

GENERAL ELECTION
BALLOT MEASURES
HOW TO VOTE

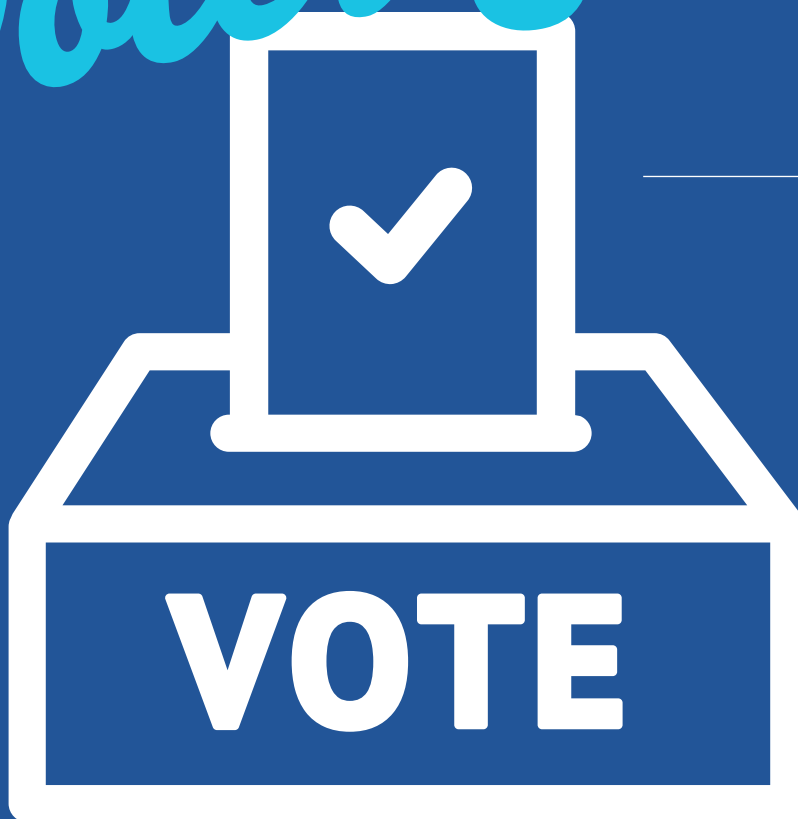
Voter Guide

Does my vote
matter?

What does a
State Senator
do?

Which
candidates are
on my ballot?

Where do I vote?



VOTER GUIDE: NOVEMBER 2022 GENERAL ELECTION

NOVEMBER 8, 2022

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 November 2022 General Election. 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, though we do encourage you to vote for Democrats in this and every General Election.

Didn't I just vote in June AND in August? What's happening now?

August and June were Primary Elections, where voters decided who would be on the Democratic Party line in the General Election. The November election will determine who is actually elected for these seats.

Here's what's on the ballot – and in this guide:

- Key Dates / [3](#)
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KEY DATES

- Early Voting begins: Saturday, October 29, 2022
- Last day of Early Voting: Sunday, November 6, 2022
- Deadline to request absentee ballot: November 7 (in person at Board of Elections office, 345 Adams Street)
- General Election Day: Tuesday, November 8, 2022, 6:00 AM - 9:00 PM (also the last day to postmark your absentee ballot or drop it off at a poll site)

HOW TO VOTE

Confirm your voter eligibility and where to vote: Confirm if you are registered to vote and your Party affiliation, if any, at www.nycvotersearch.com. You can confirm your polling location by clicking “Poll Site Information” in the top-right corner of the screen. Go to findmypollsite.vote.nyc to view a sample ballot and your poll site locations and hours.

Vote by mail: New Yorkers could request an absentee ballot to vote by mail by October 24. If you requested and received your absentee ballot, you should vote that way. If you instead want to go vote in person after having requested an absentee ballot, you’ll need to request an affidavit ballot at your poll site and vote that way.

Vote early: It’s the safest - aka least crowded - way to vote, and also helps give candidates you care about some early information about voter turnout. Your early voting site is probably different than your Election Day voting site, so visit nycvotes.org to find it.

Vote Working Families: On your ballot, you’ll likely see the same name of a candidate listed alongside several political parties, such as “Democratic” and “Working Families.” If you want to help the Working Families Party (WFP) keep their ballot line, you can vote for the Democratic candidate on the WFP line. Your vote still counts toward the total for that candidate - but sends a message to candidates, political parties, and elected leaders across New York that you care about the progressive ideals WFP fights for: affordable and accessible housing; universal health care; good, living-wage jobs; public education; and more.

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 to learn more about our work and to get involved.

THE RACES

New Kings Democrats works to reform the Democratic Party to make it more transparent, inclusive, and accessible. That typically means supporting and electing progressive candidates that have the support of the grassroots and are steeped in their communities.

But that electoral support looks different in the Primary and General Elections. In the General Election, it is essential that we vote for and support Democrats – even the centrist ones.

GOVERNOR + LIEUTENANT GOV.

Kathy Hochul + Antonio Delgado [Democratic & Working Families lines]

Opponents: Lee Zeldin + Alison Esposito [Republican & Conservative lines]

As this race approaches the finish line, Republican and anti-choice candidate Lee Zeldin is closing in on Governor Hochul. Don't let this backwards-looking, Trump-supporting candidate win. While NKD endorsed Jumaane Williams and Ana Maria Archila in the primary, it's essential that we all turn out and vote for Governor Hochul and Lieutenant Governor Delgado now. Our neighbors across the state – those at the highest risk of discrimination under a Zeldin regime – are counting on us.



Note that if you vote for Hochul on the Working Families (WFP) line, your vote will count the same but will also help the WFP maintain their ballot line and their organizing power in future elections. The WFP needs 130,000 or 2% of total votes to keep their line.

STATE COMPTROLLER

Thomas DiNapoli [Democratic & Working Families lines]

Opponents: Paul Rodriguez [Republican & Conservative lines]

DiNapoli has served as Comptroller since 2007, and despite serving under disgraced Governors Elliot Spitzer and Andrew Cuomo has avoided scandals and misconduct, as far as we can tell. Rodriguez does not appear to be a serious candidate, having [spent around \\$10](#) on his campaign as of October 19.



ATTORNEY GENERAL

Letitia (Tish) James [Democratic & Working Families lines]

Opponent: Michael Henry [Republican & Conservative lines]

Have you been watching Brooklyn native AG Tish James ruthlessly [dismantle](#) the Trump regime? We need her in office to continue this essential work – the country depends on it.



SUPREME COURT JUSTICES

The Civil Division of the Supreme Court in New York State has jurisdiction over civil cases with no limitations on the monetary value. For example, if a construction worker dies on a construction site, their family may sue the contractor for unsafe working conditions in the Supreme Court. The New York City Supreme Court also has a Criminal Division for hearing felony-level criminal cases.

The number of Supreme Court justices in each district is fixed in the New York State Judiciary Law. There are 49 Supreme Court justices in Brooklyn. Twelve judges will be elected in the November election. Only twelve judges appear on the ballot, **meaning the decision to elect these twelve folks has effectively been made for us already by our local party leaders.**

Supreme Court seats in Brooklyn are county-wide, meaning they are elected to serve all of Kings County, or Brooklyn. The State Constitution creates a unique and indirect method for selecting which Democratic candidates for Supreme Court will appear on the general election ballot, using a nominating convention rather than a standard primary election. Read about the problematic judicial system in New York [here](#), and in our 2019 explainer, [A Fair Shot: The County Party and Judicial Elections in Brooklyn](#).

Although there are 12 judges on the ballot for 12 positions, you should read about these judges [here](#).

CIVIL COURT JUSTICES

The Civil Court of the City of New York handles lawsuits involving monetary claims for damages up to \$25,000. For example, if a dry cleaner destroys \$500 worth of your clothes, you can sue them in Civil Court to try to recoup the loss. Civil Court also presides over cases around housing, specifically landlord-tenant matters and maintenance of housing standards. Judges elected to Civil Court often are assigned to Criminal, Family, and Supreme Court instead of serving their term in Civil Court; so these judges have a lot of power for everyday Brooklynites.

Civil Court judges are elected directly by the electorate to 10-year terms. There are 25 Civil Court justices in Brooklyn, and can be either count-wide or municipal specific. The Brooklyn Democratic Party leadership tends to limit competition for Civil Court seats and will only support one candidate per seat. The end result is that the ballot does not have real choice.

Five judges will be elected in the current election for county-wide Civil Court seats, and three will be elected for municipal Civil Court seats. Only five judges will appear on the ballot for the Civil Court of New York for everyone. The additional three will only appear on the ballot in certain municipal districts (1, 7, and 8). These races are generally decided in the primary, but if you have a choice on your ballot, we recommend voting for the judges who are running as Democrats.

U.S. SENATE

Charles (Chuck) E. Schumer [Democratic & Working Families lines]

Opponents: Joe Pinion [Republican & Conservative lines]; Diane Sare [LaRouche line]

Chuck Schumer is the Senate Majority Leader, and in recent years has been a regular presence at political events in Brooklyn, including an NKD meeting and big-ticket fundraisers for the Brooklyn Dems.



Where you can learn more:

- www.chuck Schumer.com

U.S. CONGRESS MEMBER

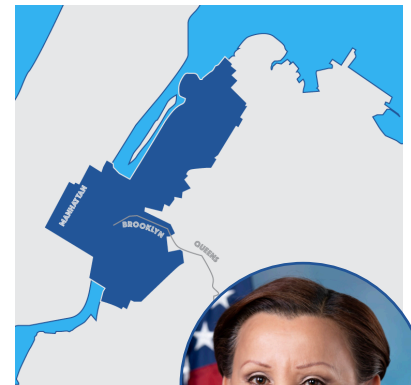
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT NY-07

The NY-07 Congressional District encompasses the neighborhoods of Greenpoint, Williamsburg, and Bushwick.

Nydia Velazquez [Democrat]

Opponent: Juan Pagan [Republican]

Congress Member Nydia Velazquez is La Luchadora: the leader and inspiration for so many progressive politicians and groups across New York. She is authentic and passionate about reform and fighting for those that are underrepresented and underserved. Congress Member Velazquez's record stands for itself. Learn more about her in Gothamist's article, "The Low-Key Matriarch Cultivating Brooklyn's Progressive Movement."



New Kings Democrats has proudly endorsed Congress Member Velazquez many times in the past.

Where you can learn more:

- www.reelectnydiavelazquez.com

U.S. CONGRESS MEMBER, continued

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT NY-08

The NY-08 Congressional District encompasses the neighborhoods of Coney Island, Gravesend, Sheepshead Bay, Gerritsen Beach, Bergen Beach, Canarsie, East New York, Ocean Hill, and Bed-Stuy.

Hakeem Jeffries [Democrat]

Opponent: Yuri Dashevsky [Republican]

Congress Member Hakeem Jeffries has been in the House of Representatives since 2013. He has been considered in line for the Speaker of the House position. Congress Member Jeffries is focused on affordable housing, education, criminal justice, and jobs.

Where you can learn more:

- hakeemjeffries.com



CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT NY-09

The NY-09 Congressional District encompasses the neighborhoods of Crown Heights, Midwood, and Flatlands.

Yvette Clarke [Democrat]

Opponent: Menachem Raitport [Republican]

Congress Member Clarke is a longtime leader and is originally from central Brooklyn. Clarke is a Senior Member of both the House Energy and Commerce Committee and House Committee on Homeland Security, where she serves as Chair of the Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Innovation Subcommittee. Clarke has been a member of the Congressional Black Caucus since coming to Congress in 2007 and today chairs its Immigration Task Force.

Where you can learn more:

- www.voteyvette.com



U.S. CONGRESS MEMBER, continued

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT NY-10

The 10th Congressional District encompasses neighborhoods from Brooklyn Heights and Dumbo to Park Slope and Bay Ridge in Brooklyn, and Manhattan roughly below 14th Street. It is a new district that is the result of redistricting, so there is no incumbent.

New Kings Democrats, with partner clubs Lambda Independent Democrats, South Central Brooklyn United for Progress, Brooklyn Young Democrats, and Equality New York, hosted a forum for candidates in the NY-10 district in July 2022.

Dan Goldman [Democrat]

*Opponents: Benine A. Hamdan [Republican];
Steve F. Speer [Medical Freedom*]*

Dan Goldman was the lead Democratic counsel in Donald Trump's first impeachment. A centrist Democrat, Goldman is particularly focused on Republican efforts to undermine our democracy. He has promised to devote more budget to his district office than his D.C. office and to focus on the underserved areas in his district.

Where you can learn more:

- www.dangoldmanforny.com



*an anti-vaxxer fringe group

U.S. CONGRESS MEMBER, continued

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT NY-11

The NY-11 Congressional District encompasses the neighborhoods of Bay Ridge, Dyker Heights, and Bensonhurst in Brooklyn plus all of Staten Island.

Max Rose [Democrat]

Challenging Nicole Malliotakis [Republican]

Max Rose, a veteran, served in Congress from 2018-2020, losing his seat to current Republican Congress Member Nicole Malliotakis. He is aiming for a rematch – and it's imperative that Democrats turn out to support him. Nicole Malliotakis is a dangerous Trump-supporting, anti-choice representative doing nothing to protect the diverse New Yorkers that make up the district.

Where you can learn more:

- [Maxroseforcongress.com](https://maxroseforcongress.com)



STATE SENATE

STATE SENATE DISTRICT 17

The 17th Senate District includes Bay Ridge, Bensonhurst, Bath Beach, Kensington, and other neighborhoods.

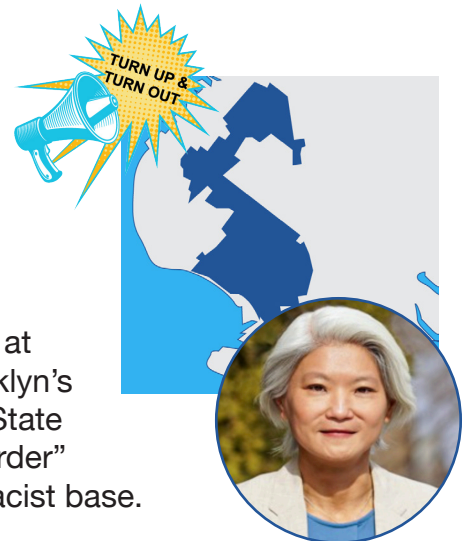
Iwen Chu [Democrat]

Opponent: Vito LaBella [Republican]

This Senate seat is the first in Brooklyn's history where Asian voters, at 49%, will have a plurality of the vote. If elected, Iwen would be Brooklyn's first Asian-American state elected official and the first female Asian State Senator in New York. Her challenger's top issue is "restoring law & order" – a Republican talking point that appeals to his anti-immigrant and racist base.

Where you can learn more:

- iwenchu.com



STATE SENATE, continued

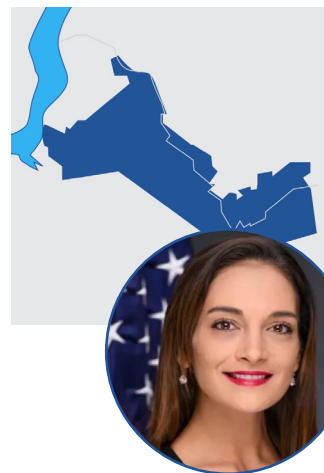
STATE SENATE DISTRICT 18

The 18th Senate District encompasses Bushwick and Williamsburg.

Julia Salazar [Democrat]

Running unopposed

State Senator Salazar is running unopposed, though it is as important as ever to turn out and vote for this fearless progressive leader. NKD previously endorsed Senator Salazar in 2018 and 2020.



STATE SENATE DISTRICT 19

The 19th Senate District includes Canarsie and East New York.

Roxanne Persaud [Democrat]

Running unopposed



STATE SENATE DISTRICT 20

The 20th Senate District includes Crown Heights and parts of Park Slope and Flatlands.

Zellnor Myrie [Democrat]

Running unopposed

NKD previously endorsed Senator Myrie in 2018.



STATE SENATE, continued

STATE SENATE DISTRICT 21

The 21st Senate District encompasses Kensington, Flatlands, and Bergen Beach.

Kevin Parker [Democrat]

Running unopposed

State Senator Kevin Parker was first elected to the State Senate in 2002. A darling of the problematic Brooklyn political machine, Parker is known for angry, violent outbursts and anti-LGBTQ+ rhetoric.



STATE SENATE DISTRICT 22

The 22nd Senate District includes Borough Park, Sheepshead Bay, and Gerritsen Beach.

Marva Brown [Working Families]

Opponent: Simcha Felder, incumbent [Democrat, Republican, Conservative]

Simcha Felder runs as a Democrat but caucuses with Republicans in the State Senate, and for a time helped them maintain control of that chamber. He probably has a good chance of re-election in this conservative district. Marva Brown remains on the ballot but does not appear to be actively campaigning.



STATE SENATE, continued

STATE SENATE DISTRICT 23

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

Jessica Scarcella-Spanton [Democrat]

Opponent: Joseph Tirone Jr. [Republican]

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 endorsed Scarcella-Spanton. Scarcella-Spanton centers fighting for safer and more affordable communities in her platform. Universal childcare is a top priority.



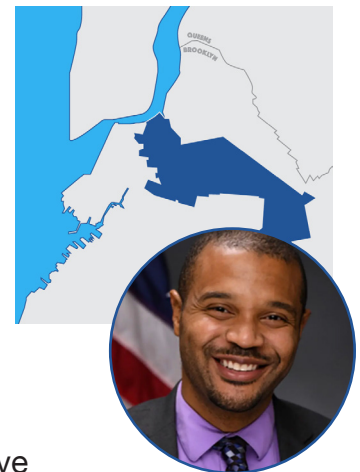
STATE SENATE DISTRICT 25

The 25th Senate District encompasses Clinton Hill, Bed-Stuy, and Ocean Hill.

Jabari Brisport [Democrat]

Running unopposed

State Senator Jabari Brisport is in his first term in the Senate and has already hit the ground running, fighting for the progressive values he espoused as a candidate. Senator Brisport is a third-generation Caribbean-American Brooklynite, is Black and queer, and was a former public school teacher. Senator Brisport took office in 2021 and has already fought for the funding, services, and policies that New Yorkers need to survive and thrive. He is the Chair of the Children and Families Committee. He is running unopposed.



STATE SENATE, continued

STATE SENATE DISTRICT 26

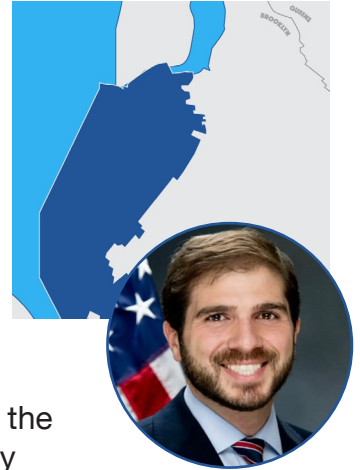
The 26th Senate District encompasses Dumbo and Brooklyn Heights along the water south to Sunset Park and Fort Hamilton.

Andrew Gounardes [Democrat]

Opponents: Brian Fox [Republican], Martha Rowen [Medical Freedom]

State Senator Andrew Gounardes is a well-regarded leader in what is currently the 22nd State Senate District, known for bridging political differences in the district while also maintaining a consistently progressive voting record in the Senate. He was first elected in 2018, beating longtime Republican incumbent Marty Golden. While not technically the incumbent in the newly redrawn State Senate 26, Senator Gounardes already represents a significant part of the district.

Senator Gounardes has represented a deeply complex and diverse district and will continue doing so if reelected in district 26. He has balanced competing priorities by continuing to focus on making landmark investments into CUNY, advocating for innovative ways to improve street safety, combatting sexual harassment, and supporting the state's public workforce.



STATE SENATE DISTRICT 59

The 59th Senate District encompasses Greenpoint in Brooklyn, Astoria and Long Island City in Queens, and parts of Midtown East in Manhattan. This is a new district, so there is no incumbent.

Kristen Gonzalez [Democrat]

Running unopposed

Kristen Gonzalez is a community organizer, a product manager, and an organizer with DSA. Kristen has garnered the most community, constituent, and progressive political support of any candidate in the race. She is progressive and practical. Her platform prioritizes reimagining housing, a green New York, and restoring healthcare.



STATE ASSEMBLY

ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 41

Helene Weinstein [Democrat]

Opponent: Ramona Johnson [Republican]

AD 41 includes the neighborhoods of Sheepshead Bay, Flatlands, parts of East Flatbush, Midwood and Canarsie.

ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 42

Rodneyse Bichotte [Democrat]

Running unopposed

AD 42 includes the neighborhoods of East Flatbush, Flatbush, Ditmas Park, and Midwood.

Rodneyse Bichotte Hermelyn is the Chair of the Brooklyn Democratic Party.

ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 43

Brian Cunningham [Democrat]

Running unopposed

AD 43 includes the neighborhoods of Crown Heights and Prospect Lefferts Gardens.

ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 44

Robert (Bobby) Carroll [Democrat]

*Opponents: Brenda Horton [Republican];
Arkadiusz T. Tomaszewski [Medical Freedom]*

AD 44 includes the neighborhoods of Park Slope, Windsor Terrace, Kensington, Borough Park, Victorian Flatbush, Ditmas Park, and Midwood.

STATE ASSEMBLY, continued

ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 45

Steven Cymbrowitz [Democrat]

Opponent: Michael Novakhov [Republican]

AD 45 includes the neighborhoods of Midwood, Manhattan Beach, Brighton Beach, Gravesend, and Sheepshead Bay.

ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 46

Mathylde Frontus [Democrat]

Opponent: Alec Brook-Krasny [Republican]

AD 46 includes the neighborhoods of Coney Island and Sea Gate, plus parts of Bath Beach, Bay Ridge, Brighton Beach, Dyker Heights and Gravesend.

Frontus, the incumbent, has a background as an organizer, nonprofit administrator, and volunteer in her community of Coney Island. She touts more than \$3 million spent in her district since she took office, including improvements to schools, libraries, and parks. She is endorsed by the Working Families Party, South Central Brooklyn United for Progress, Bay Ridge Democrats, Yalla Brooklyn, and many other organizations and individuals including Borough President Antonio Reynoso.

Brook-Krasny changed parties earlier this year to challenge AM Frontus. He says there is a “crime wave overcoming our city.” Don’t vote this fearmonger into office.

ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 47

William Colton [Democrat]

Opponent: Dmitriy Kugel [Republican]

AD 47 includes the neighborhood of Bath Beach.

STATE ASSEMBLY, continued

ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 48

Simcha Eichenstein [Democrat]

Opponent: Linda Holmes [Working Families]

AD 48 includes the neighborhoods of Borough Park as well as portions of Midwood.

ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 49

Peter Abbate, Jr. [Democrat]

Opponent: Lester Chang [Republican]

AD 49 includes parts of the neighborhoods of Bay Ride, Dyker Heights, and New Utrecht.

ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 50

Emily Gallagher [Democrat]

Running unopposed

AD 50 includes the neighborhoods of Williamsburg and Greenpoint.

NKD has proudly endorsed Assembly Member Gallagher in the past.

ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 51

Marcela Mitaynes [Democrat]

Opponent: Timothy Peterson [Republican]

AD 51 includes the neighborhoods of Red Hook and Sunset Park, as well as parts of Park Slope.

ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 52

Jo Anne Simon [Democrat]

Opponent: Brett Eugene Wynkoop [Republican]

AD 52 includes the neighborhoods of Brooklyn Heights, Downtown Brooklyn, Cobble Hill, Carroll Gardens, Gowanus, Park Slope, Boerum Hill, and DUMBO.

STATE ASSEMBLY, continued

ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 53

Maritza Davila [Democrat]

Running unopposed

AD 53 includes the neighborhoods of Williamsburg and Bushwick.

NKD proudly endorsed Assembly Member Davila for District Leader, a position she also holds in the district, in 2022.

ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 54

Erik Dilan [Democrat]

Opponent: Khorshed Chowdhury [Republican]

AD 54 includes the neighborhoods of Bushwick and Cypress Hills

ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 55

Latrice Walker [Democrat]

Opponents: Anthony Jones [Rent Is 2 Damn High]; Berneda Jackson [Republican]

AD 55 includes the neighborhoods of Ocean Hill and Brownsville.

Anthony Jones is a Democratic District Leader. He recently admitted responsibility for forged signatures on legal challenges to County Committee candidates. It's not clear why he's challenging Walker, the incumbent Democrat, in the General Election.

ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 56

Stefani Zinerman [Democrat]

Running unopposed

AD 56 includes the neighborhoods of Bedford-Stuyvesant and Crown Heights.

STATE ASSEMBLY, continued

ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 57

Phara Souffrant Forrest [Democrat]

Running unopposed

AD 57 includes the neighborhoods of Fort Greene, Clinton Hill, and Crown Heights.

ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 58

Monique Chandler Waterman [Democrat]

Opponent: Monique Allen-Davy [Republican]

AD 58 includes the neighborhoods of Brownsville, East Flatbush, and Canarsie.

ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 59

Jaime Williams [Democrat]

Running unopposed

AD 59 includes the neighborhoods of Canarsie and Bergen Beach.

ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 60

Keron Alleyne [Democrat]

Opposition: Nikki Lucas [Democrat]

AD 60 includes the neighborhood of East New York.

ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 64

Michael Tannousis [Republican]

Running unopposed

AD 64 includes the neighborhood of Bay Ridge.

BALLOT PROPOSALS

PROPOSAL 1: CLEAN WATER, CLEAN AIR, AND GREEN JOBS Environmental Bond Act of 2022

Language of Proposal: “To address and combat the impact of climate change and damage to the environment, the ‘Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act of 2022’ authorizes the sale of state bonds up to four billion two hundred million dollars to fund environmental protection, natural restoration, resiliency, and clean energy projects.”

You will vote “yes” to approve the Bond Act or “no” to not approve it.

What it Means: Allows New York State to borrow \$4.2 billion by selling state bonds up to a certain amount for specific environment-related projects and policy initiatives. The Rockefeller Institute of Government wrote an informative piece in April 2022 on this proposal. It would allow for at least \$1,100,000,000 for restoration and flood risk reduction - an essential climate mitigation task for New York, \$650,000,000 for open space land conservation and recreation, up to \$1,500,000,000 for other climate change mitigation activities, and at least \$650,000,000 for water quality improvement and resilient infrastructure.

PROPOSAL 2: Add a Statement of Values to Guide Government

Language of Proposal: “This proposal would amend the New York City Charter to:

- Add a preamble, which would be an introductory statement of values and vision aspiring toward ‘a just and equitable city for all’ New Yorkers; and
- Include in the preamble a statement that the City must strive to remedy ‘past and continuing harms and to reconstruct, revise, and reimagine our foundations, structures, institutions, and laws to promote justice and equity for all New Yorkers.’

The preamble is intended to guide City government in fulfilling its duties.”

You will vote “yes” to add this language to the New York City Charter or “no” to not add the language.

What it Means: Creates a mission statement for the City government. The Racial Justice Commission proposed this and other measures, including Proposals 3 and 4, in its [Final Report](#) released in December of 2021.

BALLOT PROPOSALS, continued

PROPOSAL 3: Establish a Racial Equity Office, Plan, and Commission

Language of Proposal: “This proposal would amend the City Charter to:

- Require citywide and agency-specific Racial Equity Plans every two years. The plans would include intended strategies and goals to improve racial equity and to reduce or eliminate racial disparities;
- Establish an office of Racial Equity and appoint a Chief Equity Officer to advance racial equity and coordinate the City’s racial equity planning process. The Office would support City agencies in improving access to City services and programs for those people and communities who have been negatively affected by previous policies or actions, and collect and report data related to equity; and
- Establish a Commission on Racial Equity, appointed by City elected officials. In making appointments to this Commission, elected officials would be required to consider appointees who are representative of or have experience advocating for a diverse range of communities. The Commission would identify and propose priorities to inform the racial equity planning process and review agency and citywide Racial Equity Plans.”

You will vote “yes” to amend the City Charter in this way or “no” to not.

What it Means: Requires all city agencies to create racial equity plans every two years, establishes an Office of Racial Equity to oversee the planning within city agencies, and a Commission to identify priorities and review the equity plans.

BALLOT PROPOSALS, continued

PROPOSAL 4: Measure the True Cost of Living

Language of Proposal: “This proposal would amend the City Charter to:

- Require the City to create a ‘true cost of living’ measure to track the actual cost in New York City of meeting essential needs, including housing, food, childcare, transportation, and other necessary costs, and without considering public, private, or informal assistance, in order to inform programmatic and policy decisions; and
- Require the City government to report annually on the ‘true cost of living’ measures.”

You will vote “yes” amend the City Charter in this way or “no” to not.

What it Means: The government currently uses the [NYCgov Poverty Measure](#) to calculate cost of living; it accounts for a higher housing cost than the federal poverty measure. However, it incorporates the value of certain programs, like SNAP and EITC, into family incomes. Many advocates believe it skews the true economic picture of life. However, the Citizens Budget Commission warned that while the new proposed measure may be useful, it needs more specificity around what is considered public assistance, particularly as it relates to housing subsidies