



Assemblymember
Robert C. Carroll
Assembly District 44



October 31, 2019

Greetings --

Yesterday, the [New York Daily News published my op-ed](#) on the Public Campaign Financing Commission. I voted against the creation of the commission in April, not because I do not support a robust small-dollar matching program, but because the commission’s authority, made up of nine unelected and unaccountable individuals, was too broadly defined and I feared that they would change the very foundation of our election laws. And now, that is just what they are doing! For more of my views on this topic, [read my full op-ed, which I co-authored with State Senator Julia Salazar here](#):

Rotten campaign finance commission

On April 1, as part of the state budget, the Legislature created the Public Campaign Financing Commission. Since then, the commission, which is charged with setting up a small-dollar matching system, has been opaque and anti-democratic.

Indeed, by its very nature, the commission impedes on the traditional, more transparent law-making powers of the Legislature. It has not been charged with simply setting a toll on a bridge or the salary of state legislators, but rather to create a public financing system — reengineering the very DNA of New York’s campaigns. Which is to say, the commission has the power to change the foundation of many of our election laws and consequently change the outcome of elections.

As legislators, we take this very seriously, which is why we believe that as it’s been operating, the commission is a serious threat.

Let’s be clear. We support a robust small-dollar matching program to amplify the voices of regular people in the political process. We just doubt this commission will deliver that.

From our perspective, it looks like

BE OUR GUEST

BY ROBERT CARROLL
AND JULIA SALAZAR

the commission is primed to create an unworkable and weak campaign finance system that only matches contributions from in-district donors. An in-district-only matching program will stifle broad participation by discouraging New Yorkers from taking an active role in any campaign that is not in a district they live.

It will also keep special interest money at the heart of many campaigns because the pool of matchable dollars will often be too small. Broad participation is the necessary ingredient to give average voices more power than the moneyed interests who have long had disproportionate influence in our elections.

The program will also be unworkable, because the state will have to carefully monitor the boundaries of 213 legislative districts (150 in the Assembly and 63 in the Senate). This is something the state Board of Elections is currently incapable of doing and something the highly competent NYC Campaign Fi-

nance Board would have a hard time monitoring.

At the same time, the commission looks poised to do something far more unsettling. It has been widely reported that the commission wants to change the vote threshold for political parties to maintain their ballot line from 50,000 votes in the last gubernatorial election to 250,000 votes. This would almost certainly eliminate all political parties in New York besides the Democratic, Republican and Conservative parties.

This commission might be correct that the vote threshold for ballot status is too low, but that needs to be debated in the Legislature not decided by nine unelected commissioners.

Finally, the three-week window for the Legislature to accept or reject any formal recommendations of this commission blocks any chance of meaningful engagement with the legislators or public. It must be concluded that the only reason this three-week window was created was to give the impression of legislative oversight, to defend the enacting legislation from claims that it violates Article III of the state Constitution.

The commission should recognize all

these problems and make clear to the Legislature and all New Yorkers that it will make no binding recommendations whatsoever.

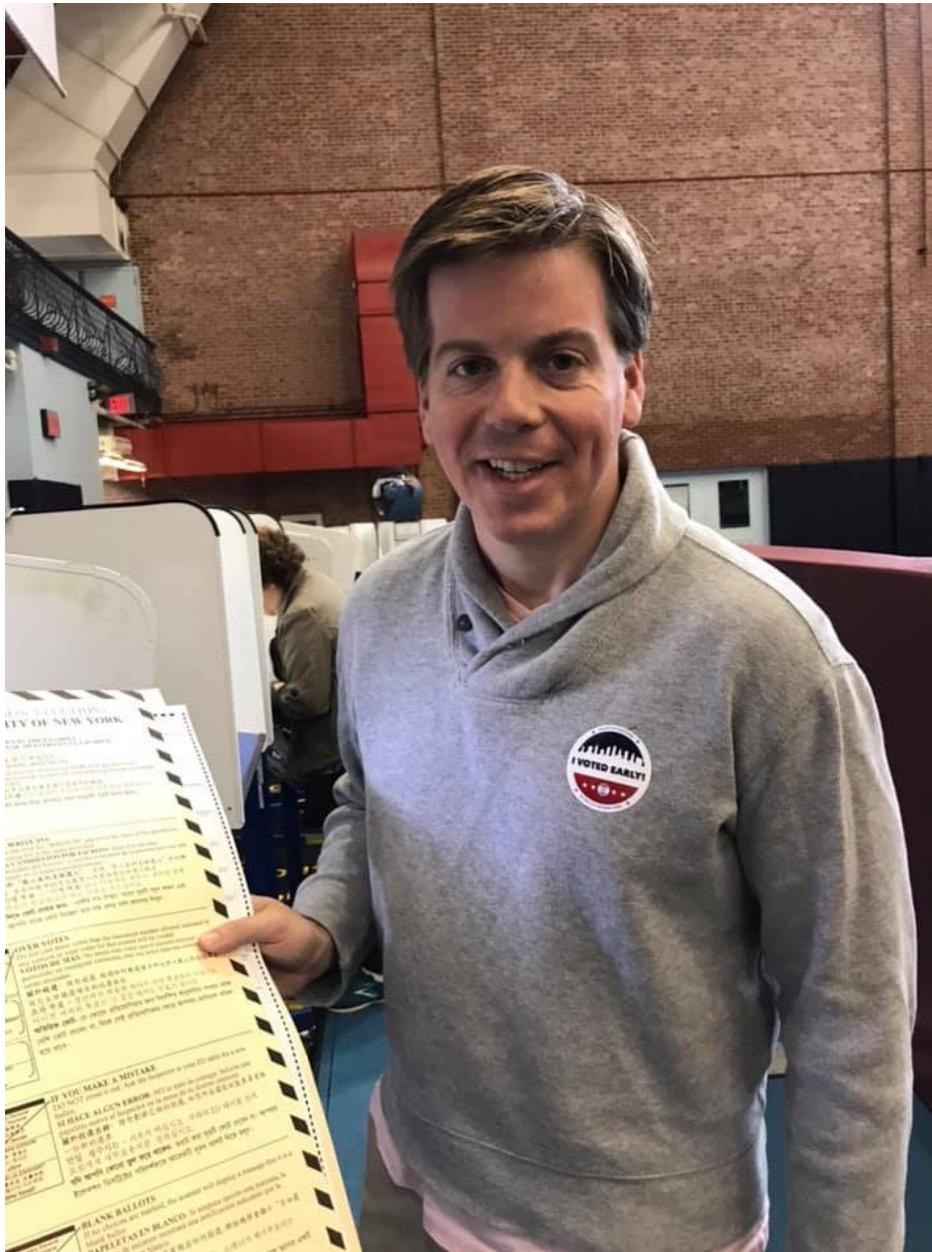
The commission still has a chance to be a positive influence on reforming New York’s campaign finance laws. The commission should rededicate itself to creating a compendium of best practices on how to institute a small-dollar campaign finance system — then charge the Legislature to take this issue up at the beginning of our next session in January.

New York cannot create a people-powered democracy by circumventing the people’s representatives in favor of the thinking of nine commissioners, in a commission dominated by Gov. Cuomo’s appointees. As democratic norms are being flouted at the national level, the commission should hold itself to a higher standard and show that restraint is the better part of valor.

Carroll represents Park Slope, Windsor Terrace and other neighborhoods in the Assembly, and is a plaintiff in the Working Families Party’s lawsuit to invalidate the commission. Salazar represents Bushwick, Cypress Hills and other neighborhoods in the state Senate.

Early Voting Is Here

Early Voting for the upcoming general election started last Saturday, October 26th and will continue through Sunday, November 3rd. For too long, New York's voting procedures have been restrictive and suppressed voter participation. Early Voting, is a step towards making voting more convenient and hopefully it will increase turnout. Next we need to ratify two constitutional amendments: Same Day Registration ([which I am the prime-sponsor of in the Assembly](#)) and Vote By Mail.



I voted last Saturday and strongly encourage everyone to go and try it out! Here is a listing of the early voting sites and hours of operation:

Early Voting

What You Need to Know

Starting with the 2019 General Election this Fall, New Yorkers will be able to cast their vote for 9 days in advance of Election Day. Voters will be assigned to an early voting poll site in the borough in which they reside.

Dates

Early voting will begin ten days before an Election, run for nine consecutive days, and end on the Sunday before Election Day.

For the 2019 General Election, early voting will begin on Saturday, October 26th and end on Sunday, November 3rd. You will also be able to vote on Election Day, Tuesday, November 5th.



Locations in Brooklyn

Each registered voter will be assigned to one early voting site in the borough in which they reside. Registered voters will be notified by mail which early voting site they are assigned to. You may find your early voting poll site and election day poll site online at nyc.pollsitelocator.com.

Below are the early voting locations in Brooklyn for the 2019 General Election this fall.

- Our Lady of Perpetual Help
552 59th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11220
- James Madison High School
3787 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11210
- Bushwick Campus
400 Irving Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11237
- New Utrecht High School
1601 80th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11214
- Urban Assembly School for Law & Justice
283 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201
- Van Dyke Community Ctr
392 Blake Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11212
- Coney Island YMCA
2980 West 29th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11224
- Park Slope YMCA (Armory)
361 15 Street, Brooklyn, New York 11215
- Williamsburg Community Center
195 Graham Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11206
- FDR High School
5800 20 Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11204
- IS 33
70 Tompkins Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11206
- Tilden High School
5800 Tilden Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11203
- Fort Hamilton High School
8301 Shore Road, Brooklyn, New York 11209
- Clara Barton Voc High School
901 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, New York, 11225
- Spring Creek Educational Campus
1065 Elton Street, Brooklyn, New York, 11208
- St. Johns Recreation Center
1251 Prospect Place, Brooklyn, NY 11213
- Midwood High School
2839 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11213
- PS 68 JHS
956 East 82nd Street, Brooklyn, NY 11236

Hours

During the early voting period, poll sites must offer morning, evening, and weekend hours. On Election Day, polls will be open from 6am to 9pm as usual.

Below are the early voting hours in NYC for the 2019 General Election in November.

| Day | Date | Hours |
|-----------|------------------|-------------|
| Saturday | October 26, 2019 | 10am to 4pm |
| Sunday | October 27, 2019 | 10am to 4pm |
| Monday | October 28, 2019 | 9am to 5pm |
| Tuesday | October 29, 2019 | 7am to 8pm |
| Wednesday | October 30, 2019 | 9am to 5pm |
| Thursday | October 31, 2019 | 9am to 5pm |
| Friday | November 1, 2019 | 7am to 8pm |
| Saturday | November 2, 2019 | 10am to 4pm |
| Sunday | November 3, 2019 | 10am to 4pm |

Election Day

Tuesday, November 5, 2019
6am to 9pm

For more information,
call the NYC Board of
Elections at
1-866-868-3692

DEMOCRACY
NYC
YOUR VOICE,
YOUR POWER

If you do not know your designated early voting site, check the [NYC Board of Elections Website](http://nyc.gov/elections).

MTA Bus Redesign Plan

Last week, the MTA announced a series of community meetings to discuss the comprehensive redesign of Brooklyn local and express bus routes. In the next year, the MTA plans to redraw all of Brooklyn's bus routes.

These meetings will supply necessary feedback that will be coupled with other data and demographic trends to create a new bus network for Brooklyn. There will be two community meetings in the district in November. On Tuesday November 12th at the Park Slope Library (431 6th Avenue) and on Thursday, November 21st at the Kensington Library (4207 18th Avenue). Both meetings will be from 6pm-8pm. [If you are unable to make it to one of the community meetings but would like to share your views and see reports as they become available, you can do that here.](#)

Better Buses

In addition to redesigning our bus network to be more efficient and convenient, it is vital that we properly fund the bus network's operating costs. That is why I joined the Riders Alliance yesterday to fight for better bus funding. Because no matter how well we redesign our routes or how many buses we are able to purchase, if Albany doesn't provide the funding to make sure someone is driving the bus, it won't matter.



Street Safety Town Hall

In collaboration with City Council Members Brad Lander and Mathieu Eugene, we are hosting a town hall meeting with the Department of Transportation and other officials to discuss ways to make our streets safer. See the flyer below for details on the meeting and email carrollr@nyassembly.gov to RSVP.



**STREET SAFETY
TOWNHALL**

Monday, November 18
6:30 to 8:00 PM
PS 889/MS 890
510 Coney Island Avenue (between
Turner and Hinckley Place)

Following deadly traffic incidents this summer along Coney Island Avenue, Church Avenue, and Ocean Parkway, join Assembly Member Robert Carroll, and Council Members Brad Lander and Mathieu Eugene for a discussion of street safety needs in South Brooklyn with the Department of Transportation.



Mobile-No Cost Mammogram Screening Upcoming

American-Italian
CANCER FOUNDATION

www.americanitaliancancer.org

EARLY DETECTION OF BREAST CANCER SAVES LIVES!



The *Mammogram Bus* will be here Friday, November 22nd!

Come in for a No-cost Mammogram and Clinical Breast Exam

Eligibility:

- Woman age 40 - 79
- 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 also welcomed.

Hosted by:

Assembly Member Robert C. Carroll

416 7th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11215

Friday, November 22, 2019

9:00am - 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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Additional funding provided by the generous support of the NYC Council, NYC DOHMH, NYS Assembly and Senate, GreaterGood.org, NVIDIA Foundation, RAR Foundation, Corvea Agriscience, Pfizer, and individual patrons.

Park Slope/Windsor Terrace Open Studio

The Park Slope Windsor Terrace Artists are hosting their annual Open Studio Weekend on November 16th and 17th. For information about the event see the flyer below or check out their [website](#).

arts
PARK SLOPE
WINDSOR TERRACE
ARTISTS **ps.wt**

2019 *Open Studios*



Sat + Sun
Nov 16-17
12-6 pm

40 artists will have their work on view and for sale

Preview work by each participating artist, and pick up maps at:
Ossam Gallery, 300 7 St. Sat and Sun, 11/9 and 11/10, 12-6pm
and during open studios, 11/16 and 11/17, 12-6pm

maps & details @
artspswt.com

Big thanks to our 2019 sponsors:



440
Gallery



ROBERT CARROLL
ASSEMBLY MEMBER // 44TH DISTRICT

COFFEE SANDWICHES
DAYTIME
CONVENIENCE



Upcoming Community Meetings Next Week

Community Board 14 Monthly Meeting

OHEL Children's Home & Family Services
1268 East 14th Street, 3rd Floor (between Avenue M & Locust Avenue)

Monday, November 4

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.

Park Slope Civic Council Monthly General Meeting

Old Stone House at J.J. Byrne Playground / Washington Park, 5th Avenue between 3rd and 4th Streets

Thursday, November 7

7:00PM to 8:30PM

The [Park Slope Civic Council](#) promotes the health, vitality and character of the Park Slope neighborhood and advocates for the interests of residents, businesses and others with a stake in the community. The Trustees' meeting, which is open to the public, usually takes place on the first Thursday of the month.

Have a Safe and Happy Halloween!

Bobby

Assemblymember Robert Carroll

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