



Assemblymember Robert Carroll

Summer 2023



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I am proud of the significant accomplishments the Legislature achieved this year but recognize that there is still much to be done. The \$229 billion budget the Legislature passed in May included very important provisions addressing climate change including my Build Public Renewables Act, shored up the MTA's finances, and beat back misguided proposals from the Governor to expand charter schools and raise tuition at SUNY and CUNY. In June, the Legislature passed major criminal justice reform legislation, the Clean Slate Act, significant bills regarding reproductive rights and the rights of transgender youth, as well as my own legislation related to the environment, voting reform, and dyslexia. However, the Legislature did not pass significant legislation related to the State's housing needs and must find a path to both increase housing production throughout the State while ensuring greater tenant protections. The Legislature also did not pass "Sammy's Law," a bill which would give New York City more authority to lower speed limits on its streets and save lives. I remain committed to forcefully advocating for this and other critical legislation and look forward to continuing to work with constituents and advocates in the months ahead.



Assemblymember Carroll in Albany with bill sponsors and advocates fighting for the passage of "Sammy's Law."

Legislative Accomplishments

I was the prime sponsor of four pieces of legislation that passed both the Assembly and State Senate and will now go to the Governor for her signature.

Voter Registration and Early Voting "Golden Day"

My "Golden Day" bill, A.6132, builds on my previous legislation (A.8858) passed in 2022, which reduced the 25-day deadline for voter registration to the constitutional minimum of 10 days creating a scenario where the voter registration deadline now overlaps with the first day of early voting. Now A.6132 establishes a mechanism enabling New Yorkers to register at an early voting site on the first day of early voting and then cast a ballot, all in one visit.



Assemblymember Carroll at the East 4th Street Community Garden celebrating the installation of a solar system that will provide the power for the entire garden.

Solar and Battery Energy Storage Tax Abatements

My bill, A.6113, improves New York City's property tax abatement program for solar panels and energy storage systems (i.e. batteries). The bill extends the current property tax abatement, which was also authorized by legislation I sponsored but set to expire at the end of this year, to 2035, better aligning it with federal solar tax credits. It allows buildings to use both the solar abatement and storage abatement when previously a choice had to be made between technologies, and it makes solar parking canopies eligible for the program. In addition to helping the City and State meet its climate goals this legislation will create thousands of jobs and save New Yorkers an estimated \$800 million on their utility bills in the first

five years of the program. In terms of reducing carbon emissions, the impact is estimated to be the equivalent of taking 173,000 cars off the road for one year.

Flood Disclosure - Homebuyers Right to Know

Last year, I passed legislation regarding flood disclosure requirements for renters. This year, my bill, A.1967, closes a loophole in the flood disclosure requirements for home sales. Currently, sellers have the power to opt out of disclosing flood information to buyers by paying a \$500 credit at closing. New York is the only State among the thirty that have flood disclosure requirements that has such a mechanism. This bill eliminates this "credit provision" and requires the disclosure of information concerning flood risk, flood history, and flood insurance on real property transactions. Homebuyers will now be empowered to have the information they need to protect their home and their families.

The "Dyslexia Task Force Act"

My bill, A.133, will require the New York State Education Department Commissioner to establish a task force to hold public hearings and examine appropriate and effective evidence-based screening methods, reading interventions and other educational supports for dyslexia and related disorders. It will help set the stage for desperately needed reforms in the State's approach to dyslexia.

IF YOU SUPPORT THESE BILLS TAKE ACTION: Call Governor Hochul at 518-474-8390 and ask that she sign any or all of these bills.



Assemblymember Carroll speaking at a rally in support of his Build Public Renewables Act, which passed in this year's State budget.

Combating Climate Change: The Build Public Renewables Act Becomes Law



Assemblymember Carroll with Assemblymember Mitaynes and advocates in an act of civil disobedience to support the Build Public Renewables Act in front of the Governor's office in Manhattan in January 2022.

The final 2023-2024 budget approved by the Legislature and signed by the Governor included my legislation the Build Public Renewables Act (BPRA). This represents the success of several years of advocacy on the part of myself, many of my Assembly and Senate colleagues, the Public Power NY coalition, and concerned citizens across the State. I first introduced legislation in 2019 to have the New York Power Authority (NYPA), a State agency established under the New Deal, take a leading role in ensuring the State will meet the targets of the State's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA). The inclusion of the key provisions of the BPRA in the budget represents the most significant

environmental legislation passed in the country to date. This legislation empowers NYPA, to build, own, and operate renewable energy projects according to a strategic plan developed every two years. "Peaker plants" in New York City, which are some of the dirtiest plants in the State and disproportionately located in disadvantaged communities, will be phased out by 2030. NYPA will provide bill credits to electricity consumers in disadvantaged communities and support workforce training in renewable energy. The legislation also includes labor standards to ensure good paying union jobs and prevent job dislocation that might result from the transition away from fossil fuels.

Dyslexia Advocacy and Literacy Education: Our Children Have the "Right to Read"

This session, I redoubled my efforts to ensure that children with dyslexia get the services they need and at the same time expanded my work to target the State's literacy crisis impacting all our children. Studies have shown that as many as one in five children have dyslexia or another phonemic awareness issue, but there is still no coherent approach in New York State to addressing their needs. According to the results of the federal National Assessment of Educational Progress for 2022, seventy percent of fourth graders in New York State are not reading at grade level while forty-two percent scored "Below Basic" meaning they struggle to read. Despite this, the State has not revamped its approach to teaching literacy with many schools failing to use evidence-based curricula and New York ranking near the bottom nationally in evidence-based teacher training.

I introduced four bills to tackle this crisis. The "**Dyslexia Task Force Act**" (A.133) will require the New York State Education Department Commissioner to establish a task force to hold public hearings and examine appropriate and effective evidence-based screening methods, reading interventions and other educational supports for dyslexia and related disorders. This legislation passed both houses this session and will now go to the Governor for her signature. It is the same legislation vetoed by the Governor last year, citing cost issues, but it is clear to me that the need and demand for this legislation is greater than ever. New York should never allow administrative costs to come in the way of ensuring that every child is given an appropriate education.

The Dyslexia Diagnosis Access Act (A.2898) would mandate that private health insurance policies pay for neuropsychological exams for the purpose of diagnosing dyslexia. Such exams may cost in excess of six thousand dollars and are typically not paid for by health insurance, making them unaffordable to most families. This bill passed the Assembly, but the Senate failed to bring the bill to the floor. I will work next year to ensure passage in both houses.

The NY IDEA ACT "New York Individuals with Dyslexia Education Act" (A.7101) would establish statewide standards for the screening of students in grades kindergarten through five for dyslexia, for the interventions required for students with dyslexia, for parental notification regarding the outcomes of screenings and interventions, and for the training of educators and other school personnel regarding dyslexia screening and interventions.

The Right to Read Act (A.2897) would require the State Education Department to provide guidance to school districts to establish literacy curricula based on the science of reading as the standard throughout the state and require teachers in the elementary grades to complete fifty hours of training in the science of reading. It would prohibit SED from promoting

curriculum based on the debunked "three cueing" method, which while still widely used has not been proven to be effective.

In addition to advancing legislation, this year I secured \$150,000 in state funding to schools in my district for structured literacy programming and I successfully secured \$250,000 for the Promise Project in the State's 2023-23 budget. This is in addition to the \$540,000 I secured for the Promise Project over the past two years. The Promise Project at Columbia University provides neuropsychological exams and teacher training regarding reading disorders for students in marginalized and underserved communities in New York City.



Assemblymember Carroll speaking on a panel in Manhattan at a screening of the film "The Right to Read."

My office has been engaging with parents and advocates throughout the State as we try to build a broad coalition for change and I was gratified to sit on two panels, one in New York City and one in Syracuse, accompanying a screening of the film "The Right to Read." This film, produced by LeVar Burton, features Oakland NAACP activist Kareem Weaver's efforts to bring evidence-based literacy curricula to Oakland schools and makes a compelling case for why reading is a civil rights issue.

If you are interested in seeing structured literacy in your school I would love to help. Please contact my office at carrollr@nyassembly.gov

State Budget Highlights

In May the Legislature approved the State's \$229 billion budget for the 2023-24 Fiscal Year. The Budget included major policy initiatives related to the environment, significant increases in education funding, significant new funding to address the migrant crisis, significant funding to strengthen mental health programs, an increase to the minimum wage, and stabilized the finances of the MTA among other important initiatives.

The Environment

- Included my legislation the Build Public Renewables Act (see previous page for details), which represents the most significant environmental legislation passed in the country to date.
- Included key elements of the "All Electric Buildings Act" requiring new buildings of less than seven stories throughout the state to be all electric beginning in 2026 and all other new buildings to be all electric by 2029.

Education

- The budget provides a record total of \$34 billion in general support to public schools statewide, an increase of \$3 billion. Included in this is an increase of \$2.6 billion to fully fund Foundation Aid for a total \$24 billion, the most ever provided in the history of New York State. This is the second year in a row that the State has provided record funding for New York City public schools.
- The Legislature rejected the Governor's proposal to lift the cap on charter schools, although 14 defunct charters (zombies) in New York City will be reauthorized.
- The Assembly successfully fought to reject SUNY and CUNY tuition increases for New York State undergraduates and the budget provides \$1.1 billion in capital funding for CUNY and \$1.9 billion for SUNY.

Public Transportation

- Included a one-time payment of \$300 million to the MTA and an anticipated \$1.1 billion in new revenue from an increase to the Payroll Mobility Tax (PMT) on large businesses in New York City, keeping the MTA's fare hike to an anticipated \$2.90 as opposed to the higher fare increase proposed by the MTA.

Fighting for Regional Cooperation in Housing and Transit

- In the course of budget negotiations, I advocated that both the City and suburban counties should contribute to any increase in MTA funding and supported the Governor's proposal to boost housing production throughout the State. However, with some suburban representatives opposed, the Assembly was unable to find a consensus on these issues and we will have to take up housing policy and transportation funding with greater urgency in next year's budget.

Minimum Wage Increase

- Mandates an increase in the minimum wage in NYC and downstate counties to \$16 and the rest of the state to \$15 beginning in 2024 and then to \$17 and \$16 by Jan 1, 2026. Starting in 2027 these wages will be indexed to inflation.

Helping Migrants and Asylum Seekers

- Included \$1 billion to New York City to address the needs of migrants arriving in the City.

Health Care

- Included \$1 billion to strengthen mental health programs throughout the State including both funds for services as well as capital funds for the creation of new residential units for those in need.
- Included a 7.5% Medicaid rate increase for inpatient hospital services, and a 6.5% increase for outpatient hospital care and nursing homes ensuring that low income people get the services they need.

Expansion of the State's Child Tax Credit

- Included the expansion of the State's Child Tax Credit to include families with children under four putting cash in the pockets of low-and moderate-income households that are home to approximately 791,000 children.

Key Legislation I Voted For and Co-Sponsored

Defending Reproductive Rights

Last year, to counteract the impact of the Supreme Court's decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson* overturning *Roe V. Wade*, the Legislature passed bills to ensure that health care providers can provide safe, legal abortions in New York without fear of legal repercussions imposed by other states as well as help make New York a safe haven for individuals from other states seeking abortion care. To further strengthen New York's reproductive health laws this June, the Legislature passed and the Governor signed a telemedicine shield law (A.1709/S.1066), which explicitly gives legal protection to New York doctors who prescribe and send abortion medication to patients in states who have restricted abortion.

Making New York a Safe Haven for Transgender Youth

The Legislature acted to make New York a haven for transgender youth and their families by passing legislation (A.6046/S.2475), which was signed into law by the Governor. This law prohibits New York State Courts from enforcing the laws of other states that authorize a minor to be removed from their home if their parents or legal guardians allow them to receive gender affirming health care. It also prohibits state law enforcement from cooperating with other states' investigations regarding gender affirming care that took place legally in New York and contains provisions to protect physicians who provide gender affirming care legally in New York.

Criminal Justice Reform

The Legislature passed the Clean Slate Act, A.1029/S.7551. This important criminal justice reform provides for the automatic sealing of misdemeanor and felony criminal convictions under circumstances where there is objective criteria indicating that the concerned individual is unlikely to engage in further criminal activity. Class A felonies for which a maximum life imprisonment sentence may be imposed and convictions requiring registration as a sex offender are not eligible for sealing. The law also provides for keeping people's conviction records accessible for certain law enforcement purposes and other necessary needs under specific circumstances. The Clean Slate Act will help prevent discrimination against formerly incarcerated New Yorkers and help give them a better opportunity to secure a job, find stable housing, and rebuild their lives. New York will be the 11th state to enact legislation that provides for the automatic sealing of most criminal convictions.



Assemblymember Carroll speaking at a rally in support of the Clean Slate Act.



Assemblymember Carroll rallying with the New York State Nurses Association for fair wages and working conditions for nurses at New York Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital.

Community Events



Assemblymember Carroll with Wes Jackson, the President of BRIC and colleagues in government at the first concert of Celebrate Brooklyn! in Prospect Park.



Assemblymember Carroll's annual "Spring Clean and Green" in Prospect Park collected 5000 lbs of electronic waste from 226 households!

Community Events (continued)



Assemblymember Carroll presenting a \$500,000 check in State funds he secured to Morgan Monaco, President of the Prospect Park Alliance, in support of their renovation and reimagining of Lefferts Historic House in Prospect Park.



Assemblymember Carroll celebrating the 100th Birthday of Jane Hauck, a longtime constituent and resident of Windsor Terrace.



Assemblymember Carroll with Bonnie Youth Club Athletic Director Jerry Katzke at little league opening day in Prospect Park.



Assemblymember Carroll speaking to constituents at his Prospect Heights town hall at PS 9 in the spring.



Assemblymember Carroll with Bazah Roohi, the Executive Director of the American Council of Minority Women distributing food for Eid on Coney Island Avenue.

New York State Assembly, Albany, New York 12248



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The MTA MetroCard Van is Coming to Park Slope!



Sponsored by
Assemblymember
Robert Carroll

Monday, July 31st, 2023
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
416 7th Avenue

Services offered at the Mobiles Sales Vans

- Get help with a Reduced-Fare application
- Transfer MetroCard balances (Full fare and Reduced-Fare)
- Exchange a damaged Reduced-Fare MetroCard for a temporary replacement
- Report a lost/stolen Reduced-Fare MetroCard
- Ask our team about any MetroCard-related issues
- Ask about the OMNY Program