



VOTER GUIDE: CITY COUNCIL

District 36

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 36.**

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.

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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.

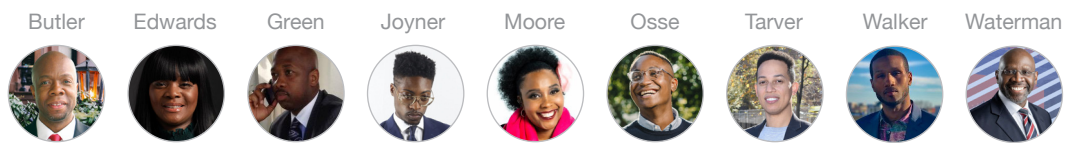
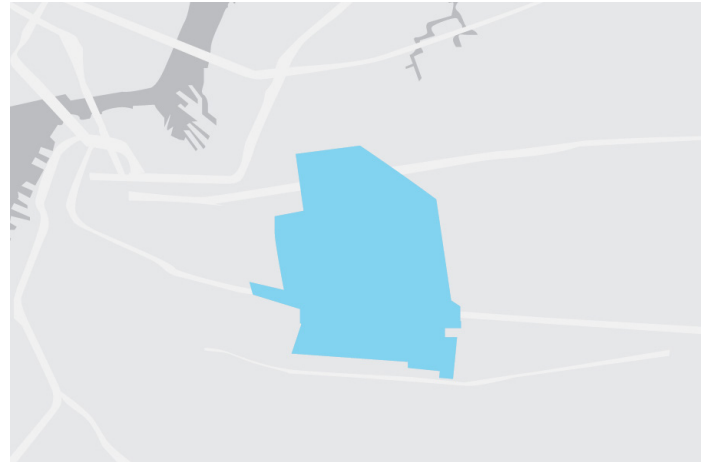
In Brooklyn, where most races will be won by Democrats, the Primary election is the real election for these local positions—**so it is very important that you are registered as a Democrat and can vote this June**. You can register by mail, online, or in person prior to May 28 and still be eligible to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



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 *not* taking money from real estate developers?

X X X X X ✓ X X X

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

X X 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 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.tahirahmoore.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 AML, 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)

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.