



Unpacking the State Budget: Part I

Last week, the Assembly and the Senate passed their One House Bills that included our respective priorities for the upcoming year. This week, the three-way agreements between the Governor, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, and Majority Leader Andrea Stewart Cousins has begun with a legal mandate to pass the budget by April 1st.

As a member of the Joint Budget Subcommittee on Human Services, I am actively advocating for resources and improved service delivery systems to address the needs of New Yorkers and improve their overall quality of lives. These hearings are televised live and recorded for your review and you can access the recordings on the Assembly website [here](#).

The Budget Process

If you are not already familiar with the budgeting process, here's a quick overview:

1. The Governor presents her Executive budget proposal, which then goes to the Assembly and Senate for review.
2. Both legislative bodies then hold joint hearings, in which representatives can ask the various State agencies to justify their expenses and budgetary asks. It is also an opportunity for the People, through their Assembly and State representatives, to hold State agencies to account.
3. The Assembly and Senate each engage in negotiations, which culminate in what are known as "One-House" budgets for each body.
4. Finally, the two legislative budgets are reconciled with the Executive, and sent to the floor for voting and passage.
5. The Governor signs the bill into law.

There are plenty of issues in the budget to break down in detail, including housing, education, economic development, criminal justice, agriculture, and the environment. For this issue, I will focus on the first of these, **housing**, and the specific proposals included within the Executives and Legislative budgets that are currently in negotiations.

Construction and Development of Affordable Housing

As you undoubtedly know, Governor Hochul's top priority this year is providing more housing across New York State. Her "Housing Compact" sought to continue a \$25 billion investment over five years to create and preserve 100,000 affordable homes, electrify 50,000 out of a total plan of electrifying 1 million homes in total, amongst other initiatives. This \$25 billion comprises of \$5.7 billion in State capital resources, \$8.8 billion in various tax credits, and \$11 billion to support the operation of shelters and supportive housing.

The Assembly's One-House Budget proposes to modify that proposal by requiring municipalities that elect for housing growth plans to submit data related to housing production to the Division of Housing and Community Renewal (HCR). It excludes the Executive's proposal to require local governments within fifty (50) miles of NYC to amend their zoning to build more housing near rail stations and rejects the Executive's proposal to convert certain commercial properties in NYC into permanent housing.

The Senate's One-House Budget modifies the Executive's proposal by removing mandatory growth requirements and overrides of local zoning. It supports the award of \$500 million in incentives to municipalities that achieve production targets.

Housing Access Voucher Program

Governor Hochul's budget does not include any allocation for a Housing Access Voucher Program (HAVP). This is a program that has been introduced as proposed legislation—you can read the text of the Assembly-side Bill, A4021, which I support and have co-sponsored, [here](#)—as well as a proposed budget insertion. HAVP would create a subsidy program for persons who are homeless or facing imminent loss of housing (and have an income of no more than 50% of the applicable AMI). The criteria is more fully defined in the Bill. Both the Assembly and Senate One-House Budgets provide for \$250 million in funding for the HAVP.

Good Cause Evictions

The Executive's Budget does not include tenant protections outlined in the Good Cause Eviction (GCE) bill. The Assembly One-House budget includes language affirming the need for greater tenant protections. The Senate included language that uplifts the core principals of GCE and seeks to address the legislation outside of the budget. The Assembly is working on specific pathways that will protect tenants from arbitrary and capricious rent hikes and unreasonable evictions of paying tenants.

Homeowner Protection Program (HOPP)

The Executive's Budget cut \$35 million to the Homeowner Protect Program. Both the Assembly and Senate One-Houses budgets restores the \$35 million and adds another \$5 million for a total of \$40 million. HOPP is administered by the Office of Attorney General Tish James and provides access to lawyers and qualified housing counselors to assist homeowners with loan modifications, direct representation in court proceedings and home-ownership counseling. According to DFS data, 28,803 mortgage delinquency notices were sent out to homeowners in 2022 in New York City, marking an 85% increase between January and December of the year. This program is, therefore, essential to homeowners who are "cash poor" and "house rich" to maintain their homes and prevent foreclosure.

Rental Arrears Assistance for NYCHA and other Tenants

The Executive budget proposal did not provide for Rental Arrears Assistance. The Assembly One-House seeks to address the gap by providing for \$385 million statewide arrears. The Senate One-House proposed \$389 million for Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) for a total of \$639 million. In the first iteration of ERAP, NYCHA residents were not eligible to receive this assistance because the City of New York who manages NYCHA for the federal government, provided eviction protections for tenants during the pandemic. However, NYCHA, as the Public Advocate reminded us last week, is suffering from an enormous shortfall of funding due in part to rental arrears. In the 56th District alone, the total back rent owed across our thirteen (13) public housing developments is \$24.69 million, of which \$19.57 were accrued since the start of the pandemic in March 2020. In total, NYCHA needs \$385 million and it is the responsibility of federal government and NYC to provide the necessary funding so that state dollars can be used to support other tenants in need. Despite this fact, I continue to advocate for and provide necessary relief for my residents who live in NYCHA housing developments.

Advocacy in Albany



Budget season also brings the excitement of hearing from advocates whether in one-on-one meetings, rallies and press conferences. From the massive rally to end healthcare injustice by 1199 demanding fair pay for healthcare workers, constituent voices were heard. Thank you to all of the residents, cultural and educational institution, community based organization, hospitals, and unions from the 56th Assembly who travelled over 300 miles roundtrip to Albany to advocate for specific legislative changes or budget asks. I am so proud to represent active and engaged constituents who understand just how important your voices and actions are to improving our community and New York State. Leadership of 1199 treated its members to a Hip Hop concert after the rally featuring Fat Joe, Rakim, Remy Ma and Doug E Fresh.

President George Greshman and Dale Smitheren from 1199, LaRay Brown and Dr. Lisa Scott

from One Brooklyn Health, and Assemblymember Rodney Bichotte Hermelyn and Yamil Speight-Miller from Kings County Democratic Party.



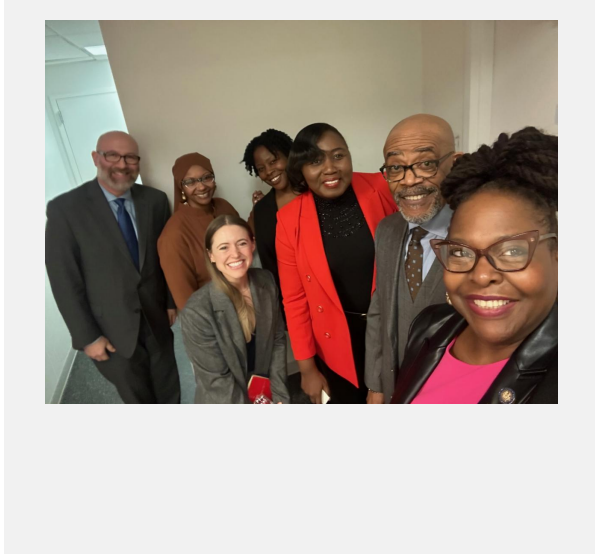
Career Pathways Conference



On Friday, March 17, I hosted my second Career Pathways Conference at the Billie Holliday Theater. The Career Pathways series is my initiative to connect learners, educators, parents, employers and other stakeholders to one another, so that we can brainstorm ideas to improve the overall standard of education for our learners, as well as create new channels for employment in traditional and non-traditional industries.

We started with a conversation with Dr. Lester W. Young, Chancellor of the New York State

Board of Regents who shared his experience educating children in District 16 and his journey to become the top educator in the state. He affirmed his believe that principals and teachers know how to teach children and we should focus ensuring that all students have access to the fundamentals of learning. Our panel included employers from Google, Central Brooklyn Economic Development Cooperation, and NYC DOE Career Technical and Education who discussed job opportunities renewable energy work, offshore wind, and urban agriculture.



Underground Reading Railroad: *Celebrates Agricultural Literacy Week*



On Saturday, I hosted our second Underground Reading Railroad Read Aloud at Macon Branch Library, which aims to correct the lag in reading proficiency amongst learners in this District. Partnering with my friends Cornell University to celebrate Agricultural Literacy Week 2023, which celebrates the connection of food and culture and how it ties generations together. I read **"Tomatoes for Neela,"** a beautifully written and illustrated book that explores how tomatoes are grown and how they are used for cooking. After the read aloud the children planted basil and tomato seeds in dixie cups for their home gardens. If you would like to partner with the Assembly Member as partner, host or reading volunteer, please contact my Special Projects Coordinator Tracy Gray at grayt@nyassembly.gov to sign up.

Legislative Update

I recently introduced new legislation that would provide for co-navigation services for Deaf-Blind individuals. This bill, which you can read [here](#), A4926, was brought to me by constituents who face problems daily to navigate everyday life. Co-navigators serve as sighted guides for deaf-blind people, provide support at homes and workplaces, with public functions such as with voting and participation in community activities, and assistance with public transportation. Deaf-Blind people have advocated for this measure for many years, and this is a timely intervention to provide residents of this State. The Bill and my advocacy for this measure were covered by Amsterdam News [here](#), and by The San Diego Voice [here](#), the latter focusing specifically on how this Bill would support Deaf-Blind communities of color.



Taxing the Rich Proposals

By now you may have found one of these door knockers on your knob asking you to contact me regarding the "Tax the Rich" proposals that are being advocated for as a packet of related legislation and for inclusion in the budget.

Here are the bills that are being proposed as part of this package:

- [A3115: restructuring the income tax to make it more steeply progressive at and above the threshold of \\$1 million. I support this measure and am a co-sponsor on the Bill.](#)
- [A2576: creating an additional surcharge tax on capital gains;](#)
- [A3690: raising the tax rate on corporate income;](#)
- [A3193: adding an heirs tax that would treat inheritances as income and capture, amongst other currently untaxed income, inheritances by those individuals who are not resident in NYS.](#)

- [A3252: seeks to instate a mark-to-market tax on billionaires' assets, such as securities, that are presently not taxed until they are disposed. This tax would value each at the present value of each asset at the time that the tax is calculated.](#)
- [A4021: establishing the housing access voucher program. I support this measure and am a co-sponsor.](#)
- [A3353: establishing the tenant-opportunity-to-purchase-act, which applies to buildings over a certain threshold and would provide tenants an opportunity to come together and purchase the building collectively. I support this measure and am a co-sponsor.](#)
- [A279: implements the New York State "Build Public Renewables Act. On this, too, I am a co-sponsor.](#)

The Governor has not yet weighed in on these proposals specifically, which make this postcard disingenuous.

My legislative staff and I will continue to look at—and engage with—these and other proposals to ensure that we make the right decisions for this District and for the people of New York State at large.

You are welcome, in the meanwhile, to send in your comments on these proposals.

Job Opportunities

NYS Department of Education

Associate in Education Improvement Services

Responsibilities include:
Serve as the primary CSO liaison to an assigned portfolio of Regents-authorized charter schools, with responsibilities for writing reports, managing and coordinating site visits, directing and supporting consultant activities, drafting revision and renewal Regents items, and reviewing school-specific documents and requests.

[Link to posting here >>](#)

Office of the State Attorney General

Legal Support Analyst, Criminal Enforcement and Financial Crimes Bureau

Responsibilities include:
Conducting investigative assignments such as drafting subpoenas, reviewing documents, searching commercial and law enforcement databases, analyzing phone and bank records, and monitoring electronic surveillance.

[Link to posting here >>](#)

Upcoming Events

GOOD HEALTH WINS
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN, INC. • VACCINATE YOUR FAMILY

BROOKLYN ALUMNAE CHAPTER
A.S.C.W.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI L. ZINERMAN

RISE Counseling Services Ashley Watson, LCSW
National Council of Negro Women, Incorporated (Brooklyn Section)
Brooklyn Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated

COMMUNITY PARTNERS
present

GOOD HEALTH WINS

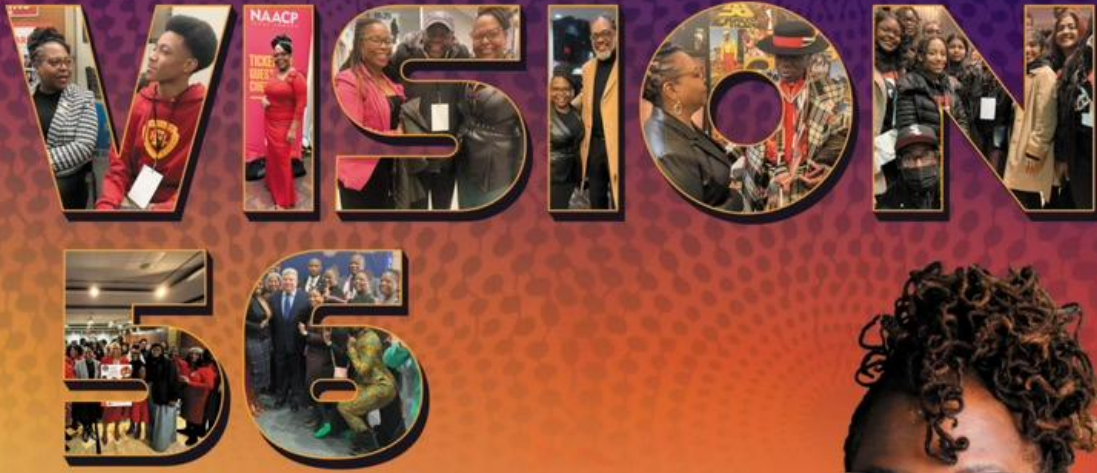
SAT. APRIL 1, 2023
12:00 PM - 3:00 PM

RESTORATION PLAZA
Skylight Gallery
1368 Fulton Street
Brooklyn, NY 11216

A curated space for community members to explore and educate themselves on mental, physical, and spiritual health.

Logos at the bottom include: BEDFORD-STUYVESANT FAMILY HEALTH CENTER, Interfaith Medical Center, NYC HEALTH+HOSPITALS, Woodhull, BxO EXPERIENCE, RISING GROUND Paths to positive change since 1837, Bridge Street DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, CAMBA where you can, CHAT & HEAL, KAVI, and CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP ON URBAN SOLUTIONS.

New York State Assembly Member **STEFANI L. ZINERMAN**



SAVE THE DATE

TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 2023 • 6 PM

Doors open at 5:30 PM

The Billie Holiday Theatre @ Restoration Plaza
1368 Fulton Street, Brooklyn, NY



@stefanizinerman



nyassembly.gov/mem



District Office: 718.399.7630

Community Announcements



**Cash Prizes!
Get Published!**

Enter Brooklyn Public Library's 2023 Teen Writing Contest. Writers in grades 6–12 in New York City are invited to submit poetry and prose to be judged by a panel of BPL's expert young adult librarians for creativity, style and voice.

Entries accepted in two categories:

- **Poetry:** up to 500 words
- **Prose:** up to 2,500 words—short stories, reviews, news stories, rants, raves, everything else!

Awards will be given

in **two age groups:**

- Middle School (grades 6–8)
- and High School (grades 9–12).

Submissions open from **March 1–31, 2023**. Winners in poetry and prose will receive the Ned Vizzini Teen Writing Prize with cash awards (\$500; \$250), and have their pieces published in the Teen Writing Journal distributed by the Library and be honored at a reception in June.

Contestants may submit no more than two entries in total. For full rules and entry form, visit: bklynlib.org/teen-writing-contest. Submit entries online or by emailing teenwriting@bklynlibrary.org.



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EMMA PRICE VIZZINI & JAMES VIZZINI





NEEDED



For our farmers markets and cafes

Volunteers + Market Managers, Driver* (paid)

Tuesdays/Wednesdays 1p-5p - any 2+ hours Brownsville*

Thursdays 2-6p (any 2+ hours) - Crown Hts*

Fridays 1-5p (any 2+ hours) - PS 139 - Flatbush/Ditmas

Saturdays 12-4p (any 2+ hours) - Drink - Crown Hts



Get community service credits and more!



Let's build cafes!



Writers, too!
Help students write letters for food justice

For more info, please email
info@seedsinthemiddle.org
@seedsinthemiddle

THE FREE BLACK WOMEN'S LIBRARY
presents

THREAD

A COMMUNITY QUILTING
& SEWING WORKSHOP

featuring Hekima Hapa
of *Black Girls Sew*

Sunday, March 26th
3pm - 4.30PM

TFBWL Reading Room
226 Marcus Garvey Blvd
Brooklyn, NY 11221



Register via Eventbrite: bit.ly/BLACKGIRLSSEW

Bring your favorite cotton fabric scraps,
thread, beads & other sewing materials.

Stop Medicare Fraud in New York State!



MEDICARE FRAUD FORUM

PREVENT, DETECT, & REPORT!

The Senior Medicare Patrol empowers seniors, caregivers and professionals to fight against those who commit fraud, waste, and abuse in the Medicare program.

RSVP: bit.ly/MedicareFraudPrevention

Residents are encouraged to RSVP, those who are unable to do so electronically, can simply call our office at 718-919-0740, 10am-5pm M-F to have their names added

TUESDAY, MARCH 28TH
10AM - 12PM

Restoration Plaza
1368 Fulton Street *MULTIPURPOSE ROOM
Brooklyn, NY 11216

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



STATE  WIDE

New York StateWide Real Estate Council, Inc.
Empowering The Lives of Seniors' Citizens & Families in NY State
www.nysecrec.org • 405-625-8274 • www.nysecrec.org

Fair Housing Protects, Knowledge Empowers

Increasing Equity Through Policy, Practice, and Education

April 5, 2023



A Home for Everyone
<https://thegreats.co/artworks/a-home-for-everyone>
Artist: Berta Vallo

Morning Panels

- **Panel 1:** Buying Equity:
Fair Housing for Homebuyers
- **Panel 2:** Selling Equity:
Fair Housing Topics for
Real Estate Professionals

CE
Credit

Lunch Program

Afternoon Panels

- **Panel 3:** Enforcing Equity:
Uplifting Impact Litigation
- **Panel 4:** Understanding Equity:
Rights and Responsibilities for
Landlords and Renters

CLE
Credit

Register by visiting
bit.ly/NYFairHousing2023
or scanning the QR code



Program: 10:00-4:00 PM

NEW VENUE



National Museum of the American Indian
1 Bowling Green, New York, NY 10004



Division of
Human Rights



NYC
Commission on
Human Rights

And finally: Ramadan Mubarak to all celebrating!

RAMADAN MUBARAK

As you pray and fast this Ramadan,
may all your wishes come true.



Office Hours for the Assembly 56th District Office

General Office Hours

Monday – Friday
10:00am – 6:00pm

Phone Number

(718) 399-7630

zineramanfor56ad | Bedford Stuyvesant, Brooklyn, NY 11216

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