



Assemblymember Charles D. Lavine



Spring Newsletter 2024

Dear Neighbor,

As I continue to work in Albany, fighting for laws that will make New York an even better place to live, I want to take the opportunity to bring you up to date on how I am serving you in the 13th Assembly District.

As President of the New York Chapter of the National Association of Jewish Legislators (NAJL) and a member of its national board of directors, I will continue to defend Israel's right to peaceably exist and condemn those who have attacked our democratic ally. I am also deeply disturbed by the rise in antisemitism right here at home. I also believe we must fight hate against anyone based on their religion, race, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

As Chair of the Judiciary Committee, it is my responsibility to ensure the court system operates in a fair, efficient, and secure manner. With that in mind I have given my support for increased funding for the family court system. This will lead to expanding parent and child representation, adding more family court judges, increasing assigned counsel pay rates, and securing supervised visitation throughout the state. I responded to an increase in threats to judges and court employees by sponsoring the Judicial Security Act (A.5048A) which passed without a dissenting vote in the Assembly and eventually became part of the budget. This legislation safeguards federal, state, and local court officials and their immediate families by permitting them to enroll in the New York State Address Confidentiality Program. Finally, to maximize the efficiency of courts, I sponsored a bill (A.01786) that would eliminate the mandatory retirement age for certain judges. This legislation is intended to utilize the knowledge of aging jurists and to help alleviate the court system's backlog that has increased across courts in New York State since the start of the pandemic.

With the current makeup of the U.S. Supreme Court no longer guaranteeing women can control their own bodies, I continue the fight to protect abortion rights. The New York Santoro Provider Protection Act (A.6904) provides protection for women seeking abortions and related medical services, whether or not they reside in the state. In addition, it aims to prevent harms from unsafe and unregulated abortions and to mitigate the disproportionate impact of abortion bans on indigent women and women of color. A key component of the legislation is funding for those who are low-income and who may need to travel across one or more states to receive access to care.

Among our responsibilities as legislators is to modernize antiquated laws. You may not realize it, but the act of committing adultery is illegal in New York State. I believe the state has no business regulating consensual sexual behavior between adults. With that in mind I introduced a bill (A.4714) to repeal and decriminalize the act of adultery in the state of New York. The bill passed by overwhelming margins in the Assembly and Senate and is now waiting to be signed by the governor.

As always please remember that my staff and I are here to assist you. Should you have any questions or ideas, please reach out to me at (516) 676-0050 or email lavinec@nyassembly.gov.

Sincerely,

Charles D. Lavine
Assemblymember, 13th District

Serving the communities of
Bayville, Brookville, Centre Island,
Cove Neck, East Hills, Glen Cove,
Glen Head, Glenwood Landing, Greenvale,
Hicksville, Jericho, Lattingtown,
Mill Neck, Mineola, New Cassel,
Old Westbury, Oyster Bay,
Oyster Bay Cove, Plainview, Roslyn,
Roslyn Harbor, Sea Cliff, Salisbury,
Syosset, Westbury, Woodbury



The new College of Veterinary Medicine Learning Center on the campus of Long Island University in Brookville.



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Supporting Our Schools

Whether meeting with school administrators to discuss critical funding needs, touring facilities or just having some fun with the kids at events, Assemblymember Lavine puts supporting our schools at the top of his priority list.



With Plainview-Old Bethpage School District Superintendent Dr. Mary O'Meara at a legislative breakfast.



At Glen Cove High School meeting with Angelo Del Toro Puerto Rican / Hispanic Youth Leadership Institute student delegates (l-r) Narson Senat, GCHS Senior; Claudia Sarria, GCHS Senior; Jabier Granados, GCHS Junior; Dr. Maria L. Rianna, Superintendent of Schools; Donnifer Francisco, Spanish Teacher.



Touring Roslyn High School with Superintendent Allison Brown (background) and Board of Education President Meryl Waxman Ben-Levy (foreground).



Meeting with officials from the Jericho School District (l-r) Henry Grishman, Superintendent of Schools; Castel Stone, Assistant Transportation Supervisor; Lori-Ann Savino, Transportation Supervisor; Victor Manuel, Assistant Superintendent for Business.



Having a festive time at the ESPOIR holiday celebration at Westbury Middle School (l-r) Sorcat Joseph, ESPOIR Music Instructor; Jessica Hiltz, Westbury Middle School Teacher / Coordinator, ESPOIR After School Program; Dr. Samarth Joseph, founder of ESPOIR Youth Programs Inc; Ragini Srivastava, Town of North Hempstead Town Clerk; Jennifer DeSena, Town of North Hempstead Supervisor; Robert Troiano, Town of North Hempstead Councilmember; Winchell St. Fleur, ESPOIR Piano Instructor.

Supporting Women's Rights



Assemblymember Lavine firmly stands against threats to women's rights which are human rights. (Left photo) Here with wife Ronnie Lavine and Assembly Speaker Pro Tempore Jeffrion Aubry on the 51st anniversary of the landmark Roe vs. Wade Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion. Ronnie was formally introduced as a representative of Planned Parenthood of Greater New York and a member of its Board of Directors. (Middle and right photos) The Lavines attend a rally at the Capitol sponsored by PPGNY along with (l-r) Jennifer Eramo, PPGNY Director of Individual Giving and Wendy Stark, PPGNY President and CEO.



Dr. Stephen M. Berk, Professor of Holocaust and Jewish Studies, Union College (center) is the guest speaker and guest of honor at the National Association of Jewish Legislators legislative breakfast in Albany. Berk gave a compelling speech on the state of antisemitism in the New York State Public Education System at the event which was hosted by Lavine (to Berk's right) who serves as NAJL New York Chapter President and NAJL Co-President, Assemblymember David Weprin (to Berk's left).



Assemblymember Lavine joins legislative colleague, and Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Brad Hoylman-Sigal, and other members of the Senate and Assembly, at a press conference in Albany on the critical issue of increasing the funding for our family courts. For Assemblymember Lavine, a key part of his role as Chairman of the Assembly Judiciary Committee is to ensure our courts are operating in a way which provides fairness and justice for all.



Governor Kathy Hochul lends her hand to Assemblymember Lavine at the groundbreaking for a 189-unit affordable housing development right in the heart of downtown Hicksville. The governor and her team continue to show how we can provide low-income residents with aesthetically designed yet affordable housing alternatives. This convenient location will provide residents with easy access to mass transit and nearby shopping options. It is a key step in the long-awaited revitalization of downtown Hicksville.



Thanks to the leadership of SUNY Old Westbury President Dr. Timothy E. Sams, the university is setting the standard for the critical importance of diversity and inclusion in higher education. Assemblymember Lavine visits the campus for a seminar focusing on this critical issue. After the event, Lavine is joined by Dr. Sams and Indian American student Amrushaa Muralidhar, a panelist at the seminar, who says she chose the school for the diversity it so richly encompasses.



The Tilles Center for the Performing Arts on the beautiful LIU Post campus in Brookville plays host to a seminar regarding the tremendous impact arts and culture have on the economy – particularly here on Long Island. Randy Cohen of Americans for the Arts made a highly informative presentation for the assembled audience which included Roger Tilles, an unwavering supporter of the arts community. (l-r) Roger Tilles, Member, New York State Board of Regents; Randy Cohen, Vice President of Research Americans for the Arts; Lauren Wagner, Executive Director, Long Island Arts Alliance.



Lavine meets Levine! Assemblymember Lavine humbly meets an American hero who happens to share his last name (pronunciation). Lavine presents World War II veteran Eli Levine a citation in celebration of his 101st birthday and in recognition of his service to our country at his home in Melville. Lavine noting that we are forever grateful for the sacrifices that Eli and so many others of his, the Greatest Generation, made to preserve democracy. This was very personal for Lavine as he had worked closely with Eli's late wife Louise, who was an advocate for breast cancer awareness.



The dedicated leadership and staff at SCO Family of Services gives Assemblymember Lavine and his staff a tour of the Robert J. McMahon Children's Center in Sea Cliff. Its residential treatment center provides 24-hour nursing care, social services and the Tyree Learning Center, a New York State-certified special education school, accommodates the unique needs of children and adolescents with developmental disabilities. Lavine holds a beautiful piece of framed artwork the children made as a keepsake of the visit and their appreciation of all he does for this wonderful facility.



A proud moment for an amazing person as Life's WORC renames one of its buildings in Garden City after founder Victoria Schneps-Yunis. Assemblymember Lavine presents an Assembly proclamation recognizing her efforts to help the special needs community and is pleased to have secured a capital grant to help pay for improved facilities for those served by this vital organization. (l-r) Victoria Schneps-Yunis, Life's WORC Founder; Assemblymember Rebecca Seawright; Assemblymember Jodi Giglio.




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Charles D.
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13th Assembly District

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