



Assemblymember Robert Carroll

Winter 2023



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Winter 2023

Welcome to the 44th Assembly District

Happy New Year! I hope that 2023 has started off well for you. If you received this mailer it is because, as a result of reapportionment, you are a new constituent of the 44th Assembly District.

Since my election in 2016, I have represented Park Slope, Windsor Terrace, Kensington, Ditmas Park, Borough Park, and Midwood. In addition to these neighborhoods, and as a result of November's general election, I am excited to also be representing some more of Park Slope and a portion of Prospect Heights.

I was born and raised here in the neighborhoods of the district and attended P.S. 230 in Kensington and graduated from Xaverian High School, SUNY Binghamton (where I studied History and Theatre), and New York Law School. I live in Park Slope with my wife Ginna, who works for the Biden administration, and our three-month old son Teddy.

Prior to being elected to the Assembly, I was a practicing attorney and was the Development Director and fundraiser for an independent theatre company in Manhattan. I served on Community Board 7, where I chaired multiple committees, and was a member of many community organizations including the Windsor Terrace Food Coop and the Park Slope Civic Council.

In the Assembly over the last six years I have introduced 152 bills, with 21 passing through the legislature and 17 becoming law. I have championed progressive causes in the state legislature that I believe have made our State a more equitable and better place to live.

From fighting to codify Roe v. Wade in 2019 to passing progressive criminal justice reforms like raising the age of criminal responsibility to 18 so that children are not tried as adults to reforming our unjust bail laws. From fighting to protect tenants by passing the Housing Stability and Tenant Protection Act to authoring a portion of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act to ensure New York has the highest environmental standards in the country. I know it's not enough to simply set environmental standards, we must ensure that New York meets those standards, which is why I am the lead sponsor of the Build Public Renewables Act and authored and passed the first bill in the country with the goal of decarbonizing the production of concrete.

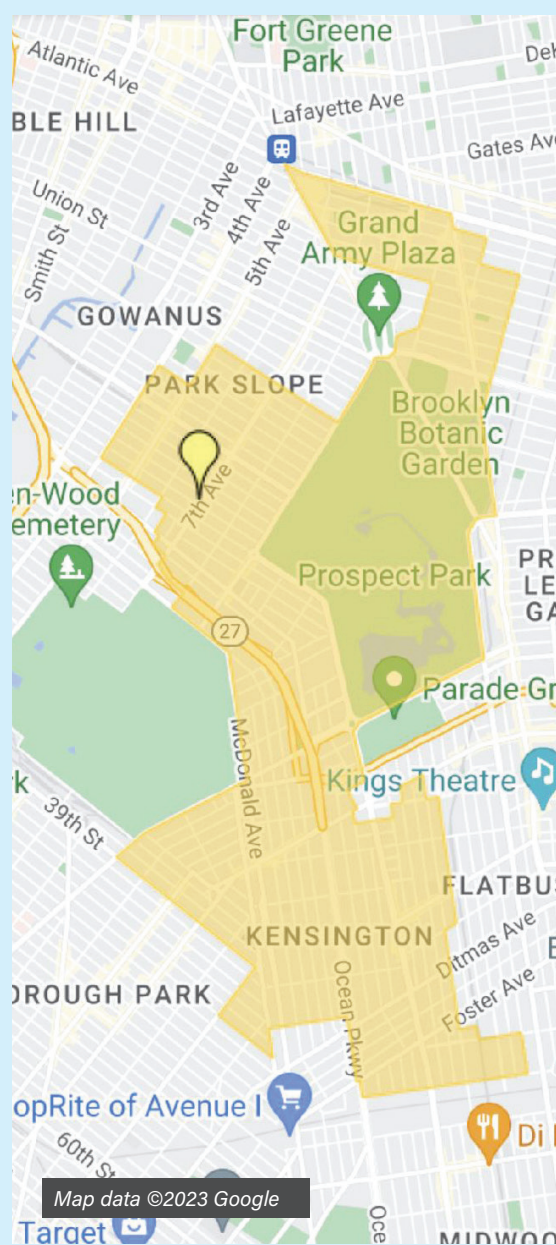
As a former election lawyer, I am proud of leading the effort in the Assembly to liberalize New York's voting laws to make it easier to register and to vote. My legislation to lower the voter registration deadline to the constitutional minimum of 10 days and my bill to eliminate voter suppression for voters who inadvertently cast their ballot in the correct county but the incorrect polling place were the two most pro-voter bills passed in the 2022 legislative session and I am proud to say that they were signed into law in December. I am also the lead sponsor of the constitutional amendment for same day voter registration.

Another issue on which I have been laser focused since being elected is education. My mother is a retired public school teacher and spent many years teaching reading at The Children's School (P.S. 372) in Gowanus. As someone who struggled with dyslexia as a child and only received the supports and interventions I needed because of my parents' advocacy and means, I have made it my mission to make sure all children, especially children with dyslexia and other language-based learning differences, are provided an evidence-based education that supports their needs in our public schools. That's why I advocated for and helped implement the first public school dyslexia screening pilot program and passed the Dyslexia Task Force Act, the first major piece of legislation ever passed in New York to address literacy curriculum in New York. Unfortunately, Governor Hochul vetoed this bill late last year, but I am renewing my efforts this legislative session and am working to pass the Task Force bill, as well as other literacy related bills in 2023.

I hope as we get to know each other you'll find me to be a thoughtful progressive who will serve you well in Albany.

If you ever have a problem you need help with, my staff and I are at your service. Do not hesitate to contact me by email at Carrollr@nyassembly.gov or by calling (718) 788-7221, whether it's a State issue or not, we will do our best to assist you.

Robert Carroll
Assemblymember – District 44



Assemblymember Carroll with his wife Ginna and their newborn son, Teddy on Election Day.

Legislative Accomplishments in 2022

I was the prime sponsor for five pieces of legislation that passed both the Assembly and the State Senate, four of which were signed into law.

Dyslexia Task Force Legislation

My bill, A.2185-B, mandates the Commissioner of the State Education Department to create a task force of educators, doctors, researchers, parents, and advocates to examine and recommend the appropriate and evidence-based screening methods, curriculum changes, and teacher training that should be implemented for all students in kindergarten through 5th grade with dyslexia and dysgraphia. Unfortunately, Governor Hochul vetoed this bill last year, but I will redouble my efforts and fight to pass this bill and more in the 2023 legislative session.



Assemblymember Carroll speaking in support of his Dyslexia Task Force legislation on the day that it passed the Assembly.

Flood Disclosure — “Right to Know” (Signed into Law)

My bill, A.7876-A, requires residential leases to include notice of the flood risk and flood history of a leased premises, as well as a notice to tenants of flood insurance available to renters. In the last ten years, there

have been flood disaster declarations in every county in New York State and flooding events are also the most common climate-related hazard in New York. This commonsense legislation will help provide renters the information they need to make good decisions regarding flood risk to protect their property and families.

Voter Registration — “10 Day Deadline” (Signed into Law)

My bill, A.8858-A, will reduce the time required for boards of election to receive voter registration applications by mail from twenty-five days to ten days before an election consistent with the New York State Constitution. Voter registration applications received in person by boards of election ten days before an election will also be accepted.

“Wrong Church” Legislation Protecting Voters from Disenfranchisement (Signed into Law)

My bill, A.642-C, prevents voters from having their ballots invalidated simply because they mistakenly appeared in the wrong polling place, but in the correct county and correct Assembly District. In the 2020 General Election 13,800 ballots, including 9,481 in New York City, were disqualified statewide simply because those affidavit ballots were cast at a poll site not assigned to the voter.

EPIC Pharmaceutical Benefits for Seniors (Signed into Law)

My bill, A.928-A, ensures that seniors who receive benefits helping to cover the cost of prescription drugs through the State’s EPIC program, won’t lose these benefits because their income exceeds the eligibility threshold as a result of cost of living adjustments to their social security or public or private pensions.

Legislative Priorities for 2023

In 2022, I was proud to pass significant legislation protecting reproductive rights and promoting gun safety. As well as these accomplishments, in the 2022-23 State Budget approved in April we authorized significant additional funding above prior year levels for education, childcare, emergency rental assistance, and home health care. We also authorized the \$4.2 billion Environmental Bond Act, which was approved by voters in the November election; this will allow for funding for climate mitigation, flood control, water quality improvements, and much needed habitat restoration and conservation. In the upcoming 2023-24 budget, we must once again ensure that our schools, parks, and hospitals are fully funded.

There is also much unfinished business when it comes to legislation. I am a co-sponsor of several bills that will be re-introduced this session. Legislation that will make our state fairer, stronger, and more resilient includes the Good Cause Eviction Act that will prevent tenants from being forced from their apartments when there are no lease violations, the One Fair Wage Act that will require tipped workers to be paid the standard minimum wage as their base wage with tips on top of that, the Fair Pay For Home Care Act will establish a minimum wage for those who care for our elderly at 150% of the regional minimum wage, and the New York Health Act which would create a single payer health system for New York State. I also believe that we need to increase the minimum wage and make sure that going forward it is indexed to inflation.



Assemblymember Carroll with Bobbie Sackman, a member of the Fair Pay for Home Care coalition at an event in Prospect Park.

In terms of the environment, New York Renews – a coalition of over 300 organizations, is advocating a package of eight bills that will accelerate the State’s adaptation from fossil fuels to renewable energy while addressing issues around environmental justice and workforce

transition. I am pleased that the Build Public Renewables Act (A.279) for which I am the lead sponsor is one of the bills included.

Many of you have contacted me regarding the unacceptable level of traffic violations and crashes in the district. When it comes to street safety, I strongly support and am a co-sponsor of the Crash Victim Rights and Safety Act, a package of eight bills that will save lives by expanding safe street design initiatives, empower cities to reduce speed limits, improve driver education, and help ensure those injured in car crashes have access to police reports and the ability to file a victim impact statement.

In the area of criminal justice reform, we also have a long way to go. The cost to individuals, families, communities, and our society as whole of an unnecessarily punitive and racially discriminatory criminal justice system is well documented. The Eliminate Mandatory Minimums Act will put an end to mandatory minimum sentences, allowing judges to consider the individual factors in a case. The Second Look Act will authorize judges to review and reconsider excessive sentences allowing incarcerated people to apply for a re-sentencing hearing after they have served 10 years or half of their sentence. The Earned Time Act will strengthen and expand “good time” and “merit time” laws to encourage rehabilitation and reduce recidivism. The Clean Slate Act would automatically seal the conviction records of individuals who have served their time, are not on probation or parole, and do not have other pending charges, giving them a better chance of obtaining employment and turning their lives around. The Elder Parole bill, provides that 55-year-old inmates who have served at least 15 years of their sentence would have a chance to appeal for parole every two years. Fair and Timely Parole would require parole to be offered to incarcerated people who are eligible unless they pose a risk that cannot be handled by parole supervision.

There are also several pieces of legislation for which I am the prime sponsor that I will be working to see passed in 2023. The Build Public Renewables Act (A.279) remains of highest priority. As those of you following the bill know, it will put the force of State government more fully behind the fight against climate change by empowering the New York Power Authority to build, own, and operate renewable energy projects and mandates all state-owned buildings to be powered by renewables by 2030 and municipally owned buildings by 2035. The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) passed this August by Congress helps strengthens the argument for the BPR by including provisions for subsidies for renewable energy projects undertaken by government or non-profit entities. Previously, such subsidies were only available in the form of tax credits that went to private entities with tax liability, but the IRA levels the playing field.

Prime Sponsor Legislation: Highlights

My office is also working with advocates, experts, and members of the public on a range of new bills relating to literacy education, climate change, election reform, and criminal justice reform as well as a host of other topics. I look forward to sharing information on these as we move forward. A few of my bills that I re-introduced this year that I would like to highlight include:

Contingency Management

Requires the State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services to provide contingency management services, including financial incentives, for persons with addiction disorders. Research has demonstrated that such services are effective in helping people overcome drug addiction.

Wildlife Crossing Study Act

Calls on the State Department of Environmental Conservation to undertake a study on wildlife crossings on highways and thruways and the State DOT to study implementation costs and feasibility. This study is a necessary step to unlock federal funds that have been authorized for such crossings, which are an important element in preserving healthy ecosystems, preventing wildlife deaths, and preventing costly human-wildlife vehicular accidents.

De-Politicizing the Courts (A.734)

Would de-politicize and professionalize our courts by replacing the current practice of electing judges with a system of merit selection of judges for the State's major trial courts, as well as surrogate's court, the New York City civil court, the New York City criminal court, and the district court. In a similar vein, A.570 would eliminate Borough Public Administrators to the Surrogate's Court in New York City and replace them with a division within the NYC Corporation Counsel's office.

The Young Voter Act (A.330)

Would initiate the process for a constitutional amendment to lower New York State's voting age to 16 and A.274 would amend the law to conform with this amendment, as well as mandating civics education for high school students and making it easier for them to register. Sixteen- and seventeen-year-olds face many of the same issues and concerns as their slightly older peers with regards to the environment, health care, employment, education, and public safety and deserve the right to have a voice in our democratic institutions of government.

BQE Traffic Detour Town Hall

In September, I hosted a town hall meeting at P.S. 130 in Kensington with NYC DOT to hear their presentation on the proposed BQE traffic detours in 2023. The conversation was informative and productive. To view the meeting in its entirety, please visit the Brooklyn Community Board 14 YouTube page. It is clear from the meeting that the volume of traffic that DOT anticipates from this detour is inappropriate for East 5th Street and the already overburdened Caton Avenue. Community members and I acknowledge that these repairs on the BQE are essential and must happen quickly, but we have specifically asked DOT to look at multiple alternate routes to fairly distribute this traffic burden, as well as to provide traffic agents at East 5th Street, 20th Street, Caton Avenue, and any other area in Windsor Terrace, Kensington or Prospect Park South that will be impacted by these detours.

Assemblymember Carroll at his BQE town hall with members of DOT, Community Board members, and Councilmember Hanif.



Community Events



Assemblymember Carroll getting his flu shot at his annual flu shot event with New York Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital in November.



Assemblymember Carroll honoring the Newkirk Community Garden with a Proclamation recognizing them as the greenest block in Brooklyn.



Assemblymember Carroll with Councilmember Hanif and the Principal of P.S. 179, Bernel Connelly, cutting the ribbon on the school's new playground.

Community Events (continued)



Assemblymember Carroll and Councilmember Hanif at the street co-naming celebration for Little Bangladesh at Church and McDonald Avenues.



Assemblymember Carroll volunteering with Prospect Park Alliance's woodland restoration project.



Assemblymember Carroll with family and friends of Aidan Seeger at the co-naming of a portion of Prospect Avenue in his honor. Aidan was a little boy who passed away much too young due to Adrenoleukodystrophy (ALD). His parents, Elissa and Bobby Seeger, through their advocacy have helped change the law in New York and across the country to ensure that hospitals test for ALD.



Assemblymember Carroll at his annual mammogram screening event with the American-Italian Cancer Society.

New York State Assembly, Albany, New York 12248



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2023 Legislative and Community Survey

My office can help you obtain benefits, government forms and applications for assistance programs like Unemployment Insurance, EPIC, SNAP, WIC, SCRIE/DRIE, and more. If you have a community issue dealing with parks, schools, street safety or other quality of life issues, please call my office at (718) 788-7221.

Together, we can make our neighborhoods stronger than ever. Please fill out and return the form below to let me know which issues you're most concerned about.

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____

What concerns you most?

- Taxes
- Housing Costs
- Jobs
- Public Safety
- Education
- Climate Change/Environment
- Health Care
- Economic Development
- Local Infrastructure
- Other: _____

Additional issues, questions or concerns: _____



Mail survey to:

Assemblymember Robert Carroll - 416 7th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11215
 718-788-7221 - carrollr@nyassembly.gov



Or fill out an online survey on my website:
www.nyassembly.gov/mem/Robert-C-Carroll