



Assemblymember Linda B. Rosenthal

Reports to the People of the 67th Assembly District

Summer 2016

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Dear Neighbors,

This last session was a challenging but productive one. The Legislature passed some of the most progressive laws in the country, and I was honored to have played a role in those successes. In addition to solidifying New York's status as a leader for progressive values, these laws will make a real impact on all of our lives. The Legislature took welcome and long-overdue steps to change the culture in Albany, and we will accomplish so much more for the people with comprehensive reform that next session should bring.

Since the end of session, I have been thrilled to spend some quality time with you here in the district. This is a full-time job for me, so even when I'm home, I'm working hard, but I have enjoyed every second spent with my neighbors and friends!

It was nice to see so many of you at my Live! With Linda hyper-local town halls. These town halls were designed to provide you with an opportunity to discuss your neighborhood concerns with me. As many of you who have visited my district office know, we have a busy and effective constituent and community services team, and I take pride in the help that my office has been able to provide you over the years. With that said, I learned so much at the town halls, information that will help us serve you better, and I will definitely be hosting more Live! With Linda's in the future.

Even as we celebrate our hard-fought victories, I am already gearing up for a 2017 legislative session full of exciting challenges. We have opportunities for transformative change on some of the most pressing issues of our time, including criminal justice reform and community-police relations, enhancing access to the ballot and streamlining and modernizing our voting and elections process, expanding access to medical marijuana, increasing our reliance on clean, safe and renewable energy sources while we reduce our reliance on dirty and dangerous fossil fuels, passing the DREAM Act and restoring the voters' faith in their government.

I look forward to being a leading voice on these efforts and so many more, and hope to see many of you in Albany advocating for progressive change that will benefit all hardworking New York families.

As always, my office and I are here to help, so please feel free to drop in or be in touch by phone or email.

Sincerely,

Linda B. Rosenthal

Reforming Albany

It has been the greatest honor of my life to serve the people of the 67th Assembly district. I approach this responsibility seriously; it is my job to give your interests voice in Albany. This is and has been my full-time job for as long as I have been in office, and in that time I have been successful in passing more than 65 laws in 10 years to improve your lives and bring progressive change.

Public service is a calling, but it is clear that it is not merely the best among us who answer that call. Though we passed some vitally important reforms at the end of the 2016 legislative session, including the first step in pension forfeiture for elected officials convicted of corruption; tightening the laws governing independent expenditures to prevent coordination between campaigns; financial disclosure requirements for political consultants with business before the state who advise elected officials or candidates; and lobbying disclosure issue advocacy reforms, much more must be done.

New York's Legislature should be full time, and outside income should be eliminated for lawmakers and the salary increased commensurately. We must reform the process by which elections are financed, adding even more disclosure and transparency, eliminating the LLC loophole that allows some to escape the limits on corporate donations and ultimately move to a system of public finance for state elections.

We need to do all that we can to ensure that the "bad seeds" can no longer hide behind weak ethics rules that shield their illegal activity. The punishment for violating these rules must carry severe consequences to deter those who cannot be relied upon to follow their own internal sense of right and wrong.

I will always put your interests first, and look forward to your continued participation in the political process. All New Yorkers deserve to be able to trust that their elected officials act always with their interests first, and these reforms will help to do that. Right now, elected officials who have been sentenced to prison still enjoy the privilege of collecting their pensions, no matter that their felony-level crime involved misuse of their position. Public corruption is a serious affront to the trust the public places in its representatives, and violating that trust must come with severe penalties. However, the State Constitution must be amended in order for pensions to be revoked, and this session we passed legislation that is the first step on the road to pension forfeiture. Next session we must pass the identical bill, and then the measure will be placed on the ballot as a referendum.



Assemblymember Linda B. Rosenthal receives an award from Hadassah New York for her work to help end human trafficking in New York. Human trafficking is a more than \$32 billion industry, and it is estimated that more than 17,000 individuals are trafficked into the United States each year. New York State has passed some of the strongest anti-trafficking laws in the country, but we must continue fighting to put an end to human and sex trafficking. The Assemblymember is pictured with award recipients: Micol Rieger, LMSW, Program Coordinator Sex Trafficking Prevention Initiative, Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty; Ruth Gursky, Esq., Hadassah National Assembly; and Edith Ewenstein, Advocacy V.P., Hadassah New York.

FREE NOTARY SERVICE AT MY DISTRICT OFFICE EVERY FRIDAY 1 – 4 P.M.

Striking a Blow for Equality in the Bathroom Wars

A battle has been waging in states across the country over bathrooms. Motivated by ignorance, hatred and bigotry, some states have introduced and passed legislation to prevent people from using the restroom that matches their gender identity. These states require their citizens to use the bathroom associated with the gender listed on their birth certificate, thereby prohibiting transgender women and men from using the bathroom that correlates to their identity.

Adding insult to injury, proponents of these efforts have resorted to fear mongering and lying to convince the public to support them. New York has always taken the lead in securing and protecting the rights and dignity of all individuals, and that is why I introduced legislation that would require all single stall restrooms in state-owned or operated facilities to be gender neutral. By passing this bill into law, New York has an opportunity to lead by example and send an undeniable message of our state's policy of inclusiveness.



Assemblymember Linda B. Rosenthal celebrates with revelers at the historic Stonewall Inn, the home of the gay rights movement, after marching in the 46th Annual Pride March.

Funding for NYCHA Capital Needs

Plagued by chronic mismanagement and underfunding, New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) residents have struggled for years in buildings and apartments in varying states of disrepair. I was pleased to be able to secure nearly \$2.4 million in capital funding from the State to help finance desperately needed and longstanding capital and security needs for the NYCHA developments in my district. The residents of **Amsterdam Addition** will be receiving new ovens and refrigerators, and a secure new steel exterior door. The funding will be used to install steel outside doors at the buildings at **Amsterdam Houses**, in addition to lobby and outdoor cameras. **Harborview Terrace** will get new stairwell cameras as well as a new trash compactor and chute doors. **Lincoln Square Neighborhood Center** will also be the beneficiary of \$500,000, which will be used to make the center more accessible to everyone in the community.

Assemblymember Linda B. Rosenthal stops to chat with P.S. 191 students Madison Dalton and Cathy Ramos, after a tour of the school and meeting with Principal Lauren Keville.

The Environment Needs a Hero, and It's Us

Environmental protection has ranked among my top legislative and policy priorities since first being elected into office a decade ago. I fought alongside advocates to ban fracking in New York and prevent the construction of fracked gas-carrying pipelines in our communities. I helped to lead successful efforts to block Port Ambrose and to construct an offshore windfarm off the coast of Long Island. I have fought to preserve funding for the State's Environmental Protection Fund and to prohibit the use of State parkland by private corporations.

In addition to these efforts, this session I passed two environmentally friendly pieces of legislation that will soon become law. The first expands the solar tax credit provided to New Yorkers who install solar panels on their homes. The tax credit will help offset the cost of the solar panel installation and will provide an incentive for New Yorkers to rely more heavily on renewable energy.

The second will prohibit the use of mercury-containing wheel weights. Wheel weights are aftermarket products used in cars and trucks to provide balance. Though mercury-free alternatives made from aluminum, steel and zinc are readily available, some wheel weights are still made with mercury. Mercury, which can be inhaled, absorbed or ingested, can cause damage to vital organs like the brain and lungs. It has also been linked to a number of diseases and can cause vision, speech and hearing impairment.

I will continue to work on legislation to expand the use of clean, safe and renewable energy sources and to protect public health against the dangers associated with toxic substances.

Helping to Keep Babies Safe

New parents are faced with a hundreds of difficult and dizzying decisions, from child care and best feeding and sleeping methods, to safe strollers, car seats and nursery furniture. Faced with thousands of different options, it is easy to see how new parents can become overwhelmed, particularly when it comes to cribs. Infants sleep up to 17 hours a day, and it is crucial that their cribs be as safe as possible to reduce the risk of catastrophe. This is why I passed a law that will require hospitals to provide new parents with information about crib safety before they leave with their new baby. In addition to information about product recalls and federal standards on the manufacture and sale of cribs, the pamphlet will also provide crucial information about safe sleeping practices. This law will help to reduce the number of preventable crib-related infant deaths.





Assemblymember Linda B. Rosenthal accepts a community activism award from Batya Lewton, Upper West Side activist and President of Coalition for a Livable West Side, which has been fighting for years to make the Upper West Side the best place to live and work.

Reshaping Our School District

There are few things more important than your child's education. Choosing a school that strikes the right balance of structure and play, discipline and encouragement and various pedagogical approaches is among one of the most difficult and important decisions that a parent will make for their child.

Here on the West Side, we are fortunate to have some of the best public schools in the City; our parents, teachers, administrators and students have worked hard to create and sustain challenging and supportive educational environments where our students learn and grow.

Unfortunately, education planning for our district, and many others citywide, has often been reactive, meaning that it has failed to keep pace with developments in the community. This means that parts of our district must contend with dangerous overcrowding, while others schools have been left to languish, struggling now under the weight of years of disinvestment.

It is against this backdrop that we consider an education rezoning of the southern portion of School District 3 (SD3). New district lines are being drawn to address the historic issues that have now reached a tipping point.

It is crucial that the process be transparent and inclusive; that all parents, teachers and administrators who will be impacted by the new lines have an opportunity to play a meaningful role in determining what their new district schools will look like. The process should not be rushed, and the community must be given adequate time to consider the proposed plans that will impact them and their families for years to come. Concerns must be deliberated and reflected in final plans, so that the process leaves no one behind and truly considers all viewpoints.

Every child deserves the right to attend their community school and be provided with an exceptional education. All students benefit from a learning environment rich with diversity, and every parent has the right to ensure that their children are being nurtured, academically and emotionally, in a safe and dynamic learning environment.

It is my job to ensure that this process is fair, that your views are considered and respected and that the final plan benefits equally each of the diverse communities that call SD3 their home. It is also my job to ensure that we do not reach this point again and that moving forward, education planning is proactive and inclusive. If at any time throughout this process, you find yourself in need of information or advocacy, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Three Victories and a Pine Management Tenants Meeting

My office is always here to help you, regardless of your needs. If you are facing eviction, fighting with a service provider, such as your gas or phone company, need help qualifying for a government benefit or want to report a problem on your block, my staff and I have expertise handling a broad range of issues.

No Overnight Guests

Recently, my office won a victory on behalf of rent-regulated tenants whose landlord was prohibiting them from having overnight guests when they were not at home. The landlord claimed that the no overnight guest policy was required to prevent against illegal Airbnb use, and claimed that it had the legal authority to do so. The policy was burdensome for tenants who traveled for work or other reasons and were not permitted to hire a pet or house sitter to tend to things in their absence. Tenants are explicitly permitted by law to have overnight guests.

After apprising the landlord of the law and requesting that he voluntarily change the policy, we filed a harassment complaint on behalf of the tenants with New York State Homes and Community Renewal (HCR), the state agency that enforces the rent regulations. We then advocated on behalf of tenants at a hearing with HCR's counsel and attorneys representing the landlord. HCR agreed with my office that the no overnight guest policy was illegal and required the landlord to notify tenants in writing of the change.

Budget Hotel Breeds Crime

My office also partnered with local law enforcement and concerned community members after a violent armed robbery occurred at the Rodeway Inn, a budget hotel located at 31 West 71st Street. The Rodeway Inn was the scene of a number of violent crimes over the years, including a rape and a murder in 2015.

My constituents in the area surrounding the hotel became increasingly concerned about their safety and that of their loved ones as a result of the situation. I convened an emergency community meeting in my district office with Captain Levon Holley, the new Commanding Officer of the 20th Precinct, and hotel neighbors to address their concerns. Captain Holley agreed to increased police patrols in and around the hotel.

I also met with the hotel's new corporate owner, La Quinta, to convey the block's concerns and to discuss ways to ensure that the new hotel would be unobtrusive. The hotel has now executed plans to make improvements to the interior with the goal of attracting a different clientele. I am pleased that I was able to advocate on behalf of my constituents on West 71st Street and will continue working with them until they feel safe on their block.

It's Lights Out at the Sky Building

My office received a number of complaints from constituents living in the West 60s and 70s about a glaring spotlight emanating from the Sky, a luxury apartment building located at 605 West 42nd Street. We reached out to the building management to convey the concerns, which resulted in the building hiring a lighting consultant and ultimately reducing the brightness of the light, which mitigated the glare altogether.

Pine Management Tenants Unite

Recently, a number of news media outlets detailed allegations of a former Pine Management building superintendent who said he was fired because he refused to spy on rent-regulated tenants as per management's instructions. After learning about the harassment, I organized an emergency meeting in my office with tenants from every Pine Management building in my district and a representative from the Attorney General's Office to discuss the harassment and consider strategies for addressing it. We will be working closely with tenants who have experienced harassment to ensure that their rights are protected.

Beagles to Get Freedom in New York

Over the years, I have passed a number of laws to protect animals. I am particularly proud of legislation I passed this year, which will become law once it is signed by the Governor, that will ensure that animals used in scientific research get a second chance at life by requiring research institutions to make attempts to adopt them out to loving homes.

The Research Animal Retirement Act, referred to by many as the Beagle Freedom Bill, will require any institution in New York conducting research on dogs or cats to be considered for adoption before being euthanized. Beagles are the most commonly used dog in scientific and medical research, and are specifically bred for this use because of the docile nature of the breed. Currently, after spending their lives being poked and prodded by humans, purposefully made sick to keep us well, they are deprived of the affection that many other companion animals enjoy. After their long and sad existence, they are usually euthanized. This law will ensure that these animals have a chance to live out the rest of their lives surrounded by the love and comfort of a forever home.



At an event in front of her district office, Assemblymember Linda B. Rosenthal cuddles with Riley, the research beagle who was rescued by Upper West Siders Mitch Lippman and Michael Barrett. Riley spent the first three and one-half years of his life in a laboratory cage.



Assemblymember Linda B. Rosenthal celebrates the 100th birthday of constituent Mathilde Freund with a proclamation from the New York State Assembly. Mathilde is a Holocaust survivor who became a social worker when she came to America. She still works at the Grand Bazaar NYC at the O'Shea Complex, and has for the past 30 years.



New York City Comptroller Scott M. Stringer and hundreds of other Upper West Siders dropped by Assemblymember Linda B. Rosenthal's Second Annual Shred Day sponsored with AARP.



News

from
Assemblymember
Linda B. Rosenthal

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Assemblymember Linda B. Rosenthal and Micah Lasher meet with tenants of the Feinberg Residence, a senior living building, to discuss community and building-wide concerns.



Assemblymember Linda B. Rosenthal addresses her constituents at the hyper-local town hall she hosted for residents of the West 70s. Constituents had an opportunity to discuss pressing local issues with Assemblymember Rosenthal and their neighbors in an intimate setting.