

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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**QUEENS CIVICS, CITIZEN UNION HOST CONVERSATIONS WITH CANDIDATES
8/8, 7pm**

Queens community members get a unique opportunity to discuss issues with local candidates for the state legislature running in the September 10 Democratic primary at a special public forum, Thursday, August 8 at 7:00 p.m. The Queens Civic Congress, the Citizens Union and the Forest Hills Community House sponsor "Community Conversations," at the Kew Gardens Community Center, 80-02 Kew Gardens Road, Suite 202.

With the 2000 census creating two new Assembly districts, in Flushing and Corona/Jackson Heights and one new Senate district, in Jackson Heights/ Corona/ East Elmhurst, this year's primary election offers more excitement that builds interest and voter participation. A contested Senate primary will determine a successor to Senator Dan Hevesi, in the Rego Park/ Forest Hills/Kew Gardens Hills/ Hillcrest district, putting an incumbent, Senator Toby Stavisky in a race with former City Councilwoman Julia Harrison and Marcia Lynn, in a district with some new neighborhoods.

The Community Conversations with the Candidates allows the public and the candidates to discuss, in an informal setting, subjects ranging from education to criminal justice. Other topics to be discussed include economic development, the environment, community facilities, tax increases, housing and possible tax increases.

"We are pleased to partner once again with the Citizens Union and the Community House to provide the public an opportunity to interact with candidates running for the legislature," said Queens Civic Congress President Sean Walsh. "Last year more than 400 people participated in these Community Conversations in Queens where they raised issues with the candidates that might otherwise go undiscussed."

For information, call Pat Dolan at (718) 268-5960.