



Assemblymember
Robert C. Carroll
Assembly District 44

February 9, 2018

Greetings –

At the joint budget hearing on local governments in Albany I had an opportunity to question [Mayor de Blasio](#), [Comptroller Scott Stringer](#), and [NYC Council Speaker Corey Johnson](#) about budget issues impacting New York City. The biggest issue facing our state and city this budget season is the question of whether or not the Governor and the Legislature will confront the challenge of our ailing mass transit system. At the hearing, I asked our city's leaders about their views on the [Fix NYC Advisory panel](#) and the role the city can play to help fix, fund and modernize the MTA.

[View the full exchange with Mayor de Blasio by clicking the photo below:](#)



The subway system is in crisis. With some of the oldest active train cars in the world and a signaling system that uses 19th Century technology, subway delays more than tripled over the past 5 years. This impacts the lives of millions of New Yorkers while costing the city billions of dollars every year. If we're going to fix the MTA and bring the system into the 21st century the State must create a plan that provides a dedicated revenue stream to the MTA of at least \$1.5 billion annually. Fixing and funding the subway must be our top priority and the only way that will happen is if we get a budget that includes a plan similar to the Fix NYC Advisory panel proposal.

This debate is going to continue through the budget negotiation process, so please share your views with me on this issue going forward.

Design-Build

Today I joined my colleagues, Assemblymember Jo Anne Simon and Senator Brian Kavanagh for a press conference in support of authorizing "design-build" for the reconstruction of the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway (BQE) triple cantilever project in the Fiscal Year 2019 State Budget.

**Design-Build is a project delivery method that allows for a single contractor to be responsible for both a project's design and construction. Authorizing the use of design-build in New York City would significantly reduce the amount of time major infrastructure projects may take and save the city millions of dollars.



If the State were to authorize a design-build procurement process for this project, the State would enable the City of New York to expedite the BQE triple cantilever rehabilitation process by as much as two years and save taxpayers over \$113 million, based upon a conservative estimate of the project's current cost of \$1.9 billion. The State has authorized design-build for similar projects like the Kosciuszko Bridge and the Mario Cuomo Bridge, and it saved money, time, and curtailed the strain and impact on local communities directly impacted by the construction. The BQE is a main transportation artery and its rehabilitation is critical, and as a State, we must ensure this work is completed in the most cost-effective and time sensitive way possible – we must authorize design-build to ensure that happens.

School Based Health Center Funding in the Budget

Last June, four public school based health centers (SBHCs) in District 15 were informed by SUNY Downstate, the sponsor of the four clinics, that because state funding had been dramatically reduced, SUNY Downstate SBHCs were in jeopardy. SUNY Downstate later announced that they could no longer operate the SBHCs and would be closing them. [After fighting alongside Assemblymember Simon, Councilmember Lander, the schools, parents and nurses, we received word in August that SUNY Downstate would keep the clinics open for the upcoming school year.](#) This was a tremendous victory for the community, but the work to ensure that these centers are kept funded and operational continues in this year's budget negotiation. The State Department of Health's new methodology for distributing state funding to SBHC has left them with a \$4 million budget shortfall, statewide.

This week, along with Dick Gottfried, the Assembly Chair of the Health committee, I sent a letter to Speaker Carl Heastie to advocate for the Assembly to close that gap in the Assembly's one house budget to be released next month.

The State's 250 SBHCs provide services to over 200,000 children in medically underserved neighborhoods including primary, dental, mental, and reproductive health care services, as well as preventative, chronic and other types of care to underserved populations on-site in schools. They are required to provide access to care to every child who enters their door regardless of insurance status – a feature that is central to the success of the program and makes SBHCs a critical part of the safety net.

Repeated studies have shown that SBHCs improve the health and mental health of children and actually save the state money, so I will continue to push to make sure we don't lose these vital resources for our children and schools.

My bill to move the Primary date passed the Assembly

[The Assembly passed my bill \(A8917-A\)](#), which requires that the 2018 fall primary be held on Thursday, September 13, 2018 to ensure that all New Yorkers who choose to are able to participate in the electoral process. New York State law requires that the state primary election be held on the first Tuesday after the second Monday in September - this year, that date is September 11th, which is also the second day of Rosh Hashanah, marking the Jewish New Year. As was done in previous years, this measure recognizes and respects the significance of the anniversary of the September 11th attacks and the Jewish holiday.

September 11th will forever be a day of remembrance, a time to mourn our fellow New Yorkers whose lives were taken far too soon by an unforgiveable act of terrorism. It is also a day to honor the brave firefighters, EMTs and police officers who showed us the best of America during our darkest hours.

Moving the primary election two days allows us to come together to show our respect to those who died and those who came to the rescue.

To prevent this kind of legislation from ever having to happen again and to consolidate our primary election calendar in New York State, the Assembly has routinely passed legislation to combine the state and federal primary election dates to the fourth Tuesday in June (A.3052). This would not only prevent the primary from falling on September 11th or Rosh Hashanah in the future, but would also save taxpayers an estimated \$25 million, reduce the burden on county boards of elections and keep New York State compliant with the federal Military Overseas and Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act. Further, holding both primaries on the same date would make it easier for New Yorkers to vote, increasing voter turnout and strengthening our democracy.

Budget Town Halls:

I am holding two budget town halls on the Governor's proposed \$168.2 Billion executive budget proposal over the next two months. If you are concerned about transportation, education, criminal justice, healthcare and more, I hope you will attend one of these events to share your views. I will provide a budget overview and there will be opportunities to advocate for important budgetary issues while at the meetings. For full details please see the flyer below:

The flyer is divided into two main sections. The left section has a blue background with white text. It identifies the host as Assemblymember Robert Carroll and announces 'New York State Budget Town Hall Meetings'. A quote from the host reads: 'I am holding two budget town halls to share my thoughts on the 2018 budget and hear yours! I hope you can join your neighbors and me at one of these events to share in this important discussion.' Below the quote is a signature. The right section has a light gray background with red and black text. It lists two dates: 'Wednesday, February 28th' and 'Thursday, March 22nd'. For each date, it provides the location (PS 889/MS 890 and PS 321), address, and time (6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.). A list of topics includes the 2018 proposed budget summary, implications for transportation, education, and healthcare, and a Q&A session. Contact information for RSVP is provided at the bottom.

ASSEMBLYMEMBER
ROBERT CARROLL
hosts
New York State
Budget Town Hall Meetings

I am holding two budget town halls to share my thoughts on the 2018 budget and hear yours! I hope you can join your neighbors and me at one of these events to share in this important discussion.

Wednesday, February 28th
PS 889/MS 890
21 Hinckley Place (between East 8th Street and Coney Island Avenue)
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 22nd
PS 321
180 7th Avenue
(between 1st and 2nd Streets)
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

- 2018 proposed budget summary
- Implications for transportation, education, healthcare, and more
- Q&A

To RSVP or for more information:
(718) 788-7221 or carrollr@nyassembly.gov

Community Meetings in the Week Ahead:

CAMBA HomeBase Housing Workshop on Affordable Housing

2244 Church Avenue, Brooklyn, NY

Monday, February 12th

11am – 12pm, 2pm – 3pm, or 5pm – 6pm

CAMBA HomeBase is piloting a great opportunity for tenants seeking resources on maintaining their apartments. The second workshop of the series, “Preserve” Empowering You to Keep Your Home, will teach tenants on housing programs/subsidies/services available, what to do, and where to go when they find themselves at risk of losing their apartments.

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Please call (718) 622-7323 to sign up for a session or if you have any questions.

Community Board 14 Monthly Meeting

PS 249 Caton Avenue and Marlborough Road

Monday, February 12th

7:30pm

Open to community members. The [CB 14](#) board meeting is typically scheduled on the second Monday of the month at different locations during the year. Budget discussion at 7:15.

72nd Precinct Community Council

Marien-Heim Senior Center

4520 4th Avenue

Tuesday, February 13

7:30pm

Open to community members. The [72nd Precinct Community Council](#) meetings typically take place on the second Tuesday of each month.

Community Board 6 Monthly Meeting

John Jay HS

237 7th Avenue

Wednesday, February 14

6:30pm

Open to community members. The [CB 6](#) monthly meeting is typically scheduled on the third Wednesday and the location moves around during the year.

66th Precinct Community Council

CB 12 Office

5910 13th Avenue

Thursday, February 15th

7:30pm

Open to community members. The 66th [Precinct Community Council](#) meetings typically take place on the third Thursday of each month at 7:30pm at CB 12's office.

See you around the neighborhood,

Bobby

P.S. [I sat down with Brian Vines at BRIC TV to talk about the wonderful diversity of the 44th Assembly District, Congestion Pricing, Albany and more. Check it out.](#)

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