



**April 10, 2023**

Greetings,

Ramadan Mubarak, Happy Passover, and Happy Easter (belatedly)! I hope everyone had a wonderful weekend and is finding time to spend with family, friends, and in community.

As many of you have probably heard, negotiations between the Governor and the legislature over the State's budget are ongoing. By law the budget is due April 1<sup>st</sup>, but last week and today the legislature approved one week stop-gap legislation proposed by the Governor (known as budget "extenders") that will allow state operations to continue, state employees to be paid, and critical benefits like unemployment insurance to continue to be processed.

According to the State's Constitution and based on various court decisions the Governor has much more power than the legislature when it comes to the budget. Governors have used this power to not only try and dictate fiscal policy but also to include legislation not directly linked to the allocation of resources in their budget proposals. This is a bad way to make public policy. Extremely complicated matters are not taken up in a deliberative and transparent manner, but rather rushed through in the compressed time frame of the budget process. While the Assembly on principle typically rejects much of the policy proposals included in the Governor's Executive Budget in our one house budget proposal, we also need to be realistic and try to take the opportunity to see important policies enacted into law. Inevitably there will be compromise and trade-offs, but I am confident that we can achieve much that is good.

### **What's at Stake**

- **Fighting climate change:** In a major win for the cause of fighting climate change, the Governor included several elements of my bill [A.279](#) - the Build Public Renewables Act – in her budget, but the Assembly needs to ensure that the final budget includes robust labor provisions and that the New York Power Authority isn't just authorized to build and own more renewable energy projects but actually takes a pro-active role in the production and supply of renewable energy so the state can meet its climate goals. Thanks to the rapid response of the environmental community working with many of us in the legislature, the Governor's misguided proposal in the budget to weaken the emission standards of New York's landmark Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act has already been rescinded.
- **Preventing fare hikes and improving public transportation:** The Assembly should hold the line and reject the Governor's proposal to increase subway and bus rides from \$2.75 to \$2.90. Additional funding to support the MTA can be found through modest tax increases on those most able to afford them.
- **Preventing racially discriminatory changes to our bail laws:** The Governor's proposals regarding our bail laws are not simply reforms to the changes passed by the legislature in 2019 and should be rejected. It has long been the law in New York State that bail is a tool to compel those charged with a crime to return to court, but the evidence has shown that our bail laws were applied in a way that was both racially discriminatory and effectively criminalized being poor with thousands of people every year being held in pre-trial detention. The 2019 reforms passed by the legislature were designed to correct for this and the push to change them is not based on facts but rather fearmongering. Governor Hochul's proposal will result in bail being set more often and

at higher amounts and with that an unnecessary surge in pre-trial detention ruining people's lives and harming communities with no evidence that this will reduce crime.

- **Building more housing and preventing displacement:** I am largely in favor of the Governor's plan to build more housing throughout the State. Transit oriented development in the suburbs and office conversions in New York City are good policy. At the same time, we should expand protections for renters by passing the Good Cause Eviction Act, [A.4454](#), and help those who need support by passing [A.4021](#), the Housing Access Voucher Program.
- **Getting our schools the funds they need and deserve:** The Assembly should stand firm on our budget proposal to include \$34.3 billion for State Aid to localities, \$3.4 billion more than last year as well as funding for CUNY to avoid any tuition increases. I oppose the Governor's proposal to lift the charter school cap.
- **Fair Pay, Health, and Wellness:** The State must apply to the Federal Government to expand Medicaid and Medicare to cover all immigrants, school lunches should be free throughout the State, and home care workers should see their pay keep pace with inflation.

### **Other Legislative Developments**

While coming to a successful resolution of the budget process is of paramount importance, the work of advancing other policy goals through legislation continues. One positive development is the approval in the Energy Committee of my bill [A.295](#), which will save consumers money on their monthly electricity bill by limiting the fixed charges that utilities bill to actual costs. I also recently introduced legislation, [A.6113](#), that will extend and enhance property tax abatements for solar energy systems and energy storage in New York City. This legislation will also allow affordable housing developments that don't pay property tax to get a credit from the City equivalent to the abatement value enabling them to also benefit from the program. Other legislation I recently introduced includes [A.6143](#), which would prevent law enforcement from using "stingray" devices to tap into cell phones to track individuals without a warrant. This technology has been used by law enforcement agencies not only to target individuals but at demonstrations such as Black Lives Matter protests and in my view is unconstitutional. Finally, I introduced [A.5881](#), which would further regulate online ticket sales for live events to protect consumers and prevent debacles such as occurred with recent Taylor Swift and Bruce Springsteen concerts. Once the budget is completed, I hope that we can move full steam ahead on these and other important bills including my bills related to dyslexia and literacy, taxing nuisance helicopter flights, promoting wildlife crossings throughout the state, ensuring election security and many others.

### **Spring Clean and Green Save the Date 4/30**

I am hosting my annual Spring Clean and Green event on April 30<sup>th</sup> at Machate (aka Park) Circle in Prospect Park! We'll have electronic recycling, paper shredding, textile recycling, kid's stop n' swap, and more. There are also giveaways, special services, information and demonstrations to help you have a greener and cleaner Spring 2023. See full details on the flyer below:



**ROBERT  
CARROLL**

ASSEMBLYMEMBER // 44<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT



# Spring Clean & Green



**Sunday, April 30  
10 am - 2 pm**

**At Park Circle in Prospect Park**

*(entrance to Prospect Park on Prospect Park Southwest & Parkside Avenue, across from TD Bank)*



Plus these NYC agencies & organizations will provide **FREE** giveaways, signups, updates, special services, and demonstrations!



**E-Cycling by Lower East Side Ecology Center:** Computers, monitors, printers/scanners, keyboards, mice, cables, TVs, VCRs and DVD players, phones, audio/visual equipment, cell phones and PDAs. <https://www.lesecologycenter.org/programs/ewaste> (No Batteries or media such as disks, DVDs, VHS tapes, cassette tapes, etc.)



**KIDS Stop 'N' Swap by GrowNYC:** Bring your clean, reusable and portable children's items such as clothing, car seats, strollers, gear, games, books, & toys that you no longer need and take something you do need home for free! <https://www.grownyc.org/swap>



**Paper Shredding by NYC Department of Sanitation:** Stay one step ahead of identity thieves and shred your paper documents. (No magazines or cardboard, remove ALL staples, No plastic or metal of any kind) Shredding truck will stay on-site for the time scheduled or until full.



**Textile Recycling by Wearable Collections:** Bring used, freshly laundered clothing as well as shoes, sneakers, accessories, hats, belts and handbags plus household linens such as sheets, curtains and towels. (No rugs, bath mats, comforters, pillows, large luggage, or insulation materials).

For more details  
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**Shahana Hanif**  
CITY COUNCIL MEMBER, DISTRICT 38



**South  
Midwood  
Pollinators**



It is helpful for us to know what services people plan to take advantage of, [so please RSVP here to let us know!](#)

If you have any concerns about these or any other legislative or community matter please email me at [carrollr@nyassembly.gov](mailto:carrollr@nyassembly.gov) or call (718) 788-7221.

-Bobby

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