



Assemblymember Robert Carroll

Winter Update



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Winter 2019-2020

I hope you had a happy and healthy holiday season and joyous New Year. January marks the beginning of the 2020 legislative session and there is much to accomplish. From taking additional steps to making our elections more accessible to building on the environmental gains of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA). From ending the dehumanizing practice of solitary confinement in our prisons to bolstering our public education to ensure that all our children have the tools and resources they need to succeed.

This year the State faces many challenges including a \$6 billion budget gap - the largest since 2010. It is imperative that the Assembly find the necessary revenue to close the gap without jeopardizing essential services. Please read below for an update of what I have been doing over the past few months, in Brooklyn and in Albany.

National Grid's Gas Moratorium – Victory!

In late November Governor Cuomo forced National Grid to turn on the gas for thousands of customers who had previously been denied natural gas hookups in Brooklyn, Queens and Long Island. National Grid began refusing to provide gas to new customers after the State Department of Environmental Conservation rejected the fracked gas Williams Transco Pipeline in May. I sent a series of letters to National Grid's regulator, the New York State Public Service Commission, calling on them to investigate National Grid, reconnect customers, and impose penalties on National Grid for their wrongdoing and the hardships that they caused. I said from the beginning that National Grid's actions were coercive and dishonest. After months of advocacy from myself and other colleagues in government like Public Advocate Jumaane Williams; Governor Cuomo announced that National Grid must end its self-imposed moratorium and reconnect all customers. The State also required that National Grid pay a \$36 million penalty. Those funds will be used to support new energy conservation measures and clean energy projects. This was a hard fought victory for customers who have been left out in the cold by National Grid over the past 6 months and I applaud Governor Cuomo for taking this action. However, long term, there is a great deal more we must do to ensure that New York meets the ambitious renewable energy goals set forth in the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. The CLCPA's goal of 85% renewable energy by 2040 is right around the corner, so there is no time to waste. National Grid's profit-driven and coercive tactics around this moratorium leave no doubt to me that the state should be working towards making all of our utilities public. Private entities like National Grid and Con Edison too often side with their shareholders over the public. That is why I worked with advocates to introduce legislation to make all of our utilities public. If you'd like more information on my Public Power bill, please email me at carrollr@nyassembly.gov or call my district office at (718) 788-7221.



Assemblymember Carroll with NYC Public Advocate Jumaane Williams and Senator Kevin Parker in front of National Grid headquarters in September.

Electric Power Reliability Hearing

In September, after a summer of blackouts across New York City, the Assembly and Senate brought the President of Con Edison - Timothy Cawley and the Chair of the New York State Public Service Commission, John Rhodes before us to testify about the reliability of our electrical grid. New York City has some of the highest energy costs in the nation and ratepayers should never have to experience the blackouts of this past summer. It's critical that we reshape our utilities to ensure that ratepayers and not shareholders are Con Ed's top priority. My public power legislation would be a major positive step in that direction.



Assemblymember Carroll speaking at a "Public Power" townhall sponsored by the Eco-Socialist Working Group of NYC DSA.

MTA Capital Plan Hearing



(L to R) Janno Lieber, Chief Development Officer, MTA Patrick Foye, CEO and Chair, MTA Robert Foran, Chief Financial Officer, MTA

In November MTA leadership presented their 5 year \$51.5 billion capital plan to the Legislature. The MTA's largest and most ambitious capital plan ever presented is due in large part to the Legislature's passage of congestion pricing. If this capital plan is implemented properly and efficiently, it will modernize our subways and buses and bring the system into good repair.

Early Voting Hearing



Assemblymember Carroll questioning the State Board of Elections leadership at the Early Voting oversight hearing in November.

This was the first year for early voting in New York State and like many of you, I was pleased to vote early. In November, the Assembly and Senate held an oversight hearing with the board of elections to review their implementation of early voting.

Early voting was one of the many electoral reform accomplishments of the last legislative session. I am proud to have played a positive role in making early voting and other reforms a reality, but there is much more we must do to make it easier for New Yorkers to vote. I am proud to work with the advocates, particularly when they are constituents like



Assemblymember Carroll after a meeting with members of the Brooklyn Voters Alliance, Patricia Nolan, David Marangio, Bonnie Nelson, Jan Combopiano and Erica Cohen.

those from the Brooklyn Voters Alliance, a grassroots voting rights advocacy organization with many members here in the 44th Assembly District.

WINTER UPDATE

Street Safety Town Hall



Assemblymember Carroll with Councilmember Brad Lander speaking at their Street Safety Town Hall in November.

In November I hosted a town hall with Council Members Brad Lander, Mathieu Eugene, and the NYC Department of Transportation about street safety on Coney Island Avenue and Ocean Parkway. Over 150 community members came out to share their views, concerns and ideas. I called on DOT to ban certain turns and create traffic medians along Coney Island Avenue and to have NYPD increase traffic enforcement of both hazardous drivers and businesses that encroach on the sidewalk and roadway. DOT continues to study both Coney Island Avenue and Ocean Parkway and I will be in touch when a follow up meeting is scheduled and additional improvements are proposed. To stay up to date, please join my email list at: <http://nyassembly.gov/mem/Robert-C-Carroll/>

Public Campaign Financing Commission

In April the Legislature and the Governor created a commission charged to form a public financing system for state elections. I am an ardent supporter of public financing of elections, but I voted against this Commission because I believed that it was unconstitutional, would not create an effective public financing system and would empower nine unelected individuals to redraw New York's election laws. I do not believe the Legislature should be abdicating our legislative authority to commissions of this nature and have been advocating for all recommendations made by the Commission to be rejected, including in an October OpEd that I wrote in the New York Daily News. The concerns that I outlined in my remarks on the floor of the Assembly in April and in the OpEd were validated with the Commission's final report submitted on December 1st. The Commission created an overly complicated and ineffectual public financing system that keeps large dollar donors at the center of our elections and deemphasizes small dollar donors in Senate and Assembly races by only matching contributions that come from within the district. Worst of all, the Commission drastically changed our ballot access laws, making it nearly impossible for third parties to appear on the ballot. At the time of writing, the Legislature has until December 22nd to reject these proposals. If we do not, they will become law. I have called for the Legislature to reconvene a special session to reject these recommendations before they go into effect. Whether these recommendations go into effect or not, the Legislature must begin the work of creating a real campaign finance system that vastly limits campaign contributions and creates a robust statewide small-dollar matching program.

Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) can help you keep warm

The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) is a federally funded program that helps renters and homeowners pay the cost of heating their homes or apartments. The program also offers funds to eligible families for any repairs and necessary home-heating equipment.

The application for regular HEAP benefits is now open. Eligibility for the program is based on income, household size, primary heating source and whether a member of the household is under the age of 6, over the age of 60 or permanently disabled, with applications for assistance accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. This year, a family of four that has a household income of up to \$4,797 a month may qualify for help and each household can receive up to \$726 in assistance. Applications for an extra emergency benefit open on January 2, 2020, and are available to households that are in danger of having their service shut off or have run out of fuel.

As energy costs rise, heating can become a burden for families with low or fixed incomes. For those facing extreme temperatures, that could mean dire consequences. HEAP is a necessary resource for low-income families and senior citizens who rely on the

assistance to keep them warm during these cold winter months. In the Assembly, I'll continue fighting to make life more affordable for New Yorkers so that no one is forced to go without life's necessities.

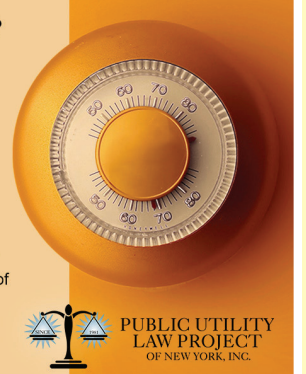
To learn more or to apply for HEAP, you can visit www.mybenefits.ny.gov, contact the state Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance Hotline at 1-800-342-3009 or call my district office at (718) 788-7221.

Need help paying your heating bill? You might qualify for HEAP!

The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) helps those on a low- or fixed-income pay the cost of heating their homes or apartments. Application period opens Tuesday, November 12.

Whether you rent or own your home, you are eligible for a HEAP grant in any year your income does not exceed the annual income limit. Qualifying also makes you eligible for emergency HEAP benefits if you are in danger of running out of fuel or having your power shut off.

To learn more call **1-800-342-3009**
To apply: mybenefits.ny.gov



Census 2020. Stand Up. Get Counted.

Every 10 years the U.S. Census Bureau works to count every person residing in the United States. The information collected helps inform many important political, economic and social decisions, including the allocation of funds, legislative redistricting and congressional representation. In previous census counts New York State has been undercounted- resulting in the loss of billions in federal funding for hospitals, public schools, transportation, emergency services and more. Following the 2010 Census New York lost two congressional seats.

Despite this pattern of undercounting, the federal government has cut the Census Bureau budget, reduced the number of field offices and focused on the use of online forms (though not everyone has internet access). In order to ensure everyone is counted, the 2019-20 New York State budget includes \$20 million to promote the census and assist with local outreach efforts. Now is the time to get involved to be sure our communities are fully counted. Local outreach through

libraries, schools, houses of worship and other places of trust will be most effective. My office is providing this information to help you learn more about the 2020 Census and take action in your communities. If we can be of any assistance or answer questions, please feel free to contact my office at (718) 788-7221.



Why is it important to count everyone?

New York State receives \$53 billion each year in federal funding for hospitals, public schools, transportation, emergency services and more. Each person not counted costs the state over \$2,600 in federal aid each year.

Who is undercounted and what are the consequences?

Historically, the census has undercounted young children, people of color, rural residents, immigrants, renters and low-income households at higher rates than other populations. An undercount would mean potentially losing congressional seats and losing critical funding for schools, health care and essential services.

Is my information protected?

Information cannot be used to track people, determine eligibility for government benefits, or be shared with immigration or law enforcement. Title 13 of the U.S. Code ensures all Census Bureau employees swear a lifetime oath to protect respondent data. It is a felony to disclose any confidential information, and the penalty for wrongful disclosure is up to five years imprisonment and/or a fine of \$250,000. The Census Bureau never asks for your full Social Security number, bank or credit card account numbers or money.

How can I help make sure my community is counted?

You can get involved locally by working with community-based institutions that have created Complete Count Committees (CCC). These committees serve as "census ambassadors" and work to implement locally based outreach campaigns to raise awareness and increase participation rates. Visit the local CCC website to learn more: <https://www.census.gov/library/visualizations/interactive/2020-complete-count-committees.html>

How do I fill out the form?

In March 2020, the Census Bureau will send mailings with instructions on how to fill out the form. People in areas with high internet usage will receive a letter with details on how to fill out the form online. People who live in areas with low internet usage will be sent both a paper form and instructions on how to fill out the form online.

Do I have to answer every question?

People who do not fill out every question on the census form will still be counted, but filling out the form as much as possible is encouraged. Anyone who does not fill out a form at all may receive a follow-up phone call or an in-person home visit by a Census Bureau employee.

HELPFUL RESOURCES

Questions Planned for the 2020 Census

www.documentcloud.org/documents/4426784-Planned-Questions-2020-Acs.html

Infographics and Visualizations

www.census.gov/library/visualizations/2019/comm/2020-everyone.html

Census Videos

www.census.gov/library/video.html

Census 2020 Hard to Count Map

www.censushardtocountmaps2020.us

2020 Census Complete Count Committee Guide

www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/newsroom/press-kits/2018/ccg-guide-d-1280.pdf

New York Regional Census Bureau Office

212-584-3400 or 800-991-2520

New.York.Regional.Office@census.gov

To learn more and sign up to become a community partner with the Census Bureau, visit:
census.gov/partners.html

For employment opportunities with the Census Bureau, you can visit:

census.gov/about/regions/new-york/jobs/all.html

Assemblymember Robert Carroll – In the Community



Assemblymember Carroll with Anthony Finkel, Marion Yuen, Kashif Hussain and Helen Spencer at the Newkirk Community Garden's Open Garden Festival.



Assemblymember Carroll after meeting with participants of the Park Slope YMCA New Americans Welcome Center. The program supports immigrants to reach their goals of employment, education, civic engagement and naturalization.



Assemblymember Carroll with Tonya Ores, the Executive Director of NHS Brooklyn. In October, AM Carroll and NHS sponsored a housing resource fair at Ditmas JHS 62. The forum offered constituents workshops on the new rent laws as well as homeowner and home buying seminars.



Assemblymember Carroll with Pamela Esposito-Amery, co-founder of Tell Every Amazing Lady (T.E.A.L.) and staff members for their wellness weekend in October. T.E.A.L. is a non-profit in Windsor Terrace doing amazing work to promote public awareness of Ovarian Cancer.



Assemblymember Carroll with Riders Alliance, Straphangers Campaign, Transit Center, Tri-State Transportation Campaign and others to advocate for better designed and better funded buses.

New York State Assembly, Albany, New York 12248



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PRSRRT STD.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Albany, New York
Permit No. 75

MTA MetroCard Van

Wednesday, January 29



10 am - 12 pm
Brooklyn Public Library
Cortelyou Road Branch
1305 Cortelyou Road, Brooklyn NY

1 pm - 3 pm
Assemblymember
Carroll's District Office
416 7th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY



Take care of all MetroCard business at the MetroCard Van. Apply for or refill a Reduced-Fare MetroCard, Regular MetroCard, or Unlimited MetroCard. Buy Pay-Per-Ride cards. Check the balance on expired MetroCards. Combine multiple cards onto a new MetroCard. And ask MetroCard-related questions. You will get prompt, attentive service, right in your own neighborhood.

Seniors: If you are 65 years of age or older, you can apply for your Reduced-Fare MetroCard at the MetroCard Van with two valid IDs (Driver's License, Medicare Card, or Birth Certificate, one of which must have a photograph of you). Free photography services will be available.

For additional information on this event or any other state issue, please call
Assemblymember Carroll's District Office at (718) 788-7221 or email carrollr@nyassembly.gov