



Assemblymember  
**Robert C. Carroll**  
 Assembly District 44



**February 15, 2019**

**Greetings---**

This week in Albany, Mayor de Blasio, City Comptroller Scott Stringer and City Council Speaker Corey Johnson came up for the legislative budget hearing on local governments and as a member of the Cities Committee Member I was able to question each about their views on congestion pricing and funding the MTA. [As I told the Mayor at the hearing – working people take the subway](#), our mass transit infrastructure is crumbling and unless the legislature and Governor come together and act on a plan that would dedicate at least \$1.6 billion annually in direct revenue to the MTA then we are going to fall short and subway and bus service will continue to deteriorate for the system’s **6 million daily riders**. In addition to a comprehensive congestion pricing plan with limited carve outs, which would raise \$1 billion, the legislature needs to be forward thinking and add substantial additional revenue while cutting carbon emissions and limiting congestion. I lay out [my plan to get to \\$1.6 billion in my oped in Streetsblog here](#), which includes among other things my idea to add a \$3 per package delivery fee for all non-essential internet deliveries.

[Please watch my full exchange with Mayor de Blasio this week in Albany below:](#)



[With City Council Speaker Corey Johnson who supports congestion pricing:](#)

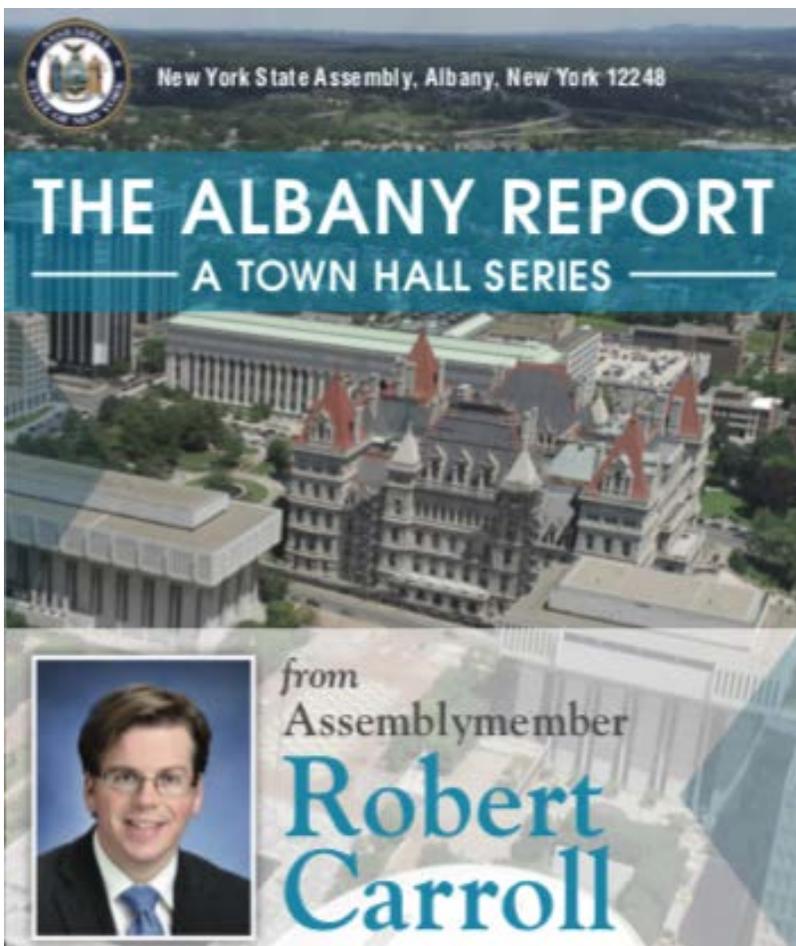


[With City Comptroller Scott Stringer – another supporter of congestion pricing:](#)



**The Albany Report – A Town Hall Series**

I am hosting two legislative/budget town halls in the district over the next month. Please come out to hear the report about the budget, important legislation and to express your views. Please RSVP by calling my office or emailing me at [carrollr@nyassembly.gov](mailto:carrollr@nyassembly.gov). The first one is on February 25<sup>th</sup> at PS 139. Details below:



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| <p><b>THE ALBANY REPORT</b><br/>— A TOWN HALL SERIES —</p> <p><b>Monday, February 25<sup>th</sup></b><br/>Doors open at 6:30 P.M.<br/><b>PS 139</b><br/>330 Rugby Road<br/>(corner of Cortelyou Road)</p> <p><b>Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup></b><br/>Doors open at 6:30 P.M.<br/><b>PS 10</b><br/>511 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue<br/>(corner of 18<sup>th</sup> Street)</p> | <p>from Assemblymember<br/><b>Robert Carroll</b></p> <p><b>Accomplishments So Far This Year</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Landmark Women’s Health Laws</li> <li>■ Election Reforms to Celebrate</li> <li>■ Critical Gun Safety Legislation and more</li> </ul> <p><b>Priorities for 2019</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Follow the Money/Budget Snapshot</li> <li>■ Education Funding and Fairness</li> <li>■ Fixing Subways and Buses</li> <li>■ Environmental Protections, Criminal Justice Reform, The New York Health Act, Housing, Arts Funding, and more</li> </ul> <p><b>Q&amp;A</b></p> |
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For more information about these events or any community issues, contact the District Office of Assemblymember Robert Carroll at 416 Seventh Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11215 • 718-788-7221

**Budget Advocacy and Leadership**

As the Assembly leadership works to put together our one house budget in response to the Governor’s Executive budget, I sent Speaker Heastie 6 letters signed by a number of my colleagues highlighting some priorities that I believe should be included and advocated for in the upcoming budget negotiations.

### **Funding for early voting and electronic poll books – \$22 Million:**

Voting reform was a day one priority for the Assembly and I have asked the Speaker to continue that leadership and provide the necessary \$22 M in dedicated funding for our newly enacted early voting law and the purchase of the requisite electronic poll books. Thirty-seven states have early voting, and New York is the last large state to implement this reform. Data from around the country shows that when early voting is properly implemented it eases the pressure on poll sites during an election, gives citizens more time to vote, and can make access to the ballot box more equitable. 43 of my Assembly colleagues joined my letter.

### **New York State Council on the Arts – \$54.3 Million:**

The arts are an integral driver of the state's economy and serve as critical assets to communities. NYSCA's funding has diminished in real dollars since the 1980s and as the Chair of the Subcommittee on Museums and Cultural Institutions in the Assembly I ask that the Assembly budget restore this necessary funding to its high level of \$54.3 million in order to support our cultural institutions throughout the state. 30 Assembly colleagues joined me on this letter.

### **Funding for Dyslexia Screening and Teacher Training - \$10 million:**

As I discuss in video I released last year on this topic, one out of every five school children suffer from dyslexia or other related phonological awareness differences. Undiagnosed cases of dyslexia and other learning differences can cause severe learning problems. When learning differences like dyslexia are detected early, schools and parents can take the proper steps to remediate these issues.

I want the Assembly to lead the way on this issue by including \$10 million in our one house 2019-2020 budget to screen all Kindergartners and 1st Graders and to fund teacher training so that we can start to help make sure all of our school children become fluent readers and successful students. In addition to my colleagues in the Assembly, I also attached the nearly 1,700 signers of my online Dyslexia funding petition.

**[You can watch and sign yourself here:](#)**



One in five students is dyslexic. 60% of 8th Graders are not reading on grade level. Only seven states nationwide evaluate all Kindergarten and 1st Graders for Dyslexia and as a consequence so many of our students go undiagnosed.

Join Brooke Lyn and me and sign our petition to call on the Governor, Mayor, Chancellor & Legislature to make New York the eighth state to universally screen all Kindergartners for dyslexia and to work together to dedicate the resources necessary to ensure that all of our children who struggle with dyslexia and other learning differences get the quality education that they deserve.

## Will you sign?

Share: [f](#) [t](#) [e](#) [+](#)

First: \*

Last: \*

Email: \*

Address:

### Lobbying threshold:

On behalf of almost 100 grassroots groups from across the state, I submitted a letter to Speaker Heastie asking that Part R of the Governor's FY20 Good Government & Ethics Reform Article VII Legislation, which would lower the threshold for groups to register as lobbyists with JCOPE from its current \$5000 to \$500, be eliminated from the final budget. This clause has created significant concern among engaged citizens here in the 44th and throughout the state. New York should be a leader in increasing transparency and lessening the influence of money in our political system, but this change will effectively do the opposite by discouraging grassroots groups and everyday citizens from organizing and lobbying their elected officials for fear of onerous reporting requirements. This obstacle to participation by engaged citizens does not belong in our state.



THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

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and Commissions  
Tourism, Parks, Arts and  
Sports Development  
Chair: Subcommittee on  
Museums & Cultural  
Institutions

February 14, 2019

The Honorable Carl E. Heastie  
Speaker of the New York State Assembly  
LOB 932  
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Speaker Heastie,

As we head into budget negotiations, there is a clause creating significant concern among engaged citizens in my district and throughout the state, Part R of his FY20 Good Government & Ethics Reform Article VII Legislation, which would lower the threshold for groups to register as lobbyists with JCOPE from its current \$5000 to \$500.

New York should be a leader in increasing transparency and lessening the influence of money in our political system, but this change will effectively do the opposite by discouraging grassroots groups and everyday citizens from organizing and lobbying their elected officials for fear of onerous reporting requirements.

On behalf of the almost 100 groups from across the state, I submit to you the attached letter asking that this change not be included in the Assembly one house budget and that you advocate for it to not be included in the final budget. I implore you to advocate on behalf of the citizens of our great state and oppose this obstacle to participation by our constituents statewide.

Sincerely,

Assemblymember Robert Carroll  
44<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

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EMAIL: carrollr@nyassembly.gov

### **Additional MTA Revenue Streams:**

I have spoken extensively about the need for adequate funding for the MTA. While support is gathering for congestion pricing, the MTA is facing a deficit beyond what congestion pricing alone would raise. I propose three additional revenue streams that when coupled with a comprehensive congestion pricing plan would reduce congestion and carbon emissions while raising over \$1.6 billion annually for the MTA, which happens to be the projected deficit the MTA is facing in 2022.

\$10 daily licensing fee for for-hire drivers would raise \$100M

\$3 package fee would raise \$400M

Eliminating the Manhattan garage tax waiver would raise \$15M

### **Adirondack Diversity Initiative (ADI)- \$250,000:**

Adirondack Park is an invaluable resource for New Yorkers across our state. The Adirondack Diversity Initiative was launched to make the Park a more diverse and more welcoming place for everyone. ADI's work has provided a good boost to the diversity discussion inside the Park and this \$250,000 funding will help ensure that work is continued and can be institutionalized.

### **Street Co-Naming on Coney Island Avenue and Foster Avenue:**

Last Friday I was proud to join the Pakistani American Youth Organization and other elected officials for the street co-naming ceremony of Coney Island Avenue and Foster Avenue to Muhammad Ali Jinnah Way. Muhammad Ali Jinnah is the founder of Pakistan and its most honored citizen. I was particularly proud because when Waqil Ahmed and Zubda Malik, two leaders from the Pakistani American Young Organization had this idea, I was the first elected official who they approached for support. I was proud to support them and this effort. Last Friday I took a Proclamation from the New York State Assembly to the event to honor the occasion and their hard work to get it done.



**Next Week's Community Calendar:**

**CAMBA Community Advisory Board for the Park Slope Women's Shelter**

Park Slope Armory

1402 8th Avenue

Tuesday, February 19

6:30PM to 8:00PM

Please RSVP to Talisha Easterling, Director at [TalishaE@camba.org](mailto:TalishaE@camba.org) and Rasheedah Boyd at [RasheedahB@camba.org](mailto:RasheedahB@camba.org) if you plan to attend. Usually meets the third Tuesday of the month.

**Community Board 7 Monthly Meeting**

CB 7 Office

4201 4th Avenue, entrance on 43<sup>rd</sup> Street

Wednesday, February 20

6:30pm

Open to community members. The [CB 7](#) monthly meeting is typically scheduled on the third Wednesday of the month at the CB 7 office but location moves around occasionally.

See you around the neighborhood,  
Bobby

**Assemblymember Robert Carroll**

416 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Brooklyn, NY 11215

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Albany NY 12248

(518) 455 5377

