



Assemblymember
Robert C. Carroll
Assembly District 44



[Last week I shared some of the main items in the Governor's Executive Budget](#), including Foundation Aid and the need for Governor to fully fund our public schools.

[Sign my petition to make sure the Governor knows where you stand!](#)

Governor Cuomo's budget proposal allows his Budget Division to adjust expenditures upward or downward, change the purpose of certain types of spending, and reallocate funds to state agencies and public authorities other than those designated in the initially approved allocation if federal aid is reduced. This is an executive over reach that undermines legislative authority and limits transparency. If federal funds to New York are reduced by the current administration – both the executive and legislature should negotiate how to offset the federal cuts to our state.

Here are some other budget items that I thought you'd like to know:

Environment

Clean Water Infrastructure Act

- The Governor is proposing a \$2 Billion proposal to improve municipal drinking water distribution, filtration systems, and wastewater treatment infrastructure. The \$2B would be funded at \$400M per year over five years.
- No funds have been allocated yet, but NYC needs \$200M to complete water tunnel number three and to maintain our drinking water infrastructure.

Transportation/Infrastructure

Design Build

- The Governor is proposing to expand the authorized entities that may utilize Design Build contracts to include all state agencies, authorities, and counties **outside of New York City**.
- Design Build is a project delivery method that allows for a single contractor to be responsible for both a project's design and construction.
- I am fighting for the State to authorize the city to **use Design Build in New York City** because it would significantly reduce the amount of time major infrastructure projects may take and save the city millions of dollars.
- NYC Capital agencies have identified \$7.3 Billion in projects for which it could save \$450 Million if it was authorized to use Design Build.

Higher Education

CUNY/SUNY

- As a Graduate of SUNY Binghamton, I know there is no better investment the State can make than higher education. We must continuously update our facilities and see to it that our college students in New York State continue to get the world class education that I and so many others have gotten over the years.
- I applaud the Governor on his Excelsior Scholarship which proposes free tuition for certain CUNY/SUNY students, but we must make sure that we are always properly funding all CUNY/SUNY schools at the State Level. Currently the operating budgets of SUNY/CUNY are woefully underfunded. NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer noted that there is \$700 Million shortfall in CUNY's funding because Albany's investment in CUNY has failed to keep pace with overall growth.
- Adding \$300 Million in state allocation for CUNY would ensure adequate staffing and retention of professors and maintain CUNY's mission of being a quality affordable education for all New York City residents.
- Many of the same needs that CUNY has - SUNY has as well. If we want to grow the upstate economy there is no better way than investing in our State University system.

Developmental Disabilities

- Direct Support Professionals are approximately 100,000 people who deliver the services that individuals and families with developmental disabilities depend on.
- These professionals are often available 24 hours a day and 7 days a week, but they're being paid just over \$11 dollars per hour on average.
- I am joining with advocates to call on the Governor to add \$45 Million to the budget to begin to provide a living wage for these critical direct support professionals.
- The state must add \$18 Million in Excessive Teacher Turnover Prevention Grants to allow 853 and 4410 provider schools to increase salaries for certified teachers to provide federally mandated Free

Appropriate Public Education (FAPE), which is an educational right of children with disabilities in the United States that is guaranteed by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Election Reform

- As a former election lawyer, I have a keen interest in supporting efforts to make voting easier and more accessible to all.
- The Governor is proposing in the budget to allow same day voter registration and to allow for in person early voting and early voting by mail. I am proud to support these measures and will continue to propose legislation to make our election laws better and fairer for all.

Legislative Spotlight

So far this year I am the prime sponsor on 26 bills. I have highlighted many of the election law bills that I am proposing, but wanted to share a couple of my other bills with you as well:

Bill Number: A3742: An Act to amend the elder law, in relation to eligibility under the program for elderly pharmaceutical insurance coverage.

This bill would allow seniors to retain their eligibility in the EPIC program if they have previously qualified but are no longer eligible because of an increase in a public or private pension or social security benefit. The Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage (EPIC) program assists seniors with the financial burden of prescription drug costs. The already high costs of prescription drugs are still escalating. EPIC has been enormously successful in keeping prescription drugs affordable.

Specifically, the program provides thousands of seniors with a vital service by paying a portion of their prescription drug costs. Residents of New York State who are 65 or older with an annual income up to

\$35,000 (single) or \$50,000 (married) are eligible. It would be unfair to punish seniors who were previously eligible for EPIC but are no longer solely due to a cost of living adjustment. As these income adjustments are minimal they should not hinder the eligibility of seniors currently enrolled in the program.

Bill Number: A5838: An act to amend the public authorities law, in relation to authorizing the New York City Council to approve or disapprove by a majority vote, any public authority's or public benefit corporation's use of eminent domain

This bill would safeguard the interests of the public and communities around the state by adding more traditional democratic control and oversight over the use of takings by public authorities. This bill would ensure that use of eminent domain by public authorities is adequately scrutinized by local elected officials and that the public has an opportunity to comment on projects/proposals that impact on their quality of life. The Prime sponsor in the Senate for this bill is Senator Velmanette Montgomery.

Community Update

Finally, I have had the opportunity to attend a number of community meetings around the district. **[On Monday I attended the full meeting of #GetOrganizedBK with Councilmember Brad Lander and I was able to offer a state budget update to the 700+ attendees.](#)** It is heartening to see so much great activism going on these days and I am proud to be playing a small part in that. Let's keep it up!

See you around the neighborhood,
Bobby