



VOTER GUIDE: CITY COUNCIL

District 38

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 38.**

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.

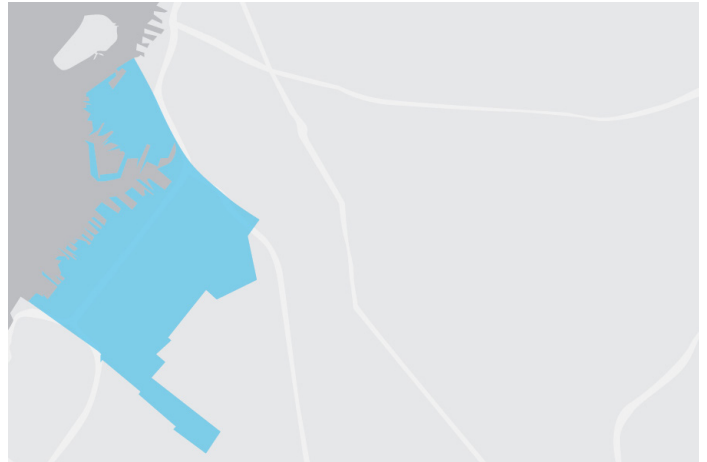
In Brooklyn, where most races will be won by Democrats, the Primary election is the real election for these local positions—**so it is very important that you are registered as a Democrat and can vote this June**. You can register by mail, online, or in person prior to May 28 and still be eligible to 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 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 *not* taking money from real estate developers?

√

√

X

√

X

Committed to *not* 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://www.instagram.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.

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.