



2024 Voters Directory

Vote on Tuesday, June 25 • Vote Early June 15 - 23



A NONPARTISAN GUIDE
TO INFORMED VOTING

Primary Election



Contents

2024
PRIMARY
ELECTION
VOTERS
DIRECTORY

| | |
|---|----|
| Citizens Union Preferred Candidates | 3 |
| About the Voters Directory | 4 |
| Uncontested Incumbents | 5 |
| Candidate Evaluation | 10 |
| Brooklyn..... | 12 |
| Manhattan..... | 16 |
| Queens..... | 21 |
| Questionnaire | 23 |
| Acknowledgments | 26 |



3

2024
PRIMARY
ELECTION
VOTERS
DIRECTORY

*Click on buttons
below to skip to:*

[Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates](#)

[About the Voters
Directory](#)

[Uncontested
Incumbents](#)

[Candidate
Evaluation](#)

[Brooklyn](#)

[Manhattan](#)

[Queens](#)

[Questionnaire](#)

[Acknowledgments](#)

Citizens Union Preferred Candidates

2024 PRIMARY ELECTION

DEMOCRATIC PRIMARIES

Brooklyn

Assembly District 50

Emily Gallagher

Assembly District 52

Jo Anne Simon

Assembly District 56

Stefani Zinerman

Manhattan

Assembly District 68

Xavier Santiago

Assembly District 69

Micah Lasher

Assembly District 70

Jordan Wright

Queens

Assembly District 37

No Preference



About the Voters Directory

2024
PRIMARY
ELECTION
VOTERS
DIRECTORY

*Click on buttons
below to skip to:*

[Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates](#)

[About the Voters
Directory](#)

[Uncontested
Incumbents](#)

[Candidate
Evaluation](#)

[Brooklyn](#)

[Manhattan](#)

[Queens](#)

[Questionnaire](#)

[Acknowledgments](#)

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 over 125 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 our current initiatives include moving city elections to even years, strengthening lobbying regulations in New York City, and ensuring strong ethics oversight in state government. In all of these efforts, we have been — and will remain — nonpartisan.

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

THE VOTERS DIRECTORY

This June, New Yorkers will vote in primary elections to choose party nominees for New York State Legislature, as well as federal, judicial, and party positions. 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 vote.nyc or call (866) VOTE-NYC.

Uncontested Incumbents

2024
PRIMARY
ELECTION
VOTERS
DIRECTORY

*Click on buttons
below to skip to:*

Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates

About the Voters
Directory

Uncontested
Incumbents

Candidate
Evaluation

Brooklyn

Manhattan

Queens

Questionnaire

Acknowledgments

Of the 93 seats in the New York State Legislature representing New York City residents:

- 74 incumbents are uncontested in the primaries. That means that 79% of all of NYC's seats in the state legislature are held by incumbents who do not face any competition in their parties.
- In the State Senate, 27 of NYC's 28 seats – or 96% – are held by incumbents who are running for re-election without primary challengers. There is only one contested race in the 59th Senatorial District.
- In the Assembly, 47 of NYC's 65 seats – or 72% – are held by incumbents who are running for re-election without primary challengers.

This is the highest rate of uncontested races since Citizens Union began monitoring this data over 10 years ago. Rate of uncontested incumbents in the primary:

| | 2012 | 2014 | 2016 | 2018 | 2020 | 2022 | 2024 |
|-------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------------|
| Legislature | 69% | 67% | 56% | 76% | 60% | 47% | 79% |
| Senate | 80% | 54% | 54% | 77% | 65% | 53% | 96% |
| Assembly | 64% | 74% | 58% | 75% | 58% | 45% | 72% |



6

2024
PRIMARY
ELECTION
VOTERS
DIRECTORY

*Click on buttons
below to skip to:*

[Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates](#)

[About the Voters
Directory](#)

[Uncontested
Incumbents](#)

[Candidate
Evaluation](#)

[Brooklyn](#)

[Manhattan](#)

[Queens](#)

[Questionnaire](#)

[Acknowledgments](#)

Manhattan

Senate District 27
Brian Kavanagh (D)

Senate District 28
Liz Krueger (D)

Senate District 29
Jose M. Serrano (D)

Senate District 30
Cordell Cleare (D)

Senate District 31
Robert Jackson (D)

Senate District 47
Brad Hoylman-Sigal (D)

Assembly District 61
Charles Fall (D)

Assembly District 65
Grace Lee (D)

Assembly District 66
Deborah Glick (D)

Assembly District 67
Linda Rosenthal (D)

Assembly District 73
Alex Bores (D)

Assembly District 74
Harvey Epstein (D)

Assembly District 75
Tony Simone (D)

Assembly District 76
Rebecca Seawright (D)

Brooklyn

Senate District 17
Iwen Chu (D)

Senate District 18
Julia Salazar (D)

Senate District 19
Roxanne Persaud (D)

Senate District 20
Zellnor Myrie (D)

Assembly District 42
Rodneyse Bichotte Hermelyn (D)

Assembly District 43
Brian Cunningham (D)

Senate District 21
Kevin Parker (D)

Senate District 22
Simcha Felder (D)

Senate District 25
Jabari Brisport (D)

Senate District 26
Andrew Gounardes (D)

Assembly District 44
Robert C. Carroll (D)

Assembly District 45
Michael Novakhov (R)



7

2024
PRIMARY
ELECTION
VOTERS
DIRECTORY

*Click on buttons
below to skip to:*

[Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates](#)

[About the Voters
Directory](#)

[Uncontested
Incumbents](#)

[Candidate
Evaluation](#)

[Brooklyn](#)

[Manhattan](#)

[Queens](#)

[Questionnaire](#)

[Acknowledgments](#)

Assembly District 46

Alec Brook-Krasny (R)

Assembly District 47

William Colton (D)

Assembly District 48

Simcha Eichenstein (D)

Assembly District 49

Lester Chang (R)

Assembly District 51

Marcela Mitaynes (D)

Assembly District 53

Maritza Davila (D)

Assembly District 54

Erik Martin Dilan (D)

Bronx

Senate District 32

Luis R. Sepulveda (D)

Senate District 33

Gustavo Rivera (D)

Assembly District 78

George Alvarez (D)

Assembly District 79

Chantel Jackson (D)

Assembly District 80

John Zaccaro Jr. (D)

Assembly District 81

Jeffery Dinowitz (D)

Assembly District 55

Latrice Walker (D)

Assembly District 57

Phara Souffrant Forrest (D)

Assembly District 58

Monique Chandler-Waterman (D)

Assembly District 59

Jaime Williams (D)

Assembly District 60

Nikki Lucas (D)

Assembly District 61

Charles Fall (D)

Assembly District 64

Michael Tannousis (R)

Senate District 34

Nathalia Fernandez (D)

Senate District 36

Jamaal Bailey (D)

Assembly District 83

Carl E. Heastie (D)

Assembly District 85

Kenny Burgos (D)

Assembly District 86

Yudelka Tapia (D)

Assembly District 87

Karines Reyes (D)



8

2024
PRIMARY
ELECTION
VOTERS
DIRECTORY

*Click on buttons
below to skip to:*

[Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates](#)

[About the Voters
Directory](#)

[Uncontested
Incumbents](#)

[Candidate
Evaluation](#)

[Brooklyn](#)

[Manhattan](#)

[Queens](#)

[Questionnaire](#)

[Acknowledgments](#)

Queens

Senate District 10

James Sanders Jr. (D)

Senate District 11

Toby Ann Stavisky (D)

Senate District 12

Michael Gianaris (D)

Senate District 13

Jessica Ramos (D)

Assembly District 23

Stacey Pheffer Amato (D)

Assembly District 24

David Weprin (D)

Assembly District 26

Edward Braunstein (D)

Assembly District 27

Sam Berger (D)

Assembly District 28

Andrew Hevesi (D)

Assembly District 29

Alicia Hyndman (D)

Senate District 14

Leroy Comrie (D)

Senate District 15

Joseph Addabbo Jr (D)

Senate District 16

John Liu (D)

Senate District 59

Kristen Gonzalez (D)

Assembly District 30

Steven Raga (D)

Assembly District 31

Khaleel Anderson (D)

Assembly District 33

Clyde Vanel (D)

Assembly District 36

Zohran Mamdani (D)

Assembly District 38

Jenifer Rajkumar (D)

Assembly District 39

Catalina Cruz (D)

Staten Island

Senate District 23

Jessica Scarcella-Spanton (D)

Assembly District 61

Charles Fall (D)

Assembly District 62

Michael Reilly (R)

Senate District 24

Andrew Lanza (R)

Assembly District 63

Sam Pirozzolo (R)

Assembly District 64

Michael Tannousis (R)



*Click on buttons
below to skip to:*

[Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates](#)

[About the Voters
Directory](#)

[Uncontested
Incumbents](#)

[Candidate
Evaluation](#)

[Brooklyn](#)

[Manhattan](#)

[Queens](#)

[Questionnaire](#)

[Acknowledgments](#)

OPEN AND VACANT SEATS

There are also 4 open state legislative seats representing districts in New York City. The seats are open because incumbent lawmakers have decided not to run for re-election.

BROOKLYN

Assembly District 41

Currently held by Helen Weinstein (D)

MANHATTAN

Assembly District 69

Currently held by Daniel O'Donnell (D)

Assembly District 70

Currently held by Inez Dickens (D)

QUEENS

Assembly District 35

Currently held by Jeffrion Aubrey (D)

Candidate Evaluation

2024
PRIMARY
ELECTION
VOTERS
DIRECTORY

*Click on buttons
below to skip to:*

[Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates](#)

[About the Voters
Directory](#)

[Uncontested
Incumbents](#)

[Candidate
Evaluation](#)

[Brooklyn](#)

[Manhattan](#)

[Queens](#)

[Questionnaire](#)

[Acknowledgments](#)

OVERVIEW

Citizens Union evaluated 16 candidates in 7 races for New York State Assembly to determine who strongly supports our issues, can advance a reform agenda, and can best fulfill the obligations of the position.

Interview teams made up of Local Candidates Committee members and Citizens Union Board 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 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. 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.

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.



*Click on buttons
below to skip to:*

[Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates](#)

[About the Voters
Directory](#)

[Uncontested
Incumbents](#)

[Candidate
Evaluation](#)

[Brooklyn](#)

[Manhattan](#)

[Queens](#)

[Questionnaire](#)

[Acknowledgments](#)

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 is the primary criterion used in deciding our support for a candidate.
- Other criteria considered in evaluating candidates and campaigns:
 - » A record of ethical integrity.
 - » Commitment and ability to advance CU’s goals, if elected
 - » For incumbents: demonstrated support for CU’s issues while in office
 - » Evidence of ability to wage an effective and competitive campaign
 - » Reliance on small-donor, local financing of the campaign
 - » Candidates’ grasp of issues specific to the race’s jurisdiction, and whether they propose thoughtful solutions to represent constituents’ interests

Evaluation of the candidates and the decision to support a particular candidate shall be made without regard to political party and in a nonpartisan manner.



Click on buttons
below to skip to:

Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates

About the Voters
Directory

Uncontested
Incumbents

Candidate
Evaluation

Brooklyn

Manhattan

Queens

Questionnaire

Acknowledgments

All candidates questionnaires can be found online at citizensunion.org.
All races below refer to Democratic primaries.

Brooklyn

NY ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 50

Greenpoint, Williamsburg

Emily Gallagher ★ Preferred Candidate

Age: 40 Occupation: New York State Assembly Member, 50th District

Education: Ithaca College (B.A.); Baruch (M.P.A.)

Emily Gallagher was elected to the Assembly in 2020, unseating a nearly 50-year incumbent, and now chairs the subcommittee on child product safety. She has been a strong supporter of the reform agenda before being elected to office and during her first two terms, and has backed CU-supported bills. Gallagher introduced and championed the LLC Transparency Act to increase transparency of ownerships of limited liability companies, which was signed by the Governor into law, albeit with some changes. She supported all policy questions in CU’s candidate questionnaire. CU has supported Gallagher in her first election, and appreciates how she has maintained the same positions. She was honest about the challenges of the legislative process and what it takes to navigate the Albany power structures. CU prefers Gallagher because of her commitment to reform issues, track record on the issues, and experience working with the community.

Anathea Simpkins

Age: 52 Occupation: Associate Vice President of the Say Something Anonymous Reporting System, Sandy Hook Promise

Education: Emerson College (B.F.A.) UMass Amherst (M.Ed.)

Anathea Simpkins is a former public school teacher who became involved in gun violence prevention work, and now serves as vice president at Sandy Hook Promise. A dedicated activist who is particularly knowledgeable on education and youth mental health issues, Simpkins told CU she sees “conversation, collaboration, and compromise” as key tenets of her approach to politics and that she hoped to unify the district’s generations and political factions. She supported all CU’s policy questionnaire items, and expressed commitment to the reform agenda, with a particular interest in



Click on buttons
below to skip to:

Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates

About the Voters
Directory

Uncontested
Incumbents

Candidate
Evaluation

Brooklyn

Manhattan

Queens

Questionnaire

Acknowledgments

fair redistricting. CU values her dedication to her community and encourages her to stay civically involved.

NY ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 52

Brooklyn Heights, Downtown Brooklyn, Cobble Hill, Carroll Gardens, Gowanus, Prospect Heights, Park Slope, Boerum Hill, DUMBO

Jo Anne Simon ★ *Preferred Candidate*

Age: 71 Occupation: New York State Assembly Member, 52nd District

Education: Iona College (B.A); Gallaudet University (M.A.) Fordham University (J.D.)

Jo Anne Simon has represented this Assembly District for the past ten years, and now faces her first primary challenger. She serves as chair of the Committee on Ethics and Guidance and the Legislative Ethics Commission. Before entering politics, Simon founded a disability civil rights law firm in Downtown Brooklyn. She has a long record in advocating for voting rights, government and police transparency, and has authored important reform legislation, including bills to close the LLC loophole (passed in 2019), move NYPD disciplinary hearings to OATH, and limit last-minute changes to the location of poll sites. However, Simon differed from CU on several issues. She opposed replacing the current Legislative Ethics Commission – which she co-chairs – with an independent ethics agency, was against removing the map-making power from the legislature, and defended the campaign finance bill passed by the legislature last year, which CU strongly opposed. During her interview, Citizens Union was impressed by Simon’s knowledge of the issues and the clarity of thought put into her objections, which often included support for broader reform issues even when the details did not align with Citizens Union’s proposals. Citizens Union encourages Simon to reconsider her positions on these issues, but given her record and effectiveness as a legislator, and the years of skillful service for her district, we prefer her in this race.

Scott Budow

Age: 35 Occupation: Associate at Kauff McGuire & Margolis LLP

Education: Cornell University (B.A); Fordham University (J.D.)

Scott Budow is an associate at Kauff McGuire & Margolis’ Labor and Employment Group. Born and raised in New York City, he had previously been a union organizer and Adjunct Law Professor at Fordham. Budow supported all of CU’s questionnaire policy items,



14

2024
PRIMARY
ELECTION
VOTERS
DIRECTORY

Click on buttons
below to skip to:

Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates

About the Voters
Directory

Uncontested
Incumbents

Candidate
Evaluation

Brooklyn

Manhattan

Queens

Questionnaire

Acknowledgments

and his campaign also proposes to restore the vote for incarcerated individuals, move to an open primary system, and give the CCRB more power to investigate misconduct within the police department. Citizens Union was impressed by Budow's in-depth, detailed responses and his understanding of local and state government, and we encourage him to remain in electoral politics.

NY ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 56

Bedford-Stuyvesant, Northern Crown Heights

Stefani Zinerman ★ *Preferred Candidate*

Age: 59 Occupation: New York State Assembly Member, 56th District

Education: Rochester Institute of Technology (B.A)

Stefani Zinerman has represented Bedford-Stuyvesant and northern Crown Heights since 2021, having grown up in NYCHA's Gowanus Houses and moving to Bed-Stuy 17 years ago. Her family has resided in the district for three generations, and she stated that their civic involvement was an inspiration for her to become involved in politics. She previously served as chief of staff to Council Member Robert Cornegy and as special projects manager to former State Senator Velmanette Montgomery. In Albany, she chairs the Subcommittee on Emerging Workforce; eight of her bills were signed into law. One of those bills required ballot questions be written in plain language for more voters to understand them. She also co-sponsored other election-related reform bills. She opposed several CU priorities on the questionnaire, including same-day voter registration, merit-based hiring in boards of elections, and removing the legislature's power over final district maps. However, she offered more nuanced answers during her interview and expressed openness to discussing and modifying some of her positions. Citizens Union prefers Zinerman in this race because of her experience and effectiveness in office, thoughtful discussion, and civic engagement work in the community.

Eon Tyrell Huntley

Age: 39 Occupation: Sales Representative, Bergdorf Goodman

Education: Parsons School of Design (degree unknown);

Eon Huntley is a retail worker, former union organizer, and former Parent-Teacher Association president who grew up in East New York in NYCHA and Mitchell-Lama housing. He has lived in Bedford-



15

2024
PRIMARY
ELECTION
VOTERS
DIRECTORY

*Click on buttons
below to skip to:*

[Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates](#)

[About the Voters
Directory](#)

[Uncontested
Incumbents](#)

[Candidate
Evaluation](#)

[Brooklyn](#)

[Manhattan](#)

[Queens](#)

[Questionnaire](#)

[Acknowledgments](#)

Stuyvesant for 15 years and was most recently president of his daughter's school's PTA. During his time on the PTA, he worked with a local nonprofit to start a community food bank at the school in order to help neighbors in need amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Huntley supported all of CU's reform agenda and stated that if elected, his first reform priority would be campaign finance reform to dissuade the influence of large donors. Citizens Union is impressed by Huntley's political drive, community involvement, and support for reform, and encourages him to continue his work on these issues.



Manhattan

NY ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 68

East Harlem, Central Harlem, Upper East Side, Randall's Island

Xavier Santiago★ Preferred Candidate

Age: 45 Occupation: Film Producer

Education: Bowdoin College (B.A); American Academy of Dramatic Arts (A.A.)

Columbia University (professional certificate)

Xavier Santiago is a film producer and the current chair of Manhattan Community Board 11. He has lived in East Harlem for 16 years and has been involved in local civic work related to economic mobility and voter access. Santiago supported all CU's policy questionnaire items, and presented an excellent technical grasp of reform issues, including on BOE reform, redistricting, and voting accessibility. He would seek a seat on the oversight committee and push for more transparency in Albany. He also prioritizes easier party enrollment before a primary. On non reform issues, Santiago emphasizes his plans to strengthen constituent services and community relations. His alignment with the reform agenda and focus on community work earned him our preference in this race.

Eddie Gibbs

Age: 55 Occupation: New York State Assembly Member; 68th District

Education: Cayuga Community College (A.B.A.);

Eddie Gibbs is completing his first full term in the Assembly, after first winning a special election to replace Robert Rodriguez in 2022. He is the second formerly incarcerated person in the nation and the first in New York to serve in a state legislature. In Albany, he has been a strong champion for the rights of incarcerated people and supporting the reentry community. Five of his bills were signed into law, including a bill providing notice of voting rights for people released from jails. Citizens Union commends Gibbs for providing an important voice that is needed in Albany.

Tamika Mapp

This candidate was not available for an interview.

2024
PRIMARY
ELECTION
VOTERS
DIRECTORY

*Click on buttons
below to skip to:*

**Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates**

**About the Voters
Directory**

**Uncontested
Incumbents**

**Candidate
Evaluation**

Brooklyn

Manhattan

Queens

Questionnaire

Acknowledgments



17

2024
PRIMARY
ELECTION
VOTERS
DIRECTORY

Click on buttons
below to skip to:

Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates

About the Voters
Directory

Uncontested
Incumbents

Candidate
Evaluation

Brooklyn

Manhattan

Queens

Questionnaire

Acknowledgments

William Smith

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

NY ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 69

Upper West Side, Bloomingdale, Manhattan Valley, Morningside Heights

Micah Lasher ★ Preferred Candidate

Age: 42 Occupation: Full Time Candidate

Education: New York University (B.A.)

Micah Lasher has worked in city and state government for over two decades. He was one of the founders of SKDK, served in the Bloomberg administration and under AG Eric Schneiderman, ran Scott Stringer’s 2021 mayoral campaign, and in his most recent position was Director of Policy for Governor Kathy Hochul. He is also involved in several civic groups in the Upper West Side and Morningside Heights. Lasher supported all of CU’s reform agenda, and spoke about his experience working on Assembly rules reforms and anti-corruption legislation. He also said he would prioritize reducing pay-to-play politics. Lasher is well-versed in the issues, challenges, and needs of reform and government accountability, and his extensive background in government and politics would make him a more effective member of the Assembly. Citizens Union prefers him in this race.

Eli Northrup

Age: 39 Occupation: Full time candidate

Education: Cornell University (B.A.); New York University (J.D.); Georgetown University (L.L.M.)

A public defender and policy director at the Bronx Defenders, Eli Northrup dedicated his career to representing and advocating for justice-involved individuals. Most recently, he led the Cannabis Project, helping formerly incarcerated people apply for dispensary licenses, and before that he clerked on the Third Circuit Court of Appeals and the Southern District of New York, and worked for the NAACP and the Legal Aid Society. Northrup says he is seeking office to give voice to those who feel abandoned by the government, people he often represented in court. He supports all of CU’s reform agenda in the questionnaire, and has experience advocating for measures to increase police accountability, including repealing



Click on buttons
below to skip to:

Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates

About the Voters
Directory

Uncontested
Incumbents

Candidate
Evaluation

Brooklyn

Manhattan

Queens

Questionnaire

Acknowledgments

50-A. Citizens Union was very impressed by Northrup’s experience, policy understanding, and commitment to reform, and encourages him to continue staying in politics.

Melissa Rosenberg

Age: 33 Occupation: Full time candidate

Education: McGill University (B.A.); New York University (M.P.A.)

A VP of Real Estate at Kasirer until resigning to run for office, Melissa Rosenberg has spent her career focused on housing development. Among the projects she recently worked on is Innovation QNS, mixed-use complex in Astoria that was approved by the City Council. She also co-chairs the housing committee on Manhattan Community Board 7. Previously, she worked as an analyst for the Supportive Housing Network of New York and the city’s Office of Management and Budget. Rosenberg supported all of CU’s reform agenda and said she would focus on issues of ethics and transparency, as well as improving elections. On non-reform issues, she would prioritize working on housing and transit accessibility in the district. Citizens Union appreciates Rosenberg’s dedication to her community and encourages her to continue her civic participation.

Jack Kellner

This candidate was not available for an interview.

Carmen Quinones

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

NY ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 70

El Barrio, Hamilton Heights, Harlem, and Morningside Heights

Jordan Wright ★ Preferred Candidate

Age: 29 Occupation: Chief of Staff, NYC Councilmember Yusef Salaam

Education: Syracuse University (B.A)

Jordan Wright was born to a well-known political family in Harlem. His father represented this seat for nearly 24 years and now chairs the Democratic County Party; his grandfather was a State Supreme Court judge. Wright says he spent much of his life in the civic



Click on buttons
below to skip to:

Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates

About the Voters
Directory

Uncontested
Incumbents

Candidate
Evaluation

Brooklyn

Manhattan

Queens

Questionnaire

Acknowledgments

circles of Harlem, and has also worked teaching and in after-school programs. Last year, Wright ran Yusef Salaam's campaign for City Council, and after Salaam's surprising victory Wright was appointed his chief of staff. He is now running to represent the same area in the Assembly. Wright supported all CU's policy questionnaire items, including the ones meant to reduce influence of parties over elections, and suggested that the New York City Board of Elections needs representation for independent, unaffiliated voters, instead of only Democratic and Republican commissioners. Wright made a compelling case for his "independence" despite his close ties with party leadership, and exhibited a good understanding of state politics and reform issues. We prefer him in his race because of his commitment to reform issues, and his ability to deliver on the community's priorities.

Shana Harmongoff

Age: 46 Occupation: Full Time Candidate

Education: South Carolina State University (B.S.); Appalachian School of Law (J.D., J.M.)

Shana Harmongoff is an attorney who previously served as a staffer for former State Senator Brian Benjamin. Among other things, she oversaw pandemic relief efforts in Harlem and East Harlem. Her campaign focuses on advocacy for senior rights and supporting seniors, and she stresses being the only candidate in the race with experience working in the legislature. Harmongoff demonstrated impressive communication skills and creativity in her responses to policy questions. She supported all of CU's reform agenda.

Maria Ordoñez

Age: 24 Occupation: State Committee Member in Assembly District 70

Education: Columbia University (B.S.)

Born and raised in Harlem, Ordoñez is a community activist and tenant organizer. She is a Local Political Director of the Manhattan Young Democrats, a party State Committee Member for this district, and a member of Executive Committee Member in New York Progressive Action. She is running to represent the people of West Harlem, who she says have been neglected by party leaders. Her campaign prioritizes housing and healthcare issues. Ordoñez supported all of CU's reform agenda, and showed deep familiarity with problems related to election administration, noting that same-



20

2024
PRIMARY
ELECTION
VOTERS
DIRECTORY

*Click on buttons
below to skip to:*

[Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates](#)

[About the Voters
Directory](#)

[Uncontested
Incumbents](#)

[Candidate
Evaluation](#)

[Brooklyn](#)

[Manhattan](#)

[Queens](#)

[Questionnaire](#)

[Acknowledgments](#)

day voter registration and transparency in campaign finance would be her legislative priorities. Citizens Union was impressed by her dedication to this district, and believes her energy and knowledge will lead to a promising future in this field.

Joshua Clennon

The candidate responded to the questionnaire but was removed from the ballot.

Craig Schley

The candidate was not available for an interview.



21

Queens

NY ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 37

Hunters Point, Long Island City, Court Square, Sunnyside, Blissville, Maspeth, Ridgewood, Fresh Pond

No Preference

Juan Ardila

*Age: 30 Occupation: New York State Assembly Member; 37th District
Education: Fordham University (B.A); New York University (M.P.A.)*

Juan Ardila is the freshman incumbent in this seat, having won a competitive Democratic primary in 2022. He was a community organizer in Queens for much of his life, working for some time at the Legal Aid Society. During his first term, Ardila got three of his bills signed into law related to medical assistance, elderly care, and an emergency alert system. He supports all of CU’s reform agenda and has co-sponsored bills on BOE reform and voting. Much of his current focus is on constituent services. In his interview with CU, he spoke about his work assisting local businesses, organizing donations for new migrants, and supporting people displaced by fires in the district. At the beginning of his term, Ardila was accused of sexual assault at a college party a decade earlier. He denied the allegations and noted in his interview that no investigation ever materialized. They have spurred calls for his resignation from his former allies and state leaders. Citizens Union appreciates Ardila’s commitment to reform and his dedication for his community, but is concerned that the political ramifications of the accusations made against him impedes his effectiveness as a lawmaker. We issue a no preference in this race.

Claire Valdez

*Age: 34 Occupation: Administrative Assistant, Visual Arts Program Columbia University; Unit Chair for Columbia University Support Staff, UAW Local 2110
Education: Bachelor’s Degree*

Claire Valdez moved to New York eight years ago to pursue a career in the art world. She began working in the visual arts program at Columbia University while also doing organizing work with the union that represents her, UAW Local 2110. She told CU that UAW

2024
PRIMARY
ELECTION
VOTERS
DIRECTORY

*Click on buttons
below to skip to:*

**Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates**

**About the Voters
Directory**

**Uncontested
Incumbents**

**Candidate
Evaluation**

Brooklyn

Manhattan

Queens

Questionnaire

Acknowledgments



22

2024
PRIMARY
ELECTION
VOTERS
DIRECTORY

*Click on buttons
below to skip to:*

**Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates**

**About the Voters
Directory**

**Uncontested
Incumbents**

**Candidate
Evaluation**

Brooklyn

Manhattan

Queens

Questionnaire

Acknowledgments

has changed her life. In 2022, she was elected to head her unit, Columbia University Support Staff. She supports a reform agenda and agrees with all CU's policy questionnaire items, except for taking veto power on legislative maps away from legislators. Her interview provided more context and details about her position on redistricting. Asked about her involvement with the Ridgewood community or the district, Valdez noted several issue-based and electoral campaigns she has been part of. Citizens Union appreciates her dedication to labor and political organizing, but believes her opponents present a more substantive background of community involvement in the area, necessary to represent constituents in Albany. We issue a no preference in this race.

Johanna Carmona

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



Questionnaire

*Click on buttons
below to skip to:*

[Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates](#)

[About the Voters
Directory](#)

[Uncontested
Incumbents](#)

[Candidate
Evaluation](#)

[Brooklyn](#)

[Manhattan](#)

[Queens](#)

[Questionnaire](#)

[Acknowledgments](#)

Candidates for office are asked to complete a questionnaire on a variety of topics related to Citizens Union’s reform agenda and their plans for office. Below you can find these questions, and candidates responses (not only from those candidates interviewed).

The questionnaire also included open-ended questions, but only yes/no questions are presented below. Responses to the full questionnaire from all candidates can be found on Citizens Union’s website.

VOTING AND ELECTIONS

- 1 Do you support moving city elections from odd-numbered years to even-numbered years, and will you vote in favor of legislation that enacts that change?
- 2 Do you support restarting the constitutional amendment process to enact same-day voter registration in New York?
- 3 Do you support improving voter participation in CUNY and SUNY colleges by requiring schools to develop and implement a student voter engagement action plan?
- 4 Do you support reducing the party-based hiring in boards of elections to the minimum currently required by the constitution?
- 5 Do you support implementing an open, competitive, merit-based hiring process for all election administration staff and certain functions at polls?
- 6 Do you support requiring election commissioners and top BOE staff undergo mandatory training developed by the State Board of Elections?

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

- 7 Will you support fully funding the new state public campaign finance program in the upcoming budget process?



24

2024
PRIMARY
ELECTION
VOTERS
DIRECTORY

*Click on buttons
below to skip to:*

Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates

About the Voters
Directory

Uncontested
Incumbents

Candidate
Evaluation

Brooklyn

Manhattan

Queens

Questionnaire

Acknowledgments

- 8 Do you commit to opposing any attempt to undermine the State Public Campaign Finance Program by changing its rules to benefit large donors?
- 9 Do you support requiring campaigns to disclose a contributor's employer in campaign finance reports, as is done in NYC?

REDISTRICTING

- 10 Do you support changing the constitutional redistricting process to reduce the influence of legislators over the map-making process, make the redistricting commission less partisan and more diverse, and eliminate the Legislature's veto power over final maps?

ETHICS

- 11 Do you support establishing an independent ethics agency with commissioners not chosen by the elected officials they oversee, which would have oversight powers over the executive and the legislature (also replaces the Legislative Ethics Commission)?
- 12 Do you support requiring lobbyists to report their contributions and fundraising activity?

POLICE REFORM

- 13 Do you support giving the New York City Civilian Complaint Review Board access to certain sealed and confidential records in matters involving potential police discipline?
- 14 Do you support transferring disciplinary hearings involving police officers from the NYPD to the Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings (OATH)?

JUDICIAL COURTS

- 15 Do you support maintaining the Commission on Judicial Nomination, which recommends candidates for the Court of Appeals to the Governor?



Questionnaire Responses

2024 PRIMARY ELECTION VOTERS DIRECTORY

Click on buttons
below to skip to:

[Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates](#)

[About the Voters
Directory](#)

[Uncontested
Incumbents](#)

[Candidate
Evaluation](#)

[Brooklyn](#)

[Manhattan](#)

[Queens](#)

[Questionnaire](#)

[Acknowledgments](#)

| | Name | District | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q5 | Q6 | Q7 | Q8 | Q9 | Q10 | Q11 | Q12 | Q13 | Q14 | Q15 |
|-----------|------------|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| QUEENS | Monserate | AD 35 | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | NA | S | S | S | S | NA |
| | Ardila | AD 37 | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S |
| | Valdez | AD 37 | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | CO | S | S | S | S | S |
| | Chen | AD 40 | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S |
| BROOKLYN | Dweck | AD 41 | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S |
| | Gallagher | AD 50 | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S |
| | Simpkins | AD 50 | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S |
| | Budow | AD 52 | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S |
| | Walker | AD 55 | S | S | S | O | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S |
| MANHATTAN | Zinerman | AD 56 | S | O | S | O | O | S | S | S | S | O | O | S | S | S | S |
| | Huntley | AD 56 | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S |
| | Mapp | AD 68 | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S |
| | Gibbs | AD 68 | S | S | S | O | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S |
| | Santiago | AD 68 | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S |
| | Lasher | AD 69 | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S |
| | Northrup | AD 69 | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | CO |
| | Kellner | AD 69 | S | NA | NA | S | S | S | S | S | NA | S | S | S | S | S | S |
| | Rosenberg | AD 69 | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S |
| | Schley | AD 70 | S | O | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S |
| BRONX | Clennon | AD 70 | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S |
| | Wright | AD 70 | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S |
| | Ordoñez | AD 70 | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S |
| | Harmongoff | AD 70 | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S |
| | Coello | AD 77 | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S |

KEY

S SUPPORT

O OPPOSE

CO CONDITIONALLY OPPOSE

NA NO ANSWER

Acknowledgments

2024
PRIMARY
ELECTION
VOTERS
DIRECTORY

*Click on buttons
below to skip to:*

[Citizens Union
Preferred
Candidates](#)

[About the Voters
Directory](#)

[Uncontested
Incumbents](#)

[Candidate
Evaluation](#)

[Brooklyn](#)

[Manhattan](#)

[Queens](#)

[Questionnaire](#)

[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 16 candidates in 7 races. We thank them for contributing their time, energy, and expertise to interviewing and evaluating candidates. 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](#)

[About the Voters
Directory](#)

[Uncontested
Incumbents](#)

[Candidate
Evaluation](#)

[Brooklyn](#)

[Manhattan](#)

[Queens](#)

[Questionnaire](#)

[Acknowledgments](#)

Citizens Union Board of Directors

Randy Mastro
Chair

Anthony S. Mattia
Treasurer

Christina R. Davis
Secretary

Ellen Baer

Eboné M. Bishop

Nancy Bowe

Stacey Cumberbatch

Penelope Christophorou

Gail Erickson

Ester R. Fuchs

Chris Giglio

Lorna B. Goodman

Robert M. Hallman

Sandra Lespinasse

Malcolm MacKay

Brian Mahanna

Gary P. Naftalis

Lisette Nieves

Tom Osterman

Alan Rothstein

Kenneth Seplow

Peter J.W. Sherwin

Gregory Silbert

Anthony R. Smith

Jason Stewart

Darryl C. Towns

Jim Walden

David W. Wang

Warren Wechsler

Local Candidates Committee

Stacey Cumberbatch
Chair

Tim Abraham

Scott Avidon

David Brauner

Gail Erickson

Joseph Gapper

Eric Gioia

Robert Grant

Robert Hallman

Bill Herrlich

Mary Hines

Patrick Lespinasse

Sandy Lespinasse

Matthew Levison

Alan Lubliner

Corinne Marcus

Robert Mascali

Anthony S. Mattia

Jane McGroarty

Rose Pierre-Louis

Richard Ropiak

Alan Rothstein

Kenneth Seplow

Tony Smith

Nicholas Stabile

Judy Stanton

Ed Strauss

Martin Tandler

David Wang

Staff

Betsy Gotbaum
Executive Director

Amaury Dujardin
Policy Manager

Syola Lewis
*Administrative and
Development Associate*

Sally McCullough
*Director of Finance and
Administration*

W. JaVon Rice
Technical Manager

James Robinson
Director of Development

Ben Weinberg
Director of Public Policy

Interns

Stella Tallmon

Raajasvi Thakker

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.