

Assemblywoman Nily Rozic

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Dear Neighbor:

There's a lot of work happening here, and I wanted to share with you a little of what #TeamNily has been up to the first half of the year.

We've passed legislation to protect consumers, we've given out thousands of COVID-19 rapid tests, we've organized and participated in countless food distributions, and we've been working hard to assist hundreds of constituents to troubleshoot problems and access services.

Beyond the daily work of our district office, we also passed a budget this year that will make lives better for New Yorkers. This includes many important steps forward in fulfilling our priorities:

- A record amount of funding and fully-phased in Foundation Aid to support schools and students.
- \$2.2 billion towards providing badly-needed tax relief in the form of property tax rebates for households and property owners.
- A decrease in tax rates for middle-class families by April 2023, instead of waiting until 2025 to fully phase in the long-planned tax cuts.
- A suspension of the state's gas tax by 16 cents a gallon from June 1 through the end of the year in response to soaring prices at the pump.
- Investing \$250 million in utility arrears assistance for those who fell behind on payments during the pandemic.
- A record \$7 billion for childcare over the next four years to create a universally accessible childcare system, able to serve all New Yorkers and their families.
- \$1.8 billion for modernizing New York's roads and bridges, creating good-paying union jobs in the process for middle-class families while upgrading and maintaining our robust transportation network. This also includes \$100 million for potholes alone.
- \$250 million to expand the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) that result in needed financial assistance to our low- and middle-income households, young adults, while encouraging work – including part-time work.
- \$106 million – \$53 million for each CUNY and SUNY systems – to hire additional full-time faculty at four-year colleges and community colleges.

- \$1.4 billion for affordable, accessible high-speed internet expansion.
- \$800 million to expand access to care and provide funding to safety net hospitals, including Queens Hospital Center.

Locally, we saw several critical, transformative investments included in this budget that I'm proud to have helped secure.

- \$41 million for homeowners impacted by Hurricane Ida.
- \$500,000 for Commonpoint Queens' new community center.
- \$2.6 million to provide social services and programming for Holocaust Survivors.
- \$700,000 for a new Health Sciences lab at St. John's University, including active-learning classrooms, state-of-the-art simulation suites, and modernized lab space.
- \$10 million for the Hall of Science.
- \$58 million for STEM teacher funding in non-public schools, including SSSQ and St. Francis Prep.
- \$25 million in grants for the Securing Communities Against Hate Crimes program.

As a legislator, my job is to ensure that New York is moving forward strategically, delivering services fairly and efficiently, and keeping a thoughtful eye on the challenges to come. At a time when we are recovering from a health and economic crisis unlike any we've experienced before, it couldn't be more important for government to be able to deliver.

That's what I am committed to do every day, in partnership with you – the people who know best what our community needs. Hope to see you around the neighborhood soon!

All the Best,

P.S. You can sign up to receive our bi-weekly email blasts by sending us an email or visiting our website!

P.P.S. If you are still in need of masks or test kits, please reach out!



Investing in Education

We know that an investment in the education of our children is an investment in the future of New York. The approved budget includes a \$1.1 billion investment in Universal Pre-K, \$100 million for enhanced education or mental health support, and \$250 million in funding for Community Schools.

I am also optimistic that after years of advocacy with community members, the City will finally start reinvesting and expanding programs such as G&T for every district and specialized schools. In the Assembly, I sponsored legislation to ensure that every student get screened for G&T and am happy to see it get done.



Ensuring Effective Broadband

New York does not currently have oversight over broadband service despite its evolution into a critical part of daily life. I sponsor the "NY broadband resiliency, public safety and quality act" that would affirm that access to high-speed internet is essential and authorize the Public Service Commission to regulate service like any other utility in New York.



Supporting Victims of Hurricane Ida

Earlier this year, I joined my colleagues to call for state funding for victims of Hurricane Ida.

New Yorkers are still navigating the aftermath of the devastating storm and need more financial resources as they rebuild their homes and their lives. In response to our advocacy, the state budget allocated \$41 million in aid to help families and homeowners navigating the destruction the hurricane caused to their homes.



Standing Up Against Hate Crimes

Over the past year and a half, we have witnessed a steady surge of anti-Semitism and anti-Asian attacks that has become an undeniable wave of hate. As part of ongoing efforts to address the alarming rise of hate crimes across New York, I had the honor of joining Governor Kathy Hochul and community leaders last week to announce \$25 million in security funding and new measures to report incidents that will improve data collection and response rates, something I've called for since 2017.

These steps to prevent and address hate crimes with new funding and enhanced reporting will go a long way in keeping all New Yorkers safe. If your place of worship or community center would like to apply for this funding, please feel free to reach out to my office.

Under the new budget's bail law, all hate crimes that are not currently arrest-eligible will become arrest-eligible if the individual is 18+. This will help in stemming the record number of anti-Semitic & AAPI hate crimes plaguing New York.



Looking Out for Small Businesses

The State Budget also includes a \$1 billion investment in the state's small businesses, including targeted programs to ensure all types of small businesses prosper.

The Pandemic Small Business Recovery Grant Program, which has delivered more than \$500 million to nearly 29,000 small businesses to date, remains open for applications. Please reach out for more information.

The COVID Capital Costs Small Business Tax Credit will provide small businesses a 50% tax credit of up to \$25,000 to cover unexpected COVID-related costs small businesses have had. This credit covers costs such as the purchase of cleaning supplies, outdoor heaters, air purifiers, signage denoting vaccine/masking policies, and equipment to accommodate contactless payments.

The State will also provide \$100 million in tax relief for an estimated 195,000 small businesses to help them keep their doors open.

Thanks to President and CEO of Queens Chamber of Commerce Thomas Grech (pictured here) for pushing initiatives such as the Queens Tech Council and Next Stop Queens.

Fighting Against Fraud

Federal officials have estimated New York residents have lost \$22 million in combined COVID-19-related fraud.

No New Yorker should have to deal with fraud and deception — especially during the most vulnerable times. This year, I introduced legislation backed by Attorney General Letitia James that would boost penalties for fraud and protect consumers during this pandemic and beyond.





Say **NO** to ConEd Rate Hikes!

Over the past few months, our office has received calls and emails from constituents who opened their ConEd bill to find HUGE increases.

Queens consumers are already struggling to pay their bills.

Join me in telling the Public Service Commission to **say NO to ConEd's rate hikes!**

Sign the petition >>
bit.ly/SayNoToConEdHike

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Let us know how we can help you!

My office can assist you with any questions or concerns. We offer services in English, Mandarin, Spanish, and Hebrew and are happy to assist with additional language needs. To reach us, please call **718-820-0241** or send inquiries to **rozicn@nyassembly.gov**.

