



January 12, 2024

Greetings—

This week, as we began to gear-up for more intensive legislative activity in Albany, Governor Hochul gave her State of the State address, which outlines her budget and legislative priorities for this year. This sets the stage for the release of the Executive Budget next week and the negotiations between the Governor and the legislature over the budget. Below are some highlights of what the Governor put forward.

The Governor's State of the State

- Commits to revamping New York's approach to teaching reading, which as noted in my e-blast from last week is aligned with my [Right to Read Act \(A.2897/S5480\)](#) that would put in place evidence-based practices for curricula and teacher training throughout the state. This is a very significant development. New York has lagged behind other states in reforming how it teaches literacy, despite less than half of third graders meeting proficiency standards on the State's own reading exams.
- Proposes to build on last year's budget investments to expand and improve mental health services throughout the State including a focus on youth and expansion of insurance coverage for mental health services.
- Proposes to improve maternal and infant health with a focus on reducing racial and ethnic disparities and establishing a first-in-the-nation paid pre-natal leave program.
- Includes measures to incentivize new housing production. I am very supportive of efforts to promote sensible development statewide, however I would have liked to see the Governor support stronger protections for tenants from unreasonable evictions and rent hikes, specifically the [Good Cause Eviction Act \(A.4454/S.305\)](#), which I am a co-sponsor and strong supporter of.
- Includes key elements of the [NY HEAT ACT \(A.4592/S.2016\)](#), which I co-sponsor and would better align state regulation and oversight of gas utilities with the goals of the state's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA).
- Proposed a significant investment in swimming and water safety throughout the State including funding for the construction and rehabilitation of swimming pools, swimming spaces at state parks, and grants to fund lifeguards and swimming instruction.

- The Governor did not specifically address the migrant crisis New York City is facing. The State and the City must work in concert on this pressing issue, which also requires coordination with federal policy.

I look forward to working with my colleagues, advocates, constituents and stakeholders in the weeks and months ahead on these and many other important issues. The goal as always is to find common ground on initiatives that will improve the lives of New Yorkers, promote good policy that the Governor has chosen not to prioritize, and if necessary, oppose policies that I do not think will be effective.

My appearance on the “The Literacy View”

I was excited to appear on the national podcast [“The Literacy View”](#) this week hosted by Faith Borkowsky and Judy Boksner. I discussed my advocacy around teaching literacy and my [Dyslexia Task Force Act \(A.133/S.2599\)](#), which was recently signed into law by Governor Hochul. We share a wide-ranging conversation on literacy and it’s worth a listen if you’re interested in doing a deeper dive on the topic.



Constituent Service Hours at Central Library

My monthly constituent service sessions at Central Library will continue this month on Tuesday, January 16th. This is a chance for you to meet with constituent service staff and discuss your questions and concerns. My district office on 7th Avenue is also open year-round for in-person and over-the-phone constituent service meetings. Call or email my office for any questions regarding these upcoming constituent services sessions.

ROBERT CARROLL
ASSEMBLYMEMBER // 44th DISTRICT

**Winter Constituent Services Sessions
At The Central Library | 10 Grand Army Plaza
Information Commons Room**

Stop by for one-on-one time with constituent services staff from
the office of Assemblymember Robert Carroll

3pm-6pm Tuesday, January 16

For more information contact
CarrollR@nyassembly.gov
or call 718-788-7221

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If you have any concerns about any legislative or community issue, please email me at carrollr@nyassembly.gov or call (718) 788-7221.

-Bobby

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