



# 2024 Voters Directory

Vote on Tuesday, Nov. 5 • Vote Early Oct. 26 – Nov. 3



A NONPARTISAN GUIDE  
TO INFORMED VOTING

General Election



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# Citizens Union's Positions on New York City and State Ballot Proposals

BALLOT PROPOSAL 1:

**Amendment to Protect Against Unequal Treatment**

**Vote Yes**

BALLOT PROPOSAL 2:

**Cleaning Public Property**

**Vote No**

BALLOT PROPOSAL 3:

**Additional Estimates of the Cost of Proposed Laws  
and Updates to Budget Deadlines**

**Vote No**

BALLOT PROPOSAL 4:

**More Notice and Time Before Votes on  
Public Safety Legislation**

**Vote No**

BALLOT PROPOSAL 5:

**Capital Planning**

**Vote No**

BALLOT PROPOSAL 6:

**Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises  
(MWBs), Film Permits and Archive Review Boards**

**Vote No**

# Citizens Union Endorsed Candidates

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## 2024 GENERAL ELECTIONS

### President/Vice President of the United States

Kamala D. Harris / Tim Walz (D/WF)

**This year, Citizens Union provides the public with information about candidates in five competitive legislative races without issuing endorsements:**

Brooklyn	Senate District 17	Iwen Chu (D, WF) Stephen Chan (R, C)
Brooklyn	Assembly District 46	Alec Brook-Krasny (R) Chris McCreight (D)
Queens	Assembly District 23	Stacy Pheffer Amato (D) Tom Sullivan (R, C)
Queens	Assembly District 40	Ron Kim (D, WF) Philip Wang (R, C)
Staten Island /Brooklyn	Senate District 23	Jessica Scarcella-Spanton (D) Marko Kepi (R)

**The following candidates were preferred by Citizens Union in the Primary and are on the ballot in the general election:**

Brooklyn	Assembly District 50	Emily Gallagher
Brooklyn	Assembly District 52	Jo Anne Simon
Brooklyn	Assembly District 56	Stefani Zinerman
Manhattan	Assembly District 69	Micah Lasher
Manhattan	Assembly District 70	Jordan Wright



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## CITIZENS UNION MISSION

Citizens Union (CU) is committed to reforming New York City and State government to foster accountability, accessibility, transparency, honesty, and the highest ethical standards. For 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 fall, New Yorkers will vote in the general election for the New York State Legislature, U.S. President, as well as judicial and other federal 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 includes information about candidates in several key races, Citizens Union's recommendations on ballot questions, and an endorsement in the U.S. Presidential Election. This year, Citizens Union provides the public with information about candidates in five competitive legislative races without issuing endorsements in those races.

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

# Ballot Proposals and Citizens Union's Recommendations

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## **PROPOSAL NUMBER 1, AN AMENDMENT: AMENDMENT TO PROTECT AGAINST UNEQUAL TREATMENT**

**This proposal would protect against unequal treatment based on ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, and sex, including sexual orientation, gender identity and pregnancy. It also protects against unequal treatment based on reproductive healthcare and autonomy. A "YES" vote puts these protections in the New York State Constitution. A "NO" vote leaves these protections out of the State Constitution.**

### **CITIZENS UNION SUPPORTS THIS PROPOSAL**

The New York State Constitution's Bill of Rights currently protects individuals from discrimination only on the basis of race, color, creed or religion. This proposal would also bar discrimination on the basis of a person's ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, sex, including sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, pregnancy outcomes, and reproductive healthcare and autonomy.

Those classes of individuals are currently protected from discrimination under state law. Abortion rights are also codified in state law. The proposed constitutional language would enshrine these protections, making them far more difficult to alter than by a simple act of the Legislature. The proposed amendment also clarifies that protections from discrimination based on one characteristic cannot interfere with the civil rights of a person based on any other characteristic.

Citizens Union recommends a YES vote on Proposal 1.

The immediate impetus for seeking to constitutionally protect reproductive rights was the U.S. Supreme Court's 2022 decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, which held that the federal constitution does not protect the right to abortion. Following *Dobbs*, a number of states have sought to restrict or ban abortions, with alarming impacts regarding women's reproductive

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health. Similar proposals exist on the national level. On the other hand, several states have enhanced reproductive rights, including in their constitutions. Indeed, New York is one of 11 states that will have ballot measures related to abortions this November.

Some opponents of the amendment argue it could lead to transgender males competing on women's sports teams. However, protections for sexual orientation and gender identity and expression have long been established in New York law, and the balance of interests strongly lies in favor of those individuals being able to live their lives protected from discrimination. Many of these individuals have faced traumas throughout their lives and are not free from aspects of discrimination despite protective laws.

Citizens Union has a long-standing position in favor of giving women control over their own bodies in making reproductive decisions. Citizens Union believes that New York should join those other states that have installed constitutional protections for reproductive rights, and urges voters to approve adding the proposed additional protections for potentially vulnerable classes of New Yorkers.

## **PROPOSAL NUMBER 2, A QUESTION: CLEANING PUBLIC PROPERTY**

**This proposal would amend the City Charter to expand and clarify the Department of Sanitation's power to clean streets and other City property and require disposal of waste in containers. Voting "Yes" will expand and clarify the Department of Sanitation's power to clean streets and other City property and require disposal of waste in containers. Voting "No" leaves laws unchanged.**

## **PROPOSAL NUMBER 3, A QUESTION: ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES OF THE COST OF THE PROPOSED LAWS AND UPDATES TO BUDGET DEADLINES**

**This proposal would amend the City Charter to require fiscal analysis from the Council before hearings and votes on laws, authorize fiscal analysis from the Mayor, and update budget**

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deadlines. Voting “Yes” would amend the City Charter to require additional fiscal analysis prior to hearings and votes on local laws, and update budget deadlines. Voting “No” leaves laws unchanged.

### **PROPOSAL NUMBER 4, A QUESTION: MORE NOTICE AND TIME BEFORE VOTES ON PUBLIC SAFETY LEGISLATION**

This proposal would require additional public notice and time before the City Council votes on laws respecting the public safety operations of the Police, Correction, or Fire Departments. Voting “Yes” will require additional notice and time before the Council votes on laws respecting public safety operations of the Police, Correction, or Fire Departments. Voting “No” leaves laws unchanged.

### **PROPOSAL NUMBER 5, A QUESTION: CAPITAL PLANNING**

This proposal would amend the City Charter to require more detail in the annual assessment of City facilities, mandate that facility needs inform capital planning, and update capital planning deadlines. Voting “Yes” would require more detail when assessing maintenance needs of City facilities, mandate that facility needs inform capital planning, and update capital planning deadlines. Voting “No” leaves laws unchanged.

### **PROPOSAL NUMBER 6, A QUESTION: MINORITY AND WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (MWBES), FILM PERMITS, AND ARCHIVE REVIEW BOARDS**

This proposal would amend the City Charter to establish the Chief Business Diversity Officer (CBDO), authorize the Mayor to designate the office that issues film permits, and combine archive boards. Voting “Yes” would establish the CBDO to support MWBEs, authorize the Mayor to designate the office that issues film permits, and combine two boards. Voting “No” leaves laws unchanged.



## CITIZENS UNION **OPPOSES** PROPOSALS 2, 3, 4, 5, AND 6

Citizens Union recommends a NO vote on all five questions proposed by the 2024 Charter Revision Commission.

The procedure taken to arrive at these proposals was rushed and did not provide adequate time to properly deliberate or solicit feedback, resulting in relatively little public input. Many civic groups, including Citizens Union, protested the Commission's condensed timeline—only two months during the summer and a primary election season— and urged the Commission not to place any proposal before the voters this year. In fact, all Charter Revision Commissions in the past 20 years have worked under longer timeframes.

The result of Charter Revision Commission's hasty process is a set of proposed revisions that could have been accomplished through the legislative process or simpler executive means. We do not believe any of the proposals presented to voters this year required a referendum. In fact, a number of the proposals add more complications to the Charter, which as the City's constitution, should be a more streamlined document.

Throughout its long history, Citizens Union has supported periodic comprehensive reviews of the New York City Charter to ensure that city government is operating effectively, efficiently, and in the public's best interest. Many of our recommendations have been adopted into the City Charter. But we have also repeatedly objected to rushed charter revisions such as this one.

Our position has remained consistent: Revising the city's constitution should be conducted deliberately and judiciously by engaging a broad spectrum of experts and ordinary New Yorkers. Charter commission process should be deliberate, and not subject to the political jousting between a particular mayor or city council. Commissions should focus on changes that cannot be done legislatively, although not exclusively so, since there can also be meritorious proposals that have stalled in the legislative process.

We have also long held state law governing charter commissions should be reformed to address some of the troubling aspects of

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the city charter revision process that surfaced this year and in past administrations.

We acknowledge that a goal here was to block the City Council's proposed expansion of its "advise and consent" authority through its own referendum proposal, in a rushed legislative process we also criticized as inadequate. It would be in the city's best interest if both branches of City Government avoid using the City's constitution for political gamesmanship.

Though we find that the inadequacy of this entire process merits a no vote on all five questions, we also believe that questions three, four, and five should be voted down on the merits as well because they are unnecessary to enshrine in our City's Charter, are being implemented already, or would create more confusion. We believe, however, that, on the merits, the proposals included in questions two and six have positive aspects that should be considered by a Charter Commission and/or the City Council through a more deliberative future process.

**Question 3**, would, among things, require that fiscal impact statements of bills include estimates from the Mayor's Office of Management and Budget.

Citizens Union believes this proposal disrupts the delicate separation of powers in the Charter, which is at the root of the legislative process. The City Council is tasked with lawmaking and developing the research that informs this task, including assessing the costs of bills. The Mayor already has a role in the legislative process through the power of veto. In addition, nothing prevents mayors from conducting analyses of bills whenever they choose, and using the many public and internal avenues available to them to convey their concerns about the costs of proposed legislation. Although we acknowledge that there are problems with the way Fiscal Impact Statements are currently produced, including how close they are published to a vote, we believe improvements to the process should be made through the Rules of the Council, which govern the inner workings of the Council, rather than the City's constitution.

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**Question 4** would require the Council to give notice to the public, the Mayor, and commissioners at least 30 days in advance of votes on laws respecting the public safety operations of the Police, Correction, or Fire Departments. It would also amend the Charter to say that the Mayor or affected commissioners “may” hold public hearings to solicit additional public comment on the bill.

Citizens Union believes this is an unnecessary intrusion of the executive branch into the legislative branch that would add more complications to the lawmaking process and confuse the public.

An analysis of over 1,700 local laws passed in the last decade, conducted by Citizens Union and presented to the Charter Commission, revealed that public safety legislation receives similar public input opportunities as other laws on other issues, and that on average, it takes over nine months for such bills to be voted on by the Council. There is therefore no reason to single out public safety issues from other citywide policy matters, such as education, transportation, or the environment, by assigning to them greater public notice, potentially creating a two-tier system in legislation.

Nor is this proposal needed to provide the mayor and agency heads with the power to call for public hearings; nothing stops them from calling for such hearings now. It is important to note, however, that the executive branch has no formal role in developing legislation. Asking the public to testify before executive offices instead of the elected body that drafts bills would add unnecessary confusion.

Furthermore, the proposal seems crafted to apply to only three city agencies because, as the Charter Revision Commission has noted, they were at the heart of two contested bills last year (the How Many Stops Act and the ban on solitary confinement). We do not believe the Charter-mandated legislative process should be redesigned to respond to specific political disputes. Moreover, there was ample notice time before the vote on those bills and intense public debate over months.

Finally, there are issues involving the drafting of the proposed Charter amendments. It is not clear precisely what type of legislation would trigger the 30-days’ notice requirement, as it applies only to bills relating to the “public safety operations” of the police, fire, and



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correction departments. That term does not appear anywhere else in the Charter and has not been defined. Furthermore, while the City Council is required to give notice to the “public” before passing a public safety bill, there is no definition of what constitutes such notice. Both issues may spur confusion and litigation.

**Question 5** would add a number of requirements to the already complicated planning procedure. A Mayor may institute a number of these changes without legislation, and dates may be moved through legislation. The additional requirements could trigger even more litigation in the land use process, and the city government already has difficulty moving projects through to completion. Furthermore, Citizens Union is concerned that while most of the capital planning requirements focus on large capital projects, one provision can be interpreted to require an assessment of “each city facility,” without defining what those facilities are.

# Candidate Evaluation

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## OVERVIEW

Citizens Union has evaluated the Presidential election to determine what candidates strongly support good government issues, can advance a reform agenda, and can best fulfill the obligations of the position. In addition, Citizens Union provides the public with information about candidates in five competitive races for the New York State Senate and the New York State Assembly. There are no endorsements issued in legislative races this year.





# Presidential Election

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## Kamala D. Harris / Tim Walz ★ Endorsed Candidates

*Democratic, Working Families*

*Age: 60 Occupation: Vice President of the United States*

*Education: Howard University, B.A., Hastings College, University of California, J.D.*

*Website: KamalaHarris.com*

## Donald J. Trump / J.D. Vance

*Republican, Conservative*

*Age: 78 Occupation: The 45th President of the United States, serving from 2017 to 2021*

*Education: Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, B.S.*

*Website: DonaldJTrump.com*

For more than 125 years, Citizens Union has been a non-partisan force for good government in New York, and it has made an essential part of its mission to express preferences for state and local candidates who share its values. Four years ago, given a consequential moment in the history of our city and country, we felt compelled to endorse for the first time in our history a candidate in the U.S. Presidential race. In endorsing his opponent, we noted that then-President Trump had eroded public confidence in our democratic institutions, failed to respect the rule of law, questioned the conduct of elections, and refused to say he would accept the results of the election, which we described as “destructive.”

Unfortunately, our predictions were proven correct. After losing the 2020 election, Trump refused to concede, pressured election officials to overturn the results, spread lies and misinformation about election fraud, and incited an insurrection in the U.S. Capitol to try to obstruct the certification of the electoral college vote on January 6, 2021.

Even today, Trump continues to try to delegitimize the electoral process in a manner never before seen in American history. To this day, he denies he lost the 2020 election, refuses to say if he will accept the results of the 2024 election, and trades in disinformation on how his rivals are “getting ready to cheat” in November and has even intimated, without any basis whatsoever, that Democrats are to

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blame for the attempt on his life. He proclaims there will be “massive fraud” warranting “the termination of the Constitution” in order to reinstate him as President.

Moreover, Trump undermines trust in democratic institutions here and abroad by repeatedly praising autocrats as “strong” and “smart” leaders. For example, his unwavering fealty to Vladimir Putin is deeply troubling, especially by what it portends for American support of democracies living under the fear of Russian aggression.

In addition, Trump poses a clear and imminent threat to the rule of law. He has said that under his administration, the Department of Justice will investigate and prosecute his political enemies, often framing it as “retribution” against Democrats. Trump threatens to subject them to “long-term prison sentences,” saying they will be “sought out, caught, and prosecuted at levels never seen before in our country.” He has also called for “one real rough, nasty” and “violent day” of retaliation. No democracy can have a leader who pledges to weaponize the justice system. Trump tried to do that before, including when he lost the 2020 election. Fortunately, his efforts were rebuffed by Justice Department officials poised to resign en masse if he insisted on his way. But we’re reminded of the words of Maya Angelou: “When somebody shows you who they are, believe them the first time.”

Kamala Harris, on the other hand, has devoted most of her career to the justice system as a prosecutor, District Attorney, and State Attorney General. She has a life-long commitment to maintaining the rule of law. She has pledged to respect the peaceful transfer of power. Moreover, as Vice President, she led the effort to pass two major voting rights bills, the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and the Freedom to Vote Act. These measures were intended to increase and protect voting access for marginalized communities and end partisan gerrymandering. She also supported the Electoral Count Reform Act, which reformed the process by which electoral college votes are certified by Congress.

For over a century, democracy has been Citizens Union’s business. We cannot sit on the sidelines when our democracy is once again at stake. We therefore urge voters to vote for Kamala Harris for President and reject the threat to our democracy that Donald Trump presents.

# Brooklyn

## NY SENATE DISTRICT 17

Sunset Park, Bensonhurst, Bath Beach, Bay Ridge, Dyker Heights, and Kensington

### Iwen Chu

*Democratic, Working Families*

*Age: 45 Occupation: New York State Senator, 17th District*

*Education: Brooklyn College, M.A.*

In 2022, Iwen Chu became the first Asian-American woman to be elected to the State Senate, in a new district created to provide representation for the growing Asian-American community in southern Brooklyn. Chu, who immigrated to New York at age 27 from Taiwan, previously served as Chief of Staff to former Assembly Member Peter Abbate. In the legislature, Chu serves as Chair of the Committee on Libraries. At least three of the bills were made into law in her first term. She says she's proud of her work to secure millions of dollars for public schools in her district and fight hate crimes, among other things. Chu's campaign lists education, public safety, street safety, and supporting new families as some of her top issues. Citizens Union endorsed Chu in 2022. She supported all CU's policy goals on that candidate questionnaire.

### Stephen Chan

*Republican, Conservative*

*Age: 58 Occupation: Retired*

*Education: Baruch College, New York University, Cornell University*

Stephen Chan, a former NYPD officer and US Marine, is running to represent this district in the State Senate. Born and raised in Hong Kong, Chan immigrated to the US with his family at age 11. After finishing college, he joined the U.S. Marines and served there for six years. He then moved to Bensonhurst and joined the NYPD, retiring as a sergeant after 27 years in the police force. Since retirement, he has served as PTA President in his children's schools and volunteered in other parental associations. Chan's current platform is focused on public safety, dismantling bail reform, defunding homeless shelters, and immigration.

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## NY ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 46

Bay Ridge, Dyker Heights, Coney Island, Brighton Beach

### Alec Brook-Krasny

Republican

Age: 66 Occupation: New York State Assembly Member, 46th District

Education: Russian State University for Tourism and Services, B.S.

Alec Brook-Krasny represented this part of southern Brooklyn in the State Assembly from 2006 to 2015, and again since 2023. The first Soviet-born man to serve in the Assembly and represent this Russian-speaking area, Brook-Krasny served for almost a decade before abruptly stepping down to take a job in the private sector. Two years later, he was hit with felony charges, accusing him of involvement in a private insurance scheme that defrauded Medicare and Medicaid dating back to 2013, but he was acquitted of all charges in 2019. Following a failed City Council run in 2021, he switched to the Republican Party, stating that the Democratic Party has become “too soft on crime” and “too progressive.” Since winning his old Assembly seat back in 2022, this time as a Republican, Brook-Krasny has advocated for legislation that increases funding to the NYPD, promotes public-private business partnerships, streamlines distribution procedures for small company grants, repeals cashless bail, and repeals the Raise the Age law. Although CU endorsed him in his first run for office, we supported his opponent in 2022. His questionnaire at that time stated he supported all of CU’s policy proposals except for same-day voter registration. He strongly opposes moving local elections to even years, another Citizens Union reform policy.

### Chris McCreight

Democratic

Age: N/A Occupation: Chief of staff, City Council Member Justin Brannan

Education: Augustana College, B.A.

Chris McCreight has been involved in Bay Ridge politics for many years. He ran the campaigns of several Democratic candidates and now works as Chief of Staff for local City Council Member Justin Brannan. He is also the Democratic District Leader for this assembly district. In addition to his political work, he managed a record store for 15 years. This is McCreight’s second campaign for Assembly

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District 46; in 2018, he lost the Democratic primary. Among his top campaign priorities are education issues. He supports the state's new smaller class size law, making CUNY and SUNY universities tuition-free for in-state students, and the efforts to pay teachers fairly. If elected, he plans to establish climate-resilient infrastructure and adaptation plans for southern Brooklyn communities and introduce legislation to fix the property tax system.

## Queens

### NY ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 23

*Ozone Park, Lindenwood, Howard Beach, Hamilton Beach, Broad Channel, Breezy Point, Roxbury, Neponsit, Belle Harbor, Rockaway Park, Rockaway Beach, Arverne, Edgemere, Bayswater and Far Rockaway*

### Stacy Pheffer Amato

*Democratic*

*Age: 58 Occupation: New York State Assembly Member; 23rd District*

*Education: State University of New York at Oneonta, B.S.*

Stacy Pheffer Amato has represented this district in the State Assembly since being elected in 2016. Her mother had held the same seat for almost 25 years until 2011. Pheffer Amato, who worked for several New York City Government agencies before being elected, chairs the Governmental Employee Committee and focuses on legislation related to public employees' benefits and rights. A prolific lawmaker, she got dozens of her bills signed into law, with recent examples related to health insurance coverage for surviving spouses of firefighters and retirement for court officers who are hurt on the job. This year, Pheffer Amato introduced a bill that would treat disruptive protests as acts of domestic terrorism.





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## Tom Sullivan

*Republican, Conservative*

*Age: 52 Occupation: Financial Consultant*

*Education: Mount Saint Mary's University, B.A. & M.B.A.,*

*US Army War College, M.A.*

Tom Sullivan is a military veteran and small business owner who served in the US Army for 30 years and recently retired as a Colonel in the US Army Reserves. Sullivan grew up working for his family's restaurant, where he still handles all the financial and accounting work. He is currently a financial consultant for Equitable Advisors and the president of Breezy Point Alabama Properties LLC. In a candidate questionnaire submitted to CU, he stated his support for most of CU's policy goals but mentioned he opposes same-day voter registration and proposals aimed at increasing police accountability. His top priorities are reducing crime, combatting the Fentanyl crisis, and restoring voting integrity. Additionally, he vows that, if elected, he will enact policies that create youth drug educational programs, more aggressive drug treatment programs, and harsher prison terms for drug manufacturers and distributors. Sullivan also supports legislation to repeal no cash bail laws, lower property taxes, and mitigate the migrant crisis.

### NY ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 40

*Flushing, Whitestone, College Point, and Murray Hill*

## Ron Kim

*Democratic, Working Families*

*Age: 45 Occupation: New York State Assembly Member; 40th District*

*Education: Hamilton College, B.A., Baruch College, M.A.*

Ron Kim, the first Korean American to serve in the legislature, has represented Flushing in the Assembly since being elected in 2012. Before holding public office, he worked at the New York City Council and the Governor's office. Kim, who chairs the Committee on Aging, has been a leading voice on protecting seniors and reforming nursing home care. He called out the nursing home deaths during the height pandemic and has continued to urge for accountability, including by passing legislation that improves reporting on issues at residential healthcare facilities. In this reelection campaign, Kim is focused on protecting and growing the middle class. Specifically,

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he takes pride in supporting first responders, securing funding for schools, and advocating for housing affordability. Citizens Union supported Kim when he ran for office in 2012 and 2014 but has not evaluated his races since.

## Philip Wang

*Republican, Conservative*

*Age: 54 Occupation: Full-time Candidate*

*Education: Baruch College, B.A.,*

*University of Bridgeport College of Chiropractic, M.A. & M.D.*

Philip Wang, a chiropractor who has served Flushing and Northern Queens for over 23 years, is running for the 40th Assembly District. His campaign highlights local quality-of-life issues, like street congestion, waste, and the proliferation of cannabis shops. A volunteer for the Guardian Angels, Wang also stresses public safety issues. His platform embraces a collaborative approach to public safety, with stronger partnerships between law enforcement and residents. He also wants to rethink cash bail laws, provide more funding to the police, and more.

## Staten Island/Brooklyn

### NY SENATE DISTRICT 23

*North and East Shores of Staten Island and Southern Brooklyn*

## Jessica Scarcella-Spanton

*Democratic*

*Age: 34 Occupation: New York State Senate Member; 23rd District*

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

Jessica Scarcella-Spanton, born and raised in Staten Island, is running for reelection in a senate district that covers the Island's North Shore and parts of Brooklyn. She was elected in 2022 after working for former Senator Diane Savino and former Assembly Member Janele Hyer Spencer, who both represented similar areas. She currently chairs the Veterans, Homeland Security, and Military Affairs Committee. Three of her bills were signed into law - they deal with the rights of public utilities' employees and some state employees - and others were approved through the state budget,

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including making assaulting a retail worker a felony. She also touts her legislative work in support of families who experienced stillbirth. Scarcella-Spanton's reelection campaign largely focuses on public safety issues, as well as veteran housing and reproductive freedom. She takes pride in stopping congestion pricing as part of a bipartisan effort. Citizens Union supported Scarcella Spanton in the 2022 election. During that election cycle, she supported all of CU's policy goals in the questionnaire.

## Marko Kepi

*Republican*

*Age: 35 Occupation: Full-time Candidate*

*Education: John Jay College of Criminal Justice, B.S., Wagner College, E.M.B.A.*

Marko Kepi served in the United States Marine Corps before transitioning to a career in politics. He worked for former State Senator Marty Golden, was part of Rudy Giuliani's Presidential campaign, and has sought public office twice before. In 2020, he ran for a Staten Island Assembly district but lost the Republican primary. In 2021, he lost the primary for a City Council seat by less than one percentage point. For this campaign, Kepi highlights his support for the police, shared family values, parental rights, and an end to sanctuary city status. Kepi is active in civic organizations supporting the Albanian community in New York, and in 2020, he received the President's Volunteer Service Award from President Trump.

# Uncontested Incumbents

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

- 44 incumbents are running uncontested in the general election. That means that 47% of all of NYC's seats in the state legislature are held by incumbents who do not face any competition.
- 4 candidates are running for open seats that are uncontested. They won their primary, but do not face competition in the general election.
- In the state Senate, 12 of NYC's 28 seats – or 43% – are held by incumbents who are running for re-election without challengers.
- In the Assembly, 32 of NYC's 65 seats – or 49% – are held by incumbents who are running for re-election without challengers.

**The following incumbents are running uncontested for NYC seats in the state Senate and Assembly:**

## Bronx

### Assembly District 87

Karines Reyes (D)

## Brooklyn

### Senate District 18

Julia Salazar (D)

### Senate District 19

Roxanne Persaud (D)

### Senate District 20

Zellnor Myrie (D)

### Senate District 21

Kevin Parker (D)

### Senate District 22

Simcha Felder (D)

### Senate District 25

Jabari Brisport (D)

### Senate District 59

Kristen Gonzalez (D)

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### **Assembly District 42**

Rodneyse Bichotte Hermelyn (D)

### **Assembly District 43**

Brian Cunningham (D)

### **Assembly District 48**

Simcha Eichenstein (D)

### **Assembly District 50**

Emily Gallagher (D)

### **Assembly District 53**

Maritza Davila (D)

### **Assembly District 54**

Erik Martin Dilan (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)

## **Manhattan**

### **Senate District 27**

Brian Kavanagh (D)

### **Senate District 30**

Cordell Cleare (D)

### **Senate District 59**

Kristen Gonzalez (D)

### **Assembly District 61**

Charles Fall (D)

### **Assembly District 66**

Deborah Glick (D)

### **Assembly District 67**

Linda Rosenthal (D)

### **Assembly District 68**

Eddie Gibbs (D)

### **Assembly District 72**

Manny De Los Santos (D)

### **Assembly District 74**

Harvey Epstein (D)

### **Assembly District 75**

Tony Simone (D)

### **Assembly District 76**

Rebecca Seawright (D)





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## Queens

### Senate District 13

Jessica Ramos (D)

### Senate District 14

Leroy Comrie (D)

### Senate District 18

Julia Salazar (D)

### Assembly District 31

Khaleel Anderson (D)

### Assembly District 32

Vivian Cook (D)

### Assembly District 33

Clyde Vanel (D)

### Assembly District 34

Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas (D)

### Senate District 19

Roxanne Persaud (D)

### Senate District 59

Kristen Gonzalez (D)

### Assembly District 36

Zohran Mamdani (D)

### Assembly District 38

Jenifer Rajkumar (D)

### Assembly District 39

Catalina Cruz (D)

## Staten Island

### Senate District 24

Andrew Lanza (R)

### Assembly District 61

Charles Fall (D)

### Assembly District 62

Michael Reilly (R)

### Assembly District 64

Michael Tannousis (R)

# A Note on Congressional Elections

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Control of the United States House of Representatives depends in large part on the outcomes of seven Congressional races in New York State this November. Not often in federal elections does New York receive as much attention as the state has in 2024, and so this year, we reiterate the importance of voting not only to voters in New York City but to the rest of the state as well. Action or inaction by the House of Representatives directly affects the lives and well being of all New Yorkers. Therefore, we are providing a list of the critical Congressional races in New York State and websites for the respective candidates for voters' use. We hope this information is useful.

\* Denotes incumbent

## NY CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 1

*Eastern Long Island*

**Nick LaLota\***

Party: Republican, Conservative  
Website: [nicklalota.com](http://nicklalota.com)

**John Avlon**

Party: Democratic, Common  
Sense Suffolk  
Website: [johnavlon.com](http://johnavlon.com)

## NY CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 3

*North Shore, Nassau County, Northeast Queens*

**Tom Suozzi\***

Party: Democratic, Common  
Sense  
Website: [tomsuozzi.com](http://tomsuozzi.com)

**Michael LiPetri**

Party: Republican, Conservative  
Website: [lipetriforcongress.com](http://lipetriforcongress.com)

## NY CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 4

*Central and southern Nassau County*

**Anthony D'Esposito\***

Party: Republican, Conservative  
Website: [despositoforcongress.com](http://despositoforcongress.com)

**Laura Gillen**

Party: Democratic, Common  
Sense  
Website: [lauragillen.com](http://lauragillen.com)



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## NY CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 17

*Rockland, Putnam, northern Westchester & part of Dutchess counties*

### **Mike Lawler\***

Party: Republican, Conservative

Website: lawlerforcongress.com

### **Anthony Frascone**

Party: Working Families

Website: No website

### **Mondaire Jones**

Party: Democratic

Website: mondaireforcongress.com

## NY CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 18

*Most of Orange, Dutchess, and Ulster*

### **Pat Ryan\***

Party: Democratic, Working  
Families

Website: patryanforcongress.com

### **Alison Esposito**

Party: Republican, Conservative

Website: alisonesposito.com

## NY CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 19

*Catskills, Hudson Valley, Southern Tier, Finger Lakes*

### **Marcus Molinaro\***

Party: Republican, Conservative

Website: marcforus.com

### **Josh Riley**

Party: Democratic, Working  
Families

Website: joshrileyforcongress.com

## NY CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 22

*Syracuse, Utica, Auburn areas*

### **Brandon Williams\***

Party: Republican, Conservative

Website: letsvotebrandon.com

### **John Mannion**

Party: Democratic, Working  
Families

Website: mannionforny.com

# 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. We thank them for contributing their time, energy, and expertise to evaluating candidates. We thank you for your support, and hope you enjoy the latest edition of the Voters Directory.

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