

NYC Ballot Proposals and Queens Judicial Elections

A PLAIN LANGUAGE VOTER EDUCATION GUIDE

Understand the choices. Make your own decision.



Education only. No RESET ratings, endorsements, or Yes or No recommendations.

[VIEW YOUR OFFICIAL SAMPLE BALLOT](#)

findmypollsite.vote.nyc • Enter your home address and choose View Sample Ballot.

November 3, 2026 election | Information checked October 23, 2026

Prepared by Pastor Reginald Lee Bachus | RESET

Cover illustration depicts fictional people. Real candidate photographs appear in the judicial section.

Your choices start with understanding

A sidewalk you use. A program your family relies on. A street you cross. A court you may one day enter. The choices in this guide reach into ordinary life.

You do not need to know every government term to begin. Start with one question. Picture what happens today. Then ask what a Yes vote would change and what a No vote would keep.

The purpose of this guide

RESET helps people become the author of their next decision instead of the product of their last experience. My purpose here is to make the choices easier to understand so you can decide for yourself.

What you will find

First come five ballot proposals that apply across New York City. Each asks whether to change part of the city's basic rulebook. Next come the fifteen candidates in the five listed Queens judicial contests. Your home address determines which district contests appear on your ballot.

Education only

RESET and Pastor Reginald Lee Bachus do not endorse candidates, give them scores, or recommend Yes or No votes in this guide. We identify outside opinions and link their sources. The same approach applies to every candidate and every proposal.

See the ballot for your own address

[NYC BOARD OF ELECTIONS SAMPLE BALLOT FINDER](#)

Go to findmypollsite.vote.nyc. Enter your home address. Choose the November 3, 2026 election and open View Sample Ballot. Match the proposal numbers and candidate names to this guide. Read the instructions printed on your ballot.

This is a guide to the five city proposals and Queens judicial elections. Other offices on your ballot are outside its scope. The official wording and voting instructions are linked so you can check them directly.

Prepared by Pastor Reginald Lee Bachus

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Find the part you need

You can work through one proposal at a time. Each has the same three parts: understand the choice, compare best and worst cases for Yes and No, and think it through with RESET.

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A manageable place to start

Read the first page of a proposal. Say the choice in your own words. Then use the picture and questions if you want more detail. You can return to the original sources at any time.

A Yes vote on one proposal does not require a Yes vote on another. You can consider each separately. Within a single proposal, your vote covers all of its parts.

Check the sources: [View your official sample ballot](#)

A RESET before your decision

Before choosing, give yourself room to understand. This process helps you connect the facts to your own values. It does not point you toward a party, candidate, or Yes or No vote.



Five principles to carry with you

RESET principle	Put it into practice
Respect	Hear how the choice may affect different people.
Educate	Learn what the proposal or office actually does.
Serve	Consider the people who rely on the result.
Efficiency	Ask about time, cost and how well the process works.
Transparency	Look for clear reasons, records and source links.

You will see four short RESET questions at the end of every proposal. There is space to write your own reason for your choice.

What is a ballot proposal

Usually, voting means choosing a person. A ballot proposal asks you to choose a rule. These five proposals would change the New York City Charter—the rulebook that sets out how city government works.

Why this part of the ballot matters

Rules decide who must review an application, who may approve it, how neighbors can respond, and how the city plans to save money. You may never fill out a café application yourself. You may still use the sidewalk, live nearby, work there, or care how decisions are made.

Your vote	What it means
Yes	Adopt the changes written into that proposal. You are approving the whole package in that question.
No	Keep the rules that this proposal would change. A No vote does not create a different reform or erase a program that already exists.

Five questions you can consider separately

Proposal	An everyday question
1 Public space	How should the city review permission for cafés, ramps and other sidewalk uses?
2 City contracts	How should businesses and nonprofits apply to do city work?
3 Streets land and offices	How should three kinds of city projects be reviewed?
4 Building permits	Where should construction applications go, and who can approve them?
5 City savings	What rules should guide saving for a difficult financial year?

A hearing is a meeting where people can speak. Notice means being told about a proposal or application. Comment means giving a view. Approval means having the power to authorize something. These are different roles; each proposal may change some of them.

Each case study tests a best and worst case under Yes and under No. Honest leaders can use review powers to protect people; dishonest leaders can use them for favoritism. Faster decisions can serve people well or hide problems if checks fail. These are fictional possibilities, not predictions or allegations. Neither outcome permits corruption or other unlawful conduct. Sources [25–31,51,65] explain the actual rules.

Check the sources: [Official NYC Votes proposal guide](#) | [Full proposed legal changes](#)

Who reviews uses of public space

Should the city remove some required steps for permission to put things on sidewalks and streets?

Picture a café adding outdoor tables or a building adding an entrance ramp. The sidewalk belongs to the public. The owner needs city permission to use part of it. That process affects the applicant, nearby residents, and people passing by.

Words to know Revocable consent means permission the city can take back. It is used for some ramps, benches, utility structures and cafés. It is not ownership of the sidewalk. The City Record is the city's official publication for public notices.

What happens now The applicant goes to the responsible city agency. A public hearing is required, and the applicant pays for newspaper notices. Local officials and the community board receive notice. For sidewalk cafés, the City Council can reject the permission even after the transportation agency approves it.

If you vote Yes

The hearing The agency could choose whether to hold one. A hearing would no longer be required for every application.

Notice and local input Paid newspaper notices would end. City Record notices and notice to local officials and the community board would remain, with an opportunity for those bodies to comment.

The final decision For sidewalk cafés, the Council would lose its separate power to reject the permission. The city would still decide whether to approve each application.

If you vote No

The required hearing and newspaper notices would stay. The Council would keep its separate power to reject sidewalk café permission. An owner could still apply for a café, ramp or other allowed use through the existing process.

Plain-language explanation of the proposed rules. Sources [25,65]. Further details and dates follow the example.

Check the sources: [Read the official explanation](#)

A café owner, a neighbor and a person using a walker



FICTIONAL EXAMPLES • POSSIBILITIES, NOT FORECASTS • AI ILLUSTRATION

The owner wants six café tables. A neighbor asks about noise. A person using a walker needs clear passage. Consider four possible outcomes for this fictional application.

YES best case The agency checks access and listens to local comments. A clear, workable layout gets permission without an unnecessary hearing. The owner saves time and expense; people can still pass safely.

YES worst case The agency overlooks an access problem and skips a hearing. Neighbors can comment, but the Council no longer has its separate power to reject the sidewalk café permission. A poor layout gets approved.

NO best case The required hearing reveals a blocked path. Local review helps secure a better layout; the Council can reject the sidewalk café permission if concerns remain. The business and sidewalk users both benefit.

NO worst case A suitable café plan stalls because an official uses the Council review process to help a favored competitor. Hearings add delay without solving a real problem. The applicant keeps paying and waiting.

For your community conversation Which checks would protect access and fair treatment under either process? Who responds when they fail?

Check the sources: [Check the proposal behind these examples](#)

Think through your choice

Different views to consider

Why some support it NYC Votes summarizes support for reducing costs and delays. New York Lawyers for the Public Interest points to the difficulty of getting accessibility ramps through the existing process. [25]

Why some question it NYC Votes reports that the Center for Independence of the Disabled, New York and D9 Harlem Votes favor keeping stronger formal opportunities for local review. Their concerns include access to participation and the Council's role. [25]

These are outside views. RESET does not recommend a Yes or No vote.

Who is D9 Harlem Votes NYC Votes identifies it as a Harlem-based, nonpartisan civic engagement coalition. Its own profile describes members of historically Black fraternities and sororities. We cite its views as a community coalition, not as an official Council or community-board statement. It also supports Proposal 5, according to NYC Votes. [25,29]

Check the sources: [D9 Harlem Votes own profile](#)

Details that help explain the choice

What stays City permission would still be required. The city could still take the permission back. Notice and comment are ways to give views; they are different from the power to reject an application.

Another notice change The proposed legal text shortens City Record publication for a hearing notice from 15 days to 6. It also changes newspaper notice rules for franchises—city authorizations for certain public uses. [65]

When changes would begin The revised process would begin March 1, 2027. Applications already submitted before that date would use the earlier rules. [25,65]

Walk through your decision

Grounded What matters to me about sharing public space?

Aligned Which needs should I weigh: access, local participation, time, cost, or others?

Aware Can I explain which hearing, notice and Council powers would change?

Intentional After weighing both processes, which one do I choose, and why?

My choice and reason: _____

Check the sources: [Official explanation and submitted views](#) | [Proposed legal text](#)

How organizations apply for city contracts

Should the city change contractor paperwork and several approval and public review steps?

A neighborhood group wants to run a city-funded tutoring program. Before the city can hire it, the group must complete paperwork and get approvals. Those steps affect the group, the families it serves, and everyone whose tax money helps pay the bill.

Words to know A contract is an agreement to buy goods or services. Procurement means the process of buying them. The Procurement Policy Board, or PPB, sets many city contracting rules.

What happens now The Mayor's contracting office and the Comptroller maintain a detailed questionnaire for contractors. The same required questions apply across contract sizes. Agencies must hold a hearing on their yearly plan for direct-service contracts, such as youth services. The PPB has no required quarterly meeting schedule.

If you vote Yes

Paperwork The PPB could write questionnaire rules that vary by contract size, industry, small-business status or other factors. A separate committee would do this for franchises and concessions.

Approval and review The annual service-contract plan would still be published, but its draft hearing would end. The Mayor could delegate approval of certain contracts over \$5 million, with agency commissioner approval.

Meetings and public comments The PPB would meet at least every three months. A later change would make a public-comment route permanent in city law and let the PPB set which contract values require it.

If you vote No

The existing questionnaire rules and the Mayor and Comptroller's roles would stay. The draft annual service-plan hearing would remain required. Current limits on delegated approvals would stay, and this proposal would not require quarterly PPB meetings or make its later public-comment changes.

Plain-language explanation of the proposed rules. Sources [26,65]. Further details and dates follow the example.

Check the sources: [Read the official explanation](#)

A small nonprofit and a large contractor



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The picture shows a fictional tutoring program applying for city work. Also imagine a large company seeking a city contract. The same process must serve families and protect public money.

YES best case The board fits forms to contract size while keeping useful ownership and conflict disclosures. Staff check those answers and prices. The small program can compete without needless paperwork; large firms still face meaningful review.

YES worst case If rewritten rules omit important ownership details, a large company's link to an official's relative could go unnoticed. Weak checking lets an inflated price pass. Favoritism and fraud would still be unlawful.

NO best case Fuller disclosures help reviewers identify who owns the large company and spot a possible conflict. They check prices and question the deal before awarding money. Public review also informs the agency's service plan.

NO worst case The large company can afford staff to handle detailed forms while the small program gives up. Reviewers file answers without checking them. A connected contractor still wins; paperwork alone has not protected the public.

For your community conversation What ownership facts, price checks and public records would expose favoritism under either set of rules?

Check the sources: [Check the proposal behind these examples](#)

Think through your choice

Different views to consider

Why some support it NYC Votes summarizes support for forms that better fit small businesses and nonprofits. Citizens Union supports the proposal as a way to simplify city contracting. [26,30]

Why some question it NYC Votes reports that D9 Harlem Votes questions reducing public review. Citizens Union supports the proposal while also calling for care in keeping disclosure questions that help prevent corruption. [26,30]

These are outside views. RESET does not recommend a Yes or No vote.

Details that help explain the choice

Why the form matters The questions help the city learn about a contractor. The proposal gives rulemaking bodies authority over required information; it does not itself print a final, shorter questionnaire.

A separate public comment change From October 2030, the PPB could set the contract-value threshold for required public comments. The legal text requires notice and a comment period of at least seven days for covered contracts. Exceptions also apply. [65]

When changes would begin Quarterly PPB meetings would begin January 1, 2027. The contract public-comment changes would begin October 1, 2030. Other changes would begin when voter approval is officially certified; new questionnaire rules would then need to be adopted. [26,65]

Walk through your decision

Grounded What do I want public contracting to accomplish?

Aligned Which needs matter most here: service, useful disclosure, manageable forms, public participation, or others?

Aware Can I explain both the paperwork changes and the review changes?

Intentional Do I support this package of changes? What is my reason?

My choice and reason: _____

Check the sources: [Official explanation and submitted views](#) | [Proposed legal text](#)

Street projects city land and office space

Should the city change three different approval systems in one proposal?

Think about three places: a crossing that may need safety work, a small city-owned lot, and a building where city employees might work. This question changes rules for all three. Your vote covers the whole package.

Words to know City land means property the city owns. Development rights are permission to build a certain amount of floor space. A landmark may have unused rights that can be sold for use elsewhere under city rules.

What happens now Major street projects have notice and consultation steps. Many city land sales or leases go through a longer public review, including a Council role. City office acquisitions have a separate hearing and approval process involving the Planning Commission and Council.

If you vote Yes

Street projects Clarify when urgent safety work can begin before local notice. Missed agency consultations would not invalidate a project. The transportation agency would still have duties to notify or present the work.

Certain city property Allow shorter review for qualifying small lots and landmark development rights, with the Planning Commission making the final decision instead of the Council. Make a program for selling undevelopable lots to adjacent owners permanent.

City offices Remove the Planning Commission and Council hearing and approval steps. The city's administrative agency would certify the acquisition and provide required notices.

If you vote No

The existing street consultation rules would stay. Existing land-review requirements would stay for the property categories this proposal addresses. The separate hearing and approval process for city office space would remain. A No vote would keep these processes; it would not prohibit street work, land transactions or office leases.

Plain-language explanation of the proposed rules. Sources [27,65]. Further details and dates follow the example.

Check the sources: [Read the official explanation](#)

Three places and one ballot question



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The crossing, qualifying city lot and office space are fictional. One vote covers all three subjects. Here is how the changed or existing processes could serve people—or fail them.

YES best case Reliable safety data supports quicker crossing work. Remaining reviews help secure fair value for a qualifying lot. Staff compare office rents and choose a sound lease. Fewer steps save time while officials explain their decisions.

YES worst case If remaining checks fail, officials overlook an access problem at the crossing, steer a qualifying lot deal toward an ally, or choose an overpriced office lease. The removed Council approval powers offer no extra stop for those property deals.

NO best case Street consultation catches an access problem. Public land review exposes an unfavorable deal, and Council review challenges an overpriced office lease. Officials use their existing powers to seek better terms for the community.

NO worst case Procedural disputes delay a needed crossing. Elsewhere, an official uses a property approval role to favor an ally or obstruct a sound office lease for political leverage. The formal steps remain, but do not ensure fair decisions.

For your community conversation Which review step adds useful protection, which can be abused, and what check remains if that power is removed?

Check the sources: [Check the proposal behind these examples](#)

Think through your choice

Different views to consider

Why some support it Citizens Union supports the package as a way to simplify approvals. NYC Votes reports support for faster street work and putting qualifying city property to use. [27,30]

Why some question it Citizens Union also objects to grouping different subjects into one vote. NYC Votes summarizes concerns about the reduced local review in parts of the package. [27,30]

These are outside views. RESET does not recommend a Yes or No vote.

Details that help explain the choice

Which land qualifies The proposed small-lot category is no more than 10,000 square feet and excludes individual landmarks. Landmark development rights are a separate category. The shorter review cannot be used if the project requires an environmental impact statement—a detailed environmental study. [65]

What review remains For qualifying land transactions, the community board and Borough President would review at the same time. The Planning Commission would make the final decision. For city offices, advance local notices and later notice to the Council and Comptroller would remain. A separate hearing after a property approval is more than two years old would end. [65]

When changes would begin Most changes would begin when approval is certified. Permanent authority for selling qualifying undevelopable lots to adjacent owners without an auction would begin December 31, 2030. [27,65]

Walk through your decision

Grounded What matters to me about safety, public property and public spending?

Aligned Which goals apply to each of the three parts?

Aware Have I considered who decides and who can respond in each part?

Intentional Taking all three parts together, what is my choice, and why?

My choice and reason: _____

Check the sources: [Official explanation and submitted views](#) | [Proposed legal text](#)

Where building applications go

Should building applications use one citywide system, with more authorized reviewers and a change in waterfront permitting?

Imagine renovating a building. The owner may need to send plans to several city agencies. The people doing the work need clear instructions. People living nearby need the work to follow the rules. This question changes parts of that application system.

Words to know A permit is official permission to do particular work. The Department of Buildings, or DOB, reviews and enforces many construction rules. Some waterfront structures, such as piers, have a separate permitting arrangement.

What happens now Applicants submit documents through separate agency systems. The Charter limits which Buildings officials can exercise certain approval powers. Small Business Services handles construction permits for certain waterfront structures.

If you vote Yes

One application system Require Buildings to develop a shared permit system by 2030. All city agencies would have to use it for construction permit applications and approvals.

Who can approve Allow additional qualified Buildings officials to exercise approval powers. The proposal also updates borough officials' titles in the Charter.

Waterfront structures Move responsibility for certain waterfront construction permits from Small Business Services to Buildings. Existing permits and approvals would stay in place.

If you vote No

Separate agency systems would remain under the present Charter arrangements. Existing limits on approval authority would stay. Small Business Services would keep the waterfront construction responsibilities covered by this proposal. This question would not require the shared system or those transfers of authority.

Plain-language explanation of the proposed rules. Sources [28,65]. Further details and dates follow the example.

Check the sources: [Read the official explanation](#)

A renovation application with several stops



FICTIONAL EXAMPLES • POSSIBILITIES, NOT FORECASTS • AI ILLUSTRATION

A fictional owner, contractor, reviewers and neighbor discuss building plans. The waterfront recalls a separate permitting change. Consider both good administration and poor administration under each choice.

YES best case One system shows who has each application. Qualified reviewers coordinate, keep records and apply safety rules. The owner repeats less paperwork, the project moves sooner, and the neighbor can get a clear answer.

YES worst case If supervision and records are weak, a connected builder receives rushed approvals while incomplete plans get little scrutiny. Staff blame the new system when neighbors ask questions. Centralizing forms has not ensured accountable decisions.

NO best case Separate agency reviewers catch a problem others missed. Staff with waterfront experience identify a hazard in covered pier work. The applicant corrects the plans before receiving the required permission.

NO worst case Separate offices lose documents or pass responsibility back and forth. A needed repair stalls. Connected firms find their way through while an ordinary owner cannot get an answer. Multiple review points have not ensured equal treatment.

For your community conversation Can an applicant or neighbor trace each approval and challenge unequal treatment, with one system or several?

Check the sources: [Check the proposal behind these examples](#)

Think through your choice

Different views to consider

Why some support it Citizens Union supports the proposal as a way to make construction permitting easier to navigate. NYC Votes summarizes support for coordinating applications across agencies. [28,30]

Why some question it NYC Votes reports that opponents, including D9 Harlem Votes, want clearer arrangements for public information, oversight and responsibility under the proposed system. [28]

These are outside views. RESET does not recommend a Yes or No vote.

Details that help explain the choice

A system built over time The hub would have to be developed by 2030. It would not appear on Election Day. The proposal directs a change in the system, while its practical design and rollout would come later.

The waterfront provision The transfer concerns covered waterfront structures and construction responsibilities. It does not transfer every waterfront government function. Existing permits and approvals would remain valid. [65]

When changes would begin Most provisions would begin when approval is certified. The waterfront transfer would begin December 31, 2030, or when a new waterfront-structure code takes effect, whichever comes first. [28,65]

Walk through your decision

Grounded What matters to me about construction and the places people live or work?

Aligned What do I want from a permit process: clear steps, safety, timely answers, public information, or other needs?

Aware Can I explain the hub, approval authority and waterfront changes separately?

Intentional Do I support these changes together? What is my reason?

My choice and reason: _____

Check the sources: [Official explanation and submitted views](#) | [Proposed legal text](#)

How the city plans savings for hard times

Should the city adopt a reserve target and a published method for deciding deposits?

In a difficult year, the city may collect less tax money while people still need services. Saving beforehand can help. But money saved today is also money that cannot be spent today. This proposal asks what rules should guide that planning.

Words to know A reserve is money set aside for later. The Rainy Day Fund already exists. Tax revenue means money the city receives from taxes. A target is the amount the city aims to hold; a deposit is money added to the fund.

What happens now The city has a Rainy Day Fund but no reserve target or deposit method required by this proposal. Officials decide deposits through the budget. State law already limits how much may be withdrawn without a special mayoral certification.

If you vote Yes

A savings target Set a goal of holding at least 12% of the previous year's tax revenue in the Rainy Day Fund and other reserves identified in the city's method.

A deposit method Require a published method for calculating deposits when reserves are below target. Deposits would depend on that method and an approved budget; the rules allow flexibility, including years with no deposit.

Withdrawals Put the existing state withdrawal limit into city law permanently: no more than half the fund in a year unless the Mayor certifies a compelling financial need.

If you vote No

The Rainy Day Fund would remain. Officials could still add money through approved budgets. This proposal's 12% target, required deposit method and permanent city-law withdrawal provision would not be added. Existing law, including applicable state withdrawal rules, would continue.

Plain-language explanation of the proposed rules. Sources [29,65]. Further details and dates follow the example.

Check the sources: [Read the official explanation](#)

A savings target is different from a yearly deposit



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The panels show stronger and weaker financial years. If last year's tax income were \$100, a 12% target means \$12 in qualifying reserves, not a \$12 yearly deposit.

YES best case Officials publish a clear deposit method, identify reserves that can meet needs, and budget savings in stronger years. The target guides preparation while budgets also fund current services. Residents can follow the amounts.

YES worst case Officials promote the 12% target but count reserves committed to other purposes and repeatedly make no deposit. Residents expect more usable savings than are available. A target on paper gives false confidence.

NO best case The existing fund remains. Responsible leaders save through the budget and pursue a stronger savings policy through later action. They explain how they balance current services and future needs. A No vote itself would not create that stronger policy.

NO worst case Leaders repeatedly postpone saving under current rules. When tax income falls, usable reserves are too small to cushion the gap, and services face cuts. Keeping flexibility has not produced preparation.

For your community conversation What money would really be available in a downturn, and how would residents check both saving and current needs?

Check the sources: [Check the proposal behind these examples](#)

Think through your choice

Different views to consider

Why some support it Citizens Union supports the proposal as a step toward clearer savings rules, while noting that annual deposits would not be guaranteed and other reserves could count. [30]

Why some question it The Citizens Budget Commission opposes it. The group prefers a 16% target and stronger deposit requirements, and questions counting reserves that serve other purposes. These are the group's preferred policies, not RESET recommendations. [31]

These are outside views. RESET does not recommend a Yes or No vote.

Details that help explain the choice

How the method would be made The budget office would prepare it with the Comptroller. There would be public notice, comments and a hearing before the final method. The first final method is due May 1, 2027, with an update by May 1, 2030 and at least every four years after that. [65]

What the number means 12% describes the proposed minimum target relative to last year's tax income. It is not a new tax rate or a rule to add 12% every year. Other qualifying reserves may count. The withdrawal exception would require the Mayor to certify a compelling financial need. [65]

When changes would begin The Charter changes would begin when voter approval is officially certified. The first published final deposit method would be due May 1, 2027. [29,65]

Walk through your decision

Grounded What matters to me about services today and preparation for difficult years?

Aligned How do I weigh present needs, future protection and flexibility?

Aware Can I explain the difference between a target, a deposit and a withdrawal?

Intentional Do I support these rules as written? What is my reason?

My choice and reason: _____

Check the sources: [Official explanation and submitted views](#) | [Proposed legal text](#)

Check the sources: [Citizens Union support](#) | [Citizens Budget Commission opposition](#)

Now meet the people seeking the bench

The proposals ask you to choose rules. Judicial elections ask you to choose people who will apply the law. This section explains the offices, shows the listed candidates, and gives you sources for their experience.

Why a judge's work may matter to you

Imagine receiving court papers about a bill you believe you already paid. You would want time to explain, a clear account of the rules, and a decision based on the evidence. Judges also hear disputes about homes, families, businesses and criminal charges, depending on their assignments.

What is on your own ballot

Queens voters have boroughwide Supreme Court and Civil Court contests. Some voters also have a district Civil Court contest. The next pages list all five judicial contests on the posted Queens list. Your sample ballot shows which ones apply at your address.

The same profile for every candidate

Each person has a photograph, party line, school and New York admission year, background, experience and published assessments. The profiles draw from official records, campaign material, reporting and professional sources. The source is named so you can see where each statement comes from.

Read outside reviews in their setting

Bar associations evaluate candidates using their own processes. Client review sites collect voluntary comments. These offer different kinds of information. This guide gives the date, office and source when available, then leaves the judgment to you.

Questions for anyone seeking the bench

What experience prepares you for this court? How would you explain a hearing to someone without a lawyer? How would you hear each side fairly and give clear reasons for your decision?

Check the sources: [Find your official sample ballot](#)

Know the court before the candidate

Office	What it does	An everyday example
New York Supreme Court justice	A state trial judge with broad authority over civil matters and, in NYC criminal terms, felony cases. This is not the US Supreme Court. New York's highest state court is the Court of Appeals.	A divorce, foreclosure, major injury lawsuit, or felony prosecution.
New York City Civil Court judge	The court handles money claims up to \$50,000. It also has small claims and housing parts. Judges elected to Civil Court can be assigned elsewhere in the court system.	A disputed debt or a claim that a contractor failed to complete paid work.

Supreme Court justices are elected to 14-year terms; elected Civil Court judges serve 10-year terms. Housing Court judges have a separate appointment process. Court authority and actual judicial assignments are different things. [2–4]

Read the voting instruction

Queens judicial contest	Maximum number of different candidates
Supreme Court justice	Three
Civil Court judge — countywide	Three
Civil Court district contests — Districts 2, 3 or 4	One in the contest printed on your ballot

A person on two party lines is still one candidate. Milner appears on Democratic and Republican lines. Barra, Mossa and Shanahan each appear on Republican and Conservative lines. Follow the marking instructions on your official ballot. [1,52]

Picture the responsibility

Hypothetical: A resident receives court papers over an unpaid bill. The judge must consider the evidence, apply the law, and protect a fair hearing. A campaign promise cannot decide that person's case in advance.

Look beyond a familiar name

Ask about legal experience, patience and fairness in court, independence, treatment of people without lawyers, and the ability to explain decisions. Party support identifies a nomination or endorsement; it does not establish how a judge will rule.

Sources [1–4,52]. District races vary by address. Confirm your ballot at findmypollsite.vote.nyc. The next page lists all five Queens judicial contests.

Find the judicial contests on your ballot

This edition covers all five judicial contests in the Queens section of the Board of Elections list posted for November 3. There are fifteen different candidates. You will not necessarily see every contest below on your own ballot. [52]

Contest	Who votes and how many	Candidates
Supreme Court 11th Judicial District	Queens voters Choose up to 3	Edwin I. Novillo; Gary Muraca; Oma D. Phillips; David A. Bellon; Gail A. Adams
Civil Court Countywide	Queens voters Choose up to 3	Edmond Wong; Thomas D. Barra; Julie M. Milner; Jasmine I. Valle-Bueno; Michael Mossa
Civil Court 2nd Municipal District	Voters in that district Choose 1	Janet Ellen Keller; Stephen C. Dachtera
Civil Court 3rd Municipal District	Voters in that district Choose 1	Michelle Ann McSweeney-Ortiz; William David Shanahan
Civil Court 4th Municipal District	Voters in that district Choose 1	Edward Irizarry

Find your own district

Use your full home address at the official sample ballot finder. Look for the separate Civil Court contest after the countywide contest. Match the names there to the district section in this guide. A ZIP code or neighborhood name alone may not settle which ballot applies to you.

[VIEW YOUR OFFICIAL SAMPLE BALLOT](#) • findmypollsite.vote.nyc

Do not mark choices in a contest that is not on your ballot. A person on two party lines remains one candidate. Follow the printed instructions for each contest.

What this edition covers

The coverage is comprehensive for the judicial contests on the posted Queens list. It is not a guide to every other office on the ballot or a complete audit of every candidate's career. The Board's posted list is dated September 11 and marked tentative and subject to change. Your current official sample ballot is the final check. [52]

Check the sources: [Board of Elections current candidate list page](#)

Supreme Court candidates



Edwin I. Novillo

Democratic

Law school: Touro | New York admission: 2004 [33]

Background A sitting judge and supervising judge of Queens Criminal Court. The city's biography says he attended John Jay College and Touro Law and worked for the Legal Aid Society's criminal defense practice for about 14½ years before joining the bench in 2018.

Experience His record includes deciding criminal cases and helping manage the court. In July 2026, the Queens Daily Eagle reported progress on older cases alongside a growing overall backlog. These are courtwide results influenced by staffing, arrests, lawyers, and other judges—not a personal performance score.

Published assessments A dated 2026 Supreme Court bar assessment is not included in this edition. The sources for this profile provide his official biography, court background and reporting on his work.

Sources [5,6]; education and admission [33]. See the public review section.



Oma D. Phillips

Democratic

Law school: CUNY | New York admission: 1990 [33]

Background A Queens Civil Court judge serving since January 2026. Her earlier campaign describes experience as a prosecutor and as a court attorney in Supreme and Family Courts; she is a CUNY Law graduate.

Experience She brings both prosecution and court advisory experience. A court attorney helps a judge research and resolve legal questions; that role is different from deciding cases as the judge.

Published assessments The City Bar rated her Approved for Civil Court in October 2025. That historical assessment concerns a different office from the Supreme Court position now sought. Her earlier campaign page still describes the 2025 election.

Sources [7–9]; education and admission [33]. See the public review section.

Supreme Court candidates continued



Gail A. Adams

Democratic

Law school: Touro | New York admission: 1999 [33]

Background A Queens Civil Court judge serving since January 2026. Her background includes Legal Aid criminal defense, private practice, and court attorney and law clerk work. The Queens Daily Eagle reports experience in family, real estate, divorce, and tenant matters.

Experience Her Civil Court service began in January 2026, following work representing clients and assisting judges with cases.

Published assessments The City Bar rated her Not Approved for Civil Court in October 2025. The notice lists the assessment without an individual explanation. It concerns the Civil Court office in that election.

Sources [7,9]; education and admission [33]. See the public review section.



Gary Muraca

Republican

Law school: CUNY | New York admission: 1990 [33]

Background An attorney listed by the Queens County Republican Party as a 2026 Supreme Court candidate. Professional directories identify a private practice and list work in areas including real estate, immigration, and criminal law.

Experience His background is in representing clients in private practice. He is seeking election to Supreme Court.

Published assessments The City Bar rated him Approved for Supreme Court in October 2023, then Not Approved in October 2024 and October 2025. The notices list the assessments without individual explanations. The published assessments included here are from 2023–2025. [57,58]

Sources [9,10,11]; education and admission [33]. See the public review section.

Supreme Court candidate and record examples



David A. Bellon

Republican

Law school: Hofstra | New York admission: 2006 [33]

Background An attorney listed by the Queens County Republican Party as a 2026 Supreme Court candidate. A professional directory lists him in Fresh Meadows. His directory lists an Adelphi bachelor's degree and master's degree, and a Hofstra law degree. New York's attorney record confirms admission in 2006.

Experience His experience described in these sources is as an attorney in private practice. He is seeking election to Supreme Court.

Published assessments The sources linked for this profile provide professional background and a client review. A dated 2026 bar assessment is not included in this edition.

Sources [10,12]; education and admission [33]. See the public review section.

Two rulings and the questions behind them

People v Pazmino 2023 Novillo denied a request to undo an impaired driving conviction. He examined the legal grounds for reopening the case. A later license problem did not supply the remedy the person requested. [13]

People v R G 2021 Novillo dismissed assault and harassment charges after finding prosecutors had used 152 days of a 90 day legal deadline. He found plea discussions had not stopped the clock. This was a ruling about the deadline, not a finding that the accused was innocent. [35]

One request was denied; another case was dismissed. The useful question is what the law required and how the judge explained it. These two cases cannot tell us how he handles every case. Later appeal history has not been fully checked.

Check the sources: [Read Pazmino](#) | [Read R G](#)

Civil Court candidates



Edmond Wong

Democratic

Law school: St. John's | New York admission: 2013 [33]

Background His campaign identifies him as a court attorney-referee in Queens Surrogate's Court, with earlier Civil Court experience and private practice involving real property and guardianship. It lists Hofstra University and St. John's Law as his schools.

Experience His experience includes court work as an attorney-referee, a role that may include assigned hearings and other court duties. His campaign lists support from Gregory Meeks, Grace Meng, and Tom Suozzi, among others.

Published assessments The City Bar rated him Approved in June 2026. LeGaL listed him as Failed to Appear that month. The two organizations use separate review processes. The terms are explained in the assessment section.

Sources [15–17]; education and admission [33]. See the public review section.



Thomas D. Barra

Republican and Conservative

Law school: California Western | New York admission: 1997 [33]

Background An attorney with a background in criminal defense. October 2026 amNewYork reporting describes nearly three decades of experience representing people facing criminal charges.

Experience His experience centers on representing clients in criminal cases. He is seeking election to Civil Court.

Published assessments The City Bar rated him Not Approved for Civil Court in October 2025. The notice lists the assessment without an individual explanation. This is the dated bar assessment included for him in this edition.

Sources [9,18]; education and admission [33]. See the public review section.

Civil Court candidates continued



Julie M. Milner

Democratic and Republican

Law school: CUNY | New York admission: 2009 [33]

Background A lawyer and educator whose campaign emphasizes civil rights and education. She founded Milner Law Office. Reporting describes volunteer work helping resolve disagreements over lawyers' fees.

Experience The Queens Daily Eagle reported concerns in 2024 about posts attributed to her social media account, including apparent calls for President Biden's execution. That is attributed reporting, not a disciplinary judgment. In the same report, Milner said she was not part of the MAGA movement and had curtailed her speech to follow judicial ethics rules. She said judges should approach cases with an open mind and apply law to facts.

Published assessments The City Bar rated her Not Approved in June 2026; LeGaL listed Failed to Appear. Her campaign says she is committed to independence and impartiality. The bar release does not identify the reason for its rating.

Sources [16–20]; education and admission [33]. See the public review section.



Jasmine I. Valle-Bueno

Democratic

Law school: CUNY | New York admission: 2014 [33]

Background Her campaign describes more than a decade of experience spanning housing, criminal, civil, family, and appellate matters. It lists service as senior court attorney to the administrative judge of Queens Supreme Court, Civil Term, since September 2023.

Experience Her experience includes researching legal questions and helping judges prepare and resolve cases. Her campaign and professional association materials also describe support for her candidacy.

Published assessments October amNewYork coverage reports favorable assessments from the City Bar, Queens County Bar, and LeGaL. This edition attributes those assessments to the news report; the original dated notices are not included.

Sources [18,21,22]; education and admission [33]. See the public review section.

Civil Court candidates continued



Michael Mossa

Republican and Conservative — countywide

Law school: Western New England | New York admission: 2002 [33]

Background An attorney whose practice has included criminal defense. Professional directories identify his firm in Ozone Park, and amNewYork reports more than two decades of legal experience and a prior run for Queens district attorney.

Experience His public background includes criminal defense work and a campaign for district attorney. This election is for Civil Court judge.

Published assessments A dated 2026 Civil Court bar assessment is not included in this edition. His directory lists a Hofstra bachelor's degree and a Western New England law degree. New York's attorney record confirms admission in 2002.

Sources [18,23,32]; education and admission [33]. See the public review section.



Edward Irizarry

Democratic — District 4, vote for one

Law school: Michigan | New York admission: 1991 [33]

Background His campaign describes more than 30 years of legal experience, including prosecution, legislative counsel work, and service as an associate court attorney. It identifies NYU and the University of Michigan Law School in his background.

Experience The posted general election list places him in the 4th Municipal District, with one seat and one printed candidate. He is separate from the five countywide choices. His campaign provides the career background summarized here. [52]

Published assessments The City Bar rated him Approved in June 2026; LeGaL listed Failed to Appear. Those primary notices placed him in the countywide field; his general election contest is District 4. The date and office are listed with each assessment in this guide.

Sources [1,16,17,24]; education and admission [33]. See the public review section.

Civil Court District 2 candidates



Janet Ellen Keller

Democratic

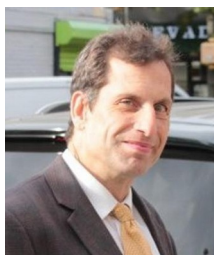
Law school: St. John's | New York admission: 1995 [33]

Background Her campaign describes more than thirty years handling lawsuits in New York courts and a St. John's law degree. The matching state attorney entry is under Janet Keller and lists the New York City Corporation Counsel as her employer.

Experience Her work described here is as a lawyer handling lawsuits, including service in the city's law office. She is seeking election to Civil Court.

Published assessments Her campaign reports City Bar Approved and Queens County Bar Qualified assessments. These assessments are attributed to her campaign. The original dated notices are not included in this edition.

Sources [33,52,53]; education and admission [33]. See the public review section.



Stephen C. Dachtera

Republican

Law school: St. John's | New York admission: 2006 [33]

Background A Queens attorney whose directory lists real estate work. His campaign emphasizes applying the law fairly, giving each person a chance to be heard, and moving cases toward timely decisions. His New York admission dates to 2006.

Experience His experience described here is in private practice, including real estate work. His campaign describes fair hearings and timely decisions as priorities for the judgeship.

Published assessments The City Bar rated him Approved for countywide Civil Court in October 2024 and Not Approved for District 2 in October 2025. The notices list the assessments without individual explanations. The published assessments included here are from 2024 and 2025.

Sources [9,52,54,58,60]; education and admission [33]. See the public review section.

Check the sources: [Keller campaign](#) | [Dachtera campaign](#)

Civil Court District 3 candidates



Michelle Ann McSweeney-Ortiz

Democratic

Law school: St. John's | New York admission: 2006 [33]

Background Her campaign describes ten years in private practice followed by ten years assisting a Supreme Court judge with business cases and property tax disputes. Before law, she taught foreign languages and attended St. John's law school at night.

Experience Her court attorney work involves legal research and helping a judge with cases. In a Queens Ledger interview, she emphasized listening openly and using mediation when appropriate. Mediation helps people seek an agreement. [55]

Published assessments Her campaign and interview describe patience, open listening and fair treatment as priorities. A dated 2026 bar assessment is not included in this edition.

Sources [33,52,55,56]; education and admission [33]. See the public review section.



William David Shanahan

Republican and Conservative

Law school: St. John's | New York admission: 1990 [33]

Background An attorney with more than thirty years of criminal and civil legal experience, according to QNS reporting. The matching state entry lists St. John's law school and New York admission in 1990. The Republican Party identifies him as its District 3 candidate.

Experience His background described in these sources includes representing clients in criminal and civil matters. He is seeking election in Civil Court District 3.

Published assessments The City Bar rated him Approved for Civil Court in October 2023 and October 2024, then Not Approved in October 2025. The earlier races were District 6 and countywide; this race is District 3. The published assessments included here are from 2023–2025.

Sources [9,10,33,52,57,58,59]; education and admission [33]. See the public review section.

Check the sources: [McSweeney-Ortiz campaign](#) | [Republican candidate list](#)

What public reviews can tell us

Yes, public lawyer review sites exist. Avvo carries client comments and lawyer endorsements. Martindale has client and peer review sections. Google reviews may appear on a law office listing. These sites are not official measures of a judge's fairness or ability.

Type of information	What it can tell you	What it cannot prove
Client review	How one person describes hiring or consulting a lawyer.	That every client had that experience, or that the lawyer would be a fair judge.
Lawyer endorsement	What another lawyer says about a colleague.	An independent audit or a client's experience.
Bar association assessment	That group's evaluation for a named office and election.	How a different organization would assess the candidate, or how future cases would be decided.
Published ruling	The facts and legal reasoning in that case.	The judge's whole record, temperament, or all unpublished work.

The quoted assessment terms belong to the named bar association. Failed to Appear is that group's participation label. Dates and offices help readers place each result in context.

How RESET uses reviews

We identify the site, the number of reviews, and the review date when available. We summarize what is visible without treating comments as verified facts. Old reviews may describe an earlier stage of a career. A site's computer generated score is different from a client review; RESET does not use those scores to rank candidates.

The next three pages cover all fifteen candidates. "No client comments displayed" describes the linked page on the date checked. A directory collects voluntary comments; it does not collect every person's experience. Reviews and counts can change.

Sites focused on judges

Scrutinize publishes court data and linked rulings. Its coverage and dates matter. The Robing Room collects courtroom opinions; its current About page emphasizes federal judges, so we did not use it as a verified review source for these Queens candidates. Official public discipline decisions are available from New York's Commission on Judicial Conduct.

Check the sources: [Scrutinize Novillo profile](#) | [Robing Room methods](#) | [Official public discipline](#)

Public reviews of Supreme Court candidates

Edwin I. Novillo

Martindale shows no client or peer reviews on the linked profile.

Check the sources: [Open review source](#)

Oma D. Phillips

An Avvo directory listing under Oma Deonarine shows Not yet reviewed. Professional sources also use Oma Phillips Deonarine.

Check the sources: [Open review source](#)

Gail A. Adams

Her Queens Avvo profile shows no client reviews and no lawyer endorsements.

Check the sources: [Open review source](#)

Gary Muraca

Avvo and Martindale show no client reviews on the profiles checked.

Check the sources: [Open review source](#)

David A. Bellon

Avvo shows 5 out of 5 from one client review dated August 27, 2010. The anonymous reviewer praised efficient case handling. The review describes that client's experience in 2010.

Check the sources: [Open review source](#)

These are source observations, not RESET ratings. Reviewers' identities and case accounts have not been independently verified.

Public reviews of Civil Court candidates

Edmond Wong

Birdeye displays 4.4 out of 5 from 17 Google reviews for his law office. Visible comments praise responsiveness and care with real estate work. The full set was not available for this review, so this is not a complete account of favorable and critical comments. Avvo separately shows no client reviews.

Check the sources: [Open review source](#)

Thomas D. Barra

The matching Avvo profile shows no client reviews.

Check the sources: [Open review source](#)

Julie M. Milner

Avvo shows no client reviews and one endorsement from lawyer Sean Kuhlmeier, who praises her research and client advocacy. That is a colleague's view, separate from the bar assessments and news reporting in her profile.

Check the sources: [Open review source](#)

Jasmine I. Valle-Bueno

Avvo shows no client reviews and no lawyer endorsements. Much of her documented work assists judges.

Check the sources: [Open review source](#)

Michael Mossa

Avvo shows 5 out of 5 from one client review dated January 31, 2018. The reviewer, Suzanne, praised his calm, attentive handling of a landlord and tenant matter. The review describes that client's experience in 2018.

Check the sources: [Open review source](#)

Edward Irizarry

The matching Avvo profile shows no client reviews or lawyer endorsements.

Check the sources: [Open review source](#)

Public reviews of district candidates

Janet Ellen Keller

The matching New York Lawyers.com profile shows no client reviews.

Check the sources: [Check the source](#)

Stephen C. Dachtera

Avvo shows no client reviews and three lawyer endorsements. Anthony Delluniversita praises preparation and attention to detail; Bruce Connolly and Thomas Kenniff describe referring clients to him. These are colleagues' views, not client reviews or judicial assessments.

Check the sources: [Check the source](#)

Michelle Ann McSweeney-Ortiz

The matching Avvo entry, under Michelle Ann McSweeney, shows no client reviews. It lists a 2006 New York admission and St. John's background.

Check the sources: [Check the source](#)

William David Shanahan

The official state registration record is linked here for his school and admission year. This edition does not include a client review for him.

Check the sources: [Check the source](#)

Why we check identities first

A familiar name is not enough. We compare names, schools, admission dates and professional details. We do not transfer praise or criticism from another person's profile. The review summaries use entries matched to the candidate's professional background.

Read bar assessments with their dates

An assessment is the reviewing group’s judgment at that time, for that office. It can change. The releases below do not give personal explanations for the changes. RESET does not guess at a reason or convert these results into its own scores.

Candidate	Earlier City Bar results	Later City Bar result
Gary Muraca	Approved — Supreme Court, October 2023. Not Approved — Supreme Court, October 2024.	Not Approved — Supreme Court, October 2025.
Stephen C. Dachtera	Approved — countywide Civil Court, October 2024.	Not Approved — Civil Court District 2, October 2025.
William David Shanahan	Approved — Civil Court District 6, October 2023. Approved — countywide Civil Court, October 2024.	Not Approved — countywide Civil Court, October 2025.

These are historical results, not 2026 assessments. The candidate profiles give the other evaluations found, including June 2026 primary results and clearly labeled campaign claims. [9,16,17,57,58]

Understand the words

Approved The organization says the candidate demonstrated the qualifications it requires for that office.

Not Approved The organization did not give its approval. The notice may or may not include an individual explanation. Read the organization’s criteria alongside the result.

Failed to Appear The organization records that the candidate did not participate in its review. It is different from an assessment of qualifications.

Reported by a campaign or news source The guide names that source when the original dated assessment notice is not included.

Check the sources: [City Bar 2023](#) | [City Bar 2024](#) | [City Bar 2025](#)

Where to learn more about court experience

Admission is a starting point

The school and New York admission year on each profile come from the state attorney registration dataset. An admission year tells you when a person entered the New York bar. It does not tell you how many cases they handled or how well they handled them. The dataset lists registration details. [33]

Oma Phillips also appears in professional sources as Oma Deonarine or Oma Phillips Deonarine. The state entry under Oma Deonarine lists CUNY and 1990. Names were checked with her campaign and professional association references before using that entry. [8,33,34]

Published decisions are only part of the work

Scrutinize's Novillo profile lists two published decisions for its eight year period through 2025. This is a count of decisions in that dataset, not a count of cases he heard. Many rulings are not published. The number cannot fairly be used as a productivity score. [36]

Public discipline is different from a complaint or a negative review. The Commission on Judicial Conduct publishes official decisions about judges. New York's courts publish attorney discipline decisions. These official sources offer a separate way to read public findings.

New judges and first time candidates

Phillips and Adams began their Civil Court terms in January 2026. Other candidates bring experience representing clients or helping judges with cases. Read each person's background in the context of the role they held.

Fair questions to ask anyone seeking the bench

How would you help someone who has no lawyer understand the hearing? How do you stay open minded when one side's story sounds familiar? What work best shows your ability to explain the law? What would you do if a friend or political supporter appeared before you?

Check the sources: [State attorney records](#) | [Novillo data and methods](#) | [Judicial discipline decisions](#)

Make your own decision

You can use this page for a proposal or a judicial contest. Use the questions to work toward a choice and a reason you can explain in your own words.

Step	Your response
Grounded	What values or responsibilities matter to me? _____ _____
Aligned	Which priorities apply to this particular choice? _____ _____
Aware	What does each option do? What do I still want to learn? _____ _____
Intentional	What is my choice, and what is my reason? _____ _____

Check your understanding

For a proposal, explain what Yes changes and what No keeps. For a judicial contest, explain what the court does and what experience you learned about the candidates. Then look back at the original source for any detail you want to confirm.

Make a plan to vote

Election Day is Tuesday, November 3, 2026, from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Early voting runs October 24 through November 1. Early voting hours vary, and your early voting site may differ from your Election Day site. Check the official site before leaving home. [64]

CHECK YOUR POLL SITE AND SAMPLE BALLOT

My voting day and time: _____

My correct voting location: _____

A conversation worth having

Try asking: What does this choice do? What matters to you about it? What helped you reach your decision? You can learn from someone's reasons even when your choices differ.

Questions or a community workshop: Pastor Reginald Lee Bachus
reggie@reggiebachus.com

Sources and further reading

Links on the review pages open each candidate's directory entry. Numbers below match the other source references. A source's opinions belong to that source. Checked October 23, 2026.

[1] [Supplied sample ballot images](#)

IMG_9116.png, IMG_9117.png and IMG_9118.png. Queens general election dated November 3, 2026.

[2] [New York City Bar judicial election guide](#)

Court structure, selection and terms. May 12, 2025.

[3] [New York Courts Civil Court overview](#)

Current court authority, including \$50,000 civil claims.

[4] [New York Courts Civil Court judges](#)

Judicial assignments and Civil Court roster.

[5] [New York City Criminal Court biographies](#)

Official biography of Edwin Novillo.

[6] [Queens Daily Eagle court administration report](#)

Case volume continues to challenge Queens Criminal Court. July 15, 2026.

[7] [Queens Daily Eagle Supreme Court nominations](#)

Background on Novillo, Phillips and Adams. August 11, 2026.

[8] [Oma Phillips campaign](#)

Earlier Civil Court campaign biography; describes 2025 race.

[9] [City Bar general election ratings 2025](#)

Historical evaluations. October 24, 2025.

[10] [Queens County Republican Party candidates](#)

Party source identifying its 2026 nominees.

[11] [Lawyers dot com Gary Muraca profile](#)

Professional directory; not an official registration record.

[12] [Martindale David A Bellon profile](#)

Professional directory; not an official registration record.

[13] [People v Pazmino](#)

2023 NY Slip Op 23046. Published trial decision.

Sources and further reading

Links on the review pages open each candidate's directory entry. Numbers below match the other source references. A source's opinions belong to that source. Checked October 23, 2026.

[14] [People v Ali](#)

2026 NY Slip Op 50671(U). February 20, 2026.

[15] [Edmond Wong campaign](#)

Biography and campaign-reported endorsements.

[16] [City Bar primary ratings 2026](#)

June 11, 2026. Wong, Milner and Irizarry evaluations.

[17] [LeGaL primary ratings 2026](#)

June 9, 2026. Criteria and participation results.

[18] [amNewYork Civil Court candidate reporting](#)

October 21, 2026. Candidate backgrounds and assessments.

[19] [Julie Milner campaign biography](#)

Candidate statement of experience and values.

[20] [Queens Daily Eagle reporting on Milner](#)

May 2, 2024. Reporting on social media posts and Milner's response.

[21] [Jasmine Valle Bueno campaign](#)

Self-reported work history.

[22] [Latino Lawyers Association of Queens County](#)

April 6, 2026. Supportive professional association statement.

[23] [Martindale Michael Mossa profile](#)

Professional directory; not an official registration record.

[24] [Edward Irizarry campaign biography](#)

Candidate-reported education and work history.

[25] [NYC Votes proposal 1](#)

Official explanation and summaries of submitted arguments.

[26] [NYC Votes proposal 2](#)

Official explanation and summaries of submitted arguments.

Sources and further reading

Links on the review pages open each candidate's directory entry. Numbers below match the other source references. A source's opinions belong to that source. Checked October 23, 2026.

[27] [NYC Votes proposal 3](#)

Official explanation and summaries of submitted arguments.

[28] [NYC Votes proposal 4](#)

Official explanation and summaries of submitted arguments.

[29] [NYC Votes proposal 5](#)

Official explanation and summaries of submitted arguments.

[30] [Citizens Union positions](#)

October 1, 2026. Supports all five proposals with stated reservations.

[31] [Citizens Budget Commission position](#)

October 21, 2026. Opposes proposal 5 and explains preferred savings rules.

[32] [Queens Ledger Michael Mossa profile](#)

October 18, 2023. Photograph and candidate identification.

[33] [New York State attorney registration dataset](#)

Official school and New York admission data. Queried by name; does not certify case experience or disciplinary history.

[34] [AABANY judiciary committee reporting](#)

Professional association uses the name Oma Phillips Deonarine.

[35] [People v R G](#)

2021 NY Slip Op 51136(U). Published decision on the legal time limit for prosecution.

[36] [Scrutinize Edwin Novillo profile](#)

Limited court data with coverage dates and linked decisions.

[37] [Commission on Judicial Conduct](#)

Official public determinations; confidential matters are not public findings.

[38] [Robing Room About page](#)

Explains its courtroom review service and federal focus.

[39] [Valle Bueno professional biography](#)

Latino Lawyers Association describes court roles and professional service.

Sources and further reading

Links on the review pages open each candidate's directory entry. Numbers below match the other source references. A source's opinions belong to that source. Checked October 23, 2026.

[40] [Edwin I. Novillo public review source](#)

Review snapshot discussed on the candidate review pages.

[41] [Oma D. Phillips public review source](#)

Review snapshot discussed on the candidate review pages.

[42] [Gail A. Adams public review source](#)

Review snapshot discussed on the candidate review pages.

[43] [Gary Muraca public review source](#)

Review snapshot discussed on the candidate review pages.

[44] [David A. Bellon public review source](#)

Review snapshot discussed on the candidate review pages.

[45] [Edmond Wong public review source](#)

Review snapshot discussed on the candidate review pages.

[46] [Thomas D. Barra public review source](#)

Review snapshot discussed on the candidate review pages.

[47] [Julie M. Milner public review source](#)

Review snapshot discussed on the candidate review pages.

[48] [Jasmine I. Valle-Bueno public review source](#)

Review snapshot discussed on the candidate review pages.

[49] [Michael Mossa public review source](#)

Review snapshot discussed on the candidate review pages.

[50] [Edward Irizarry public review source](#)

Review snapshot discussed on the candidate review pages.

[51] [Commission on Government Efficiency final report](#)

July 23, 2026. The proposing commission's explanation and rationale; it supports the changes it proposed.

[52] [NYC Board of Elections contest list](#)

Posted list for November 3, 2026. Queens judicial contests on PDF pages 31, 32, 37 and 38. List printed September 11; marked tentative and subject to change.

Sources and further reading

Links on the review pages open each candidate's directory entry. Numbers below match the other source references. A source's opinions belong to that source. Checked October 23, 2026.

[53] [Janet Ellen Keller campaign](#)

Biography and campaign-reported bar assessments.

[54] [Stephen Dachtera campaign](#)

Candidate biography and stated approach.

[55] [Queens Ledger interview with McSweeney Ortiz](#)

April 8, 2026. Career background, listening and mediation.

[56] [McSweeney Ortiz campaign biography](#)

Work history and candidate statements.

[57] [City Bar general election assessments 2023](#)

October 16, 2023. Historical offices and assessments.

[58] [City Bar general election assessments 2024](#)

October 25, 2024. Historical offices and assessments.

[59] [QNS historical candidate background](#)

June 6, 2025. Shanahan legal experience; this is not the 2026 contest list.

[60] [Stephen Dachtera Avvo profile](#)

No client reviews; three lawyer endorsements in the snapshot checked.

[61] [Janet Keller New York directory profile](#)

Lawyers.com entry with New York admission and employer matching the state record.

[62] [Michelle McSweeney Avvo profile](#)

Matched name and professional background; no client reviews in snapshot.

[63] [Keller campaign copy of sample ballot](#)

Reproduces the District 2 contest; other races depend on address. Use the official finder for your own ballot.

[64] [NYC Votes 2026 general election guide](#)

Official election dates and voting information.

[65] [Full proposed Charter amendments](#)

Adopted July 23, 2026. Proposed legal changes for all five questions, including effective dates.

Image credits and research notes

Candidate photographs: Novillo, Adams and Phillips are cropped from Noah Powelson's Queens Daily Eagle convention photo [7]. Milner, Valle-Bueno, Wong and Barra appear in amNewYork [18], credited there to campaigns and LawyersGunsWhiskey. Irizarry is from his campaign [24]. Bellon and Muraca are from the Queens County Republican Party [10]. Mossa is from Queens Ledger [32]. Keller and McSweeney-Ortiz photographs are from their campaign websites [53,56]. Dachtera and Shanahan photographs are from the Queens Republican Party [10]. All fifteen candidates receive the same photograph size and neutral layout.

The cover and five proposal scenes are AI generated illustrations. They depict fictional people, not actual candidates, residents, approved projects, or predicted results. Captions explain what to look for. Candidate photographs are credited to their original sources; separate permissions may apply to those images.

School and admission years were checked in the state dataset. Entries under Janet Keller and Michelle Ann McSweeney were matched using New York professional details; official records can use a different form of a candidate's name. Reviews were matched using names and professional details where available. Directories can be incomplete or out of date. Review counts are a snapshot, not a survey of all clients or all platforms. Comments are not verified findings.

This is a dated educational edition, not a complete audit of every case, appeal, complaint or disciplinary record. Original notices are distinguished from ratings reported by campaigns or news sources. No candidate was contacted for this guide.

The initial sample ballot was expanded using the Board of Elections posted Queens contest list [52]. That list includes three district Civil Court contests, in Districts 2, 3 and 4. A neighborhood may have no district contest this year. This guide covers all fifteen listed judicial candidates; it does not imply that every candidate appears on every voter's ballot.

[VIEW YOUR OFFICIAL SAMPLE BALLOT](#) • findmypollsite.vote.nyc

RESET provides education only. No RESET candidate ratings. No candidate endorsements. No Yes or No recommendations.

Share the guide and keep the credit

Prepared by Pastor Reginald Lee Bachus

RESET brings practical education to the choices people face in their lives and communities. This guide is part of that work: clear explanations, linked sources, thoughtful questions and room for people to decide for themselves.

For your church or community

Invite Pastor Reginald Lee Bachus for voter education workshops, facilitated conversations, or a discussion about a custom community report. Contact him to discuss scope, availability, fees, and permissions.

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