



**March 16, 2023**

Greetings,

Happy St. Patrick's Day tomorrow to those who celebrate. Despite the cold weather this week, Spring is around the corner. As a first-time parent of a six-month old, I think I can safely say that my wife Ginna and I are looking forward to warmer weather as much as any time in our lives. That being said, there is much work to be done in Albany between now and the end of the legislative session in June. I have been working to advance my legislation on literacy education, dyslexia diagnosis, renewable energy, election law reform, improving public transportation, taxing non-essential helicopter flights, and a host of other issues. Before most legislation is passed however, we must tackle the State's budget.

### **The Assembly Budget Proposal**

This week the Assembly passed its "one house" budget resolution, which is the Assembly's official response to the Executive Budget released by the Governor in February. The Assembly proposal serves as a blueprint for negotiations with the Governor and Senate before passage of the final budget, which is due on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Assembly budget prioritizes the needs of middle and lower-income New Yorkers as well as those hardest hit by the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Below are some of the most significant elements of the Assembly "one house" budget resolution.

- **Supporting and improving public transportation:** The Assembly budget includes additional funding to the MTA to avoid fare hikes. The Assembly opposes the Governor's proposal to increase MTA fares including an increase in subway and bus rides from \$2.75 to \$2.90. The Assembly budget includes funding to the MTA to undertake a zero-fare bus route pilot program, including two free bus routes in each borough
- **Fighting climate change:** The Assembly is calling for the core elements of my bill - the [Build Public Renewables Act](#), to be included in the budget. These provisions would enable the New York Power Authority to take a pro-active role in the production and supply of renewable energy and ensure that the state meet its climate goals while including robust labor protections and environmental justice provisions. The Assembly is also calling all new buildings in the State be designed to be "electric" and emissions free.
- **Ensuring higher education remains affordable:** The Assembly budget proposal includes additional funding for CUNY to avoid any tuition increases as are proposed in the Governor's Executive budget.
- **Getting our schools the funds they need and deserve:** The Assembly budget proposal fully funds Foundation Aid and includes \$34.3 billion for State Aid to localities, \$3.4 billion more than the record education funding, the State provided last year.
- **Making sure our kids don't go hungry:** The Assembly budget contains \$280 million to make school lunches free throughout the State.
- **Preventing gun violence:** The Assembly budget proposal includes over \$110 million to support anti-violence programming.
- **Caring for our immigrant neighbors and those fleeing violence and oppression:** The Assembly supports expansion of healthcare coverage to all immigrants through expansion of Medicaid and Medicare authorized by the federal government; the Assembly provides \$40 million for legal services to immigrants and asylum seekers.

- **Fair pay for everyone, including home care workers:** The Assembly supports adjusting minimum wage increases to keep pace with inflation and ensuring that home care workers wages stay at least three dollars higher than minimum wage.
- **Placing the tax burden on those who can most afford to pay it:** The Assembly budget includes an increase on personal income taxes by .5% on households with incomes over \$5 million.

### **Street Safety at PS 107**

Recently our community experienced an unfortunate- but avoidable - incident in which a careless driver turned onto 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue and hit a parent in a crosswalk who was accompanying 3 young students to PS 107. In response, my office scheduled an on-site visit with the Brooklyn DOT Commissioner, NYPD, school leadership, and Councilmember Hanif to survey the area around the school and discuss traffic calming strategies to reduce speeding and improve safety on pedestrian crossings including signage upgrades, speed cameras, and increased visibility of pedestrians. PS 107 is not unique with concerns about street safety issues. Please reach out to my office if you have particular concerns about unsafe conditions for pedestrians in your neighborhood or on your block.



### **RSVP to Prospect Heights Town Hall 3/23**

I am hosting an in-person Town Hall meeting next Thursday, March 23rd at PS 9 in Prospect Heights, and all constituents are welcome to attend. We will be discussing State and local issues and I look forward to hearing your concerns and questions. From 6pm – 7pm, we will have the MTA, NYC Department of Finance, NYC Department of Sanitation, NYC Department of Environmental Protection, NYC DOT, Community Board 8, and the Brooklyn Public Library available to share resources and answer questions. From 7pm – 8:30pm, I'll talk about what's going on in Albany and answer your questions. Please see the flyer below and [RSVP here](#) if you'd like to attend.



**ROBERT  
CARROLL**

ASSEMBLYMEMBER // 44TH DISTRICT



## Prospect Heights Town Hall

Thursday, March 23  
P.S. 9 | 80 Underhill Avenue  
(bet. Bergen & St. Marks)

**COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS HOUR: 6:00 - 7:00 pm**

**Assemblymember Carroll has invited city agencies to address your top neighborhood concerns:**



New Services & bus route redesign



Benefits for tenants & homeowners



Strategies to address rat concerns



Climate Resilience  
& Storm Preparedness



Bike lanes, Citibikes, Street safety



Youth literacy programs  
for spring & summer



Local initiatives & issues

## ASSEMBLYMEMBER ROBERT CARROLL'S TOWN HALL PRESENTATION: 7:00 - 8:30 pm



- Report from Albany
- State Budget & Priorities
- Legislative Initiatives with local impact
- Question & Answer Session

BRING YOUR QUESTIONS AND GET ANSWERS  
FROM  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER ROBERT CARROLL

RSVP TO [CARROLLR@NYASSEMBLY.GOV](mailto:CARROLLR@NYASSEMBLY.GOV)  
OR CALL 718-788-7221

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

### Autism Speaks 5K

I am honored to be one of this year's sponsors for the [2023 Autism Speaks New York 5K](#). I invite you to join me to kick off World Autism Month by registering for the [2023 Autism Speaks New York 5K](#), which takes place in our beautiful Prospect Park on April 1st! [Register for a place at the starting line!](#) This is a wonderful event for friends, family and neighbors to come together to support those on the spectrum while increasing awareness and acceptance. [Autism Speaks](#) is dedicated to enhancing lives today and accelerating a spectrum of solutions for tomorrow.

-Bobby

**Assemblymember Robert Carroll**

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