



Assemblymember Robert Carroll

State Budget Review



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Spring 2018

2018-19 STATE BUDGET REVIEW

After months of negotiation and just before 4:00 a.m. on March 31st, the Legislature and the Governor passed a \$168.3 billion state budget for 2018-19. While there are some important issues I fought for that are missing, like early voting, bail reform, the DREAM Act, and speed safety cameras for all NYC schools, there are many elements of this budget that I think are positive.



Assemblymember Carroll speaking at a rally in Albany in support of fixing and funding the MTA.

Design-Build for BQE Triple Cantilever

The budget authorizes a design-build procurement process to quickly and efficiently reconstruct the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway (BQE) triple cantilever project in Brooklyn Heights. Without this authorization, the project would have had to go through a more costly and time consuming procurement process that would have likely caused parts of the BQE to be closed to truck and other traffic for extended periods of time. The design-build authorization enables the City of New York to expedite the BQE triple cantilever rehabilitation process by as much as two years and will save taxpayers over \$113 million, based upon a conservative estimate of the project's current cost of \$1.9 billion. This was a hard fought win for Brooklyn and I especially commend my colleague in the Assembly, Jo Anne Simon, for leading the charge on this issue.



Assemblymember Carroll fighting for Design Build Authorization for New York City.

HERE ARE A FEW HIGHLIGHTS

Funding and Fixing the MTA

The Legislature and Governor took a meaningful (but small) step toward creating a dedicated funding source for the MTA, and finalized an agreement between the City and State to fully fund the \$836 million Subway Action plan, which makes emergency repairs and will enhance subway performance this year. Additionally, the budget includes some dedicated funding for the MTA through the enactment of a \$2.75 surcharge on for-hire vehicles, \$2.50 for yellow cabs and \$0.75 for pooled trips below 96th Street in Manhattan. This new taxi surcharge will generate over \$400 million annually and be dedicated to the MTA capital plan. Though \$400 million may seem like a large sum of money this is in fact only a small step toward funding the MTA's capital needs, and this taxi surcharge does not reduce congestion or limit carbon emissions.

To fix the MTA and bring the system into the 21st century, the state must create a comprehensive funding plan that generates at least \$1.5 billion annually so that we can fully fund a new capital improvement plan for our mass transit system. Our current MTA capital plan is underfunded and is set to expire next year. Currently there is no dedicated stream of revenue for the next MTA capital plan. This is a crisis for our city and we must find a way to direct revenue to the MTA so we can upgrade our signals and switches, update our fleet of subway cars and buses, and increase the capacity of sub stations so that trains can run in more rapid succession.

As long as the subway system remains in crisis I will continue to fight for a plan like the one proposed by the Fix NYC Advisory panel, which would establish the necessary revenue stream while reducing congestion and limiting carbon emissions for our city.

School Based Health Centers

The budget includes a \$3.82 million restoration for school based health centers. After fighting to keep four public school based health centers (SBHCs) in District 15 from closing last year, this funding is critical to keep these vital centers operating across the state. These SBHCs provide services to over 200,000 children in medically underserved neighborhoods including primary, dental, mental, and reproductive health care services, as well as preventative, chronic and other types of care to students on site at schools.

Education Funding

While the Assembly didn't get the amount of education funding that we pushed for in our one house budget resolution, we did get a nearly \$1 billion increase in education funding that includes \$618 million for Foundation Aid, which is an almost \$300 million increase on the Governor's Executive Proposal.

Responding to Federal Tax Changes

The budget includes measures designed to blunt the impact of the federal tax plan, which increases taxes on many middle-class families by restricting state and local tax deductibility. The first measure creates state-operated charitable contributions funds

designed to help improve health care and educational outcomes for all New Yorkers. Taxpayers who donate to the funds can claim these contributions as deductions on their state and federal tax deductions, as well as claim a state tax credit equal to 85 percent of the donation amount. School districts and local governments will be allowed to create similar charitable funds that will offer local property tax deductions equal to a percentage of the contribution amount. Additionally, the budget creates a new Employer Compensation Expense Tax (ECET) that employers will have the option of participating in. The ECET is a 5% tax on all annual payroll expenses in excess of \$40,000 per employee, and will be phased in over a three-year period. The new tax will cut personal income taxes on earnings and a new tax credit would ensure that employees subject to the ECET do not see a decrease in take-home pay. Finally, we decoupled the state tax law from the federal tax law so you can now choose to take the federal standard deduction while still itemizing your state and local taxes.

Sexual Harassment Legislation

In the budget, legislation was passed to address and combat sexual harassment and provide more recourse for victims. It includes language to ensure that employers across the state have comprehensive policies to combat sexual harassment in the workplace. Moreover, the measure bars confidentiality clauses in any settlement except when specifically requested by the victim. It also allows a state or local government that has paid a victim for a sexual harassment claim on behalf of a public employee to recover payment from the employee responsible for the harassment. Further, it would ban mandatory arbitration agreements for claims of sexual harassment.

Environment

I am proud that in the budget we included the continuation of New York's multi-year commitment to funding \$2.5 billion for the Clean Water Infrastructure Act to ensure all New Yorkers have access to clean drinking water. The budget also provides \$300 million for the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF). A \$65 million initiative, to be funded from both the Clean Water Infrastructure Act and the EPF, will be used to fund programs to help combat harmful algal blooms, which are threatening water bodies. The budget also provides \$2 million for the Brownfield Opportunity Area program to help municipalities and community groups engage in planning efforts to revitalize communities with brownfields.

NYCHA Funding

In the budget we provided for \$250 million for the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) to make capital repairs, including replacing and updating heating equipment, weatherization, and other critical maintenance projects. This money is only a start to addressing the issues facing NYCHA, but it also allows NYCHA to use the design-build procurement process. This will expedite boiler replacements and other construction and repair projects by consolidating both the design and construction of a project into a single contract. Almost 600,000 New Yorkers live in NYCHA and after the system wide breakdown of boilers over the winter months it is critical that we make these fixes before next year's heating season.

Library Aid

The budget provides a total of \$96.6 million in aid to libraries, an increase of \$1 million over last year and over \$4 million more than the Executive proposal. Additionally, the budget provides \$34 million to support library capital projects across the state, which is also a substantial increase over the Governor's proposal.

SPECIAL NOTICE:

Join Assemblymember Carroll for a special Town Hall on the MTA with Andy Byford, President of the New York City Transit Authority

Tuesday, May 29th

6:30pm-8:30pm

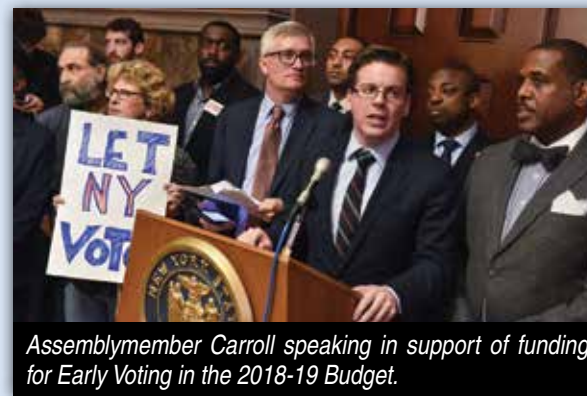
John Jay Educational Complex
237 7th Avenue between 4th and 5th Streets in Park Slope

RSVP to 718-788-7221 or
carrollr@nyassembly.gov

Missing items that we must continue to fight for

Early Voting

New York is one of only 13 states that does not offer early voting. Because of that and many other antiquated laws, we consistently have some of the lowest voter participation rates in the nation. I was heartened to see a \$7 million funding commitment in both the Governor's Executive Budget and the Assembly One House Budget for early voting, and it's a disservice to our democracy that behind closed doors during this budget negotiation process these funds were removed. Early voting is a basic and critical step to modernizing our voting systems that will help ensure that more voters have an opportunity to make their voices heard at the polls. I am so proud of the activism of many of my constituents around this issue, especially those involved with the Brooklyn Voters Alliance. While New York remains one of only 13 states without early voting, this fight is not over and I look forward to fighting alongside the terrific activists that have helped bring this issue and other electoral reform issues to the forefront of the conversation.



Assemblymember Carroll speaking in support of funding for Early Voting in the 2018-19 Budget.

Other Issues

- The DREAM Act, which expands access to higher education for the children of immigrants.
- Expansion of the life-saving speed safety camera program
- Bail Reform
- Critical Women's Health Provisions
- The Child Victim's Act
- Additional gun violence prevention legislation

If you have specific questions or concerns about other budget items not seen here, email me at carrollr@nyassembly.gov or give my office a call at (718) 788-7221 and we will be happy to respond.

While this concludes the budget process, there are still two months remaining in the legislative session and I look forward to continuing to fight for these issues as well as other progressive legislation to help continue to push New York forward.

LEGISLATION FOR STREET SAFETY

After the horrible tragic crash that took place on 5th Avenue and 9th Street that took the lives of 2 young children, it's clearer now more than ever that the State must do more to prevent tragedies like this from happening again.

I offer my condolences to the Lew and Blumenstein families for the tragedy that they're enduring. It is with them in mind that I introduced two bills in the New York State Assembly to make our streets safer.

Assemblymember Carroll speaking at the press conference to introduce his street safety legislation.



month period. There are currently no repercussions for drivers who accumulate traffic control signal violations, and if the state doesn't do something now to hold this reckless driving behavior accountable, then we continue to run the risk of losing more innocent lives on our streets.

These bills, if enacted, will make our streets safer and make tragedies like the one on March 5th all the rarer. I will be working with my colleagues in the New York State Assembly for their swift passage this legislative session.

Traffic Light at MS 890

In January, the NYC Department of Transportation installed a traffic light in front of MS 890 and PS 889, the new schools located at Coney Island Avenue & Hinckley Place in Kensington. Last fall, after receiving calls and emails from concerned parents as well as the principals of both schools, I organized a meeting with DOE, DOT and NYPD to get this traffic light installed. Street safety around our schools is vitally important so I appreciate DOT's attention to this important safety matter and I know the faculty, teachers, parents, and students at PS 889 and MS 890 do as well!

New traffic light on Coney Island Avenue and Hinckley Place in front of MS 890/PS 889.



My Bill to move Primary Date is signed by Governor Cuomo

On March 2nd 2018, Governor Cuomo signed my legislation to move this year's Primary election from Tuesday September 11th to Thursday, September 13th to ensure that all New Yorkers who choose to be able to participate in the electoral process. New York State law requires that the state primary election be held on the first Tuesday after the second Monday in September - this year that date is September 11th, which is also the second day of Rosh Hashanah, marking the Jewish New Year. As was done in previous years, this measure recognizes and respects the significance of the anniversary of the September 11th attacks and the Jewish holiday.

September 11th will forever be a day of remembrance, a time to mourn our fellow New Yorkers whose lives were taken far too soon by an unforgivable act of terrorism. It is also a day to honor the brave firefighters, EMTs and police officers who showed us the best of America during our darkest hours. Moving the primary election two days allows us to come together to show our respect for those who died and those who came to the rescue.



Senior Citizen Homeowners Exemption (SCHE) and (SCRIE) Enrollment Events

My office sponsored, along with the NYC Department of Finance, two enrollment events for SCHE and DHE as well as for the Senior Citizens Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE), Enhanced School Tax Relief (ESTAR), and the Veterans Property Tax Exemption at the Park Slope Armory and the Dorchester Senior Center.



Assemblymember Carroll with constituents who attended the Department of Finance enrollment event at the Park Slope Armory.



A constituent signing in at the DOF Enrollment event sponsored by Assemblymember Carroll at Dorchester Senior Center.

100 seniors from around the 44th Assembly District attended one of the two events to take advantage of the opportunity to enroll in these property tax exemption and rent freeze programs. If you or someone you know is 62 years or older, were not able to make it to the events and would like to know if you qualify for any of the programs— please call my district office at (718) 788-7221 and we'll assist you in the application process.

Leading the Effort to Permanently Ban Fracking in the Delaware River Basin

I, along with State Senator Liz Krueger and NYC Council Speaker Corey Johnson sent a letter to the Commissioners of the Delaware River Basin Commission urging them to implement a complete and permanent ban on natural gas development and hydraulic fracturing (fracking) and all related activities within the basin. The Delaware River runs through four states - New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware - and provides drinking water for more than 15 million people, including New York City.

The Delaware River Basin Commission is a federal-interstate agency formed in 1961 to manage the resources of the Delaware River watershed. The members of the Commission include the Governors of Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, and Delaware, and the federal government. Since a moratorium was enacted in 2010, the DRBC has had a de facto prohibition in place on all natural gas extraction projects in the Basin, as well as associated activities including wastewater discharge and water withdrawals. However, new regulations recently proposed by the Commission would allow for some fracking wastewater treatment, storage, and disposal in the watershed, as well as withdrawal of water to be used for fracking operations elsewhere.

Thirty-Seven other elected officials from the New York City area signed on to our letter calling for the Commissioner to revise the proposed draft regulations and enact this ban now. You can view the complete letter on my website here: <http://nyassembly.gov/mem/Robert-C-Carroll/story/80541>.

Assemblymember Robert Carroll Around the District



Assemblymember Carroll at the Flatbush Jewish Community Council Legislative Breakfast.



Assemblymember Carroll speaking at MS 890 in Kensington.



Assemblymember Carroll with Rev. Meeter, Rabbi Lippmann and others at Old First Reformed Church's Dr. Martin Luther King Day Celebration.



Assemblymember Carroll with constituents lobbying on behalf of women's health issues in Albany.



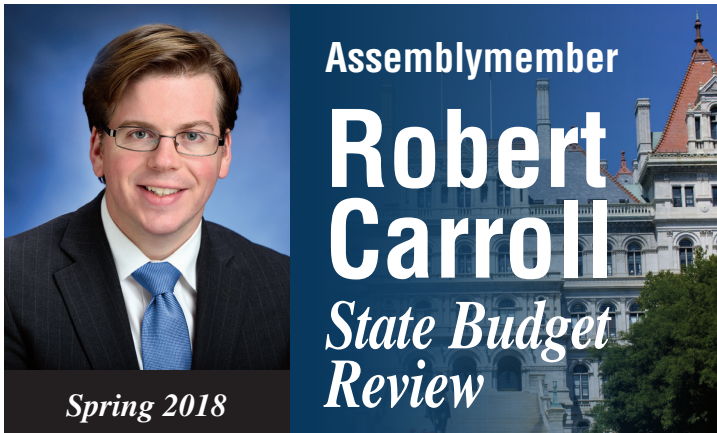
Assemblymember Carroll with Naji and Dr. Debbie Almontaser and Rabbi Ellen Lippmann of Kolot Chayeinu standing together at Newkirk Plaza in solidarity against a hate group's pronouncement of April 3rd as "Punish a Muslim Day."



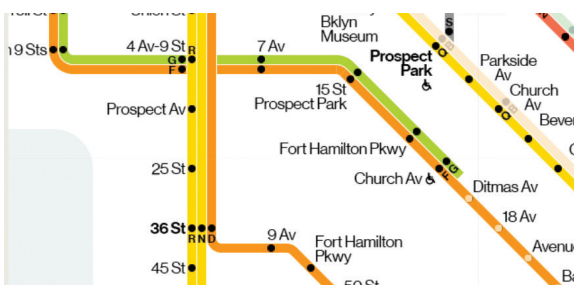
Assemblymember Carroll speaking to a 4th Grade class at PS 107 in Park Slope.

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