



Assemblymember
Robert C. Carroll
Assembly District 44

[Election Reform Package & My First Bill](#)

The Assembly passed a series of bills this week to expand voting opportunities for New Yorkers. This legislative package includes a number of bills that represent a step forward in making our elections more open and fair to all. However, this is only the first step in reforming our Election Laws in New York State. Together we need to put pressure on the State Senate to pass this package and then on our Governor to sign these reforms into law. Even when we achieve that goal there will still be much work to be done because these bills are a step in the right direction, but not the final piece in creating fair and open elections. New York has some of the worst voter participation rates in the nation and that is because we have some of the worst voting and ballot access laws in the country. Hopefully we can change that and that later this year before the legislative session ends we will pass a second package of election reform bills.

[A.7745](#) is the first bill that I was the prime sponsor of that passed the Assembly and I am glad that it was apart of the Election Law Reform package. [A.7745](#) will extend New York City's run-off election by one week to allow sufficient time to canvass, audit and test optical scanning machines following a primary election and would adjust several calendar deadlines and allow additional time for receipt of military ballots. This bill is important because currently, in the event of a situation when a run-off election is required for Mayor, Comptroller, or Public Advocate, the NYC Board of Elections only has two weeks to prepare the optical scanner machines. This has proven to not be enough time for this to be completed and so we run the risk of having to use the old lever machines, which can be confusing to those who have never encountered them and cause other problems for voters since they are no longer maintained and kept in working order. If we want to encourage more people to vote - every voter should know with certainty how to vote and what the ballot will look like on election day. We should not allow for different voting methods to be used at different times. This bill will ensure that there is voting uniformity.

The package also includes legislation that would give New Yorkers more opportunities to vote and greater flexibility in doing so. One measure, of which I was proud to co-sponsor, would establish a seven-day early voting period for any voter registered in New York to vote in person prior to any primary, special or general election day, [A.2064](#). Currently, 37 states have some form of early voting - our state has waited too long to implement this necessary voting reform. This is a modest step towards enacting real early voting in New York and hopefully it will be signed into law this year and that in the years to come we can expand early voting so busy New Yorkers can have easier access to the polls.

As I said on the floor of the Assembly this week, If we allow people to participate in our democracy, we will make it a stronger democracy-we will make it something that people want to participate in - by providing greater access to the polls we will show everyday New Yorkers that their vote, thoughts and ideas are valued.

[Click the photo below to view my full remarks:](#)



Additionally, the package has a bill that would amend the New York State Constitution to allow no excuse absentee voting, [\(A.7623\)](#) no excuse absentee voting is another major reform that will ensure that no one is kept from voting because they do not fall within one of the restrictive categories to qualify for an absentee ballot. Many other states have implemented no excuse absentee voting successfully and hopefully New York will do the same this year. Three other bills in the package ([A.5382](#), [A.6283](#), & [A.3411](#)) would assist in modernizing voter registration by allowing agency registration, online registration, and allowing voter registration to be transferred between counties. Another bill in the package ([A.3052](#)) would combine the Federal and State primaries so that they are both held in June. New York was the only state in the nation last year to hold 3 primaries (Presidential, Federal, and State) - even though that only happens once every 4 years, every two years we hold at least two primaries and waste approximately \$50 Million. Having one primary makes voting simpler and its cheaper for the state. The final bill in the package ([A.3549](#)) is a bill that would allow a 17 year old to vote in the presidential primary in New York if they will be 18 years old at the time of the November Presidential election. I

think this bill is so important that I have sponsored a piece of legislation ([A.6839](#)) that would lower the voting age to 17 for all state and local elections and not just the Presidential Primary.

Passage of the New York Health Act

For the 3rd consecutive year, the Assembly passed the New York Health Act ([A.4738](#)), this week. I was proud to co-sponsor the universal "improved Medicare for all" single-payer health plan that would cover every New York resident, regardless of wealth, income, age or health status.

It is so important, with the current climate in Washington for New York to be a leader on health care, and I am proud that the Assembly Majority is again demonstrating a commitment to making sure that all New Yorkers get the health care that they deserve. With 30 co-sponsors in the Senate, it is now time for them to act on this critical piece of legislation.

For many New Yorkers, the rising cost of healthcare has forced many individuals to make healthcare decisions based on economic factors. Under the New York Health Act, all residents would be eligible to enroll in the universal healthcare system and would have access to the full range of doctors and other healthcare providers. Benefits would include comprehensive inpatient and outpatient care, primary and preventative care, prescription drugs, behavioral health services, laboratory testing, and rehabilitative care, as well as dental, vision, and hearing care.

Additionally, state funding would be combined with federal funds that are currently received for Medicare, Medicaid and Child Health Plus to create the New York Health Trust Fund. The state would also seek federal waivers that will allow New York to completely fold those programs into New York Health. The local share of Medicaid funding would be ended, offering major property tax relief for New Yorkers.

Upcoming Events



EARLY DETECTION OF BREAST CANCER SAVES LIVES!



Mobile Care Clinic Will Be in Your Neighborhood!
To Provide **No Cost** Digital **Mammograms** & Clinical Breast Exams

Eligibility: Woman aged 40 and older

- Currently living in New York City
- No Mammogram in the past 12 months

Our services are at no cost. No co-pays required and deductibles are waived.
Uninsured patients welcomed.

Hosted by:



Assemblymember Robert Carroll




Borough Park Branch
1265 43rd Street Brooklyn, NY 11215
Thursday, May 25, 2017
9:00am– 12:00pm

For an Appointment, Call:
718-788-7221 or 1-877-628-9090

Medical Services provided by Multi-Diagnostic Services



Funded by a grant from the New York State Department of Health Cancer Services Program. Additional funding provided by the generous support of the New York City Council, the National Breast Cancer Foundation, NYS Assembly, Susan G Komen Greater NY, NY GreaterGood.org, the RAR Foundation and individual patrons.



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Cortelyou Rd. Branch
1305 Cortelyou Road
Thursday, May 25, 2017
2:00pm– 4:30pm

For an Appointment, Call:
718-788-7221 or 1-877-628-9090

Medical Services provided by Multi-Diagnostic Services



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FREE RAIN BARREL

FOR YOUR LAWN AND GARDEN!



Sponsored by
**ASSEMBLYMEMBER
ROBERT CARROLL**

Call or Email my office to reserve your free 60-gallon rain barrel. It's easy to install and connects directly to your downspout to capture and store the stormwater that falls on the rooftop.

The water collected in the rain barrel can then be used to water lawns and gardens, or for other outdoor chores.

The Rain Barrels are provided by the NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

You must reserve your rain barrel in advance. To do so, call (718) 788-7221 or email carrollr@nyassembly.gov.

Pick Up Details

Date: Sunday June 4th

Time: 10 AM - 12 PM
(if you don't pick up your rain barrel by noon, it will be distributed on a first come, first served basis)

Location: 1203 Albemarle Road
(corner of Westminster Road)

If you have any legislative ideas or community concerns please reach out to my office at (718) 788-7221.

See you around the neighborhood,

Bobby