

Around the Community



Assemblyman Braunstein congratulated the winners of his annual Mother's Day Essay & Poetry Contest: (l-r) Caleb Yoon, P.S. 94 in Douglaston; Brady Kim, P.S. 203 in Bayside Hills; Matteo Zuccarello, P.S. 98 in Douglaston; and Ellie Kang, P.S. 32 in Flushing.



Assemblyman Braunstein attended the Bayside Village BID's Food & Music Fest and Restaurant Stroll, an annual event that draws hundreds to the business corridor for food and entertainment.




In honor of Nurses Day, Assemblyman Braunstein joined the Indian Nurses Association of New York to recognize the vital work of our nurses, whose dedication and care keep our community safe and healthy.



Assemblyman Braunstein lent a hand with volunteers at the Udalls Cove Preservation Committee's 56th Annual Cleanup to help support the health and beauty of the local wetlands.

Assemblyman Edward C. Braunstein

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2025-26 Budget Highlights

This spring, Assemblyman Edward Braunstein and the New York State Legislature passed the State Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget. Assemblyman Braunstein fought to improve public safety and the discovery process, promote affordability, and more.

Public Safety and Discovery Reform: “Public safety has always been one of my top priorities, and in this year’s budget negotiations, I pushed for measures that would protect our community. For example, while well-intentioned, previous discovery reforms opened loopholes that were allowing cases to be dismissed on minor technicalities. The state budget strengthened the discovery statutes to prevent these dismissals, restoring accountability while ensuring the right to a fair and speedy trial. To promote the safety of transit riders and workers, the budget allocated \$77 million for the state to partner with the NYPD to increase police presence on our platforms and trains. To recruit and retain law enforcement officers, the budget also restored the 20-year NYPD service retirement and increased pension benefits for NYPD police detectives, sergeants, and lieutenants who choose to serve 25 years or more. The budget also allocates \$35 million for the Securing Communities Against Hate Crimes (SCAHC) program, boosting the safety and security of certain organizations at risk of being targeted.”

Mental Health: “There is nothing compassionate about allowing those with serious mental health issues to languish in our subways, shelters, and streets. Additionally, no one should be made to feel endangered in our transit system or on our sidewalks due to the failures of our mental health care system. That is why I worked with the NYC Mayor’s office to introduce the Supportive Interventions Act (A.137). I’m pleased to report that many components of the bill were

incorporated into the final Health and Mental Hygiene budget bill, which implemented several policy changes proposed in the Supportive Interventions Act relating to care coordination, involuntary commitment, and assisted outpatient treatment for individuals with mental illness. These measures will help prevent individuals experiencing severe mental health issues from falling through the cracks and support the overall safety and wellbeing of New Yorkers.”

Affordability for Working Families: “This year’s state budget included several measures that will help combat the rising cost of living and uplift New York’s working families. The budget cut income tax rates for approximately 8.3 million taxpayers, which will ease the tax burden on middle-class families. It enhanced the Empire Child Tax Credit by increasing the maximum credit to \$1,000 for children under four years old for 2025 to 2027, and \$500 for children aged four to 16 for 2026 and 2027. Additionally, New Yorkers can expect to receive inflation relief later this year in the form of a refund check, which will place between \$150 and \$400 back into the pockets of each eligible New Yorker.”

AAPI Funding: “I was proud to fight alongside my colleagues in the Asian Pacific American Task Force to secure \$30 million for the AAPI Equity Budget. Despite being New York’s fastest growing population demographic, the Asian American Pacific Islander community has faced historical underinvestment. The AAPI Equity Budget seeks to help correct this by earmarking funds to support critical social services, crisis intervention, and community-based programming throughout New York State.”

Assemblyman Braunstein Provides Benefits Assistance for Seniors

Assemblyman Braunstein, in partnership with Services Now For Adult Persons, Inc. (SNAP), is offering benefits and entitlements counseling to individuals 60 years of age and older. This includes help with EPIC, Food Stamps, HEAP, Medicaid, Medicare Part D, SCHE and SCRIE. Please call Assemblyman Braunstein’s office if you would like to schedule an appointment with a SNAP caseworker.

Assemblyman Braunstein and students from Cardozo High School delivered hundreds of items generously donated by Northeast Queens schools and families through the “Valentines for Vets” gift drive to hospitalized and disabled veterans at the VA Community Living Center and NYS Veterans’ Home in St. Albans.



Assemblyman Braunstein's Legislative Update

Assemblyman Braunstein Appointed to New Committee Chairmanship

I am honored to have been appointed Chair of the Corporations, Authorities & Commissions Committee. The Committee oversees laws and statutes concerning private, not-for-profit, and public corporations in New York State. There is much important work to be done and I look forward to continuing to collaborate with my colleagues and the committee staff to help provide the policy work and oversight necessary to help improve the lives of New Yorkers.



Assemblyman Tours MTA Subway Operations

As new Chair of the Assembly Corporations Committee, I took a tour with the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to learn about the Authority's infrastructure and operations. The springtime tour was led by President of MTA Construction & Development Jamie Torres-Springer and New York City Transit President Demetrius Crichlow, who provided a firsthand look at how the MTA serves millions of daily riders.

Safe, fast and reliable transportation is essential to the prosperity of our state. This summer, Governor Hochul released a report highlighting that the MTA is delivering record on-time performance and post-pandemic ridership highs, as well as making strides on customer satisfaction. I am encouraged by the Governor's report and look forward to working with her, my colleagues in the Legislature, and the MTA to continue building on this success.



Assemblyman Braunstein participated in the second annual NYS AAPI Summit, where hundreds of attendees from around the state gathered in Albany to exchange ideas and help develop a legislative agenda that responds to the issues important to AAPI New Yorkers.

Dear Neighbor:

I hope you are enjoying a pleasant summer. This newsletter highlights the actions I have been taking in our district and in Albany on behalf of our community. If you would like to sign up for my email list to receive more frequent updates, please email me at braunsteine@nyassembly.gov.

As always, my office is available to assist you. If you are having trouble with state or local government issues, please do not hesitate to contact us. My staff and I are always here to help you obtain benefits, provide information on government programs and develop legislative solutions to community problems. I thank you for the privilege of serving as your Assemblyman and I wish you and your family a healthy and happy rest of the year.



Edward C. Braunstein, Member of Assembly, 26th District



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Assemblyman Edward C. Braunstein

Reports to the People

Summer 2025



Assemblyman Braunstein joined the youth athletes and families of the Bayside Little League for their annual picnic and presented a NYS Assembly Proclamation celebrating the 75th anniversary of the League.



Assemblyman Braunstein visited Selfhelp Community Services' Clearview Older Adult Center, which provides local seniors with social services, nutritious meals, classes, and thanked the volunteer members who help make it a vibrant community center.