



# Assemblymember Robert Carroll

## *On the Issues this Legislative Session*



District Office: 416 7th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11215 • 718-788-7221 • [carrollr@nyassembly.gov](mailto:carrollr@nyassembly.gov)  
Albany Office: Room 429 LOB, Albany, NY 12248 • 518-455-5377 • <http://nyassembly.gov/mem/Robert-C-Carroll/>

Fall 2017

### Public Schools

Funding of our public schools is essential to the ultimate success of our children and future generations. In New York State, this starts with fully funding our Foundation Aid.

When the Governor announced in his executive budget that he intended to again not fully fund Foundation Aid and that he would repeal the Foundation Aid formula, I organized a petition in the 44th Assembly District and delivered over 1,000 signatures to the Governor's desk calling for a continuation of the formula and more funding of our schools.



*Assemblymember Carroll presenting a special award to a student at PS 10 after speaking at their 5th grade graduation.*



*Assemblymember Carroll speaking to a Kindergarten Class at PS 295.*

As a result of pressure from the Assembly Majority and School Advocates the Governor dropped his repeal of the Foundation Aid formula and we were able to secure an additional \$1.1 billion dollars in Education funding statewide.

In June, four school-based health clinics in Community Education Council District 15 –

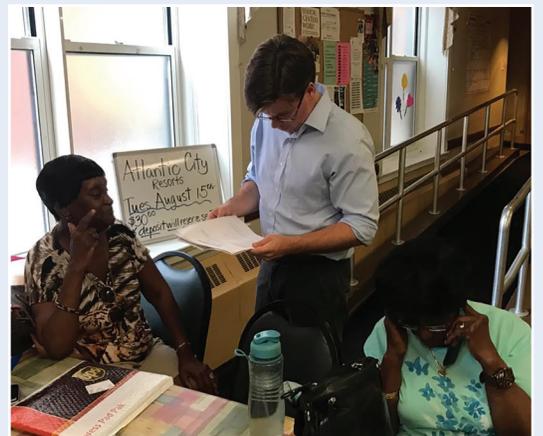
(M.S. 51 William Alexander; Brooklyn New School and Brooklyn School for Collaborative Studies; P.S. 38 the Pacific School; and the School for International Studies and Digital Arts and Cinema Technology High School) received a letter from SUNY Downstate informing them that because state funding had been dramatically reduced, SUNY Downstate School-Based Health Centers could no longer operate and would be closed. Working with Assemblymember Simon and other elected officials, school and parent leadership, SUNY Downstate, and the New York State Health Department we were victorious in keeping these vital Health Centers open for the upcoming school year. School-Based Health Centers are a critical resource for our communities, allowing our students to get the health care that they need without having to leave school. I will continue to fight to make sure that these vital community resources receive their proper share of state funding going forward.



*Assemblymember Carroll speaking at a press conference announcing that 4 School-Based Health Centers originally slated for closure would remain open thanks to advocacy lead by Assemblymember Carroll and Assemblymember Simon.*

### Senior Centers

Our senior centers are wonderful places that are critical to the quality of life of so many senior citizens across New York City. When the Governor announced in his Executive Budget that he planned to redirect \$17 million of Title XX funding from senior centers, my office received dozens of calls from concerned constituents, worried that their senior center would close. Joining with the Assembly Majority, I fought back against these cuts and made sure that these funds were restored, keeping 65 senior centers in NYC from closing.



*Assemblymember Carroll speaking with a constituent at Prospect Hill Senior Center.*



*Assemblymember Carroll visiting Seniors at the Senior League of Flatbush.*

### Environmental Protections

As a member of the Environmental Conservation Committee, I am proud that the Assembly Majority was able to convince the Governor to add an additional \$500 million to the budget to address concerns about drinking water quality and deteriorating water treatment facilities across New York State. \$200 million went to New York City for projects located in the New York City watershed.

## Crisis with the MTA

As a lifelong straphanger and someone who does not own a car, I experience daily our public transit system and know first-hand that service is on the decline and that we must come together now to fix the MTA.

This spring I toured a subway station with MTA officials to make sure that our stations are being properly maintained and routinely cleaned.

In August, I joined Assemblymember Dinowitz for the 24 Hour Riders Respond tour to hear directly from constituents about their concerns and complaints about the system.



*Assemblymember Carroll speaking to a constituent about her MTA concerns.*



*Assemblymember Carroll speaking at a press conference fighting for better bus service.*

Earlier this summer I released my own 6 point plan to fix the MTA, which includes calling for a special session, revenue increases through floating a bond, increasing the yellow taxi surcharge and adding one to ride sharing applications like Uber, establishing an efficiency task force to assess why the MTA is the most expensive transit system in the world, and establishing an equitable tolling plan.

I joined with the Riders Alliance, Transit Center & Straphangers campaign to highlight their bus turnaround campaign which aims to improve bus service by reducing bunching and increasing the average speed of buses across the city by implementing simple technologies like all door boarding and signal enhancements. Bus service is the key transportation link for so many residents. An expansive and well-functioning bus system is vital to addressing our mass transportation needs.

Our mass transit system is the backbone of our city and the Governor and the Mayor must work together with the Legislature and explore all ideas to raise revenue to address our system's decaying infrastructure. A better mass transit system helps all New Yorkers and I will continue to fight to fully fund the MTA's Capital Budget.



*Assemblymember Carroll with MTA officials, assessing problems with the Church Avenue B,Q station.*

## Perfect 100% from the New York League of Conservation Voters

I am proud that in its Inaugural State Environmental Scorecard, the New York League of Conservation Voters awarded me with a 100% rating. The scorecard tracked the voting records of elected officials in Albany's last legislative session. The League's methodology involved tabulating the votes taken by elected officials on a wide variety of environmental issues, including financing geothermal energy, enacting a fee on plastic bags at supermarkets, supporting a tariff for electric charging vehicles, and school food donations, among other concerns. A total of 13 Assembly Members received perfect scores, as well as nine Senators. I am proud to have been the only member of the Assembly's Brooklyn Delegation and the only Freshman Assemblymember to receive a perfect score. I look forward to continuing to fight for environmental protections in the State Assembly in next year's legislative session.

## Upcoming Events Organized by my District Office

### Mobile Care Clinic offering No-Cost Mammograms and Clinical Breast Exams provided by the American Italian Cancer Foundation (AICF)

**Date:** Friday, November 17

**9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – District Office (416 7th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY)**

**2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. – Park Slope Center for Successful Aging (463A 7th Street, Brooklyn, NY)**

**Appointments:** 1-877-628-9090 (English and Spanish). Walk-ins may be available but best to schedule an appointment.

**Eligibility:** Women over 40, currently living in New York City, who have not had a mammogram in the past 12 months.

**Cost:** The services are provided at no cost. No co-pays required and deductibles are waived. Uninsured patients welcome. Please bring insurance information, if available.

**Services Available:** The AICF Mobile Care Clinic is equipped with state of the art digital GE mammography equipment that is comparable to those found at most hospitals or radiology centers. Compassionate and qualified professionals provide mammograms, clinical breast exams and breast health education. AICF contracts with Multi Diagnostic Services, Inc., a licensed, accredited mammography provider, who performs the medical services and operates the mobile mammography equipment. Screening results are mailed out to patients within 8-12 business days.

### MetroCard Van

**Date:** Wednesday, November 29

**Time:** 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

**Location:** District Office (416 7th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY)

**Appointments:** Walk-in

**Services:** Take care of all MetroCard business at the MetroCard Van. Apply for or refill a Reduced-Fare MetroCard, Regular MetroCard, or Unlimited MetroCard. Buy Pay-Per-Ride cards. Check the balance on expired MetroCards. And ask MetroCard-related questions. You will get prompt, attentive service, right in your own neighborhood.

**Seniors:** If you are 65 years of age or older, you can bring your application to the MetroCard Van with two valid IDs (Driver's License, Medicare Card, or Birth Certificate, one of which must have a photograph of you). Free photography services will be available.

*For additional information call the District Office at 718-788-7221.*

## Other Legislative Highlights:

### Raise the Age

This year, the New York State Legislature raised the age of criminal prosecution so that 16 and 17 year-old offenders in New York would no longer be sent to adult criminal court where they face the same sentences as adults. The new law will now send the majority of 16 and 17-year-old defendants to Family Court or the Youth part of the criminal court.

### Reproductive Health

The Assembly passed legislation to protect women's reproductive health rights to ensure that New Yorkers have access to affordable family planning. The Comprehensive Contraception Coverage Act codifies the requirement under the Affordable Care Act that all health insurers provide cost-free contraceptive coverage as a part of their insurance policies. Unfortunately, the State Senate failed to act and on these critical bills, so we must continue to push them to do so next legislative session.

### Affordable and Supportive Housing

The Legislature approved allocations of \$2.5 billion for affordable and supportive (e.g. individuals and families confronted with homelessness and who also have very low incomes and/or serious, persistent issues that may include addiction or alcoholism, mental health, HIV/AIDS, and disabilities) housing funds appropriated in the budget agreement. The five year \$2.5 billion capital plan is allocated to include \$1 billion for supportive housing, \$125 million for senior housing, \$150 million for the middle income housing program and more.

### Electoral Reform Legislation

This session, I introduced over a dozen electoral reform bills in order to improve voter participation in New York State. As a former election lawyer, modernizing our voting laws and increasing voter participation are among my top priorities. Two of the electoral reform bills that I introduced passed the Assembly.



*Assemblymember Carroll speaking on the Assembly floor.*

**A.7745** would 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 machines.

**A5735A** would amend the election law to notify voters in bold and prominent font on their registration form that New York practices a closed Party Primary system. In New York State, a voter must be enrolled in a party in order to participate in that party's primary election. This bill requires that on every voter registration form that it be explained in bold and prominent font - that political party enrollment is optional, but that, in order to vote in a primary election of a political party, a voter must enroll in that political party. More explicitly notifying each voter at the time of their registration will help to better educate the voter and potentially impact the Primary enfranchisement of almost three million voters in New York State.



*Assemblymember Carroll touring the affordable housing project at the Culver El site.*



*Assemblymember Carroll Speaking at Press Conference supporting electoral reforms.*

Despite the Governor's prior comments on the importance of including electoral reforms in the budget, none of the critical electoral reforms which I am proud to have co-sponsored like early voting, electronic poll books, instant registration, no fault absentee voting and campaign finance reform became law. I am proud to have co-sponsored all of these bills in the Assembly and am happy to have joined countless rallies and demonstrations on these issues in Albany and in my district.

### Young Voter Act

Working with a group of high school students in my district office, this session I introduced the Young Voter Act (**A6839**), which would lower the voting age to 17 in local and state elections, introduce a more robust civics curriculum, and provide all students with an opportunity to complete a voter preregistration form in high school. I've always believed that involving young people in politics is essential, and this bill is my effort to improve the civic literacy and engagement of a new generation of young New Yorkers. On May 9th and June 13th, 2017, I welcomed groups of high school students from around the city to Albany as they lobbied their representatives in support of the Young Voter Act.



*Assemblymember Carroll with a group of teenage constituents who traveled from Brooklyn to Albany to lobby Legislators on behalf of the Young Voter Act.*

## Events in the District

If you are a member of a community organization, civic group, PTA, Precinct Community Council, Community Board or any other community based organization that holds meetings or events, please reach out to my office at (718) 788-7221 and invite me. While I cannot make it to every event, I try to attend as many as possible.



*Assemblymember Carroll speaking at his Town Hall meeting on the Budget with the New York City Comptroller.*



*Assemblymember Carroll with graduates from the Pakistani American Youth Society in association with People in Need.*

### My Predecessor's Blog

*As you may know, Jim Brennan, who represented this district with distinction for the past 32 years retired last year. I ran for the open seat and was honored to be elected. I thought you may be interested to know that in retirement, Jim has launched his own blog to continue to discuss issues of concern in our government.*



*Assemblymember Carroll enjoying the festivities at the 2017 Civic Festival in Prospect Park.*



*Assemblymember Carroll with the American Council of Minority Women On the Eve of the 9th Annual Chand Raat Bazaar.*

New York State Assembly, Albany, New York 12248

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## Constituent Services Corner

Since my first day in office, my staff and I have worked to make solving constituent concerns a top priority. Whether it is assisting seniors with issues related to their benefits, working with parents on school related issues or communicating with state or city agencies on community issues, my office and I are here to help you. So if you have any constituent issues, big or small, please give me a call at my District Office at (718) 788-7221.



*Assemblymember Carroll in front of one of the Mammogram Vans he sponsored to provide no cost screenings to constituents.*



*Assemblymember Carroll with constituents at the rain barrel giveaway he sponsored with the NYC Department of Environmental Protection.*