



VOTER GUIDE: CITY COUNCIL

District 34

Primary Day: June 22, 2021

About this Voter Guide

New Kings Democrats (“NKD”) developed a 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. **This PDF includes just City Council District 34.**

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.

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 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

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 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)