



Assemblyman

Ron Kim

Reports to The People



Winter 2019 - 2020

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Dear Neighbor(s):

2019 was a historic year for New York. With the passage of the landmark 2019-2020 state budget, my colleagues and I worked our hardest to craft a legislative plan of action to address the needs of all New Yorkers. At the start of the session, we focused on expanding funding for public health programs, quality public education, youth after-school initiatives, and supporting our community's homeowners and seniors.

One of our major achievements was the passage of the Housing Stability and Tenant Protection Act, greatly strengthening New York's rent stabilization system while expanding tenant protections throughout the state. In a time of soaring housing costs, record evictions, and a worsening homelessness crisis, this law ensures that far more families and long-term residents are not displaced from their communities and homes.

On a global scale, I believe that our passing of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act paves the way for New York to lead our country in the fight against an increasingly urgent climate crisis. It secures our commitment to environmental conservation, sustainable development, and a greener, more livable future powered by renewable energy and a clean energy economy.

As we bid farewell to one decade and look to the start of another, I will continue to keep your concerns and thoughts with me as we strive to serve our state and fight for the interests of our community.

Sincerely,

Ron Kim
Member of Assembly



THE 2020 CENSUS



As we enter 2020, the importance of the upcoming national Census is difficult to overstate. It represents a crucial, statewide initiative that affects all New Yorkers. Held only once every ten years, this Census will determine the amount and proportion of federal funding for government and social programs in New York, as well as how many Congressmembers will represent us in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Overlooking and undercounting entire communities will adversely affect both. Similar to ten years ago, New York's large and vibrant population is once again at a great risk of being underrepresented. This year, the Assembly called on the State Senate to pass the legislation needed to establish the '2020 Complete Count Commission' and fund the state's preparations for the 2020 Census in order to ensure every New Yorker is counted.

I believe a fair and equitable count is critical to reflecting the voices and needs of all neighborhoods, and ensuring fair funding and investment for all communities. There is far too much at stake, from our number of congressional seats to the amount of funding our communities stand to receive or lose.

BUDGET

Medicaid:

Ensuring New York continues to provide comprehensive and quality health care services and programs is vital. My fellow lawmakers and I worked to safeguard fair drug prices, cover increased costs for over-the-counter drugs, and prevent co-pay increases. The budget also increased funding of safety net hospitals and school-based health centers, totaling \$66 million in increased support for public health programs.

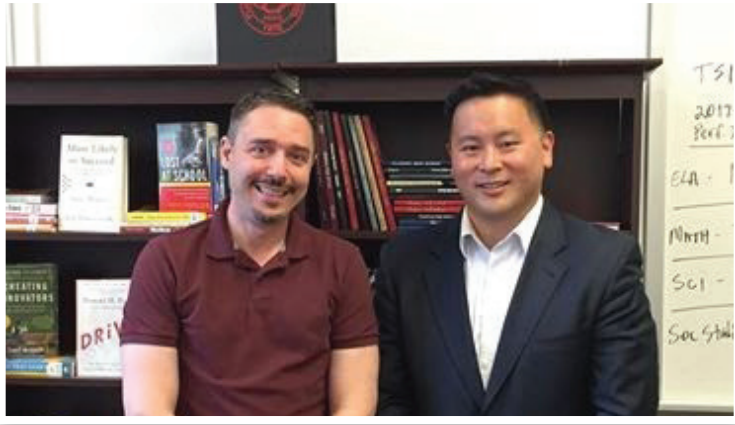
School Aid and Education:

The 2019-20 state budget continued our commitment to expanding opportunity for future generations, substantially increasing funding for public schools and putting a college degree within reach for far more students. It also includes a \$618 million increase for Foundation Aid which will greatly help underfunded, high-need communities, and a boost in funding grants for pre-kindergarten programs to a total of \$822 million.

Election Reforms

Free and fair elections are essential to our democracy. Election day incidents in recent years, including technical failures, unreasonable wait times, and even misplaced or lost ballots have become a cause of serious concern. To ensure that all of my constituents have a truly equal voice in government, I fought with my colleagues to include nearly \$25 million in this year's budget — money that will be used to modernize our voting system, fund early voting measures, and greatly expand all voters' access to polling sites.

COMMUNITY UPDATES



Assemblymember Kim visited Flushing High School and met with Principal Ignazio Accardi to discuss its ongoing academic progress and continued improvement in students' academic performance.



After meeting students, parents, and educators, Assemblymember Kim delivered the commencement speech for the 2019 Queens High School for Language Studies graduating class.



Assemblymember Kim announced legislation that creates an interstate compact designed to reel in corporate subsidy packages.



Assemblymember Kim met with young West Point cadets near the United Nations Headquarters.

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Assemblymember Kim joined local residents in celebrating the full restoration of the Bland Houses playground and basketball courts, a project that was completed through \$750,000 in funding he nominated and secured through the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York.