



VOTER GUIDE: CITY COUNCIL

District 39

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 39.**

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"/>				
Candidate B	<input type="radio"/>				
Candidate C	<input type="radio"/>				
Candidate D	<input checked="" type="radio"/>				
Candidate E	<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.

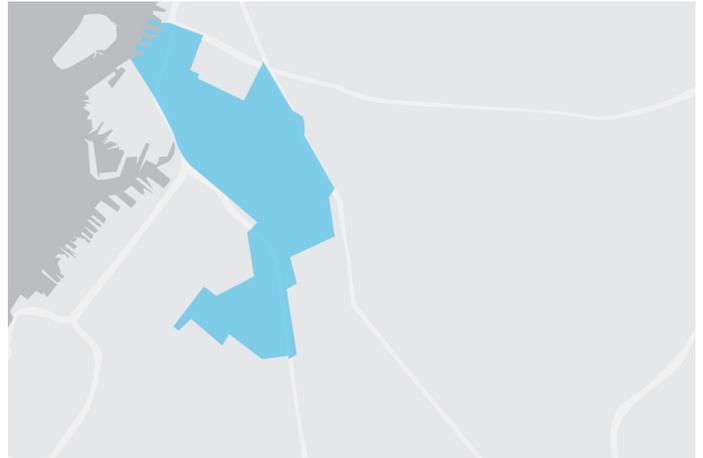
In Brooklyn, where most races will be won by Democrats, the Primary election is the real election for these local positions—**so it is very important that you are registered as a Democrat and can vote this June**. You can register by mail, online, or in person prior to May 28 and still be eligible to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

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 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://twitter.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)

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.