

**STATE SENATE  
CONGRESS  
HOW TO VOTE**

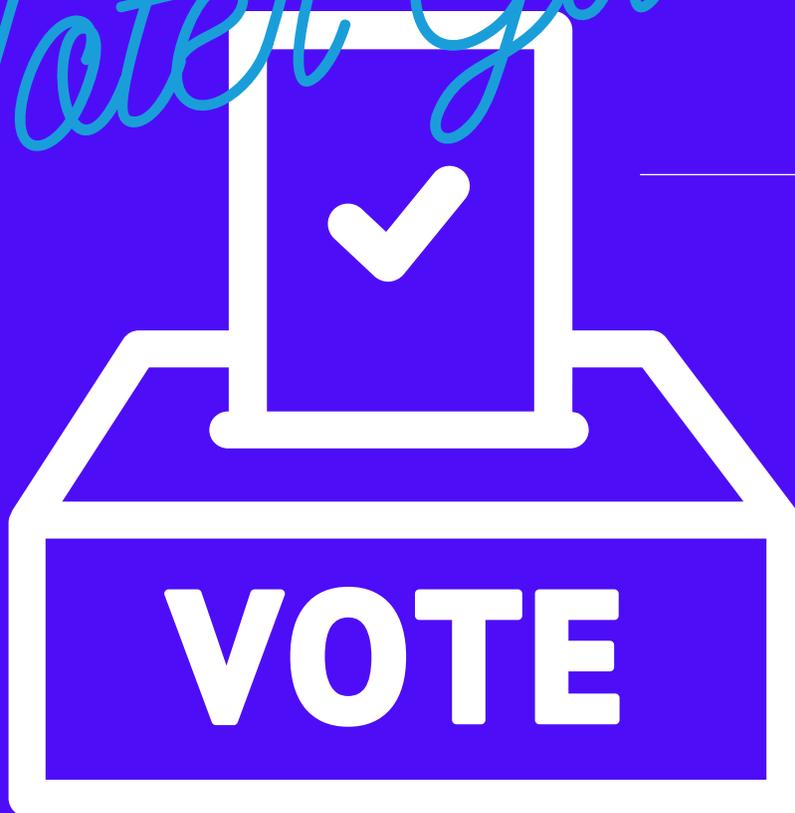
*Voter Guide*

Does my vote matter?

What does a State Senator do?

Which candidates are on my ballot?

Where do I vote?



## VOTER GUIDE: AUGUST 2022 PRIMARY RACES

### CONGRESSIONAL AND STATE SENATE RACES

**Primary Day:** August 23, 2022

**Early Voting:** August 13 to August 21

## ABOUT THIS VOTER GUIDE

New Kings Democrats (NKD) developed this voter guide to help inform Brooklynites about candidates who may be on their ballot in the August 2022 Democratic Primary, including candidates for Congress and State Senate. As of the publishing of this document, NKD is not planning to endorse in any of the races listed here, and nothing in this document should be construed as an official endorsement by the club.

### *Didn't I just vote in June? Why is there another primary in August?*

The NY Primary for State Senate and U.S. Congress is on August 23 this year, with early voting from August 13 to August 21. We're having a second primary because the maps drawn by the NY legislature were thrown out by the State Court of Appeals in April 2022 and redrawn by a Special Master appointed by the Court. New districts required additional time for candidates to petition to be on the ballot, so the primary for State Senate and Congress was pushed to August 23 while primaries for Governor, Assembly and party offices like District Leader and County Committee remained in June.

### *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.

Please e-mail [politics@newkingsdemocrats.com](mailto:politics@newkingsdemocrats.com) to learn more about our work and to get involved.

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## HOW TO VOTE

### CONFIRM YOUR VOTER ELIGIBILITY AND WHERE TO VOTE

You must be registered as a Democrat to vote in the August 23 Democratic primary. Confirm if you are registered to vote and your party affiliation, if any, at [www.nycvotersearch.com](http://www.nycvotersearch.com). If you are registered to vote, results will include your Congressional District and State Senate District. You can confirm your polling location by clicking “Poll Site Information” in the top-right corner of the screen. Go to [findmypollsite.vote.nyc](http://findmypollsite.vote.nyc) to view a sample ballot and your poll site locations and hours.

In Brooklyn, where many races will be won by Democrats, the Primary election on August 23 is a crucial election for state and federal positions – so it is very important that you are registered as a Democrat and vote AGAIN even though you just voted in June.

For this election ONLY, due to the court ruling, [you can switch your party affiliation](#) to Democrat at any time — including on Election Day — and participate in this primary. You can change your party affiliation by [submitting a voter registration form](#), but since this can take weeks to process you will probably need to vote via affidavit ballot at your poll site if they don't have your Democratic registration on file. It is always your right to vote by affidavit ballot and your vote will count if you fill out the form accurately.

### IMPORTANT DATES TO NOTE

- July 29 - was the deadline to [register to vote](#) in the August 23 Primary Election
- August 3 - was the deadline for change of address to be received
- August 8 - deadline to request an [absentee ballot](#) for Primary Election
- August 13-21 - early voting period
- August 22 - last day to apply IN PERSON for an absentee ballot
- August 23 - Primary Election and last day to postmark your absentee ballot, or deliver to Brooklyn Board of Elections (345 Adams Street) or your local polling site

**A quick note about absentee ballots:** Due to a change in NYS law, if you order an absentee ballot, you must either vote using your absentee ballot OR fill out an affidavit ballot at a poll site. *You can no longer decide to vote in person using a regular ballot once you have applied for an absentee one; instead, you must fill out and send in the absentee ballot.*

## STATE SENATE DISTRICT 23

The 23rd Senate District encompasses Coney Island and the North Shore of Staten Island.

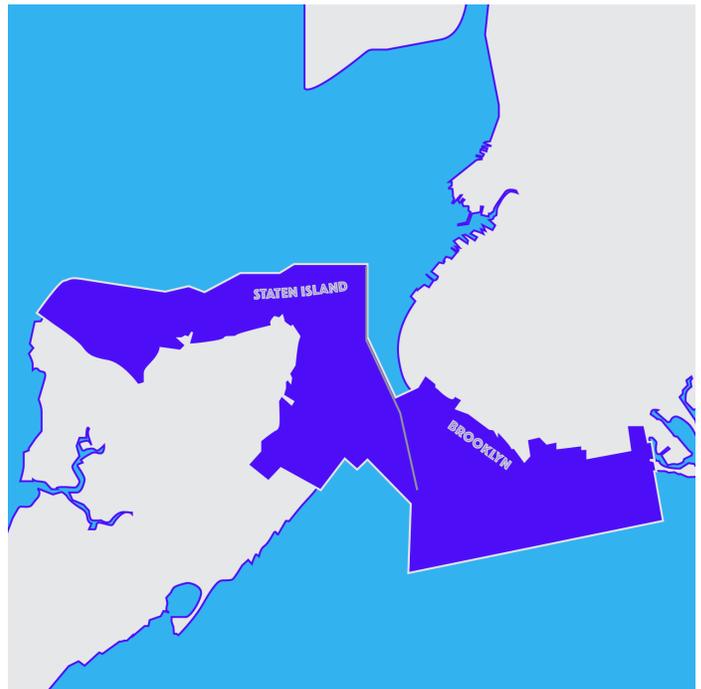
### BIANCA RAJPERSAUD



**About the candidate:**

Bianca Rajpersaud is a District Leader for Staten Island’s 63rd Assembly District and President of the North Shore Democratic Club. She is a first-

generation Afro-Latina/West Indian American. Rajpersaud is a registered lobbyist and works in government relations for the firm Davidoff Hutcher & Citron LLP.



**What stands out about their platform or candidacy:** Her platform centers the recovery from Covid-19.

**Where you can learn more:**

- [www.biancaforsenate.com](http://www.biancaforsenate.com)

**Key endorsements:**

- Assembly Member Steve Stern
- Assembly Member Inez Dickens
- Assembly Member Daniel O’Donnell
- Assembly Member Charles Fall

**Claims to refuse donations from:**

- Real estate developers
- Corporate interests
- Fossil fuel interests
- Lobbyists
- ✓ Unknown

## STATE SENATE DISTRICT 23, continued

### JESSICA SCARCELLA-SPANTON



**About the candidate:** Jessica Scarcella-Spanton is a government affairs representative with the MTA, and is the former Chief of Staff to Diane Savino, who held the seat and is now endorsing Scarcella-Spanton.

**What stands out about their platform:** Scarcella-Spanton centers fighting for safer and more affordable communities in her platform. Universal childcare is a top priority.

**Where you can learn more:**

- [www.jessicafornewyork.com](http://www.jessicafornewyork.com)

**Key Endorsements:**

- Max Rose
- Former Council Member Mark Treyger
- UFT
- 1199 SEIU

**Claims to refuse donations from:**

Real estate developers

Corporate interests

Fossil fuel interests

Lobbyists

✓ Unknown

### SARAH BLAS



**About the candidate:** Sarah Blas is a lifelong New Yorker. She is the Director of Equity and Inclusion for Staten Island Women Who March, Director of Health for House of Community Baituljamaat, and an elected member of the Community Education Council for District 31.

**What stands out about their platform:** Sarah is the most progressive, reform-oriented candidate in the race. She is a mother of six children, four of whom have special needs. As a result, Sarah is committed to politics that center everyday people, including language justice, more healthcare facilities, safe and affordable housing, and access to open spaces.

**Where you can learn more:**

- [sarahblasforsenate.com](http://sarahblasforsenate.com)

## STATE SENATE DISTRICT 23, continued

### SARAH BLAS, continued

#### Key Endorsements:

- Working Families Party
- Former Candidate for Lieutenant Governor, Ana Maria Archila
- Assembly Member Mathylde Frontus
- 504 Democrats
- New York Immigrant Coalition
- Muslim Democrats of New York
- Jim Owles Liberal Democratic Club

#### Claims to refuse donations from:

- ✓ Real estate developers
- ✓ Corporate interests
- ✓ Fossil fuel interests
- ✓ Lobbyists
- Unknown

### RAJIV GOWDA



**About the candidate:** Rajiv Gowda is an engineer and retired public servant. He was born in India, lived briefly in Brooklyn, and has spent the rest of his life on the North Shore of Staten Island.

**What stands out about their platform, if anything:** Gowda highlights infrastructure as his top priority.

#### Where you can learn more:

- [www.gowda4senate.com](http://www.gowda4senate.com)

#### Key Endorsements:

- New American Democratic Club Inc.

#### Claims to refuse donations from:

- Real estate developers
- ✓ Corporate interests
- Fossil fuel interests
- Lobbyists
- Unknown