



VOTER GUIDE: CITY COUNCIL

New York City | City Council Races in Brooklyn
Primary Day: June 22, 2021

About this Voter Guide

New Kings Democrats (“NKD”) developed this voter guide to help inform Brooklynites about the 2021 City Council primary races. It includes information about the 16 City Council races in Brooklyn and the candidates that will vie for the Democratic nod on June 22, 2021.

About New Kings Democrats

NKD is a progressive, grassroots political organization committed to bringing transparency, accountability, and inclusionary democracy to the Brooklyn Democratic Party. Founded by veterans of the Obama campaign, it is a borough-wide political organization that helps people seeking to become more engaged in local politics, and hopes to nurture a new generation of elected Brooklyn Democratic leaders.

As of the date of publication, NKD has endorsed candidates in City Council Districts 33, 34, 35, 37, and 39.

Please e-mail politics@newkingsdemocrats.com to learn more about our work.

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About: City Council, Ranked Choice Voting, and How to Vote

What does the City Council do?

City Council is the lawmaking body for the city, made up of 51 elected officials. In much the same way that Congress acts as a check and balance to the Executive Branch, City Council acts as a check and balance to the Mayor's office. Brooklyn has 16 City Council members, representing districts 33 through 48. To see a map of the districts, visit council.nyc.gov/districts. Currently, all City Council members from Brooklyn are registered Democrats.

In addition to debating and passing laws, City Council is responsible for negotiating and passing the city budget, monitoring city agencies, and making land use decisions.

City Council can also pass resolutions on state and federal issues that are relevant to New Yorkers. Resolutions allow City Council to speak on behalf of NYC voters and can play an important role in the development of law and public policy.

How does Ranked Choice Voting work?


New York City will now use Ranked Choice Voting (RCV, also known as "Instant Runoff Voting") in the primary and special elections for Mayor, Public Advocate, Comptroller, Borough President, and City Council. Voters elected to use RCV in a 2019 ballot measure with 73.5% support.

New York City's RCV law allows voters to rank up to 5 candidates in order of preference. If you prefer, you can still vote for just one candidate. Ranking other candidates does not hurt your first-choice candidate.


To learn more, see the Board of Elections guide: vote.nyc/page/ranked-choice-voting.

If a candidate receives more than 50% of first-choice votes, they win the election. If no candidate receives more than 50% of first-choice votes, then the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated. Votes for the eliminated candidate are redistributed to their voters' next ranked choice. A new tally is conducted to determine whether any candidate has won a majority of these votes. The process is repeated until a candidate wins an outright majority and is declared the winner.

Want to practice RCV on a ballot? Check out this [link](#) on rating your favorite bodega snacks from Rank The Vote NYC.



	1	2	3	4	5
Candidate A	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Candidate B	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Candidate C	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Candidate D	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Candidate E	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



	1	2	3	4	5
Candidate A	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Candidate B	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Candidate C	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Candidate D	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Candidate E	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Why Ranked Choice Voting matters

RCV is more democratic, but ensuring voters are informed about the process is crucial. Ranking candidates lets you choose several candidates that share your values rather than rallying around a single front-runner. This way of voting can help build coalitions and means your vote *always* counts, whether or not your first-choice candidate wins. You can still have a say in who's elected!

RCV also encourages candidates to be civil in campaigns since all candidates are vying for the top five slots on your ballot. Theoretically, candidates will try to appeal to more voters, rather than narrowly cater to their assumed base, meaning candidates who are more diverse and representative of community members win elections. **In cities that use RCV, more women and people of color are elected.**

Confirm your voter eligibility and where to vote

Confirm if you are registered to vote at www.nycvotersearch.com. If you are registered to vote, results will include your City Council district. You can confirm your polling location by clicking "Poll Site Information" in the top-right corner of the screen.

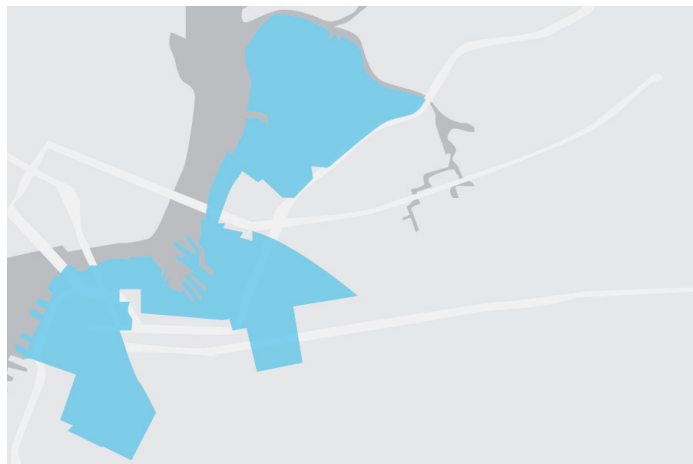
In Brooklyn, where most races will be won by Democrats, the Primary election is the real election for these local positions—**so it is very important that you are registered as a Democrat and can vote this June**. You can register by mail, online, or in person prior to May 28 and still be eligible to vote in the Primary Election as long as you are registered with a party. Visit vote.nyc/page/register-vote to register to vote.









Important dates for primary election voters

- **May 28**—last day to register to vote in the Primary Election
- **June 12**—early voting begins
- **June 15**—deadline to request an absentee ballot for Primary Election
- **June 22**—Primary Election and last day to postmark the primary election ballot, or deliver to Brooklyn Board of Elections (345 Adams Street) or your local polling site

COUNCIL DISTRICT 33

Council District 33 covers the neighborhoods of Boerum Hill, Brooklyn Heights, Brooklyn Navy Yard, Downtown Brooklyn, Dumbo, Fulton Ferry, Greenpoint, Vinegar Hill, and Williamsburg. The majority of residents are white, which is dissimilar from many other Brooklyn Council districts. The current City Council representative, Stephen Levin, is term-limited. This race has a number of current and former staff from Levin's office running, as well as some lesser-known candidates.



	Restler	Adams	Cambranes	Gates	Potosky	Sherman	Solotaire	Somboun
								
Committed to free or accessible healthcare for all?	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓	X
Has a plan for small-business rent relief during COVID?	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓
Has a plan to reform the ULURP (land use) process?	✓	✓	✓	X	X	X	✓	X
Committed to <i>not</i> taking money from real estate developers?	✓	✓	✓	X	X	X	✓	X
Committed to <i>not</i> taking money from law enforcement agencies, foundations, or unions?	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓

The information in the chart above is based on publicly available information. Where we have noted “yes” or “no” to a candidate’s commitments, “no” may also indicate that the candidate’s position is unknown or unavailable to the public.

COUNCIL DISTRICT 33, continued

Lincoln Restler

About the candidate: Lincoln is a native and lifelong resident of the district. He spent much of his career working in city government, was a founding member of NKD, and was District Leader in Greenpoint. He is running on a platform to address the housing affordability crisis, climate change, and racial justice.



New Kings Democrats has endorsed Lincoln Restler in this race. District 33 is in need of a representative who can fight out-of-scale development, climate change, and the effects of COVID-19 on residents and commercial tenants. Lincoln is the candidate uniquely poised to do so. His experience in City Hall means he knows the ins and outs of city government and will advocate on behalf of the district's tenants. From helping found NKD to fighting the party bosses as District Leader, Lincoln knows how to get things done in a progressive, just way.

What stands out about his platform: Lincoln published a comprehensive plan to make District 33 carbon-neutral.

Where you can learn more:

www.lincolnforcouncil.com

[@LincolnRestler](https://twitter.com/LincolnRestler)

Elizabeth Adams

About the candidate: Elizabeth is running to ensure that every resident in the community can share in North Brooklyn's growth and live in economic security, safety, and dignity. She is the Legislative Director for current Council Member Levin and before that worked as an advocate at Planned Parenthood. Elizabeth wants to pass comprehensive planning and land use reform. She has pledged to defund the NYPD and decriminalize sex work and substance use.



What stands out about her platform: She wants to implement City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR) reform for land use, which includes studying negative racial impacts, secondary displacement, and resiliency and flood plain needs.

Where you can learn more:

www.elizabethadams.nyc

[@ElizabAdams](https://twitter.com/ElizabAdams)

COUNCIL DISTRICT 33, continued

Victoria Cambranes

About the candidate: Victoria is a community activist who previously ran for this seat against Council Member Levin. Her platform advocates for review of all past zoning changes and responsible construction in all communities. She believes that using police to address mental health issues is inappropriate and firmly believes there should be no new jails. Victoria believes that the city must do more to address hate groups within the North Brooklyn community.



What stands out about her platform: She pushes for a comprehensive plan to address pollution in the Greenpoint and Williamsburg communities, including air pollution from trucks and commercial vehicles.

Where you can learn more:

www.victoriaforcouncil.com

[@VECambranes](https://twitter.com/VECambranes)

Sabrina Gates

About the candidate: A resident of Brooklyn for two decades, Sabrina's priorities are making Brooklyn more affordable for residents, ending homelessness, and creating an environment where small businesses can thrive. She is passionate about educational fairness and providing opportunity for all communities.



What stands out about her platform: Though programs like this exist, she would like a city program that addresses out-of-school time for all students, which would provide supplemental and recreational activities as well as help with homework.

Where you can learn more:

sabinagates2021.com

[@sabinagates](https://twitter.com/sabinagates)

COUNCIL DISTRICT 33, continued

Toba Potosky

About the candidate: Toba is a sound engineer and longtime Brooklyn Heights resident. His experience is centered around his work with fellow residents of the Cadman Towers. He portrays himself as a fixer who will work with people on both sides of the aisle to build a better community. Notably, Toba was a registered Republican and voted in the Republican Primary as recently as 2016.



Where you can learn more:

www.toba2021.com

[@TobaPotosky](https://twitter.com/TobaPotosky)

Stu Sherman

About the candidate: Stu, a legal aid attorney, specializes in healthcare advocacy and runs a legal clinic out of Woodhull Hospital. He is a passionate advocate for the economically disadvantaged in the community but has not offered detailed plans for meeting his platform's objectives. He appreciates the need for change within the Democratic Party.



Where you can learn more:

stu2021.com

[@stu_sherman](https://twitter.com/stu_sherman)

COUNCIL DISTRICT 33, continued

Ben Solotaire

About the candidate: Ben, a Community Liaison and Director of Participatory Budgeting for current Council Member Levin, began a second career in public service 10 years ago. He offers plans to increase affordable housing and make private development affordable. He wants to expand dedicated bicycle and bus lanes and protect the environment by increasing green spaces, mandating green roofs for construction projects, and banning the use of gas stoves in new developments.



What stands out about his platform: Ben is deeply concerned with animal welfare. He wants to ban the sale of pets in pet stores, implement curricula about respecting animals in public schools, and prohibit animal dissection.

Where you can learn more:

www.bensolotaire2021.com
[@Solotaire](https://twitter.com/Solotaire)

April Somboun

About the candidate: April is a first-time candidate guided by her own life story: she was a refugee who frequently assisted her parents in obtaining assistance, including medical care. April is a working mom and volunteer in her community. She is deeply concerned with educational opportunity, housing affordability, and creating small business opportunities.



Where you can learn more:

www.aprilsomboun.com
[@aprilsomboun](https://twitter.com/aprilsomboun)

COUNCIL DISTRICT 34

Council District 34 includes Williamsburg, Bushwick, and Ridgewood. The current Council Member, Antonio Reynoso, is coming to the end of his term limit and is running for Brooklyn Borough President. (New Kings Democrats has endorsed him in that campaign.) Both candidates in the race are first-time candidates. The neighborhood has seen significant changes in demographics and rising housing prices, as Bushwick has been a targeted neighborhood for rezoning.



	Gutierrez	Finner
Committed to free or accessible healthcare for all?	√	√
Has a plan for small-business rent relief during COVID?	√	X
Has a plan to reform the ULURP (land use) process?	√	X
Committed to <i>not</i> taking money from real estate developers?	√	X
Committed to <i>not</i> taking money from law enforcement agencies, foundations, or unions?	√	X

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COUNCIL DISTRICT 34, continued

Jen Gutierrez

About the candidate: Jen is Chief of Staff to Council Member Antonio Reynoso in District 34. The daughter of Colombian immigrants, she was born and raised in Queens, and has a background as a community organizer. She recently worked to assist two local daycare centers with their ongoing battle for city funding. She has been a vocal supporter of tenant's rights and worked through Participatory Budgeting to establish greater budget transparency and equity.



New Kings Democrats has endorsed Jen Gutierrez in this race. This race is a meaningful one for North Brooklyn. The seat has been held by Antonio Reynoso — whom NKD has proudly endorsed for Borough President — and it is imperative that another progressive and active leader step in to lead the district next. It is a Council District in need of more investment in green infrastructure, healthcare, and housing — and would falter under a challenger aligned with the Party machine. Jen epitomizes the type of enthusiastic, caring, and committed leadership the district — and Council — needs.

What stands out about her platform: In solidarity with several other Council candidates, Jen took a pledge to defund the NYPD by at least \$1 billion and invest in social services to support community health and safety.

Where you can learn more:

www.jennifergutierrez2021.com

[@JenGutierrezNYC](https://twitter.com/JenGutierrezNYC)

Terrell Finner

About the candidate: Terrell is the general manager for a nonprofit. Terrell advocates for ending the digital divide in his community. He wants to prioritize teachers and school administrators, provide affordable daycare services, and advocate for Universal Basic Income and greater COVID assistance for families.



What stands out about his platform: He wants to establish a North Brooklyn arts district.

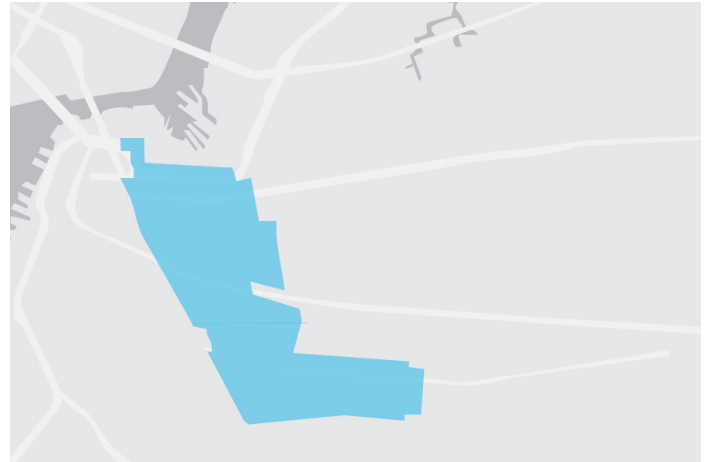
Where you can learn more:







www.terrell.nyc

[@Terrell_nyc](https://twitter.com/Terrell_nyc)

COUNCIL DISTRICT 35

Council District 35 includes Fort Greene, Clinton Hill, Prospect Heights, and parts of Crown Heights and Bed-Stuy. It is one of the most rapidly gentrifying districts in the city and has weathered several controversial development projects. This area was historically home to primarily Black New Yorkers. Population demographics have shifted over the past decades.



	Hudson	Collymore	Harris	Hollingsworth	Levy	Robertson
						
Committed to free or accessible healthcare for all?	✓	X	X	✓	X	X
Has a plan for small-business rent relief during COVID?	✓	X	X	X	X	X
Has a plan to reform the ULURP (land use) process?	✓	X	X	✓	X	X
Committed to <i>not</i> taking money from real estate developers?	✓	X	X	✓	✓	X
Committed to <i>not</i> taking money from law enforcement agencies, foundations, or unions?	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓

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COUNCIL DISTRICT 35, continued

Crystal Hudson

About the candidate: Crystal is a former Deputy Public Advocate under current PA Jumaane Williams. She is a first-time candidate but brings experience as a longtime Council staffer and Deputy Public Advocate, and will be ready to navigate the byzantine system of local government as soon as she is elected.



New Kings Democrats has endorsed Crystal Hudson in this race. Council District 35 is in desperate need of a Council Member whose roots are grounded in the district itself, who will fight for working folks, and who isn't in the pockets of real estate. With that in mind, Crystal Hudson is the standout candidate. Crystal got into public service after struggling to navigate the healthcare system when her mother was diagnosed with Alzheimer's and Crystal became her primary caregiver. Her proven commitment to working on behalf of her neighbors bodes well for her work as a compassionate, unrelenting Council Member.

What stands out about her platform: Her top priorities are COVID-19 recovery; education; and housing, land use, and development. If elected, she'll be the first Black, queer, female City Council Member.

Where you can learn more:

www.crystalforbk.com

[@crystalrhudson](https://twitter.com/crystalrhudson)

Renee Collymore

About the candidate: Renee was born and raised in Fort Greene and Clinton Hill, is self-employed, and volunteers as a civics educator. She served as District Leader for Assembly District 57 from 2012 to 2014. In 2009, she co-founded the Parliament Democratic Club, through which she started her "Fundamentals of Citizenship" civics education program for middle schoolers.



Where you can learn more:

www.reneecollymore2021.com

[@ReneeCollymore](https://twitter.com/ReneeCollymore)

COUNCIL DISTRICT 35, continued

Curtis Harris

About the candidate: Curtis is a recently retired accountant and a former member of Community Board 8. He has a performing arts non-profit and volunteers at several community organizations. He wants to defund the NYPD.



Where you can learn more:

www.curtisharris2021.com

[@CHarris2021](https://twitter.com/CHarris2021)

Michael Hollingsworth

About the candidate: Michael is a lifelong resident of the district, a graphic designer, and a tenant organizer with the Crown Heights Tenant Union. He has been involved with the Housing Justice for All, Right to Counsel, and Rent Justice coalitions, as well as various rezoning fights in Crown Heights for the last four years. He wants to defund the NYPD, fully fund and desegregate schools, and block all privatization of NYCHA.



What stands out about his platform: Housing and land use are the primary focus of his platform, and the proposals are informed by concrete experience engaging with and organizing tenants and pushing a pro-tenant agenda on elected officials.

Where you can learn more:

www.m4bk.com

[@mike4brooklyn](https://twitter.com/mike4brooklyn)

COUNCIL DISTRICT 35, continued

Deirdre Levy

About the candidate: Deirdre is a born-and-raised New Yorker and a third grade teacher who works with students with autism. She is also an advocate for food and nutrition in NYC. She has been volunteering with Clinton Hill Fort Greene Mutual Aid during the pandemic.



What stands out about her platform: Deirdre developed a COVID-19 coloring book for children coping with loss.

Where you can learn more:

deirdrelevy.com

[@deirdrelevy2021](https://twitter.com/deirdrelevy2021)

Hector Robertson

About the candidate: Hector is an executive for a pharmaceutical and biotech company, the president of the Washington Avenue Botanic Block Association (WABBA), and a member of the Crown Heights Community Council (CHC). He started his building's tenant association 20 years ago and has helped connect tenants to legal services.



What stands out about his platform: While Hector usually mentions tenant activism first, policing reform is the most detailed part of his platform, and he has called for a minimum \$2B reduction in the NYPD budget and an end to the NYPD's use and procurement of military weapons.

Where you can learn more:

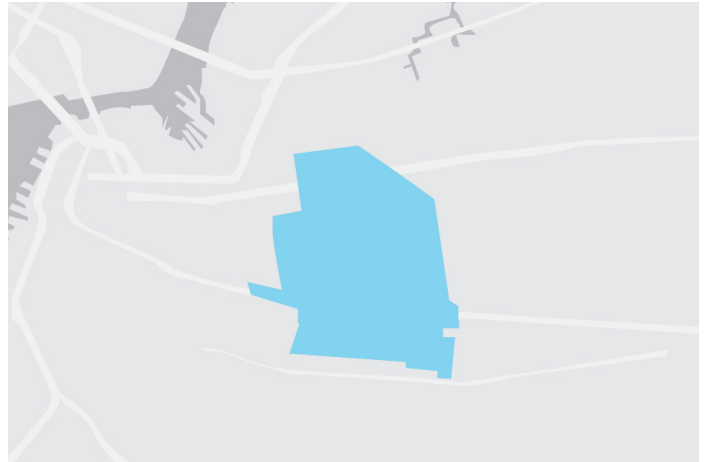
hectorrobertson.com

[@hect_robertson](https://twitter.com/hect_robertson)

Several other candidates have filed to run but have limited information about their campaigns available online and may no longer be in the race, or joined the race very recently, including: Regina Kinsey, Terrance Knox, Sharon Wedderburn, and Maayan Zik.

COUNCIL DISTRICT 36

Council District 36 includes the neighborhoods of Bed-Stuy and Northern Crown Heights. The current Council Member is Robert Cornegy, who is term-limited. The nine candidates running in this race include a District Leader, local community activists, and community leaders.



	Butler	Edwards	Green	Joyner	Moore	Osse	Tarver	Walker	Waterman
Committed to free or accessible healthcare for all?	X	✓	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X
Has a plan for small-business rent relief during COVID?	X	X	X	✓	X	✓	X	X	X
Has a plan to reform the ULURP (land use) process?	X	X	X	X	X	✓	X	X	X
Committed to <i>not</i> taking money from real estate developers?	X	X	X	X	X	✓	X	X	X
Committed to <i>not</i> taking money from law enforcement agencies, foundations, or unions?	X	X	X	X	X	✓	X	X	X

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COUNCIL DISTRICT 36, continued

Henry Butler

About the candidate: Henry is the male District Leader for Assembly District 56. He was appointed to fill that position when Robert Cornegy stepped down. Henry is also the District Manager for Community Board 3 and is the president of the Bed-Stuy-based political club Vanguard Independent Democratic Association (VIDA). His platform includes fighting for repairs to NYCHA housing, automatic voter registration, and renewable energy. Henry is part of the Bed-Stuy political establishment and he typically votes with the Brooklyn machine as a District Leader.



What stands out about his platform: Services for senior citizens is central to his campaign.

Where you can learn more:

www.butlerforcitycouncil.com

[@BedStuyHank](https://twitter.com/BedStuyHank)

Regina Edwards

About the candidate: Regina is a healthcare professional and is involved in several community groups. Her website lists three important commitments: healthcare for all, affordable housing, and better public transit.



Where you can learn more:

[@ReginaNYC36](https://twitter.com/ReginaNYC36)

Gregory Green

About the candidate: Gregory is a retired police sergeant. He has no campaign website. His Twitter and Facebook accounts don't list any platforms or goals beyond ending gun violence and "reforming" public housing and education.



Where you can learn more:

[@GregGreen715](https://twitter.com/GregGreen715)

COUNCIL DISTRICT 36, continued

John J. Joyner, Jr.

About the candidate: John first ran for Council seven years ago. He cites losing family members to violence and personal challenges within public schools as his motivations for running for office. His ambitious platform includes revitalizing and protecting homeownership of historic homes in the district and developing family support services. His plan for COVID-19 recovery includes mental health services and financial support and protections. He has raised less than \$1,000.



What stands out about his platform: His platform includes converting all school buses to electric or hybrid to reduce air pollution.

Where you can learn more:

joyner4council.com

[@johnjjoynerjr](https://twitter.com/johnjjoynerjr)

Tahirah Moore

About the candidate: Tahirah has worked for the Council and the Mayor's office, and says she was instrumental in negotiations leading to the passage and enactment of the Council bill banning chokeholds by members of the NYPD. Her platform is focused on four items: healthcare, housing, education, and public safety.



What stands out about her platform: She supports canceling rent and increasing investment in NYCHA.

Where you can learn more:

www.tahirahamoore.nyc

[@TAMooreNYC](https://twitter.com/TAMooreNYC)

COUNCIL DISTRICT 36, continued

Chi Osse

About the candidate: Chi is a 23-year-old third-generation Brooklynite from Crown Heights. He rose to prominence during Black Lives Matter protests in the summer of 2020 as a co-founder of the activist collective Warriors in the Garden. He has an extremely detailed platform covering affordable housing, healthcare, criminal justice, climate, education, and more. For each platform area, he specifies actions he'd take, such as: rent relief, deemphasizing the use of AMI, and supporting collective tenant management of NYCHA.



What stands out about his platform: Chi's publicly available platform is progressive and the most detailed of any candidate in the race.

Where you can learn more:

osse2021.com

[@osse2021](https://twitter.com/osse2021)

Shadoe Tarver

About the candidate: Shadoe is a community activist and former city government official from Bed-Stuy. He worked with anti-gun violence organization Save Our Streets before beginning his Council campaign. Shadoe's platform focuses on local community engagement and support, including youth programming, small business support, and equity in access to resources and services. Shadoe has raised less than \$1,000.



Where you can learn more:

www.shadoefornyc.com

[@ShadoeTarver](https://twitter.com/ShadoeTarver)

Several other candidates have filed but have limited information about their campaigns available online and may no longer be in the race, including: Maya Cantrell and Ron Colter.

COUNCIL DISTRICT 36, continued

Jason Walker

About the candidate: Jason is a community organizer from Bed-Stuy, having worked for organizations such as the gun violence group Save Our Streets and the anti-poverty group VOCAL NY. They joined VOCAL NY after experiencing homelessness and supported the expansion and development of Queerocracy, a citywide youth organizing project focusing on the leadership development of other LGBTQ+ youth experiencing homelessness. Jason's platform focuses on addressing key social injustices through their support for things like the Green New Deal for NYC, rent relief, building affordable housing, fighting NYCHA privatization, and decriminalizing drugs and sex work.



What stands out about their platform: Jason's platform shows a commitment to progressive reforms, with a particular focus on housing justice.

Where you can learn more:

www.jasonforcitycouncil.com

[@Jason4Council](https://twitter.com/Jason4Council)

Robert Waterman

About the candidate: Robert is a pastor, teacher, small business organizer, and activist. He runs Canticles, a sober lounge in Bed-Stuy, and he is the pastor of Antioch Baptist Church. His platform has three pillars: police reform, healthcare, and education. On police reform, he emphasizes community engagement and bringing more officers of color into leadership. For healthcare, he emphasizes fully funding our community's hospitals, and for education, he emphasizes ensuring that no child is left behind due to COVID.



What stands out about his platform: Healthcare is the most ambitious area of his narrow platform; he supports healthcare regardless of income.

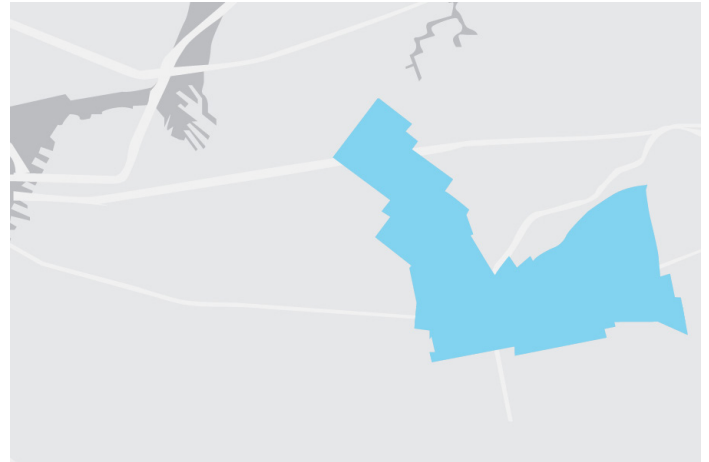
Where you can learn more:





www.robertwaterman.com

[@RobertMWaterman](https://twitter.com/RobertMWaterman)

COUNCIL DISTRICT 37

Council District 37 includes Cypress Hills, Bushwick, City Line, Ocean Hill, Brownsville, and East New York. This race is reformers and community activists versus the Party and its interest in retaining control over the Council in eastern Brooklyn. Raphael Espinal vacated the seat with two years left in his term, leaving one of the districts hardest hit by the pandemic without a voice in the Council—that is, until the political machine helped kick reformers off the ballot and Darma Diaz was elected for the interim.



	Nurse	Abdin	Diaz	Echeverria
				
Committed to free or accessible healthcare for all?	√	X	X	√
Has a plan for small-business rent relief during COVID?	√	X	X	√
Has a plan to reform the ULURP (land use) process?	√	X	X	X
Committed to <i>not</i> taking money from real estate developers?	√	X	X	X
Committed to <i>not</i> taking money from law enforcement agencies, foundations, or unions?	√	X	X	X

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COUNCIL DISTRICT 37, continued

Sandy Nurse

About the candidate: Sandy was born in Panama and has over a decade of experience as an activist, community organizer, and carpenter. She is a food justice leader who founded BK ROT, a bike-powered composting service, and Mayday Space, a community gathering and activist space.



New Kings Democrats has endorsed Sandy Nurse in this race. Sandy Nurse represents so much of what NKD believes in: compassionate, grounded activism and accountability. We endorsed her for previous Assembly and Council runs in the district. District 37 has never been more in need of a thoughtful and unafraid leader who will go to bat for her neighbors, when lives and livelihoods are being compromised by the pandemic and from imminent rezoning. Sandy is that leader and we are proud to join the growing progressive coalition that supports her candidacy.

What stands out about her platform: Sandy has spent nearly a decade working to create the alternative institutions we need for positive social change while confronting power. As a Council Member, she will fight to keep people in their homes, create protections for our immigrant neighbors, and help build a healthy, sustainable future.

Where you can learn more:

sandyforcouncil.com

[@SandyforCouncil](https://twitter.com/SandyforCouncil)

Misba Abdin

About the candidate: Misba is the founder of Bangladeshi American Community Development & Youth Services (BACDYS), an advocacy organization for low-income and immigrant New Yorkers.



What stands out about his platform: Misba is the only candidate in the race who does not support reducing police department funding or reallocating funding and responsibilities from the police department to community and social engagement efforts.

Where you can learn more:

misbaabdinnyccouncil.com

[@MisbaAbdin](https://twitter.com/MisbaAbdin)

COUNCIL DISTRICT 37, continued

Darma Diaz, *incumbent*

About the candidate: Darma has worked in her community, as a social worker and as an advocate, including serving as the housing services director at a homeless shelter run by Overcoming Love Ministries (OCLM). She supports re-allocating some funds from policing to better serve community needs, and considers global warming a second pandemic alongside COVID-19. Darma has the backing of the Party machine.



What stands out about his platform: Darma is the Chair of the City Council's Committee on Women and Gender Equity.

Where you can learn more:

darma4citycouncil37.nyc

[@Darma37cd](https://twitter.com/Darma37cd)

Rick Echeverria

About the candidate: Rick is a longtime activist within his community, particularly around the subject of housing. He has been very active during the COVID crisis, helping residents and small businesses receive relief. He believes in redirecting funds from the NYPD into community services.



What stands out about his platform: Rick has a long-held and very strong focus on the affordable housing crisis in his district and advocates for specific reforms in the city's housing agencies.

Where you can learn more:

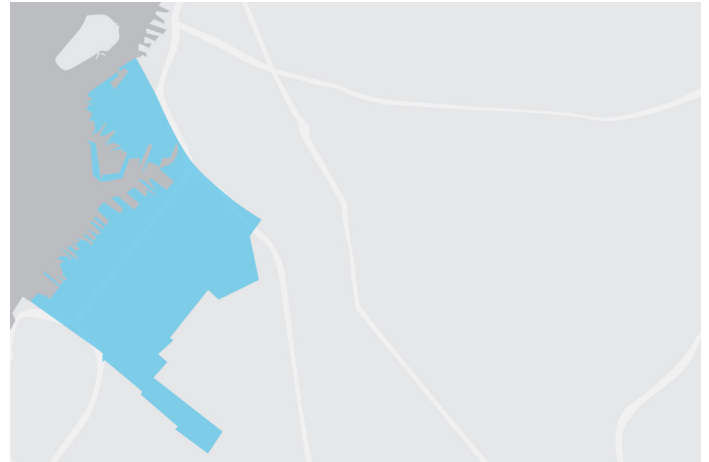
www.voterick2021.com






[@VoteRick2021](https://twitter.com/VoteRick2021)

Several other candidates have filed but have limited information about their campaigns available online and may no longer be in the race, including: Chris Durosini, Randolph Ferdinand, and Heriberto Mateo.

COUNCIL DISTRICT 38

Council District 38 includes the neighborhoods of Red Hook, Sunset Park, and Greenwood Heights and parts of Windsor Terrace, Dyker Heights, and Borough Park. The current Council Member is Carlos Menchaca, who is term-limited (and running for Mayor). It has the largest Asian-American population of any Brooklyn Council district, as well as a large community of Spanish speakers. This is a waterfront district, coping with loss of industry and many environmental injustices.



	Aviles	Camarena	Lin	Painter	Zuniga
					
Committed to free or accessible healthcare for all?	✓	✓	X	✓	✓
Has a plan for small-business rent relief during COVID?	X	X	X	X	X
Has a plan to reform the ULURP (land use) process?	X	X	X	X	X
Committed to <i>not</i> taking money from real estate developers?	✓	✓	X	✓	X
Committed to <i>not</i> taking money from law enforcement agencies, foundations, or unions?	✓	✓	X	✓	X

The information in the chart above is based on publicly available information. Where we have noted “yes” or “no” to a candidate’s commitments, “no” may also indicate that the candidate’s position is unknown or unavailable to the public.

COUNCIL DISTRICT 38, continued

Alexa Aviles

About the candidate: A resident of the district for nearly two decades and a Democratic Socialist, Alexa's platform is rooted in the community she hopes to serve. She wants to shift control over real estate development to the community with alternative models for land use and significant local-hire and living wage provisions. She also plans to strengthen protections for and expand municipal voting rights to undocumented immigrants.



What stands out about her platform: Alexa wants to strengthen healthcare-related community-based organizations that work directly with district residents, and advocate for a Community Health Advisory Table to plan and implement new community health policies.

Where you can learn more:

www.alexaforcouncil.com

[@alexaforcouncil](https://twitter.com/alexaforcouncil)

Rodrigo Camarena

About the candidate: Rodrigo is an immigrant New Yorker and proud parent with 15 years of experience as an immigrant advocate, community organizer, and civic leader. He is a longtime member of NKD. Rodrigo recognizes that NYC is unjust by design due to politicians having let private interests dictate decisions around land use, education, healthcare, and criminal justice, at the expense of communities of color and working families. His goals include guaranteeing housing, abolishing the police state, expanding immigrant rights, and fighting for environmental justice.



What stands out about his platform: Rodrigo believes radical structural change is possible and necessary to improve the lives of district residents.

Where you can learn more:

rodrigo4nyc.com

[@Rodrigo4NYC](https://twitter.com/Rodrigo4NYC)

COUNCIL DISTRICT 38, continued

Yu Lin

About the candidate: Yu is an adult day care operator in Sunset Park and has lived in the district for the past 20 years.

What stands out about his platform: If elected, he hopes to develop land around the 8th Avenue subway station.

Where you can learn more:

www.voteyulin2021.com



Jacqui Painter

About the candidate: Jacqui is a Red Hook native and the founder of Red Hook Relief, a mutual aid group formed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Her platform focuses on housing as a basic human right for all New Yorkers, and she seeks to end the school-to-prison pipeline.

What stands out about her platform: Jacqui supports rent stabilization and rent control for small businesses, including special recognition and aid for immigrant-owned businesses.

Where you can learn more:

www.painterforcouncil.com

[@JacquiPainter](https://twitter.com/JacquiPainter)



COUNCIL DISTRICT 38, continued

Cesar Zuniga

About the candidate: Cesar is the son of Mexican immigrants who has been in the education field throughout his professional career as a teacher, education commissioner, and early child development director. He is the chair of Community Board 7, where he organized extensive research, presentations, and testimony so that the community would be well-informed about the proposed Industry City rezoning. His campaign is focused on housing, education, and job support, with many details specific to the district and how it is dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic.



What stands out about his platform: He wants to create a program that allows residents to use Section 8 vouchers to make mortgage payments and retain ownership.

Where you can learn more:

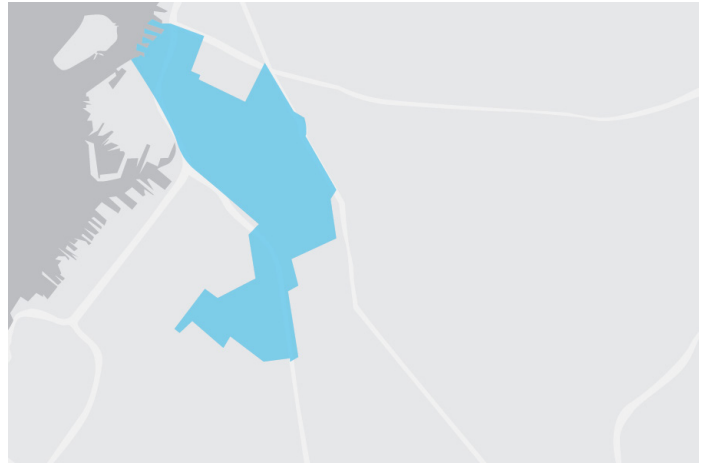
www.cesar4council.org







[@Cesar4Council](https://twitter.com/Cesar4Council)

Several other candidates filed but have limited information about their campaigns available online and may no longer be in the race, including: Ronald Ferdinand, Erik Frankel, Samuel Sierra, and Victor Swinton.

COUNCIL DISTRICT 39

Council District 39 includes the neighborhoods of Cobble Hill, Carroll Gardens, Columbia Waterfront, Gowanus, Park Slope, Windsor Terrace, Borough Park, and Kensington. This district boasts some of the highest incomes and highest voter participation in the city.



	West	Hanif	Huq	Krebs	Rein	Schneider
						
Committed to free or accessible healthcare for all?	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓
Has a plan for small-business rent relief during COVID?	✓	✓	X	X	X	X
Has a plan to reform the ULURP (land use) process?	✓	✓	X	X	X	✓
Committed to <i>not</i> taking money from real estate developers?	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Committed to <i>not</i> taking money from law enforcement agencies, foundations, or unions?	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓

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COUNCIL DISTRICT 39, continued

Brandon West

About the candidate: Brandon is a voting rights activist, union organizer, and racial justice advocate. He is a committed Democratic Socialist and a former president of New Kings Democrats. Brandon was previously a City Hall Budget staffer and was part of both the Free Black Radicals and the Occupy City Hall groups. His priorities are defunding the police, reforming ULURP and the land use process, and creating equitable and integrated schools.



New Kings Democrats has endorsed Brandon West in this race. District 39 is facing existential challenges in housing, education, and safety, and Brandon is the only candidate with specific policy ideas that will benefit all, especially those most left behind. He is a known voice of progressive leadership and ideals, and will build upon that expertise in the Council.

What stands out about his platform: Brandon wants to require a citywide comprehensive planning framework for development, de-center automobiles in planning decisions, and defund NYPD by at least \$3 billion. He also supports the unionization of City Council staff.

Where you can learn more:

westforcouncil.com

[@btwest](https://twitter.com/btwest)

Shahana Hanif

About the candidate: Shahana is the Director of Organizing and Community Engagement for current Council Member Brad Lander. She is from Kensington and has been an organizer in housing, the arts, and criminal justice reform. She wants to streamline access to healthcare and disability services, promote safe streets, and center civic engagement. Her campaign is rooted in feminist values. If elected, she would be the first Muslim woman and first South Asian person elected in NYC.



What stands out about her platform: Shahana is committed to protecting and empowering the Bangladeshi community through work on language justice, domestic violence, and drivers rights.

Where you can learn more:

shahanafrombk.com

[@ShahanaFromBK](https://twitter.com/ShahanaFromBK)

COUNCIL DISTRICT 39, continued

Mamnun Huq

About the candidate: Mamnun is a community health worker, Program Associate at NYU's School of Medicine, and former taxi driver. He is an immigrant, community leader, and an organizer with over 26 years of experience fighting for drivers rights and access to healthcare. He also plans to fight for equity in the form of language access, affordable housing, and support for small businesses.



What stands out about his platform: Mamnun's work as an organizer for taxi drivers and in community health informs his plans to support workers rights and advance access to healthcare.

Where you can learn more:

www.mamnunforcouncil.com

Justin Krebs

About the candidate: Justin is the National Director of Campaigns for MoveOn and is a founder of Living Liberally, a network of progressive social communities around the country. On a more local level, he has served on the Executive Board of the P.S. 39 Parent's Association and the District 15 Presidents Council, and was board president of the Cobble Hill Playschool. He does not have an extensive campaign platform.



What stands out about his platform: He is involved in the arts and theater community throughout the city, and has called for specific support for artists and performance venues during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Where you can learn more:

www.justin2021.org

[@justinmkrebs](https://www.instagram.com/justinmkrebs)

COUNCIL DISTRICT 39, continued

Briget Rein

About the candidate: Briget is a former NYC public school educator and a current UFT union organizer. She serves as a member of Community Board 6 and is concerned about the Gowanus rezoning effort's environmental impacts and effects on affordable housing and community input.



What stands out about her platform: Her years of experience as an NYC public school teacher give her a unique perspective on education. She has specific plans to build two new high schools in the district.

Where you can learn more:

www.brigetrein.com

[@briget4brooklyn](https://twitter.com/briget4brooklyn)

Doug Schneider

About the candidate: Doug is a civil rights attorney, criminal justice reform advocate, and Democratic District Leader for the 44th Assembly District. He has been involved in the community as a former Trustee of the Park Slope Civic Council and served on the District Committee for participatory budgeting. He authored a proposal to fix dangerous bike lanes and is committed to providing increased language access at the polls and in civic life. As District Leader, he has voted predominantly in alignment with reformers.



What stands out about his platform: Doug puts special emphasis on improving street safety and transportation, reducing dangerous crashes, and making sidewalks accessible for people with disabilities, senior citizens, and stroller users.

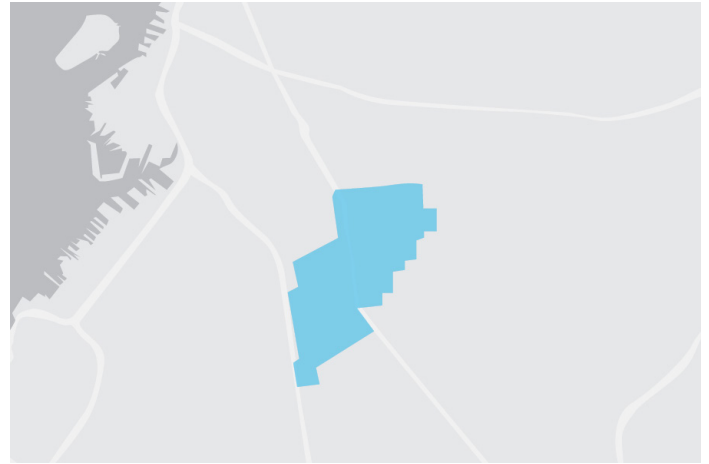
Where you can learn more:

dougschneiderbk.com

[@DougSchneiderBK](https://twitter.com/DougSchneiderBK)

COUNCIL DISTRICT 40

Council District 40 includes Crown Heights, East Flatbush, Flatbush, Kensington, Midwood, Prospect Park, and Prospect Lefferts Gardens. The current Council Member is Mathieu Eugene, who is term-limited and the longest-serving member of the Council (and running for Borough President). The district is majority Black, with a significant Caribbean-American population, though gentrification and other factors have caused those numbers to decrease. This is a crowded race, with a number of establishment supported candidates and political newcomers with activist and organizing backgrounds.



	Handy-Hilliard	Cortez	Eugene	Hines	Joseph	Lee	Morgan	Morris	Raymond	Pierre
Committed to free or accessible healthcare for all?	✓	X	X	X	✓	X	X	X	X	X
Has a plan for small-business rent relief during COVID?	✓	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X
Has a plan to reform the ULURP (land use) process?	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Committed to <i>not</i> taking money from real estate developers?	✓	X	X	X	✓	X	X	✓	X	X
Committed to <i>not</i> taking money from law enforcement agencies, foundations, or unions?	✓	X	X	X	✓	X	X	✓	X	X

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COUNCIL DISTRICT 40, continued

Kenya Handy-Hilliard

About the candidate: A native of Prospect Lefferts Gardens, Kenya believes the pandemic has exacerbated long-existing issues already affecting district residents. She is calling for an economic recovery plan that includes job creation, training, funding for innovation, and business development. She denounces structural racism in policing.



New Kings Democrats has endorsed Kenya Handy-Hilliard in this race. There is no question that District 40 has been left in the lurch by an absent Council Member and needs a new leader who can hit the ground running to make up for lost time. Kenya, with her government experience and grassroots organizing she has done in the district, is just that leader. Among a crowded field, she stands out as the candidate with the most breadth and depth in her policy platform, as well as someone will to learn from her constituents as she goes. This is our chance to take back District 40 from the machine, and Kenya is the candidate to do it.

What stands out about her platform: Kenya wants to increase transparency and opportunities for community participation through regularly scheduled forums, improved language access, culturally competent engagement, and community governing mechanisms like Participatory Budgeting.

Where you can learn more:

www.kenyaforthepeople.com

[@Kenya4ThePeople](https://twitter.com/Kenya4ThePeople)

Cecilia Cortez

About the candidate: Cecilia is a longtime resident of District 40, a 35-year public school special needs teacher, and a community activist. She wants to bring better senior centers, youth training programs, and after school programs to the community.



Where you can learn more:

ceciliacortez.com

[@CCortez4NYC2021](https://twitter.com/CCortez4NYC2021)

COUNCIL DISTRICT 40, continued

Maxi Eugene

About the candidate: Maxi is the brother of the term-limited incumbent Council Member, Mathieu Eugene. There is no searchable information about his platform.

Where you can learn more:

[@MaxiEugene1](#)



Harriet Hines

About the candidate: Harriet is a church administrator and advocate for people with disabilities. Her website provides general statements about policies she supports, but is limited in specificity. Policy areas include: accessibility, affordable housing, safety from predatory developers, and small business opportunity for all.

Where you can learn more:

www.hines2021.com

[@2021Hines](#)



Rita Joseph

About the candidate: Rita has been a public school teacher for 21 years at P.S. 6 in Flatbush, where she is currently the English as a Second Language coordinator. She immigrated from Haiti at a young age and was raised by her grandparents in Brooklyn. Rita supports the New York Health Act, which would make health care universally available in New York State. She has publicly stated she will not take campaign contributions from corporations, LLCs, law enforcement unions & organizations, real estate developers, or the fossil fuel industry.

What stands out about her platform: Rita wants to improve funding for our public education system via increased taxes for the super-rich, a pied-a-terre tax, and the reinvestment of a portion of the NYPD's budget into services that directly benefit students.

Where you can learn more:

www.ritajoseph.com

[@RitaJosephNYC](#)



COUNCIL DISTRICT 40, continued

Kenneth Lee

About the candidate: Kenneth is a student at Medgar Evers who is active in the local community. He is an advocate for Community Boards and making their membership more reflective of the community. He has raised less than \$1,000.



What stands out about his platform: He wants to get more teens to participate in politics and encourage them to run for Community Boards.

Where you can learn more:

www.kenneth4nyc.com

[@Ken4NYC](#)

Vivia Morgan

About the candidate: Vivia's plan for criminal justice reform is based around a motto of "Jobs Not Jail" and includes alternatives for incarceration and increasing communication and dialogue between police and the community. She is focused on preserving NYC's green spaces, ending elder abuse, and eradicating homelessness through the building of affordable housing.



What stands out about her platform: Vivia has a plan for youth empowerment through high tech training and apprenticeships.

Where you can learn more:

viviamorgan.com

[@ViviaMorgan](#)

COUNCIL DISTRICT 40, continued

Blake Morris

About the candidate: Blake is a practicing attorney who ran an unsuccessful campaign against State Senator Simcha Felder in 2018. He considers himself a progressive candidate fighting the machine and emphasizes affordable housing, expanded services for an aging population, and economic support for small businesses in his platform.



What stands out about his platform: Blake supports upzoning commercial streets and downzoning residential streets in the district.

Where you can learn more:

voteblake40.com

[@VoteBlake40](https://twitter.com/VoteBlake40)

Josue Pierre

About the candidate: Josue (Josh) is a District Leader in Assembly District 42, and cousin and co-District Leader to controversial Brooklyn Democratic Party Chair Rodneyse Bichotte. As District Leader, he has voted in alignment with the Party machine. Josh is a Haitian immigrant who grew up in Flatbush and the first of his family to graduate college. He lists among his priorities: affordable housing and “community-friendly zoning”, supportive resources for small businesses, and resources for education.



What stands out about his platform: Josh does not oppose real estate development but calls for hiring an urban planner to explain projects to constituents, including how they will be getting value added from the development.

Where you can learn more:

pierre2021.com

[@CitizenPierre](https://twitter.com/CitizenPierre)

COUNCIL DISTRICT 40, continued

Edwin Raymond

About the candidate: Edwin is a Lieutenant with the NYPD. In 2016, he was a plaintiff against his employer for the NYPD's mandating of officers to meet fixed numerical goals for arrests and court summonses (illegal quota-based policing). He is the child of Haitian immigrants, born and raised in East Flatbush. His platform calls for reducing the police budget and investing in public housing, healthcare, education, and more community resources. He also supports increasing civilian roles, reducing gun ownership, and an "end [to] the quota-based policing that lies at the root of almost everything racially discriminatory about policing in New York City."



Where you can learn more:

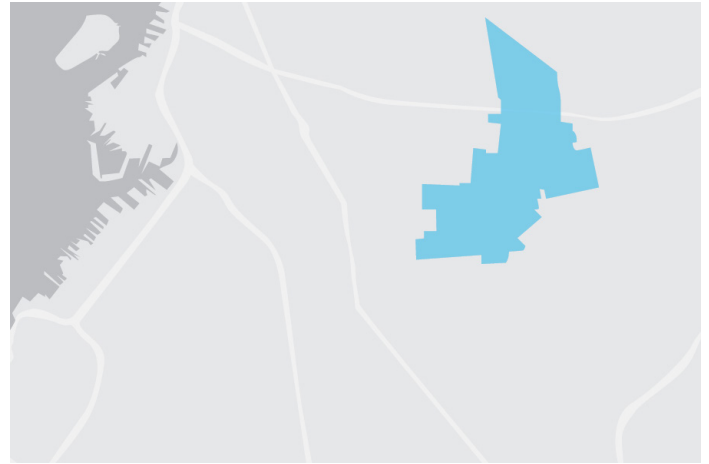
www.edwinraymond.com

[@EdwinRaymondNYC](https://twitter.com/EdwinRaymondNYC)

Another candidate, John Williams, filed but has limited information about his campaign available online and may no longer be in the race.

COUNCIL DISTRICT 41

Council District 41 consists of Bedford Stuyvesant, Brownsville, East Flatbush, and Ocean Hill. A major constituent issue in this district is finding affordable housing. Council Member Amprey-Samuel has been a strong housing advocate and protector of NYCHA resident housing rights.



Amprey-Samuel Mealy



Committed to free or accessible healthcare for all?

X

X

Has a plan for small-business rent relief during COVID?

X

X

Has a plan to reform the ULURP (land use) process?

X

X

Committed to *not* taking money from real estate developers?

X

X

Committed to *not* taking money from law enforcement agencies, foundations, or unions?

X

X

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COUNCIL DISTRICT 41, continued

Alicka Ampry-Samuel, *incumbent*

About the candidate: Alicka, the current Council Member, is Chair of the Committee on Public Housing. NKD previously endorsed the Council Member in her successful 2017 campaign. Her family has been in Brownsville since 1935, where she has been a community organizer and worked in state and city government. Her priorities have been protecting homeowners from being forced out of the community and supporting community development.



What stands out about her platform: Alicka has not published a campaign website or public materials but recently passed legislation to inform voters about Ranked Choice Voting, and proposed legislation to restrict discriminatory hiring practices. She has also been working to help seniors in her district obtain COVID vaccinations.

Where you can learn more:

[@AlickaASamuel41](https://twitter.com/AlickaASamuel41)

Darlene Mealy

About the candidate: Darlene represented the district as Council Member from 2006 to 2017 before being succeeded by current Council Member Ampry-Samuel. She serves as District Leader for Assembly District 55. She has not launched a public website or campaign but previously campaigned on the policy positions of affordable housing and jobs, funding for education, paid sick leave, and senior housing. Of her 9 tweets, 3 are retweets of the Brooklyn County Party or their staff.

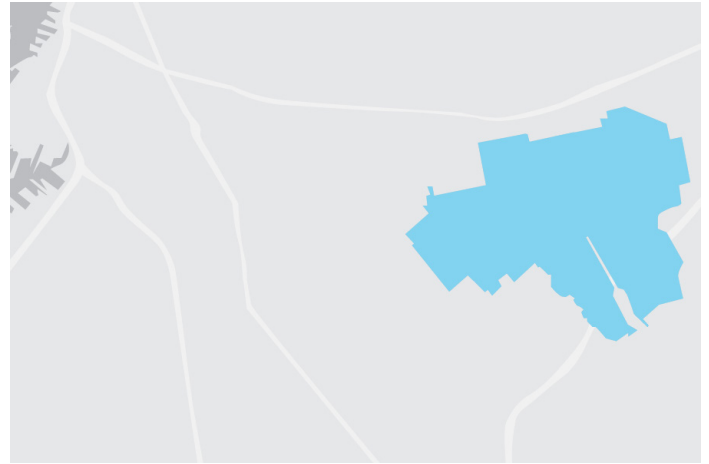


Where you can learn more:

[@DarleneMealy55](https://twitter.com/DarleneMealy55)

COUNCIL DISTRICT 42

Council District 42 covers East New York, New Lots, Remsen Village, and Spring Creek. The candidates will be running for an open seat to replace Council Member Inez Barron, who is term-limited. According to CouncilStat, the most-common constituent issue in 2018 in the district was “seeking an affordable housing/apartment.” This district is one of the most heavily Black and Latinx in the city.



Barron



Florentino



Lucas



Committed to free or accessible healthcare for all?	X	✓	X
Has a plan for small-business rent relief during COVID?	X	✓	✓
Has a plan to reform the ULURP (land use) process?	X	✓	X
Committed to <i>not</i> taking money from real estate developers?	X	✓	X
Committed to <i>not</i> taking money from law enforcement agencies, foundations, or unions?	?	✓	X

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COUNCIL DISTRICT 42, continued

Charles Barron

About the candidate: Longtime politician Charles Barron served as Council Member from 2001 to 2013. During his first 100 days in office, he sponsored nine pieces of legislation and co-sponsored 52 others, including the Living Wage Bill and the Predatory Lending Bill. He is a founding member of the East New York-based organization Operation P.O.W.E.R (People Organizing and Working for Empowerment and Respect). His wife, Inez, succeeded him from 2013 to 2021 in the Council. Following his term limit, he ran and won to serve as State Assembly Member for District 60. If he wins the Council seat in 2021, he and his wife will have collectively held it for 24 years.



What stands out about his platform: Charles has called for dismantling the NYPD while granting community control over police department personnel decisions. He called the statewide 2020 package of police reforms “a very pathetic response.”

Where you can learn more:

[unknown](#)

Wilfredo Florentino

About the candidate: Wilfredo is a founding member of NKD, a Senior Grants Manager at the NAACP, and the Chair of the Transportation Committee of Community Board 5. He spent five years as a project manager with the Empire State Development Corporation and two years as Press and Communications Liaison for the City Council. Wilfredo served in the military, where he rose to the rank of lieutenant in the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” era as a member of the LGBTQ+ community.



What stands out about his platform: Wilfredo calls for the immediate demilitarization of the NYPD to reinvest in community-based needs and holding law enforcement accountable through an Elected Civilian Review Board (“ECRB”) and revisions to contractual provisions that shield law enforcement from liability.

Where you can learn more:

wilfredoflorentino.com

[@wilfredobklyn](#)

COUNCIL DISTRICT 42, continued

Nikki Lucas

About the candidate: Nikki is an independent consultant and a longtime resident of the housing development Starrett City in East New York. She was previously District Leader in Assembly District 60 and has framed much of her political work as a challenge to the power the Barrons hold in this part of Brooklyn. Nikki also served on Community Board 5 and the East New York Neighborhood Advisory Board. She founded The People First Democratic Club and The People First Education Fund and hosts the Voices of East New York series on eastnewyork.com.



What stands out about her platform: Nikki's advocacy for seniors stands out as an element of both her healthcare and education plans.

Where you can learn more:

electnikkilucas.com

[@electnikkilucas](https://twitter.com/electnikkilucas)

Two other candidates have filed but have limited information about their campaign available online and may no longer be in the race: Marlon Powell and Gena Watson.

COUNCIL DISTRICT 43

Council District 43 is made up of Bay Ridge, Dyker Heights, Bensonhurst, and Bath Beach. Bay Ridge has a large Irish, Italian, and Greek constituency, and more recently a sizable Middle Eastern and Arab American community. Bath Beach is a diverse neighborhood that includes a growing Asian population that spans into Dyker Heights and Bensonhurst. Bensonhurst has the largest population of residents from China and Hong Kong in New York City.



Brannan



Committed to free or accessible healthcare for all?	X
Has a plan for small-business rent relief during COVID?	✓
Has a plan to reform the ULURP (land use) process?	X
Committed to <i>not</i> taking money from real estate developers?	X
Committed to <i>not</i> taking money from law enforcement agencies, foundations, or unions?	X

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COUNCIL DISTRICT 43, continued

Justin Brannan, *incumbent*

About the candidate: Justin was born and raised in Brooklyn. As a Council Member, he brought forward legislation to establish the Office of Animal Welfare, the first of its kind in the nation. He is currently pushing legislation that would prevent former politicians convicted of public corruption from running for office again. Although he sits on the Progressive Caucus, he has been reluctant to take up particularly progressive or reform-oriented issues; for example, Justin voted “Yes” on the current budget, which did not defund the NYPD in meaningful ways.



What stands out about his platform: The Council Member has not published a discrete standalone platform for his reelection campaign. He is running unopposed.

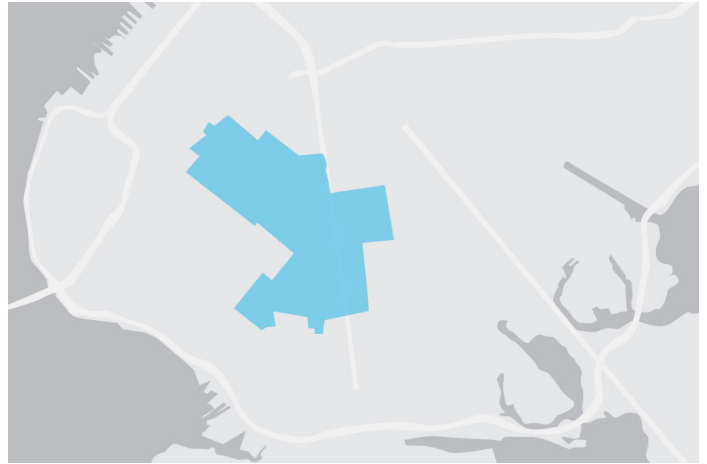
Where you can learn more:

justinbrannan.com

[@JustinBrannan](https://twitter.com/JustinBrannan)

COUNCIL DISTRICT 44

Council District 44 encompasses Bensonhurst, Borough Park, Midwood, and Ocean Parkway. Borough Park is home to one of the largest Orthodox Jewish communities in the country.



Yeger



Committed to free or accessible healthcare for all?

X

Has a plan for small-business rent relief during COVID?

✓

Has a plan to reform the ULURP (land use) process?

X

Committed to *not* taking money from real estate developers?

X

Committed to *not* taking money from law enforcement agencies, foundations, or unions?

X

The information in the chart above is based on publicly available information. Where we have noted “yes” or “no” to a candidate’s commitments, “no” may also indicate that the candidate’s position is unknown or unavailable to the public.

COUNCIL DISTRICT 44, continued

Kalman Yeger, *incumbent*

About the candidate: Kalman is a graduate of New York Law School. He previously worked for former District 44 Council Member David G. Greenfield. He serves on numerous committees, including Committee on Oversight and Investigations, but was removed from the Immigration committee for insisting “Palestine does not exist.”



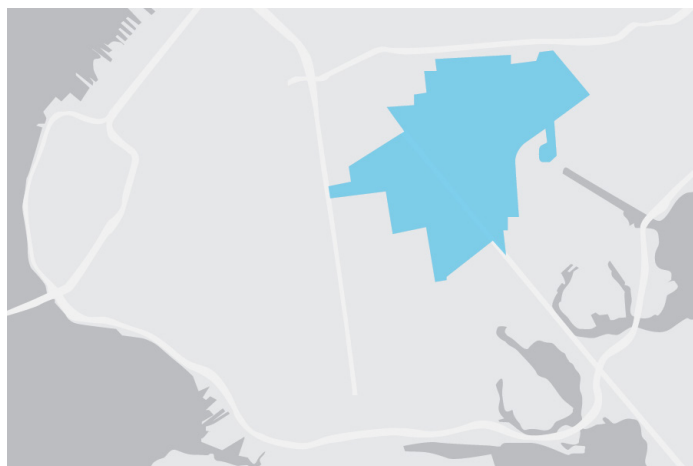
What stands out about his platform: Council Member Yeger is in favor of keeping the Rikers Island jail open and is against cuts to the NYPD.





Where you can learn more:

[@KalmanYeger](https://twitter.com/KalmanYeger)

COUNCIL DISTRICT 45

Council District 45 comprises Flatbush, East Flatbush, Midwood, Marine Park, Flatlands, and Kensington. Though less crowded than the special election race in 2019, a number of the same candidates are reappearing in this race for the Council seat. All candidates have a significant uphill battle against incumbent Council Member Farah Louis.



	Beckford	Cespedes	Joseph	Louis
				
Committed to free or accessible healthcare for all?	✓	✓	✓	X
Has a plan for small-business rent relief during COVID?	✓	X	X	X
Has a plan to reform the ULURP (land use) process?	✓	✓	X	X
Committed to <i>not</i> taking money from real estate developers?	✓	X	X	X
Committed to <i>not</i> taking money from law enforcement agencies, foundations, or unions?	✓	X	X	X

The information in the chart above is based on publicly available information. Where we have noted “yes” or “no” to a candidate’s commitments, “no” may also indicate that the candidate’s position is unknown or unavailable to the public.

COUNCIL DISTRICT 45, continued

Anthony Beckford

About the candidate: Anthony is a U.S. Marine Corps veteran, participates in a large number of community organizations, and is the President and Co-Founder of Black Lives Matter Brooklyn. He has taken the New York Health Act pledge and the Green New Deal for NYC pledge.



What stands out about his platform: He has a plan to tax the rich and use that revenue to “fix NYCHA” and make CUNY tuition-free.

Where you can learn more:

www.anthonybeckford.com

[@Vote4Beckford](https://twitter.com/Vote4Beckford)

Lou Cespedes

About the candidate: Lou is an architect who has worked on building projects around the city. He is focused on fighting upzoning efforts in East Flatbush.



Where you can learn more:

www.loufor45.com

[@LouforFlatbush](https://twitter.com/LouforFlatbush)

COUNCIL DISTRICT 45, continued

Cyril Joseph

About the candidate: Cyril is a community activist who worked blue-collar jobs most of his life and has served as a director and board member of several non-profits in his retirement. He is running on a platform of job creation, affordable housing, and criminal and immigrant justice reform. Much of his plans involve the use of tax credits, including offering them to landlords who reduce rent on individuals and small businesses.



What stands out about his platform: He wants to offer local businesses tax credits for hiring graduates of local vocational training centers.

Where you can learn more:

cyrilforcitycouncil.com

Farah Louis, *incumbent*

About the candidate: Farah is the current Council Member for the district. She joined the Council after winning a special election in 2019 when Jumaane Williams vacated his seat to become Public Advocate. She worked as a staffer in Williams' office for six years prior to joining the Council, but Williams did not endorse her, instead endorsing her opponent. She was endorsed by the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association when she ran in 2019 and voted "Yes" on the current budget, which did not defund the NYPD in meaningful ways.



What stands out about her platform: Farah has not made an online presence part of her reelection campaign. Her website does not list any specific things she wants to accomplish if re-elected and still maintains much of the text from when she was first elected in 2019.

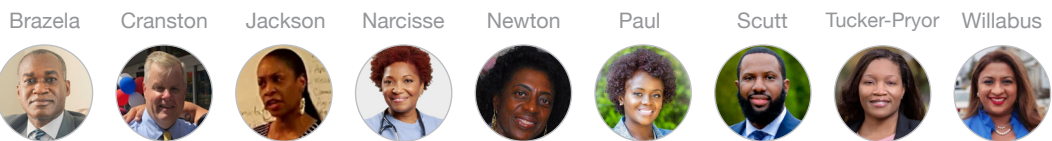
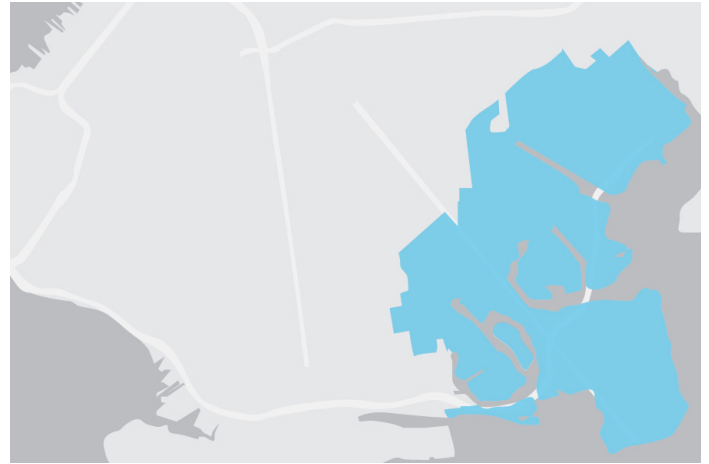
Where you can learn more:

farahlouis.com

[@CMFarahLouis](https://twitter.com/CMFarahLouis)

COUNCIL DISTRICT 46

Council District 46 covers Bergen Beach, Canarsie, Flatlands, Georgetown, Gerritsen Beach, Marine Park, Mill Basin, Mill Island, and Sheepshead Bay. It is currently represented by Alan N. Maisel, who is term-limited. This is a packed race with many candidates having longstanding ties to the local politicians, the party machine, and/or NYPD and other correctional agencies.



	Brazela	Cranston	Jackson	Narcisse	Newton	Paul	Scutt	Tucker-Pryor	Willabus
Committed to free or accessible healthcare for all?	X	X	√	X	X	√	√	X	X
Has a plan for small-business rent relief during COVID?	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Has a plan to reform the ULURP (land use) process?	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Committed to <i>not</i> taking money from real estate developers?	X	X	X	X	X	√	X	X	X
Committed to <i>not</i> taking money from law enforcement agencies, foundations, or unions?	X	X	X	X	X	√	X	X	X

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COUNCIL DISTRICT 46, continued

Gardy Brazela

About the candidate: Brazela has a long-term involvement in the community: he is the Chair of Community Board 18 and president of the 69th Precinct Community Council. He's stated his opposition to bike lanes, and has a close relationship with the NYPD. He seems committed to affordable housing, including a reform of AMI.



What stands out about his platform: He hopes to continue the legacy of Council Member Maisel.

Where you can learn more:

www.gardybrazela.com

[@ggbrazela](https://twitter.com/ggbrazela)

Donald Cranston

About the candidate: Donald is a business person with family connections to the Department of Corrections and the NYPD. Donald was previously in constituent services for State Senator Marty Golden, the problematic conservative politician who was ousted by Andrew Gounardes after decades in office.



What stands out about his platform: He has suggested increasing a visible police presence in underserved areas to decrease gun violence.

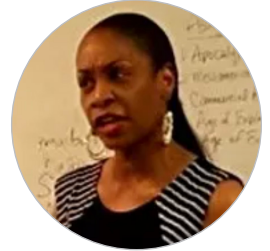
Where you can learn more:

friendsofdjc.com

COUNCIL DISTRICT 46, continued

Zuri Jackson

About the candidate: Zuri is an educator who demonstrates an understanding of the structures and current campaigns for reform. She has voiced support for transit and safer streets for pedestrians & cyclists. She has a detailed platform for universal healthcare, affordable housing, criminal justice reform, climate justice, and more. To date, she has raised just over \$1,000.



What stands out about her platform: Zuri's platform is progressive and notably thorough.

Where you can learn more:

www.zurivoiceofthepeople.com

[@zuri4N](https://twitter.com/zuri4N)

Mercedes Narcisse

About the candidate: Mercedes is a community activist, single mother of four, registered nurse, business consultant, and youth and teen counselor. Her platform includes a desire to redirect funds from the NYPD to fund mental health and education. It also mentions housing, climate justice, and immigrant justice.



Where you can learn more:

www.mercedesfornyc.com

[@MercedesforNYC](https://twitter.com/MercedesforNYC)

COUNCIL DISTRICT 46, continued

Judy Newton

About the candidate: Judy's website lists a long history of public service as a (now retired) detective with the NYPD, on the education committee of Community Board 18, and through charitable work. However, her website doesn't have any details on her platform. She is a member of the Thomas Jefferson Democratic Club, which is a club associated with the Party machine.



What stands out about her platform: She appears to be most focused on families and the concerns of homeowners.

Where you can learn more:

www.newton2021.com

[@judynewton2021](https://twitter.com/judynewton2021)

Shirley Paul

About the candidate: Shirley is an attorney and has worked for many political figures, including former Party Boss Frank Seddio and President Joe Biden, and at the NY Supreme Court and the Governor's office. Her housing platform focuses on protecting homeowners, but makes no mention of improving public housing or housing affordability. She plans to fight for more MTA funding to improve bus service.



What stands out about her platform: Her platform is much narrower than those of other candidates in this district.

Where you can learn more:

shirleypaulny.com

[@SP_ESQ](https://twitter.com/SP_ESQ)

COUNCIL DISTRICT 46, continued

Stanley Scutt

About the candidate: Stanley is an Advocate Intervene Mentor with the NYC Department of Probation. He lists many ambitious changes on his platform, including universal basic income, universal healthcare, tuition-free colleges, ending cash bail, and affordable housing reforms.



Where you can learn more:

www.stanleyscutt.com

[@StanleyScutt46](https://twitter.com/StanleyScutt46)

Tiffany Tucker-Pryor

About the candidate: Tiffany describes herself as a public servant and activist, having worked in both the Kings County District Attorney's office and the Manhattan DA's office. Her platform includes bringing affordable housing to the neighborhood, increasing funding for city hospitals, and improving public transit. The endorsements Tiffany has listed on her website are all from religious figures.



Where you can learn more:

www.tiffanypryor.com

[@WinWithTiffany](https://twitter.com/WinWithTiffany)

COUNCIL DISTRICT 46, continued

Dimple Willabus

About the candidate: Dimple is a small business owner, the former President of the District 22 Community Education Council, and a member of several local organizations. She has a detailed platform that includes quality healthcare being available to all residents, additional funding for CUNY, increasing funding for repairs to NYCHA, expanding Citibike and Ferry to the district, and investing in green infrastructure. She calls for increased transparency into decisions that impact the neighborhood, and ending machine politics.



What stands out about her platform: Her platform is detailed and includes specific plans, including some fairly progressive goals.

Where you can learn more:

www.dimplewillabus.com

[@DimpleWillabus](https://twitter.com/DimpleWillabus)

Another candidate has filed but has limited information about their campaign available online and may no longer be in the race, Nicholas Sterlacci.

COUNCIL DISTRICT 47

Council District 47 comprises Bensonhurst, Coney Island, Gravesend, and Sea Gate. It is a commercial waterfront district that never fully recovered from Hurricane Sandy and has confronted further challenges due to COVID-19. It is also facing significant development of large apartment towers across the peninsula. The current Council Member is Mark Treyger, who is term-limited.



	Brook-Krasny	Kagan	Packer	Patzer
Committed to free or accessible healthcare for all?	X	X	X	X
Has a plan for small-business rent relief during COVID?	X	X	X	X
Has a plan to reform the ULURP (land use) process?	X	X	X	X
Committed to <i>not</i> taking money from real estate developers?	X	X	X	√
Committed to <i>not</i> taking money from law enforcement agencies, foundations, or unions?	X	X	X	X

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COUNCIL DISTRICT 47, continued

Alec Brook-Krasny

About the candidate: Alec served as Assembly Member for district 46 from 2006 to 2015. He left for a high-paying private sector job and was arrested for healthcare fraud in 2017, though the remaining charges were dropped when he was acquitted of five of them. Due to his history, he is campaigning for a justice system that is “equal and bent toward compassion for all it serves.”



What stands out about his platform: Distinct from the issues that make up his platform, Alec published a letter on his campaign website entitled “Why we cannot defund the police.”

Where you can learn more:

brook-krasny2021.com

[@AlecBrookKrasny](https://twitter.com/AlecBrookKrasny)

Ari Kagan

About the candidate: Ari is the Director of Operations for Mark Treyger, the current Council Member (who has formally endorsed him), and is the male Democratic District Leader for Assembly District 45. He formerly worked as a community liaison for Congressman Michael McMahon, Comptroller John Liu, and Comptroller Scott Stringer. He has run for elected office twice before, narrowly losing in races to Alec Brook-Krasny for Assembly District 46 and Chaim Deutsch for City Council district 48. His campaign emphasizes his significant record of community service and prioritizes health care reform and small business support. Ari typically votes with the Brooklyn machine as a District Leader.



What stands out about his platform: He has a significant transportation platform, advocating for more accessible subway stations, an express bus from Midtown Manhattan to Warbasse Houses (and a shuttle from there to Coney Island), and expansion of ferry service (but only after environmental clean-up).

Where you can learn more:

www.ariforcouncil.com

[@Kagan4Council](https://twitter.com/Kagan4Council)

COUNCIL DISTRICT 47, continued

Joseph Packer

About the candidate: Joe is a longtime Coney Island resident who has worked on Wall Street and been a social worker, housing manager, teacher, and educational administrator. He has organized and/or founded several community organizations, been a community advocate, and was an aide to previous Council Member Domenic Recchia. He has an impressive list of community issues for which he has advocated—and an impressive selection of campaign merchandise for sale.



What stands out about his platform: He wants to build a new zoned junior high school in the west end of the district, with a curriculum that includes financial literacy and etiquette.

Where you can learn more:

joepacker2021.com

[@2021Packer](https://twitter.com/2021Packer)

Steven Patzer

About the candidate: Steven is a recent graduate of Kingsborough Community College, where he was student body president and later served on their Auxiliary Board of Directors. He worked at the Simon Wiesenthal Center advocating for legislation against hate crimes and giving anti-bullying presentations to schools. He has organized job fairs and job boards as well as community policing initiatives. Steven's campaign emphasizes sustainable economic development, transportation, public safety, and access to quality education.



What stands out about her platform: He is a strong advocate for CUNY and, in addition to wanting to decrease its costs, he wants to give the city (rather than the state) oversight of the system.

Where you can learn more:

stevenpatzer.com







[@StevenDPatzer](https://twitter.com/StevenDPatzer)

Another candidate has filed but has limited information about their campaign available online and may no longer be in the race, Winton Tran.

COUNCIL DISTRICT 48

Council District 48 includes the neighborhoods of Brighton Beach, Manhattan Beach, Sheepshead Bay, Homecrest, and Midwood and the housing developments Trump Village, Luna Park, and Brightwater Towers. It has the city's largest concentration of Russian speakers along with a significant (and partially overlapping) Orthodox Jewish population. The incumbent is Chaim Deutsch, who is term-limited.



	Adler	Bendet	Markh	Noble	Saperstein	Tischler
						
Committed to free or accessible healthcare for all?	X	X	X	✓	X	X
Has a plan for small-business rent relief during COVID?	X	X	X	X	X	X
Has a plan to reform the ULURP (land use) process?	X	X	X	X	X	X
Committed to <i>not</i> taking money from real estate developers?	X	X	X	X	X	X
Committed to <i>not</i> taking money from law enforcement agencies, foundations, or unions?	X	X	X	X	X	X

The information in the chart above is based on publicly available information. Where we have noted “yes” or “no” to a candidate’s commitments, “no” may also indicate that the candidate’s position is unknown or unavailable to the public.

COUNCIL DISTRICT 48, continued

Amber Adler

About the candidate: Amber is the Founder and CEO of Our Life Inc. She is the Chair of Neighborhood Advisory Board 15. She works on mutual aid efforts in the district and is a member of the Orthodox community.



What stands out about her platform: Amber highlights her childcare platform in advocating for universal pre-k as well as expanded 3-k, after school childcare, and Summer Youth Employment opportunities.

Where you can learn more:

amberadler.com

[@AmberAdlerNYC](https://twitter.com/AmberAdlerNYC)

Binyomin Bendet

About the candidate: Binyomin is a litigation attorney and a member of the 41st Assembly District Democrats Club. He told Hamodia that as a member of the Kings County Democratic Committee, he is “fighting the influence of the progressive Democrats” who “are trying to take over the Committee.” Binyomin has raised less than \$1,000.



Where you can learn more:

www.bendet2021.com

[@binyominbendet](https://twitter.com/binyominbendet)

Mariya Markh

About the candidate: Mariya works in the Mayor’s Office. Her campaign focuses on increasing access to funding for small business, health centers, and senior and community centers. She previously worked for Council Members Lew Fidler, Chaim Deutsch, and Alan Maisel. Former Party boss Frank Seddio has endorsed her campaign, and she is one of the two candidates most likely to receive Party support in her campaign.



Where you can learn more:

www.markh2021.com

[@BrooklynMariya](https://twitter.com/BrooklynMariya)

COUNCIL DISTRICT 48, continued

Boris Noble

About the candidate: Boris works at the NYC Human Rights Administration. His campaign is focused on public safety, tenant and shareholder rights, property tax reform, and storm infrastructure. Boris has been endorsed by several labor organizations. He worked on Party leader Rodneyse Bichotte's campaign and may receive her support.



Where you can learn more:

www.nobleforcouncil.com

[@NobleForCouncil](https://twitter.com/NobleForCouncil)

Steven Saperstein

About the candidate: Steven is the co-founder of The Shorefront Coalition. He wants to increase constituent access to services.



What stands out about his platform: He wants to cap property taxes at 2%.

Where you can learn more:

www.stevesaperstein.com

[@SteveSaperstein](https://twitter.com/SteveSaperstein)

Harold Tischler

About the candidate: Harold is a radio show host. He thinks the city is over-regulated and has proposed merging agencies such as Sanitation, Buildings, and Transportation. Heshy thinks the Council should be repealing laws, not creating them. He has been outspoken about COVID-19 restrictions, appearing without a mask in public, and said the NYC Health and Hospitals numbers are a "piece of garbage." In his words: "Heshy strongly supports President Trump and his Law and Order program."



What stands out about his platform: He's a racist demagogue.

Where you can learn more:

<https://heshytischler.com> (but we don't recommend it)

A FEW FINAL NOTES

For each City Council District candidate, we completed the “yes”/”no” chart based on publicly available information. Where we have noted “yes” or “no” to a candidate’s commitments, “no” may also indicate that the candidate’s position is unknown or unavailable to the public.

For the question “Committed to free or accessible healthcare for all?”, we noted a “yes” if a candidate has publicly stated support for accessible healthcare for all, universal healthcare, or the New York Health Act.

For the question “Has a plan for small-business rent relief during COVID?”, we noted a “yes” if a candidate has an explicit, detailed plan for how to get small businesses rent relief during or as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

For the question “Has a plan to reform the ULURP (land use) process?”, we noted a “yes” if a candidate addressed problems with the ULURP or land use process and outlined specific ways they would address this in the Council.

For the question “Committed to not taking money from real estate developers?” and “Committed to not taking money from law enforcement agencies, foundations, or unions?”, we noted a “yes” if a candidate has explicitly stated that they have not and will not take money from the parties noted.