Budget

Next week the Assembly must decide whether to pass an on-time budget. Here are a number of things that I think should be in that budget:

- Fully funding our Foundation Aid. Our public schools in NYC are owed $1.7B in Foundation Aid and Governor Cuomo intends to repeal the Foundation Aid formula**. I will continue to fight against this and ask you to sign my petition to the Governor to fully fund our public schools**.
- We must raise the age of criminal responsibility from 16 to 18.
- Automatic Registration & Early Voting
- Mansion Tax and the Extension of the Millionaires Tax – with what is going on in Washington and the billions of dollars of Federal Aid that New York State could lose, it is more important than ever that our state has the revenue necessary to make sure our hospitals, schools, and infrastructure are well maintained.
- Developmental Disabilities - Direct Support Professionals deliver the services that individuals and families with developmental disabilities depend on. These professionals are often available 24 hours a day and 7 days a week, but they're being paid just over $11 dollars per hour on average. I am joining with advocates to call on the Governor to add $45 Million to the budget to begin to provide a living wage for these critical direct support professionals

Young Voter Act

I introduced the **'Young Voter Act' (A.6839)** this week. The bill would lower the voting age to 17 for state and local elections.

As someone who as a kid engaged in local politics, I know how important and meaningful it is for a young person to have the ability to participate in our democracy. When I was approached by three students, Eli Frankel, Chris Stauffer, and Max Shatan, who are all students at Bard High School with this idea – I thought it was a tremendous opportunity to get young people registered and active in their democracy.

As I said in the Brooklyn Eagle this week, when you turn 17, we will put a voter registration form in your hands and hopefully we will get young people voting by not only registering them but by giving them at least 8 class periods of civics classes in high school.

As was reported in the Economist earlier this year, turnout of American voters under 25 at presidential elections fell from 50% in 1972 to 38% in 2012 so it is so important for young voters to get into the habit of voting as early as possible because if a person starts voting before they turn 25 years old they are much more likely to be an active voter for their entire life. Government should be fostering citizenship among young people - I think the more people involved the better and more representative our government will be and I am hoping that this bill will help achieve that.

I am looking forward to working with Eli, Chris, Max and all of the young people who are organizing around this issue and will be happy to welcome them to Albany in May as they begin to lobby other members of the State Legislature to help pass this bill through the Assembly and Senate.

The Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act (GENDA)

On Wednesday, the Assembly passed The Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act (GENDA), which would expand protections under the Human Rights Law by prohibiting discrimination on the basis of gender identity or expression in considerations of employment, education and in consumer credit and housing. In addition, this legislation would add offenses motivated by a person's gender identity or expression to the hate crimes statute.

Hon. Robert C. Carroll
(D) 44th Assembly District

I am proud to have **co-sponsored this bill** because as I said on the Assembly floor, "I have friends who are transgenger…These are individuals who face discrimination every day, and all they want is their humanity, to be dignified by us. This is the least we could do in our society."

If you have any community, legislative, or budget ideas – give me a call, I would love to hear them.

See you around the neighborhood,

Bobby

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