



# VOTER GUIDE: CITY COUNCIL

**District 37**

*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 37.**

### *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](mailto: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](https://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](https://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
<b>Candidate A</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Candidate B</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Candidate C</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
<b>Candidate D</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Candidate E</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



	1	2	3	4	5
<b>Candidate A</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Candidate B</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Candidate C</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Candidate D</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
<b>Candidate E</b>	<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](http://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.

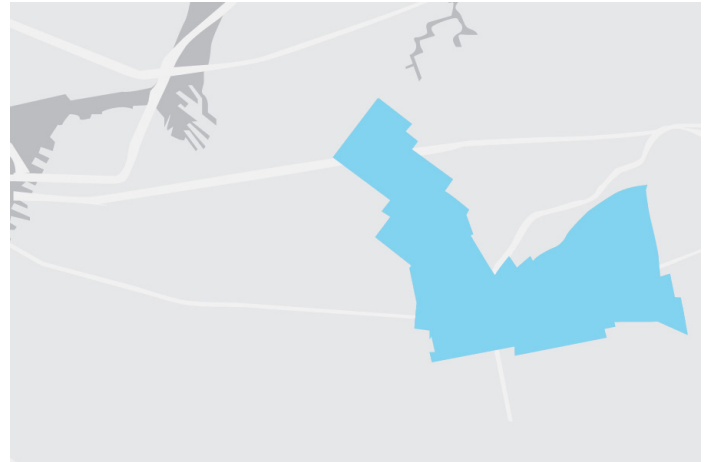
In Brooklyn, where most races will be won by Democrats, the Primary election is the real election for these local positions—**so it is very important that you are registered as a Democrat and can vote this June**. You can register by mail, online, or in person prior to May 28 and still be eligible to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

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 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](http://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](http://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](https://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](https://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 Durosinmi, Randolph Ferdinand, and Heriberto Mateo.

## 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.*