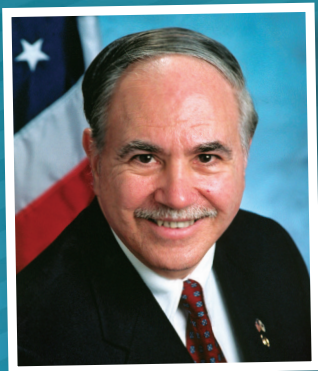




ASSEMBLYMAN WILLIAM COLTON

COLTON FIGHTING FOR OUR QUALITY OF LIFE



COLTON GETS RUNNING WATER RESTORED AT BENSONHURST PARK

Good news for park-goers: the water fountains and restrooms at Bensonhurst Park are back in working order. After repairs to the underlying pipes, residents and visitors can once again enjoy running water throughout the park, a fix that addresses a concern many community members had raised, and a welcome improvement as more families head outdoors this season.

I have been working behind the scenes with the Parks Department to get this issue resolved, and I'm glad to see those efforts pay off.

On June 9th, I wrote to the Parks Department expressing my concern over the lack of running water in the fountains, sprinklers and bathrooms at Bensonhurst Park. I was first alerted to the issue by constituents and Friends of Bensonhurst Park, a local group that keeps a close eye on the park's conditions. With the hot summer days ahead, this was a pressing issue for me: our community deserves a safe, clean, and functional space to enjoy the season.

I'm happy to report that Bensonhurst Park now has running water in both the fountains, sprinklers and the bathrooms. Reliable access to drinking water and working restrooms isn't just a convenience, it's a basic health and safety need, especially during the summer heat when families and children are spending long hours outdoors.

I want to thank those constituents who contacted me and Friends of Bensonhurst Park for bringing this issue to my attention, and the Parks Department for acting on it. I will continue working with local agencies to keep our parks in good shape for everyone to enjoy.



INSURANCE REFORMS: STANDING UP FOR TIMELY CARE

REFORMATION ON PRIOR AUTHORIZATION PROCESS

Many seniors have told my office about frustrating delays when an insurance company requires prior authorization before covering a needed test, procedure, or medication. This year, reform of that process has been a major focus in Albany and in Washington.

WHAT'S BEING DONE

- State legislation A9103 in Albany proposes insurers be required to give participating doctors clear, upfront lists of what services need prior authorization, cutting down on surprise denials and paperwork delays.
- A new federal rule takes effect in 2026 requiring Medicare Advantage and Medicare Part D plans to decide routine prior authorization requests within seven calendar days, and urgent requests within 72 hours.
- I will continue pushing for the strongest possible protections so your doctor's medical judgment, not insurance company paperwork, guides your care.

If you or a loved one has experienced a troubling insurance delay or denial, then please reach out to my office. Constituent casework like this helps guide the legislation I fight for in Albany.

COLTON FIGHTS FOR OUR C

EPIC: MORE HELP PAYING FOR YOUR MEDICATIONS



The Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage (EPIC) program helps more than 325,000 income-eligible New Yorkers aged 65 and older cover their out-of-pocket Medicare Part D drug costs, and it also covers many drugs that Part D does not. EPIC works as secondary coverage alongside your Medicare Part D plan, lowering your co-payments to as little as \$3 to \$20 per prescription.

WHO QUALIFIES IN 2026:

- Annual income up to \$75,000 if single, or \$100,000 if married.
- You must be 65 or older, a New York State resident, and enrolled (or eligible to enroll) in a Medicare Part D plan.
- Members with income up to \$23,000 (single) or \$29,000 (married) also get help paying their monthly Part D premium.
- There is no cost to apply, and applying for EPIC also helps you apply for Medicare's Extra Help program.

If you are not yet enrolled, call the EPIC Helpline at 1-800-332-3742 (TTY 1-800-290-9138) or visit my office.

SCRIE & DRIE: INCOME LIMITS RISE TO \$75,000



The Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) and Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE) freeze the rent of eligible tenants in rent-regulated apartments, so future legal rent increases no longer add to your bill. For the first time since 2014, the enacted 2026-27 State Budget raises the combined household income limit for these programs from \$50,000 to \$75,000, effective July 1, 2026.

WHAT'S CHANGING:

- Income limit for SCRIE and DRIE rises from \$50,000 to \$75,000, starting July 1, 2026.
- The companion homeowner benefits, SCHE and DHE, will also rise to \$75,000, effective July 1, 2027.
- Landlords and the City must now provide new notices to help eligible tenants find out about these benefits.
- To qualify, you must be 62 or older (SCRIE) or receiving a qualifying disability benefit (DRIE), be named on the lease of a rent-regulated apartment, and spend more than one-third of your household income on rent.

COMMUNITY AND DELIVERS

FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS: TWICE A MONTH IN OUR COMMUNITY



FREE AND OPEN TO RESIDENTS OF OUR DISTRICT

For the past few years, my office has been hosting food distributions twice a month to help residents and families access free groceries, including fresh produce and shelf-stable goods. These distributions are free and open to residents of our district, and no proof of income or paperwork is ever required.

With the cost of groceries continuing to strain household budgets, these distributions have become an important resource for many families, seniors on fixed incomes, and anyone going through a difficult stretch. Just show up, and our staff and volunteers will help you get what you need. Each distribution typically includes a mix of fresh produce and other grocery items, depending on what's available from our community partners that week.

This is not a government program. These distributions are organized by nonprofits that have agreements with grocery stores and supermarkets to take food that is close to, or just past, its sell-by date, helping reduce waste in landfills, while getting food to families who need it.

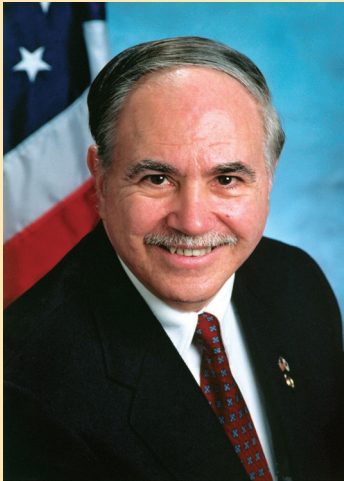
I want to give a heartfelt thank you to the numerous nonprofits whose generosity, hard work, and dedication make these distributions possible. None of this would happen without their partnership and our community is fortunate to have so many organizations stepping up to help their neighbors.

HOW TO GET ON THE LIST:

- Call my District Office at (718) 236-1598 or email coltonw@nyassembly.gov to be added to our food distribution list.
- Our staff will let you know the dates, times, and pickup location for the next distribution.
- If you know a neighbor who could use extra help, then please share this information. We are happy to add family members and neighbors to the list as well.

These distributions are just one more way my office works to support the health and wellbeing of our community's seniors. I hope you will take advantage of this resource.

A MESSAGE FROM ASSEMBLYMEMBER COLTON



Dear Neighbors,

This year’s State Budget delivered real, tangible wins for older adults across our district and New York City. From housing relief to prescription drug savings to stronger protections for your health care coverage, this newsletter highlights three important updates you should know about. As always, my office is here to help you apply for these programs or answer any questions.

With respect and dedication,

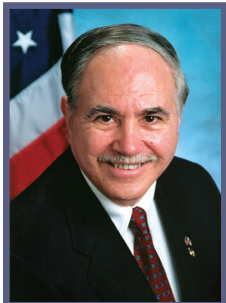
William Colton

**Assemblymember William Colton
47th Assembly District**



Community Office, 155 Kings Highway, Brooklyn, NY 11223

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ASSEMBLYMAN
**WILLIAM
COLTON**

COLTON FIGHTING FOR US

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SUMMER 2026

ASSEMBLYMAN COLTON’S COMMUNITY OFFICE SERVES YOU

155 Kings Highway, Brooklyn, NY 11223
(Between West 12th and West 13th Street)

Telephone: (718) 236-1598 • Email: coltonw@nyassembly.gov

Monday-Wednesday.....10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Thursday.....12:00 Noon to 8:00 p.m.
Friday.....10:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon

We will help you with: Small Business Concerns + Housing Issues + STAR /E-STAR + SCRIE / DRIE + HEAP + HeartShare + SNAP + Health Insurance + State/City Agencies Problems + Quality of Life Issues + Traffic Safety Measures such as traffic lights, speed bumps, getting potholes and dangerous conditions fixed, and much more.