



Assemblymember Robert Carroll

2019 Legislative Session Preview



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Winter 2018

2019 LEGISLATIVE SESSION PREVIEW

The election in November brought change to the State Senate. My hope is that with clear majorities in both legislative chambers, a number of the bills that the Assembly has passed in successive years will finally be passed by the Senate, including but not limited to the following:

Reproductive Health Act and Comprehensive Contraception Coverage Act

RHA (A.1748) would update state law with protections recognized by the courts under the NYS Constitution and US Constitution, acknowledging that pregnancy termination is a lawful procedure and eliminating undue burdens on women seeking to exercise the right to make reproductive decisions. The **CCCA (A.1378)** would codify the requirement under the Affordable Care Act that all health insurers provide cost-free contraceptive coverage as a part of their insurance policies.

The New York State DREAM Act

A.09605-A would create a DREAM fund commission and a DREAM fund in order to advance the educational opportunities of the children of immigrants by providing scholarships to college bound students. Additionally, the bill would eliminate potential financial obstacles to obtaining State financial aid and extend the opportunities for undocumented students to attend higher education institutions in this State by providing a benefit consistent with U.S. citizens and nationals. The bill would also eliminate barriers for immigrants to save for their families' higher education expenses by allowing such individuals to open a New York State 529 family tuition account under the New York State College Tuition Savings Program.

Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act (GENDA)

A.3358 would prohibit discrimination on the basis of gender identity or expression in considerations of employment, education, consumer credit and housing. The bill would also add offenses motivated by gender identity or expression to the hate crimes statute.

Child Victims Act

A.5885-A would bring justice to victims of childhood sexual abuse by extending statutes of limitation for criminal and civil cases, and allowing victims to seek legal recourse as adults.

Electoral Reforms

While election day in November produced a change in Senate leadership, it was also a day filled with disorganization, downed scanners, and lines out the door and around the block at some poll sites. When I voted at PS 130 in Windsor Terrace, I actually waited almost two hours to vote. This is unacceptable. It is wonderful that so many more people are participating in our elections, but it highlights how critical it is for New York State to update its antiquated election laws by passing a host of bills to make it easier for all New Yorkers to vote. The bills that I expect to be passed early in the next legislative session include:



Assemblymember Carroll questioning the State Board of Elections at the Assembly Election Law Committee's Hearing on Election Day Operations on November 15, 2018.

Early Voting

A.9608-B would join NYS with 37 other states by establishing a seven-day early voting period for registered New York voters to vote in person prior to any primary, special or general election day.

No Fault Absentee Voting

A.7623 would amend the State Constitution to allow no excuse absentee voting and authorize ballot by mail by removing cause for absentee ballot voting.

The Voter Enfranchisement Modernization Act

A.5382-A would modernize and streamline voter registration by establishing an online voter registration process.

Eliminate LLC Loophole

A.9758 would restrict LLC campaign contributions to the same \$5,000 contribution limit that exists for corporations, eliminating the current loophole that allows multiple contributions by the same individual through separate LLCs. The bill would also require the disclosure of all direct and indirect owners of the LLC and that all contributions by an LLC be attributed to each member in proportion to each member's ownership interests.

These reforms and so much more are needed to fully update New York's voting laws, including same day and automatic voter registration, shortening the period of time for a voter to change their party enrollment to the constitutional minimum of 10 days, making poll books electronic, and eventually establishing on-demand voting across the state so that any eligible voter can vote at any poll site within their county. As a member of the Election Law committee and a former election lawyer myself, these issues are particularly close to my heart and I will continue to fight for these and more this legislative session so that all voices are heard in our electoral process.

Gun Safety Legislation

The Assembly passed a comprehensive gun safety legislation package including **A.9958**, a ban on bump stocks in NYS, The Domestic Violence Escalation Prevention Act **A.5025**, which would prohibit an individual who has been convicted of a domestic violence crime from purchasing or possessing a firearm, and **A.8976-B**, a bill to establish extreme risk protection orders as a court-issued order of protection prohibiting a person from purchasing, possessing or attempting to purchase or possess a firearm, rifle or shotgun.

Criminal Justice Reforms

The Assembly passed a number of criminal justice reforms including **A.10137-A**, a bill to end cash bail, and **A.4879**, a bill to prohibit law enforcement officers from using racial or ethnic profiling during the performance of duties.

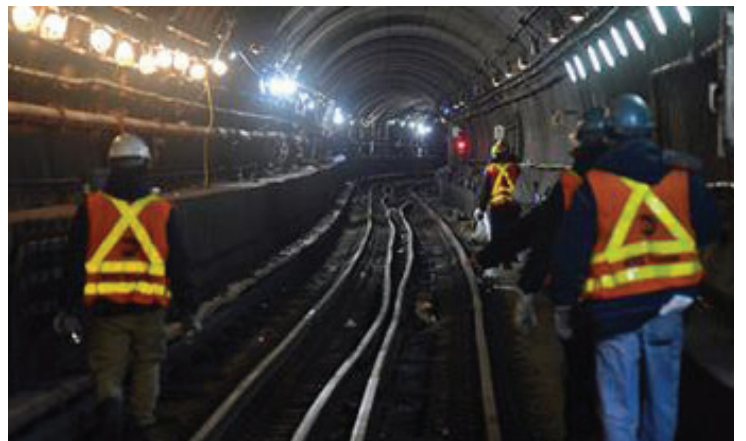


Assemblymember Carroll with NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer, Congressmembers Nadler and Clarke and other elected officials and allies speaking at the Comptroller's Unity Rally and Vigil honoring the victims of the attack at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh.

Assemblymember Carroll speaking at the Brooklyn Islamic Center's EID Prayer at the Parade Grounds in Prospect Park.

MTA Transparency and a Direct Revenue Stream to fund Fast Forward and other improvements

The most important infrastructure project for our city and state is modernizing the NYC Subway System through upgrading signals, improving sub stations, and modernizing our subway rolling stock (new subway cars). The President of MTA New York City Transit, Andy Byford, has presented a sketch of how to do this through his Fast Forward plan. The plan is smart and ambitious. It looks to modernize our signals, substations and subway cars, as well as redesign our bus routes and make our stations more accessible. But it is unclear exactly how much it will cost. Byford estimates \$40 billion while Governor Cuomo estimates \$33 billion. This is why I have been calling on the MTA since September, when I wrote an Op-Ed demanding that the



MTA provide the legislature and the public a detailed budget and plan for the Fast Forward modernization proposal before the Governor's state of the state in January. View the Op-Ed here: <http://www.gothamgazette.com/opinion/7938-to-save-the-mta-push-fast-forward-ahead-quickly-and-responsibly>. Additionally, last legislative session the Assembly passed my bill, **A.11094**, which would change the deadline for the MTA to submit its capital program plans to the Capital Program Review Board (CPRB) from October 2019 to January 2019. This 9 month difference may seem insignificant, but it's important because it would mean that starting with the upcoming 2020-2024 capital plan that the MTA will submit its capital plan during the legislative session, thereby allowing for a longer period for the public to voice concerns and will allow the legislature to have more constructive input into the MTA's five-year capital plans before the legislature passes its budget.

As I have said publicly and repeatedly, it is of paramount importance that we fix our subway system and I support utilizing congestion pricing and other direct revenue sources to pay for it, but the MTA must be transparent and do its part by releasing to the legislature and public a detailed budget and plan of action – otherwise I fear we will fail again at solving our mass transit and congestion issues.



Assemblymember Carroll, with Councilmember Brad Lander, Judy Willig, the Executive Director of Heights and Hills, Jasmine Meltzer of Good Neighbors of Park Slope and a host of other senior and accessibility activists rallying for the MTA to install an elevator at the 7th Avenue F/G Train station on November 9, 2018.

Leading the Way on Incentivizing Solar Investment

I am proud to have been the main sponsor on two important pieces of legislation last session to incentivize investment in solar energy. Clean, renewable energy is critical to reducing our carbon footprint and safeguarding the environment for future generations of New Yorkers. Extending and strengthening programs that encourage the installation of solar panels and the storage of solar energy will help us achieve those goals.

My bill, **A.10150**, which was recently signed by the Governor, extends the incentive program that encourages the installation of solar electric generating systems in New York City. The tax abatement was set to expire in 2019, but my bill extends it until 2021. The program is aligned with New York's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and providing cleaner, more reliable power for every New Yorker. The second bill, **A.10410** would provide a tax abatement for electric energy storage equipment for certain properties in a city of one million or more people. During the early phases of local energy storage market development, a tax abatement would help catalyze energy storage deployment in New York City, drive down installation costs and accelerate the realization of the benefits of solar technologies. This bill passed both houses of the legislature, but still awaits the Governor's signature. Incentivizing solar power now will create jobs, reduce our carbon footprint and help improve the quality of our



Assemblymember Carroll at Brooklyn Solarworks with Dean Fuleihan, the 1st Deputy Mayor of New York City, Mark Chambers, the Director of the Mayor's Office of Sustainability and Chattod Floyd and Simonia Brown from the Mayor's State Legislative team in August.

environment in the future. I was happy to bring First Deputy Mayor Dean Fuleihan and other senior members of Mayor de Blasio's team to Brooklyn Solarworks in Gowanus for a tour of their facility and to discuss ways the city and state can partner to maximize our solar energy potential.

Hearing on Impact of Museums and Cultural Institutions

As the Chair of the Sub Committee on Museums and Cultural Institutions, in September I chaired, along with Assemblymember Danny O'Donnell, the Chair of the Committee on Arts, Parks, and Tourism, a hearing on the economic impact of museums and cultural institutions on our state.

We took in-person testimony from 10 organizations from around the state, including from the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA), whose core focus is grant making to non-profit arts and cultural organizations as well as artists. Arts and Culture are vital to our state's economy. Currently, New York ranks second among all states in arts and cultural value added to the economy and in arts and cultural employment. Even though the artistic and cultural sector generated \$114.1 billion for the state economy and employed nearly 463,000 people in 2015, NYSCA's \$41 million budget is actually \$18 million less than it was at its peak in 1989 and pales in comparison to the funding that comes from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. As a state we must do more to increase NYSCA's funding as we look to deepen the economic and quality of life benefits that our vibrant cultural sector has to offer.

You can view all past Assembly Hearings here: <https://nyassembly.gov/av/hearings/>

Additionally, I held two roundtable discussions with cultural institutions across New York City - one at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in Manhattan in October and one in late November at the Brooklyn Academy of Music. I will be fighting for the state to invest more in our cultural institutions this legislative session.



As Chair of the Assembly Subcommittee on Museums and Cultural Institutions, Assemblymember Carroll convened a hearing with Arts, Parks and Tourism Committee Chair Danny O'Donnell on the economic impact of Museums and Cultural Institutions in New York State.



Dyslexia Funding Petition



Assemblymember Carroll at The Children's School (PS 372) with Principal Rosa Amato, Assistant Principals Nash and Perez Leonetti, Chancellor Richard Carranza, Assemblymember Jo Anne Simon and others. Assemblymember Carroll convened the visit to discuss best practices that the school uses to educate students with dyslexia.

October was Dyslexia Awareness month and to highlight the issue I launched a petition with a video calling on the Governor, Mayor, Chancellor and Legislature to fund universal screening for dyslexia for all kindergartners and first graders and institute curriculum changes in elementary schools to utilize sequential multi-sensory phonics based approaches as part of a universal literacy program. Our NYC special education system is in real need of reform so that all students who struggle with dyslexia and other learning differences are able to be effectively educated in our public schools. This is why I took NYC Department of Education Chancellor Richard Carranza on a tour of The Children's School (PS 372) in October. The Children's School, with their reading specialists and amazing integratrated co-teaching classrooms is a great example of what our public schools can do to address the needs of dyslexic students, who make up 20% of our student population.

Watch the Video - Sign My Petition:

Petition - Dyslexia



One in five students is dyslexic. 60% of 8th Graders are not reading on grade level. Only seven states nationwide evaluate all Kindergarten and 1st Graders for Dyslexia and as a consequence so many of our students go undiagnosed.

Join Brooke Lyn and me and sign our petition to call on the Governor, Mayor, Chancellor & Legislature to make New York the eighth state to universally screen all Kindergartners for dyslexia and to work together to dedicate the resources necessary to ensure that all of our children who struggle with dyslexia and other learning differences get the quality education that they deserve.

Will you sign?

Share: [f](#) [t](#) [v](#) [e](#)

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I hope that you will join me in supporting this effort by viewing the video that I released, signing the petition and sharing it with your networks - <https://nyassembly.gov/mem/Robert-C-Carroll/story/83717>.

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