



Click on buttons
below to skip to:

[Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates](#)

[Letter from the
Executive Director](#)

[Candidate
Evaluation](#)

[New York City
Mayor](#)

[New York City
Comptroller](#)

[Brooklyn Races](#)

[Manhattan Races](#)

[Queens Races](#)

[Questionnaire](#)

[About the Voters
Directory](#)

[Acknowlegments](#)

Elizabeth Crotty

Age: 50 Occupation: Crotty Saland PC, Partner

Education: Fordham University School of Law (J.D.)

Elizabeth Crotty is a criminal defense lawyer and former Manhattan Assistant District Attorney who has more than 20 years of experience working in New York’s criminal justice system. As a partner and founder of the law firm Crotty Saland PC, Crotty represents people on crimes ranging from grand larceny, fraud, assault, DWI, and weapons possession. Prior to starting her own firm, Crotty worked for six years in the Manhattan District Attorney’s Office, where she served in both the Trial Division and the Investigation Division. Crotty also serves as a board member at the Manhattan District Attorney’s Association, and is on the New York City Bar Association’s Judiciary Committee. As District Attorney, Crotty has stated her first priority would be to devote increased resources to the white collar crimes and major economic fraud units, and streamline the process by which New Yorkers can report economic fraud and business-related crimes. Crotty also promises to rationalize bail laws, for example by making more offenses, such as hate crimes, bail-eligible. Finally, Crotty has pledged to reform the conviction review unit to prevent conflicts of interest in the office.

Lucy Lang

Age: 40 Occupation: Inside Criminal Justice Teacher, Center for Justice

Education: Swarthmore College (B.A. Political Science and History)

Lucy Lang served from 2006 to 2016 as an Assistant District Attorney in the Manhattan District Attorney’s Office under Robert Morgenthau and current office holder Cyrus Vance, and from 2016 to 2018 as the office’s Special Counsel for Policy and Projects. From 2018 to 2020, she directed the Institute for Innovation in Prosecution at John Jay College. Lang’s proposed priorities include directing increased resources towards investigations into large scale white collar crimes, creating a new Worker Protection Unit, and taking a proactive approach to violent crime, which will include the formation of a specialized gun court. She has additional plans to create a new Public Corruption Unit to proactively investigate criminal conduct by public officials and law enforcement; and she promises that, if she is elected, her office will not prosecute crimes of poverty or consensual sex between adults.



38

2021
PRIMARY
ELECTION
VOTERS
DIRECTORY

Click on buttons
below to skip to:

Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates

Letter from the
Executive Director

Candidate
Evaluation

New York City
Mayor

New York City
Comptroller

Brooklyn Races

Manhattan Races

Queens Races

Questionnaire

About the Voters
Directory

Acknowledgments

Eliza Orlins

Age: 38 Occupation: Staff Attorney at the Legal Aid Society

Education: Fordham University School of Law (J.D.)

Eliza Orlins is a staff attorney at The Legal Aid Society, where she has represented more than 3,000 indigent criminal defendants over the past twelve years. She is the only public defendant in the race. If elected, Orlins' top priority would be to reduce the footprint of the District Attorney's Office, which she aims to accomplish by declining to prosecute the majority of misdemeanors. (Reducing the office's footprint will free up resources that can then be directed towards external community organizations and other city agencies.) Another priority for Orlins is to revamp the Conviction Review Unit, which would be reorganized to "proactively suss out wrongful cases" and focus on data collection systems (which will be made available to the public online). Orlins also intends to create an Environment Justice Unit, in order to protect New Yorkers from corporate pollution. Citizens Union commends her for her career fighting for justice and her inspiring campaign.

Diana Florence

This candidate was not available for an interview

Dan Quart

This candidate was not available for an interview

MANHATTAN BOROUGH PRESIDENT

DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

Brad Hoylman ★ Preferred Candidate, Ranked 1st

Age: 55 Occupation: State Senator

Education: West Virginia University (B.A.), Exeter College, Oxford (MPhil), Harvard University (J.D.)

Brad Hoylman is a five-term State Senator representing District 27 since first being elected in 2012, and the current chair of the Senate's Judiciary Committee. Citizens Union supported him in his election to the State Senate. During his time in office, Hoylman has worked to further numerous causes such as housing, public education, LGBTQ rights, environment protection and transportation. . He has



Click on buttons
below to skip to:

[Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates](#)

[Letter from the
Executive Director](#)

[Candidate
Evaluation](#)

[New York City
Mayor](#)

[New York City
Comptroller](#)

[Brooklyn Races](#)

[Manhattan Races](#)

[Queens Races](#)

[Questionnaire](#)

[About the Voters
Directory](#)

[Acknowlegments](#)

an impressive track record as a lawmaker, passing over 120 bills, including the Child Victims Act and the TRUST Act, which increased government oversight over the state taxes of elected officials, and the police STAT Act, which requires police departments to provide demographic data on arrests. Hoylman also fought to protect the New York LGBTQ community by passing legislation banning conversion therapy and a bill extending human rights protections to transgender New Yorkers. He has introduced and co-sponsored dozens of bills on reform issues like ethics and accountability. Before working in Albany, Hoylman was a three-term chair of Manhattan Community Board 2. He is also a former president of the Gay and Lesbian Independent Democrats. As Manhattan Borough President, Hoylman intends to use the office to pursue more equitable and affordable housing policies, which he describes as his top priority. He supports repealing the 421-a tax break and reform the city's current mandatory affordable housing policies. He proposes to convene a Manhattan Tenants Union, with support from the Borough President office, so that residential and commercial tenants can negotiate better rents. Hoylman has also presented thorough proposals for land use reform to allow community involvement earlier in the process.

Citizens Union prefers Hoylman in this race because he understands what it takes to be an effective Borough President and has the knowledge and the skillset to hit the ground running on his first day in office. He is the right person to serve Manhattan at this crucial time.

Mark Levine ★ *Preferred Candidate, Ranked 2nd*

Age: 52 Occupation: City Council Member (District 7)

Education: Haverford College (B.A. Physics), Harvard Kennedy School of Government (M.P.P. Public Policy)

Mark Levine is a Council Member representing West Harlem & Northern Manhattan Manhattan's 7th Council District and has served as the Chair of the Health Committee since 2017. Citizens Union supported him in his two elections for City Council. During his tenure, Levine has focused on a wide range of issues including affordable housing, passing legislation protecting the rights of low-income tenants facing eviction and helping to create hundreds of low-rent housing units. Levine has been at the forefront of the city's fight against COVID-19, utilizing his position as Health



Click on buttons
below to skip to:

[Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates](#)

[Letter from the
Executive Director](#)

[Candidate
Evaluation](#)

[New York City
Mayor](#)

[New York City
Comptroller](#)

[Brooklyn Races](#)

[Manhattan Races](#)

[Queens Races](#)

[Questionnaire](#)

[About the Voters
Directory](#)

[Acknowlegments](#)

Committee Chair to hold frequent public hearings as part of his push for transparency and accountability during the crisis. As Borough President, Levine’s first priority would be to appoint a Deputy Borough President tasked with ensuring the economic recovery from the pandemic is equitable and focused on creating well-paid jobs while supporting small businesses. He also plans to take a four-pronged approach to solving the housing crisis by reforming the Uniform Land use Review Procedure, prioritizing job creation, protecting tenants, and creating a public bank. Levine expressed support for all of Citizen’s Union positions, such as reforming Community Board budgeting. Furthermore, he had a clear vision for streamlining the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure while maintaining significant input from local communities, pointing to his experience leading a community-led rezoning process in Morningside Heights. Citizens Union prefers him as our second choice in the Manhattan Borough President democratic primary.

Lindsey Boylan

Age: 37 Occupation: deputy secretary for economic development and a special advisor to governor

Education: Wellesley College (B.A. Political Science)

Lindsey Boylan is a former government official and public servant, having spent a decade in urban planning and management. Most recently, Boylan served as deputy secretary for Economic Development and Housing for New York State, where she pursued numerous initiatives such as increasing funding for public housing, a \$15 minimum wage, and Paid Family Leave. As Borough President, Boylan plans to use her experience in urban planning and economic development to revitalize the economy for workers and small businesses. She proposes a tax on New York’s ultra-wealthy citizens to fund vital public projects, most importantly repairing the city subway system. Boylan expressed support for all of Citizens Union’s reform positions (she is a former Citizens Union board member), and demonstrated extensive plans for reforming the city’s Uniform Land Use Review Procedure to diminish the influence of developers. She also plans to use the Borough President’s influence over capital funding to support environmentally friendly and equitable public land-use projects, and cites her ten-plus years of experience as an urban planner. Citizens Union was impressed by Boylan’s track record and her deep understanding of the office. She acknowledges



Click on buttons
below to skip to:

Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates

Letter from the
Executive Director

Candidate
Evaluation

New York City
Mayor

New York City
Comptroller

Brooklyn Races

Manhattan Races

Queens Races

Questionnaire

About the Voters
Directory

Acknowledgments

the position's limited Charter mandated responsibilities, but also identifies points where creative action is possible to achieve a greater impact. We commend her for her campaign and her career.

Elizabeth Caputo

*Age: 49 Occupation: U.S. government engagement at the World Economic Forum
Education: Harvard University (A.B. Social Studies), Harvard Business School (M.B.A.)*

Elizabeth Caputo is an Executive at the World Economic Forum responsible for government engagement. Caputo has served three terms as Chair for Community Board 7. In this role, she tackled pressing issues such as affordable housing, negotiating hearings on Mandatory Inclusionary Housing and establishing a Public Housing task force. As Chair, she also helped bring Citi Bike to the Upper West Side and assisted in implementing the Amsterdam Avenue bike lane. Caputo's top priority is to introduce reforms for the Community Board system by creating a diversity outreach program and working to increase both the power and transparency of the Boards. She also wants to reform the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure to increase its transparency and accountability.

Benjamin Kallos

*Age: 40 Occupation: City Council Member (District 5)
Education: SUNY Albany (B.A. Psychology), SUNY Buffalo (J.D.)*

Ben Kallos is a two-term City Council Member representing Manhattan's 5th Council District. Kallos previously worked as chief of staff for New York State Assembly Member Jonathan Bing and director of public policy for former Comptroller Mark Green. He chairs the Committee on Contracts. Kallos has dedicated much of his career to a reform agenda. Before his election to Council, he led the New Roosevelt Initiative, a group advancing reform candidates and goals at the state level. As Chair of the Governmental Operations Committee, he fought politicization and dysfunction in the Board of Elections, and he authored the law that attempted to implement an online voter registration system in New York City. He was instrumental in passing measures that strengthened the campaign finance system and provided support for community boards. He has worked with Citizens Union on issues like ethics, redistricting, and voting, and endorsed his election for City Council.

*Click on buttons
below to skip to:*

[Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates](#)

[Letter from the
Executive Director](#)

[Candidate
Evaluation](#)

[New York City
Mayor](#)

[New York City
Comptroller](#)

[Brooklyn Races](#)

[Manhattan Races](#)

[Queens Races](#)

[Questionnaire](#)

[About the Voters
Directory](#)

[Acknowlegments](#)

As Borough President, Kallos has promised to push for affordable housing as part of every new development project, give every public school student access to a laptop, and prevent elected officials from lobbying after their term ends. Citizens Union commends Kallos for his tremendous contribution to advancing good government in New York.

Guillermo Perez

This candidate was not available for an interview

Kimberly Watkins

This candidate was not available for an interview

COUNCIL DISTRICT 3

Chelsea, Hell's Kitchen, Greenwich Village, West SoHo, Hudson Square, Times Square, Garment District, Flatiron, Upper West Side

DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

Erik Bottcher ★ *Preferred Candidate*

Age: 41 Occupation: Chief of Staff for Council Member Corey Johnson

Education: The George Washington University (Bachelor's)

Erik Bottcher is the District Chief of Staff for City Council Speaker Corey Johnson. He had previously worked for former Speaker Christine Quinn and for Governor Andrew Cuomo, which adds up to 12 years of government and constituent work. He played an essential role in getting marriage equality passed in Albany. Bottcher is well familiar with the district, and acts as Johnson's representative while the Speaker is at City Hall. His top priorities include COVID-19 recovery, and addressing homelessness and affordable housing. He wants to extend the evictions moratorium and expand rental assistance programs, and plans to establish a West Side Employment Network to ensure that the companies relocating to the district are hiring local. Bottcher demonstrated an impressive knowledge of the position and an honest commitment to public service. Given the inexperience of the incoming City Council, Citizens Union believes Bottcher's experience and readiness would be of use for New Yorkers



Click on buttons
below to skip to:

[Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates](#)

[Letter from the
Executive Director](#)

[Candidate
Evaluation](#)

[New York City
Mayor](#)

[New York City
Comptroller](#)

[Brooklyn Races](#)

[Manhattan Races](#)

[Queens Races](#)

[Questionnaire](#)

[About the Voters
Directory](#)

[Acknowlegments](#)

Phelan Dante-Fitzpatrick

Age: 39 Occupation: Small business owner

Education: High School Diploma

Phelan Dante-Fitzpatrick, who describes himself as a gay black single father, is a local business owner hurt by the COVID-19 pandemic. A 20-year resident of the district, he had to close three locations and furlough 36 employees, forced to navigate between social services for himself and his employees. If elected, he would prioritize creating safer streets in the district, including achieving greater accountability for the NYPD. He also wants to ensure equal opportunity in access to social programs like school funding and housing benefits. Citizens Union encourages him to continue staying involved in civic affairs in his community.

Marni Halasa

Age: Occupation: Small business owner

Education: Carnegie-Mellon University (Bachelor's), University of Pittsburgh (J.D.)

Marni Halasa is a small-business owner who was a gold medalist figure-skater. Halasa has experience as a lawyer fighting for tenant's rights and owns a small company while working as a figure-skating instructor at Chelsea Piers. Halasa, who has been described as a "professional protester", began working on local causes during the Occupy Wall Street movement in 2013. She then wrote a guidebook for protestors and is known for her creative and eye-catching protesting tactics. If elected, Halasa plans to prioritize affordable housing by protecting tenants' rights, transforming NYCHA, and keeping rents low. She also aims to invest in small businesses and community projects to help the local economy recover after COVID-19. Marni Halasa is a true activist, engaged in many important fights over land use and services in the district. Despite being an outsider, she has a good understanding of how to build coalitions in the Council. Such qualities serve New York well in driving policy forward, and Citizens Union hopes Halasa would continue to follow them.

Leslie Boghosian Murphy

This candidate was not available for an interview



Aleta LaFargue

This candidate was not available for an interview

Arthur Schwartz

This candidate was not available for an interview

COUNCIL DISTRICT 5

Upper East Side’s Yorkville, Lenox Hill, Carnegie Hill, Roosevelt Island, Midtown East, Sutton Place, El Barrio in East Harlem

DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

Julie Menin ★ *Preferred Candidate*

Age: 53 Occupation: Former NYC Census Director, former Commissioner for the Mayor’s Office of Media and Entertainment

Education: Columbia University (Bachelor’s), Northwestern University School of Law (J.D.)

Julie Menin enters this race with substantial experience in city government, most recently serving as Director of the Census for NYC, and Executive Assistant Corporation Counsel for Strategic Advocacy in the de Blasio administration. Menin previously served as Commissioner of the Mayor’s Office of Media and Entertainment, where she launched a five-part initiative to support women in film and television. Menin also founded the non-profit Wall Street Rising, which worked to give small businesses access grants, insurance, and other monetary aid, helping revitalize Lower Manhattan after 9/11. In her recent position, she led the country’s largest city-led effort to ensure an accurate census count. Menin’s foremost priority as a City Council Member is to increase transparency and accountability, pledging to respond to all constituent inquiries within 24 hours. Another top priority is revitalizing the post-pandemic economy by ramping up vaccinations, removing obstacles and fees for small businesses, and supporting the tourism industry. Although this crowded race includes many talented candidates, Menin stands out among this group. She cannot be beaten in terms of experience, knowledge, and capability. She demonstrated clear and concrete plans for a reform agenda. She would seek to chair the Oversight and Investigations Committee, and empower it with a robust legal staff to exert close oversight over agencies like the Police Department and the Board of Elections. She wants a speaker who

2021
PRIMARY
ELECTION
VOTERS
DIRECTORY

*Click on buttons
below to skip to:*

[Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates](#)

[Letter from the
Executive Director](#)

[Candidate
Evaluation](#)

[New York City
Mayor](#)

[New York City
Comptroller](#)

[Brooklyn Races](#)

[Manhattan Races](#)

[Queens Races](#)

[Questionnaire](#)

[About the Voters
Directory](#)

[Acknowlegments](#)



45

2021
PRIMARY
ELECTION
VOTERS
DIRECTORY

Click on buttons
below to skip to:

[Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates](#)

[Letter from the
Executive Director](#)

[Candidate
Evaluation](#)

[New York City
Mayor](#)

[New York City
Comptroller](#)

[Brooklyn Races](#)

[Manhattan Races](#)

[Queens Races](#)

[Questionnaire](#)

[About the Voters
Directory](#)

[Acknowlegments](#)

believes in the Council’s accountability mission. For these reasons, Citizens Union believes she would be an effective lawmaker and supports her candidacy.

Billy Freeland

Age: 33 Occupation: General Counsel for fitness business

Education: Columbia University (B.A. Master of International Affairs), NYU School of Law (J.D.)

Billy Freeland is an attorney and community activist who currently works as general counsel for a small business, and serves as Officer and Secretary of Community Board 8.

In this role, Freeland has fought for public transit, safe streets, open space, and criminal justice reform and he co-chaired the Community Board’s Charter Revision Task Force. During the pandemic, Freeland volunteered in his community to deliver meals throughout the district and founded an online support group for people in need of mental health care. As an attorney, he was a member of the LGBTQ rights team that sued Mississippi to block an anti-marriage equality and transphobic law. If elected, Freeland’s top priority is to combat racial disparities in the economy, schools, and healthcare system by revamping public services and incentivizing the construction of affordable housing. Freeland is also committed to fighting climate change through decarbonization policies and further demonstrated detailed proposals on criminal justice reform and police accountability.

Rebecca Lamorte

Age: 29 Occupation: Legislative & Communications Coordinator

Education: Fordham University (B.A. Political Science)

Rebecca Lamorte is a community activist and currently works as the Legislative Communications Coordinator for the Greater New York Laborers-Employers Cooperation and Education Trust, a coalition of construction workers unions. Previously, Lamorte worked as a Public Affairs Associate with Metropolitan Public Strategies and as a Senior Associate with Beaudoin & Co LLC. Through her work with city unions, Lamorte has championed issues such as land use, housing, wages, and workforce safety and training. Lamorte is also a prominent community activist, serving on Manhattan Community



Click on buttons
below to skip to:

Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates

Letter from the
Executive Director

Candidate
Evaluation

New York City
Mayor

New York City
Comptroller

Brooklyn Races

Manhattan Races

Queens Races

Questionnaire

About the Voters
Directory

Acknowledgments

Board 8 since 2017 where she works as secretary and is a member of the Transportation and Housing committees. Further, she is a member of the East River Democratic Club, through which she has helped spearhead public events and policy work. Lamorte's top priority is increasing accessibility in the district by investing in strong infrastructure and public works programs. Lamorte also seeks to support more affordable and supportive housing in the neighborhood by sponsoring legislation to create an equitable development plan for the district. She demonstrated support for all of Citizens Union's reform positions and offered comprehensive proposals for increasing transparency in city government, particularly on the issue of police accountability.

Kim Moscaritolo

Age: 42 Occupation: Technical Production Manager for Bloomberg Television Education: University of Florida, School of Journalism and Communicator (B.S. Telecommunication)

Kim Moscaritolo is a journalist and community activist who has spent nearly two decades working in television. She began her career working in television news as a Videojournalist at CNN, where she was granted an Emmy award for her coverage of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Currently, she works as a Technical Production Manager for Bloomberg Television. As an activist, Moscaritolo has fought for Marriage Equality and was a founding board member at an environmental nonprofit aimed at combating climate change. Moscaritolo also served as the Legislative Committee Chair of New Yorkers Against Gun Violence. In an effort to increase political engagement in her neighborhood, she founded Four Freedoms Democratic Club along with other people. She also ran and won for Democratic District Leader, fighting for stronger ethics rules and pushing for a ban on paid lobbyists in party leadership positions during her tenure. Moscaritolo's foremost priority is supporting small businesses in the post-pandemic economy by co-sponsoring the Small Business Jobs Survival Act. She also pledges to fight for climate resilience and introduce legislation aimed at cutting carbon emissions city-wide. Moscaritolo also promises to increase investment in public goods such as parks and libraries.

Click on buttons
below to skip to:

[Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates](#)

[Letter from the
Executive Director](#)

[Candidate
Evaluation](#)

[New York City
Mayor](#)

[New York City
Comptroller](#)

[Brooklyn Races](#)

[Manhattan Races](#)

[Queens Races](#)

[Questionnaire](#)

[About the Voters
Directory](#)

[Acknowlegments](#)

Tricia Shimamura

Age: 32 Occupation: Director of Government Relations at Columbia University

Education: Kenyon College (B.A. Sociology), New York University (Master of Social Work)

Tricia Shimamura is a social worker and former Deputy Chief of Staff for Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney. Shimamura currently serves as the Vice Chair of Manhattan Community Board 8 and Co-Chair of the Parks and Waterfront Committee, where she has advocated for the revitalization of the East River Esplanade. Additionally, Shimamura has worked to improve pedestrian safety measures and increase affordable housing. During her time in Congressman Maloney's Office, Shimamura worked to hasten the opening of the Second Avenue Subway Station and opposed the construction of the Marine Transfer Station. She also serves on the Democratic County Committee and is the Chair of the Diversity and Outreach Committee of Four Freedoms Democratic Club. In 2017, Shimamura founded She Will Rise NYC, an organization dedicated to supporting New York women leaders in government and the private sector. Shimamura's primary priority as Councilmember would be to provide Universal Childcare to New Yorkers. Her campaign has also emphasized its focus on climate justice, advocating for the transition of renewable energy, as well as the creation of a renewable municipal public power system to provide all New Yorkers with green energy. Shimamura has also proposed addressing the needs of New York's homeless by increasing funding to NYCHA, and introducing tenant protection measures including access to legal counsel, housing resources, and passing good cause eviction legislation in New York State. Citizens Union was impressed by her experience and a record as an effective collaborator.

Christopher Sosa

This candidate was not available for an interview

Marco Tamayo

This candidate was not available for an interview



48

COUNCIL DISTRICT 6

Central Park, Lincoln Square, Upper West Side

DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

Gale Brewer ★ Preferred Candidate, Ranked 1st

Age: 69 Occupation: Manhattan Borough President

Education: Bennington College (B.A.), Columbia University (B.A.), Harvard University (M.P.A.)

Gale Brewer, term-limited out as Manhattan Borough President, is now running for a seat on the City Council, a position she has held before, from 2002 until 2013. She is an energetic, street-savvy, locally-focused, highly regarded public servant with no apologies about her passion for Manhattan, a proud, unabashed politician. For years, she has demonstrated admirable encyclopedic knowledge of city government and tireless advocacy of her constituents' interests and quality of life. She has also demonstrated a career-long commitment for reform on issues like transparency, ethics, and elections. As a council member, she passed the landmark Open Data Law, which mandated all public city data be available online and created the valuable Open Data portal. She also expanded lobbying regulations. As Borough President, Brewer revamped the process of selecting and training community board members in order to make the boards more diverse and more professional. She was a staunch supporter of the introduction of Ranked Choice Voting.

Brewer is taking the unusual step of seeking a "lower" office, rather than campaigning for a citywide or position in state government. As she explains it, she wants to use her skills and background to continue serving Manhattan at this difficult time, "so that we don't make the same mistakes we did in previous crises." Citizens Union could not agree more. We endorsed her election to Manhattan Borough President, as well as in her earlier campaigns to the City Council in 2001, 2003, and 2005. There is little question that Brewer is eminently qualified for the job, and she would provide much needed experience in a new City Council. Brewer's outstanding service, leadership, and commitment for reform are the reasons Citizens Union prefers her in this race.

2021
PRIMARY
ELECTION
VOTERS
DIRECTORY

*Click on buttons
below to skip to:*

[Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates](#)

[Letter from the
Executive Director](#)

[Candidate
Evaluation](#)

[New York City
Mayor](#)

[New York City
Comptroller](#)

[Brooklyn Races](#)

[Manhattan Races](#)

[Queens Races](#)

[Questionnaire](#)

[About the Voters
Directory](#)

[Acknowlegments](#)



Click on buttons
below to skip to:

[Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates](#)

[Letter from the
Executive Director](#)

[Candidate
Evaluation](#)

[New York City
Mayor](#)

[New York City
Comptroller](#)

[Brooklyn Races](#)

[Manhattan Races](#)

[Queens Races](#)

[Questionnaire](#)

[About the Voters
Directory](#)

[Acknowledgments](#)

Jeffrey Omura ★ Preferred Candidate, Ranked 2nd

Age: 36 Occupation: Actor, Labor Organizer

Education: Carnegie Mellon University (Bachelor's Drama and Political Science)

Jeffrey Omura is an actor, artist, and labor leader and would be the first Japanese-American ever to win elected office in New York State. Omura was recently elected to his second term as an officer of Actors' Equity Association, a labor union representing 50,000 stage managers and actors across the country. He also started Fair Wage on Stage, a movement calling for higher wages and fair contracts for Off-Broadway stage managers and actors. Omura was then elected to the Actors' Equity National Council, through which he has helped negotiate higher wages and more job opportunities for union members nationwide. Omura's top priority in the City Council would be to enact his Arts and Culture Recovery Plan, as well as his Small Business Recovery Plan. He also pledges to address the housing and homelessness crisis by advocating for massive expansion of affordable housing construction and revitalizing the neighborhood's economy. Omura expressed support for all of Citizens Union's reform positions, and is especially focused on reforming the NYPD. For example, he calls for an amendment to the City Charter to create a more robust confirmation process for the Police Commissioner with the consent of the City Council. Citizens Union finds Omura to be a thoughtful and energetic candidate, passionate about improving the lives and well-being of his constituents, who impressed us with his practical command of the role of the office, and creative thinking about solutions to local concerns. We prefer him as our second choice in this race.

Maria Danzilo

Age: 64 Occupation: Attorney

Education: Brooklyn College (B.A.), Brooklyn Law School (J.D.), New York University School of Law (LLM)

Maria Danzilo is an attorney and free speech advocate who founded a law practice representing tech startups, small businesses, artists and writers. She is a past president and lifetime trustee of the Copyright Society of the USA, a nonprofit organization dedicated to law awareness and education. Active in her community, Danzilo helped raise money for FoodBankNYC during COVID-19, and also serves on the Leadership Committee of the Women in Sports Foundation. Her campaign's top priority is ensuring clean and safe



50

2021
PRIMARY
ELECTION
VOTERS
DIRECTORY

Click on buttons
below to skip to:

Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates

Letter from the
Executive Director

Candidate
Evaluation

New York City
Mayor

New York City
Comptroller

Brooklyn Races

Manhattan Races

Queens Races

Questionnaire

About the Voters
Directory

Acknowledgments

streets in the district and improving public services in the neighborhood. Furthermore, Danzilo pledges to support quality education by expanding successful programs and improving transparency in the DOE. She also supports reducing fees and costs for small businesses to revitalize the local economy post-COVID-19. Citizens Union appreciates Danzilo’s ardent pursuit of accountability by government officials, but her focus on Citizens Union issues and concerns was less apparent.

David Gold

Age: 53 Occupation: Executive Director at Democratism

Education: Brown University (A.B.), Columbia University (J.D.), University of Pennsylvania (Ph.D)

David Gold is a lawyer and currently works as Executive Director of Democratism, a nonprofit that aims to make the federal election system more democratic. Gold previously worked as the Interim Executive Director for El Taller Latino Americano and in 2018 worked on voter protection for the New York Democratic Lawyers Council. Furthermore, Gold founded and served as CEO of software company Bridgerton Research. Gold has stated his top priority as Council Member would be affordable housing, and promises to introduce reforms to increase rent support to New Yorkers and reduce the influence of developers in rezoning initiatives. Gold advocates creative new approaches to reforming local and national government, starting with recasting the Electoral College and introducing direct democracy, although the Citizens Union was unclear on the applicability of his passion to the subject position.

Sara Lind

Age: 38 Occupation: Secretary for Community Board 7

Education: University of Washington Madison (B.S. Political Science and Economics), University of Chicago (J.D.), Columbia School of International and Public Affairs)

Sara Lind currently serves as Secretary for Community Board 7, and previously worked as Manhattan Borough Director for Amplify Her, a nonprofit seeking to address women’s underrepresentation in NYC elected offices. Additionally, Lind currently serves as Chair of the Broadway Task Force, is



51

2021
PRIMARY
ELECTION
VOTERS
DIRECTORY

Click on buttons
below to skip to:

Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates

Letter from the
Executive Director

Candidate
Evaluation

New York City
Mayor

New York City
Comptroller

Brooklyn Races

Manhattan Races

Queens Races

Questionnaire

About the Voters
Directory

Acknowledgments

an elected County Committee member, and is a member of the School Leadership Team at PS 166. Previously, Lind has volunteered with the New York Immigration Coalition at JFK in response to President Trump’s Muslim Ban and served on the Citywide Participatory Budgeting Committee. She has also been active in her neighborhood, having recently organized many community events including Park(ing) Day, Celebrate Broadway, and WEWalk. Lind’s top campaign priority is addressing the housing crisis by expanding tenants’ rights and protections, supporting funding for city services that address homelessness, introducing reforms to the land use and rezoning process, and increasing city funding for NYCHA. Lind also supports a Green New Deal for NYC and seeks to reimagine Broadway and the surrounding neighborhood to better serve the community. Citizens Union believes Lind brings community-board and school-parent experience and a cornucopia of new ideas, and manifests the makings of an effective legislator-to-be.

Zack Weiner

This candidate was not available for an interview

COUNCIL DISTRICT 7

Manhattan Valley, Manhattanville, Morningside Heights, Hamilton Heights

DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

Shaun Abreu ★ Preferred Candidate

*Age: 30 Occupation: Staff Attorney with the New York Legal Assistance Group
Education: Columbia University (B.A. Political Science and Government),
Tulane University Law School (J.D.)*

A tenants’ rights attorney, born and raised in Washington Heights as the son of parents from the Dominican Republic, Shaun Abreu received his undergraduate degree in Political Science and Government from Columbia University and his JD from Tulane University in 2018. He previously served as the deputy campaign manager for the incumbent Council Member Mark Levine. Abreu is a strong proponent of Board of Elections reform, with several concrete, well-considered ideas for change,



Click on buttons
below to skip to:

[Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates](#)

[Letter from the
Executive Director](#)

[Candidate
Evaluation](#)

[New York City
Mayor](#)

[New York City
Comptroller](#)

[Brooklyn Races](#)

[Manhattan Races](#)

[Queens Races](#)

[Questionnaire](#)

[About the Voters
Directory](#)

[Acknowlegments](#)

while supporting all of CU's reform agenda across the board. He argued the City Council's approval of the appointment of the Police Commissioner would also impose accountability on the Council, eliminating the tendency of merely finger-pointing at the Mayor and refocusing on the issues. Abreu has been engaged since his Columbia University days in promoting civics education toward building diverse government leadership and offered ideas built on his experience to improve civic engagement and voter turnout. His commitment to reform and well thought out platform makes him Citizens Union's preference in this race.

Marti Allen-Cummings

Age: 32 Occupation: NYC Nightlife Advisory Board, Advisor and Community Board 9

Education: High School Diploma

Marti Allen-Cummings is a community activist, gig worker, and drag artist who has worked in the city for 13 years. Allen-Cummings currently serves as a board member of Community Board 9 and sits on the NYC Nightlife Advisory Board. As a drag artist who came out as non-binary, Allen-Cummings has been an activist and advocate for the LGBTQIA community for over a decade and has volunteered with organizations like the Ali Forney Center to reach at-risk youth. They have stated that their top campaign priority is affordable housing. Allen-Cummings proposes to create more accessible housing for all New Yorkers by increasing funding for NYCHA, spearhead community-led zoning changes, curb the influence of real estate developers, provide the homeless with increased support and resources, and protect tenant's rights. Allen-Cummings has also made criminal justice reform a top priority and he has furthered a detailed plan based on reallocating the NYPD budget, investing in community-based initiatives, and overhauling the Citizen Complaint Review Board to give it more investigative power. Citizens Union appreciates Alan Cummings' engagement in the community to issues such as better defining the roles/functions of police, "bathroom justice" (provision of and access to public restrooms by delivery/essential workers and others) and seeking re-entry jobs for those leaving prison.



Click on buttons
below to skip to:

[Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates](#)

[Letter from the
Executive Director](#)

[Candidate
Evaluation](#)

[New York City
Mayor](#)

[New York City
Comptroller](#)

[Brooklyn Races](#)

[Manhattan Races](#)

[Queens Races](#)

[Questionnaire](#)

[About the Voters
Directory](#)

[Acknowlegments](#)

Daniel Cohen

Age: 50 Occupation: Vice President of Housing Partnership

Education: University of Massachusetts at Amherst (B.A.), New York University Stern School of Business (M.B.A.)

Daniel Cohen is a housing advocate for over 20 years with experience in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. Since 2014, he has been Vice President of the nonprofit Housing Partnership, where he has assisted in the creation and preservation of 5,000 homes. Cohen also previously founded an affordable housing consulting firm and advised the city's allocation of federal aid for the 9/11 recovery. As an expert in the field, Cohen proposes a "Housing First" policy to solve the city's affordability crisis. Through directing more resources towards public housing and community developments, Cohen seeks to address some of the core challenges facing the city housing market. His policy includes over \$4 billion in capital allocation towards housing, a plan at addressing racial disparities in housing, and several zoning reforms intended to give communities more negotiating power over developers. Cohen has also made public education a key priority during his campaign, and has offered comprehensive proposals for improving equity in education. Citizens Union was impressed by Cohens' long-term contributions to the community, and found he displayed an engaging, continuing commitment to new ideas.

Maria Ordonez

Age: 21 Occupation: Student

Education: Columbia University (Bachelor's)

Maria Ordonez is a college student at Columbia University and community organizer from West Harlem. At 21 years old, she is the youngest candidate in the race. At Columbia, Ordonez is majoring in political science and has actively been involved in organizing around her campus for striking workers and has opposed gentrification in the neighborhood surrounding the University. Previously, Ordonez worked for Bernie Sanders' presidential campaign and is an active member of the Democratic Socialists of America. Ordonez has proposed ambitious initiatives to ensure that housing is a right for all New Yorkers, such as by investing in community land trusts and increasing subsidies towards public housing. She also emphasizes that all city residents should have



Click on buttons
below to skip to:

[Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates](#)

[Letter from the
Executive Director](#)

[Candidate
Evaluation](#)

[New York City
Mayor](#)

[New York City
Comptroller](#)

[Brooklyn Races](#)

[Manhattan Races](#)

[Queens Races](#)

[Questionnaire](#)

[About the Voters
Directory](#)

[Acknowlegments](#)

access to quality education that is fully-funded and desegregated. Ordonez also supports a Green New Deal for NYC to decarbonize our environment and pursue climate justice. Citizens Union appreciates the impressive presence and ideas of Ordonez, and her suggestions for civic participation, such as participatory budgeting and creating spaces such as town halls for more civic dialogue and “co-governance.”

Raymond Sanchez

Age: 42 Occupation: CEO at Aguila Inc

Education: Wesleyan University (B.A.)

Raymond Sanchez, who grew up in a single-mother household in a NYCHA building, currently works at Aguila, a homeless services agency. Sanchez previously worked as Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.’s General Counsel and Senior Policy Manager overseeing all legal matters and the implementation of the agency’s policy agenda. He was also at the New York City Franchise and Concession Review Committee, where he worked to implement Wi-Fi kiosks in Uptown Manhattan. Additionally, he has worked with various civic organizations, notably the Hispanic Federation and LatinoJustice. Sanchez also serves on the board of Areté Education and La Unidad Latina Foundation. His top priority as Council Member would be improving the quality of NYC education by reducing class sizes and increasing teacher salaries. Sanchez also aims to support essential workers by giving them access to increased city subsidies, especially in regards to affordable housing. Sanchez demonstrated a skillful ability to draw “relatable” lessons for city government and the community from his diverse career experiences, including using City Council audits of NYPD data to inform budget and other decisions and developing new models for defining what the job of police officer should be, as well as the re-use of spaces freed up as a result of the economy and the pandemic for schools and housing. But he has also expressed opposition to several of Citizens Union’s reform positions, stating that many would create more obstacles to progress.

Miguel Estrella

This candidate was not available for an interview



55

2021
PRIMARY
ELECTION
VOTERS
DIRECTORY

*Click on buttons
below to skip to:*

[Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates](#)

[Letter from the
Executive Director](#)

[Candidate
Evaluation](#)

[New York City
Mayor](#)

[New York City
Comptroller](#)

[Brooklyn Races](#)

[Manhattan Races](#)

[Queens Races](#)

[Questionnaire](#)

[About the Voters
Directory](#)

[Acknowlegments](#)

Keith Harris

This candidate was not available for an interview

Stacy Lynch

This candidate was not available for an interview

Lena Melendez

This candidate was not available for an interview

Corey Ortega

This candidate was not available for an interview

Carmen Quinones

This candidate was not available for an interview

Luis Tejada

This candidate was not available for an interview

Queens Races

2021
PRIMARY
ELECTION
VOTERS
DIRECTORY

Click on buttons
below to skip to:

[Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates](#)

[Letter from the
Executive Director](#)

[Candidate
Evaluation](#)

[New York City
Mayor](#)

[New York City
Comptroller](#)

[Brooklyn Races](#)

[Manhattan Races](#)

[Queens Races](#)

[Questionnaire](#)

[About the Voters
Directory](#)

[Acknowlegments](#)

COUNCIL DISTRICT 26

Sunnyside, Woodside, Long Island City, Astoria, Dutch Kills

DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

Julie Won ★ *Preferred Candidate, Ranked 1st*

*Age: 31 Occupation: IBM iX, Digital Strategy & Experience - Global Garage COC
Education: Syracuse University (B.A. english and international relations and affairs)*

Julie Won is a managing consultant for IBM iX and board member for Queens Community Board 2, while volunteering for a variety of local organizations. Won is focusing her campaign on progressive reforms to areas like housing, healthcare, and education resources for students with the growing “digital divide,” as she calls it. Won’s primary legislative goal is free wifi for all to close the digital divide and provide digital resources including government services and remote learning, among others. Won plans to use the City Council position to also fight for housing justice, with the full funding of NYCHA and a clear path for New Yorkers to become homeowners. Like many of the other democratic candidates across the city, Won promises to eliminate regulatory burdens for small businesses to help facilitate economic recovery from COVID-19. Citizens Union was impressed by her vision for the district, her forceful responses, and her familiarity with the issues. Although she lacks the government experience some other candidates in the race have, she was eager to learn and collaborate in the future. For these reasons, we prefer her in this race.

Amit Bagga ★ *Preferred Candidate, Ranked 2nd*

*Age: Occupation: Former Deputy Director for NYC Census
Education:*

Amit Bagga was most recently the Deputy Director for NYC Census 2020, and has extensive experience in city agencies, serving as Deputy Commissioner for both the Department of Social Services and Consumer Affairs under Mayor Bill de Blasio since 2013. Bagga’s biggest point of experience was his role in setting up IDNYC, a program for all individuals over the age of 10, regardless of immigration status, to receive identification cards to set up basic services like bank accounts. Bagga’s plans include rights

Click on buttons
below to skip to:

Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates

Letter from the
Executive Director

Candidate
Evaluation

New York City
Mayor

New York City
Comptroller

Brooklyn Races

Manhattan Races

Queens Races

Questionnaire

About the Voters
Directory

Acknowledgments

for immigrants, tax relief, and housing for all. One of Bagga's main focuses is for the right for immigrants that are permanent legal residents to vote in local elections. These New Yorkers are affected by all local policies, and Bagga advocates for their right to have a say in who gets elected to office. Citizens Union believes Bagga's varied government experience makes him well qualified for the position, and he has worked on issues important to CU (cited the Census, IDNYC). He showed he understands policy, legislation, and the politics of getting things done, and stressed that he is the only candidate "ready on day 1." Citizens Union prefers him as a second choice in this race.

Brent O'Leary ★ *Preferred Candidate, Ranked 3rd*

Age: 50 Occupation: Axiom, Legal Consultant

Education: Trinity College (Bachelor's History), Boston University (J.D.)

For the past 2 years, Brent O'Leary has served as Legal Consultant as Axiom, while serving as President of the Board at Woodside on the Move. In recent years, O'Leary has fought as a community activist to keep overdevelopment out of Queens. O'Leary plans to continue this fight against overdevelopment in the City Council with the abolishment of the EDC and empower the department of City Planning to keep the community interests at the forefront of any development plans. Like the other candidates in the race, O'Leary advocates for supporting small businesses with rent cancellation if they were forced to close due to COVID-19, while also endorsing commercial rent regulations with options like 10-year leases. A well-known figure in the area, he founded two important community groups in Woodside and Hunters Point. Citizens Union was impressed by his record of service, especially during the pandemic, and his proven ability to bring the community together around issues. We prefer him as a third choice in this race.

Badrun Khan

Age: 48 Occupation: Financial Controller at the South Bronx Overall Economic Development Corp

Education: Marymount Manhattan College (Bachelor')

Badrun Khan is the current Financial Controller at the South Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation, while also serving as the President of the Jalalabad Association. She has also previously served as a member on Queens Community Board 2. Khan's

Click on buttons
below to skip to:

Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates

Letter from the
Executive Director

Candidate
Evaluation

New York City
Mayor

New York City
Comptroller

Brooklyn Races

Manhattan Races

Queens Races

Questionnaire

About the Voters
Directory

Acknowledgments

campaign heavily focuses on healthcare and basic income for all New Yorkers. Her plan is to create a public-option for healthcare, while still giving New Yorkers the option to stay with their current plan. Khan also supports the idea of an UBI, or Universal Basic Income, of \$2,000 for all adult citizens during the pandemic, to be reduced to \$1,000 once the crisis ceases. Citizens Union was impressed by Khan's campaign and believes she would bring a real-world pragmatic perspective to the job.

Hailie Kim

Age: 28 Occupation: Adjunct instructor at Hunter College

Education: SUNY Purchase (B.A. Literature), Hunter College (M.A. English)

Hailie Kim is currently an Adjunct instructor at Hunter College in english literature. Kim has been heavily involved in the community with her involvement organizing petitions for Earth Day awareness, a documentary on the Korean-American LGBTQIU community, and teaching Korean at the New York Presbyterian Church. Kim's main legislative focus addresses the growing unemployment rate the city is facing. Kim promises to establish a new city agency that will provide basic fixed wage public service jobs with full benefits. She explained that these jobs would be focused on new or expanded programs and the amount of jobs would depend on the funding for the agency. For \$1 billion funding, Kim estimates 25,000 residents could be employed.

Steven Raga

Age: 37 Occupation: Northeast Regional Manager for Policy & Advocacy for the Komen Foundation

Education: SUNY Stony Brook University (B.A. Political Science), SUNY Stony Brook University (M.A. Public Policy)

Steven Raga is currently the Northeast Regional Manager for Policy & Advocacy for the Susan Komen Foundation, and previously served as Chief of Staff for a local Assembly Member in State District 30. Raga has experience in the district after years of local government work, and plans to use his experience to form policy that favors the local community. Raga's campaign's main policy focus is on tenant rights and housing affordability for all New Yorkers. Like the other candidates in this race, Raga supports the full funding of NYCHA to better the conditions of all residents. To



*Click on buttons
below to skip to:*

Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates

Letter from the
Executive Director

Candidate
Evaluation

New York City
Mayor

New York City
Comptroller

Brooklyn Races

Manhattan Races

Queens Races

Questionnaire

About the Voters
Directory

Acknowledgments

combat the eviction issue many tenants are facing as a result of missed rent payments from COVID, Raga plans to form a subsidy program to help tenants pay missed rent and avoid eviction. He also supports fundamental changes to the housing issue with a change in how AMI is calculated to ensure the cost of living best fits the constituency. Citizens Union found Raga to be thoughtful and well prepared for the job.

The following candidates were not available for an interview:

Jonathan Bailey
Lorenzo Brea
Julia Forman
Glennis Gomez
Denise Keehan-Smith

Jesse Laymon
Sultan Maruf
Emily Sharpe
Ebony Young

Questionnaire

2021
PRIMARY
ELECTION
VOTERS
DIRECTORY

*Click on buttons
below to skip to:*

[Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates](#)

[Letter from the
Executive Director](#)

[Candidate
Evaluation](#)

[New York City
Mayor](#)

[New York City
Comptroller](#)

[Brooklyn Races](#)

[Manhattan Races](#)

[Queens Races](#)

[Questionnaire](#)

[About the Voters
Directory](#)

[Acknowledgments](#)

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](#).

SERVING CONSTITUENTS

- 1 For most New Yorkers, the most important thing that their council members do is provide constituent services. How would you run your office to serve your community needs? Please give specific examples.
- 2 If you served as an elected official, what did you do to help your constituents during the Covid-19 pandemic? Please be specific.
- 3 How long have you lived in the district in which you are running for office?
- 4 If elected, what is the first piece of legislation you would want to introduce?

VOTING AND ELECTIONS

- 5 How would you describe the relationship between the City Council and the New York City Board of Elections? How will you use your power as a council member to improve the operations of the NYC BOE?
- 6 Do you consider yourself a supporter of Ranked Choice Voting? How will you work to maintain this system and educate voters on how it works?
- 7 The next City Council will appoint members to the city's redistricting commission and decide whether to approve or reject the commission's districting plans. In doing so, future council members will be responsible for shaping a fair political map for the coming decade. If elected, what would your approach be



*Click on buttons
below to skip to:*

[Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates](#)

[Letter from the
Executive Director](#)

[Candidate
Evaluation](#)

[New York City
Mayor](#)

[New York City
Comptroller](#)

[Brooklyn Races](#)

[Manhattan Races](#)

[Queens Races](#)

[Questionnaire](#)

[About the Voters
Directory](#)

[Acknowlegments](#)

in proposing or voting to appoint commission members, and in considering proposed district maps?

- 8 Now that New York City has implemented Ranked Choice Voting, do you support moving to an Open Primary system (eliminating party primaries and establishing a non-partisan election system)?

POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY

- 9 Do you support making the appointment of the Police Commissioner subject to the advice and consent of the City Council?
- 10 Who do you think should have the final say on discipline in the police department? How would you ensure penalties are imposed on police officers that commensurate with the gravity of their wrongdoing?
- 11 Do you support consolidating the three bodies that exercise oversight of the NYPD: the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB), the Inspector General for the Police Department, the Mayor’s Commission to Combat Police Corruption?
- 12 Do you support giving the CCRB prompt and full access to footage from body-worn cameras, police officers’ employment history and disciplinary records and all other document and materials in the possession of the NYPD relevant to its investigations?
- 13 Feel free to add any other policy proposals you support in regards to police accountability, misconduct, and oversight, or to effective policing including functions, training, and community relations.

HOW CITY COUNCIL WORKS

- 14 Do you support allowing bills with strong support to go through the committee process and put to a vote on the floor without needing the permission of the speaker?
- 15 Do you support reducing the overall number of committees so members can participate more meaningfully in fewer issues?

*Click on buttons
below to skip to:*

[Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates](#)

[Letter from the
Executive Director](#)

[Candidate
Evaluation](#)

[New York City
Mayor](#)

[New York City
Comptroller](#)

[Brooklyn Races](#)

[Manhattan Races](#)

[Queens Races](#)

[Questionnaire](#)

[About the Voters
Directory](#)

[Acknowlegments](#)

- 16 Do you support making all actions designed to influence any City Council outcome, including the choice of speaker, reportable as a lobbying expense?
- 17 The Council Speaker controls the allocation of a large share of the Council's overall discretionary spending, and in 2020 it was reported that the Speaker used this power to "punish" council members who opposed the 2021 budget. How would you balance control and order in the council with reasonable dissent?
- 18 The ability of citizens and advocates to make their voices heard in City Hall has been severely curtailed since the council and city government shifted to work remotely. How would you propose to improve community engagement and public participation while using remote technology (in public hearings, meetings, etc.), particularly to ensure equity in participation?

MISCELLANEOUS

- 19 New York City has suffered an immensurable loss from the pandemic and its effects and the city's economy, social life, and culture. What is your path to recovery from this crisis?
- 20 What experience have you had, if any, with good government and reform issues? (e.g. voting and elections, campaign finance, ethics, police accountability, government transparency and oversight). If you've worked to advance these goals, we'd love to hear about it.
- 21 What are the top three campaign promises or goals, and what action will you take to achieve them if elected? Feel free to reference an answer above rather than restate it.

Questionnaire Responses

2021
PRIMARY
ELECTION
VOTERS
DIRECTORY

Click on buttons
below to skip to:

Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates

Letter from the
Executive Director

Candidate
Evaluation

New York City
Mayor

New York City
Comptroller

Brooklyn Races

Manhattan Races

Queens Races

Questionnaire

About the Voters
Directory

Acknowledgments

KEY

- S Support
- O Oppose
- CO Conditionally Oppose
- CS Conditionally Support
- NA No Answer

	Council District	Q8	Q9	Q11	Q12	Q14	Q15	Q16	
QUEENS	Quiroz	25	O	S	S	S	CO	S	
	Tran	25	S	S	S	S	S	S	
	Bagga	26	S	S	S	S	S	S	
	Young	26	O	S	S	S	S	S	
	Kim	26	S	S	S	S	S	S	
	Won	26	S	S	S	S	S	S	
	Raga	26	S	S	O	S	S	O	S
	Khan	26	S	S	O	S	S	O	S
	O'Leary	26	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
BROOKLYN	Adams	33	S	S	S	S	S	S	
	Sherman	33	S	S	S	S	S	S	
	Restler	33	O	S	O	S	S	S	S
	Collymore	35	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
	Robertson	35	O	S	S	S	S	O	S
	Hudson	35	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
	Harris	35	O	S	S	S	S	O	S
	Haq	39	S	S	S	S	S	O	S
	Schneider	39	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
	Rein	39	S	S	O	S	S	O	S
	Hanif	39	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
	Krebs	39	CO	S	CS	S	S	O	S
MANHATTAN	West	39	S	S	S	S	S	S	
	Halasa	3	S	S	CO	S	S	S	S
	Bottcher	3	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
	Fitzpatrick	3	CS	S	S	S	S	O	S
	Freeland	5	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
	Moscaritolo	5	CO	S	CO	S	S	S	S
	Lamorte	5	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
	Shimamura	5	S	S	O	S	S	S	S
	Menin	5	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
	Omura	6	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
	Lind	6	CS	S	S	S	S	S	S
	Danzilo	6	S	CO	O	S	CO	S	S
	Brewer	6	O	S	S	S	O	O	S
	Gold	6	S	S	N/A	S	N/A	N/A	S
	Abreu	7	O	S	S	S	S	S	S
Allen-Cummings	7	S	S	S	S	S	N/A	S	
Ordoñez	7	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
Sanchez	7	O	S	O	S	O	O	O	
Cohen	7	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
Moore	9	O	O	O	S	O	O	O	

About the Voters Directory

2021
PRIMARY
ELECTION
VOTERS
DIRECTORY

*Click on buttons
below to skip to:*

[Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates](#)

[Letter from the
Executive Director](#)

[Candidate
Evaluation](#)

[New York City
Mayor](#)

[New York City
Comptroller](#)

[Brooklyn Races](#)

[Manhattan Races](#)

[Queens Races](#)

[Questionnaire](#)

[About the Voters
Directory](#)

[Acknowlegments](#)

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. Some of the initiatives that we are currently advancing include the election info hub [ElectNYC.org](#), a new agenda for police accountability, and increasing civic engagement. 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 the primary election for New York City Mayor, Comptroller, Public Advocate, Borough Presidents, City Council, and Manhattan District Attorney. Judicial and party positions will also be on the ballot.

To help our supportive Citizens Union members prepare to vote, Citizens Union has been publishing an annual Voters Directory for over a century. The current edition provides 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.



*Click on buttons
below to skip to:*

[Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates](#)

[Letter from the
Executive Director](#)

[Candidate
Evaluation](#)

[New York City
Mayor](#)

[New York City
Comptroller](#)

[Brooklyn Races](#)

[Manhattan Races](#)

[Queens Races](#)

[Questionnaire](#)

[About the Voters
Directory](#)

[Acknowledgments](#)

CANDIDATE EVALUATION PROCESS

In this large local election cycle Citizens Union has evaluated candidates in two citywide races, three boroughwide races, including for District Attorney, and eight City Council races 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. Due to the threat of the Covid-19 pandemic, 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. A "Dual Preference" designation may be offered to two qualified candidates, but not a "Dual Endorsement." A "Dual Preference" shall be used only as a last resort, and, in the case of such determination, CU shall explain its reasoning in its Voters Directory.



Acknowledgments

2021
PRIMARY
ELECTION
VOTERS
DIRECTORY

*Click on buttons
below to skip to:*

[Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates](#)

[Letter from the
Executive Director](#)

[Candidate
Evaluation](#)

[New York City
Mayor](#)

[New York City
Comptroller](#)

[Brooklyn Races](#)

[Manhattan Races](#)

[Queens Races](#)

[Questionnaire](#)

[About the Voters
Directory](#)

[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 and staff members formed nonpartisan interview teams and evaluated 70 candidates in 13 races. 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.

Click on buttons
below to skip to:

Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates

Letter from the
Executive Director

Candidate
Evaluation

New York City
Mayor

New York City
Comptroller

Brooklyn Races

Manhattan Races

Queens Races

Questionnaire

About the Voters
Directory

Acknowledgments

Citizens Union Board of Directors

Randy Mastro, *Chair*

Penelope L. Christophorou,
Vice-Chair

Nancy Bowe, *Treasurer*

Christina R. Davis,
Secretary

Eboné M. Bishop

Michael A. Cardozo

Cliff Chenfeld

Stacey Cumberbatch

Allan H. Dobrin

Gail Erickson

Ester R. Fuchs

Chris Giglio

Lorna B. Goodman

Robert M. Kaufman

Sandra Lespinasse

Alan Lubliner

Malcolm MacKay

Gary P. Naftalis

Tom Osterman

Kenneth Seplow

Peter J.W. Sherwin

Gregory Silbert

Anthony R. Smith

Hector Soto

Jason Stewart

Darryl C. Towns

Jim Walden

David W. Wang

Warren Wechsler

Local Candidates Committee

Anthony S. Mattia, Chair

Tim Abraham

Scott Avidon

David Brauner

Cassidy Cohen

Stacey Cumberbatch

Gail Erickson

Joseph Gapper

Richard Gee

Eric Gioia

Robert Grant

Robert Hallman

Bill Herrlich

Mary Hines

Patrick Lespinasse

Sandy Lespinasse

Matthew Levison

Alan Lubliner

Corinne Marcus

Bill Meehan

Hal Phillips

Rose Pierre-Louis

Richard Ropiak

Alan Rothstein

Kenneth Seplow

Tony Smith

Judy Stanton

Ed Strauss

Martin Tandler

David Wang

Jeremy Wilcox

Staff

Betsy Gotbaum,
Executive Director

Rachel Bloom, *Director of
Public Policy & Programs*

Dakota Dula, *Development
and Membership Associate*

Nelson Mallory,
Executive Assistant

Sally McCullough, *Direct of
Finance and Administration*

W. JaVon Rice,
Technical Manager

Ben Weinberg, *Policy
and Program Manager*

Jane Dowd, *2021 Candidate
Evaluation Coordinator*

Interns

Makeda Andargachew

Nicolas Salem

Sean Simmers

Tiber Worth

*Paid for by the Citizens Union
of the City of New York.
This communication was
not expressly authorized or
requested by any candidate
or by any candidate's political
committee or any of its agents.*