



Assemblymember Robert Carroll

Legislative Update



District Office: 416 7th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11215 • 718-788-7221 • carrollr@nyassembly.gov
Albany Office: Room 557 LOB, Albany, NY 12248 • 518-455-5377 • <https://nyassembly.gov/mem/Robert-C-Carroll/>

Summer/Fall 2024

This year's legislative session we passed very significant legislation on housing and tenant protections, street safety, climate change mitigation, and real progress was made on dyslexia-related legislation I sponsor. Unfortunately, the Governor's last-minute decision in June to unilaterally announce the delay of the implementation of congestion pricing was a major setback in making New York City more livable and sustainable. I will continue to forcefully advocate for congestion pricing as well as other essential legislation that was not passed this session including the NY Heat Act, which is needed for us to successfully and rapidly transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy.



Assemblymember Carroll speaking at a rally in support of the NY Heat Act in Albany.

Legislative Accomplishments

I was the prime sponsor of three pieces of legislation that passed both the Assembly and Senate and will now go to the Governor for her signature.

THE DYSLEXIA DIAGNOSIS ACCESS ACT

My bill (A.2898/S.5481), mandates that private health insurance policies pay for neuropsychological evaluations for the purpose of diagnosing dyslexia and related disabilities and is the first of its kind in the nation. The cost of such evaluations, which can be between \$6,000 - \$10,000, makes them out of reach to most families. An essential part of children with dyslexia and related learning disabilities getting the services they need is positive identification of the nature of their disability and this legislation will change the lives of thousands of children and their families.

In addition to this legislation, the Fiscal Year 2024-25 State Budget included elements of my Right to Read Bill (A.2897) including the requirement that the State set standards for early literacy following evidence-based practices. There is still a long way to go to ensure New York State addresses the needs of students with dyslexia and the broader student literacy crisis, with 70% of 4th graders not reading at grade level according to national tests, but progress is being made. I am encouraged by the launch of the New York State Dyslexia Task Force this May, which was created by legislation I sponsored, and look forward to the public hearings the Task Force will be holding this fall.

THE NEW YORK WILDLIFE CROSSING ACT

My bill (A.4243/S.4198) directs the State Department of Transportation and New York State Thruway Authority to identify sites in the State where wildlife crossings are most needed both ecologically and for preventing vehicular crashes with wildlife. Wildlife crossings help wildlife adapt to climate change and preserve biodiversity by connecting essential habitats. This bill will better prepare the State to take advantage of the \$350 million allocated in the Federal Infrastructure and Jobs Act for wildlife crossing infrastructure across the United States.

CONSUMER PROTECTION - AUTOBROKER REGULATION

My bill (A.3499/S.7553) brings greater transparency and much needed consumer protections to the sale and leasing of vehicles. It will prevent deceptive practices by autobrokers and will protect good union jobs in the auto-sales industry.

TENANT PROTECTIONS AND HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

The Fiscal Year 2024-25 State Budget approved by the legislature extended tenant protections to a significant number of apartments not currently under rent stabilization laws by including a version of the Good Cause Eviction Bill, the stand-alone version of which I strongly supported. For covered apartments, it would be more difficult for landlords to arbitrarily evict tenants, not offer renewal leases, or unreasonably increase rents well beyond the rate of inflation. The budget also included legislation providing tax incentives for the development of new housing in New York City with affordable units and a tax incentive program for New York City office to housing conversions with affordable units.

Testify at a Dyslexia Task Force Hearing!

September 16th at Chancellors Hall
89 Washington Street, Albany NY 12234

September 23rd on Zoom

October 1st at the Windward School
212 E 93rd St., New York, NY 10128

If you are interested in signing up to testify at a hearing,
please call my office at 718 788 7221 or email me at
Carrollr@Nyassembly.gov.

All Hearings go from 6pm-9pm



Assemblymember Carroll at the Governor's bill signing event for "Sammy's Law" with Amy Cohen, the mother of Sammy Cohen Eckstein, the namesake of the legislation.

STREET SAFETY: SAMMY'S LAW AND RED LIGHT CAMERAS

This year's budget also included Sammy's Law, which I co-sponsored and have long advocated for. This legislation will save lives and reduce crashes by giving New York City the authority to lower the speed limit from 25 mph to 20 mph on a street-by-street basis and from 15 mph to 10 mph on streets that already have traffic calming measures. Its passage marks the culmination of years of work on the part of Families for Safe Streets and other organizations. Families for Safe Streets is led by people who courageously shared their stories about losing family members to traffic violence, including my constituent Amy Cohen, mother of Sammy Cohen Eckstein for whom the bill was named.

The Legislature also passed A.5259/S.2812 re-authorizing and expanding the City's red light camera program. Under this bill, the number of intersections in the City where there can be red light cameras increased from 150 to 600, or from about 1% to 5% of all intersections.

ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE: THE CLIMATE CHANGE SUPERFUND ACT

I was proud to co-sponsor and vote for the Climate Change Superfund Act (A.3351/S.2129). With this action, New York State joins Vermont as one of two states passing legislation to establish a climate change adaptation cost recovery program requiring major fossil fuel companies to pay their fair share of climate adaptation and mitigation costs. It is anticipated that these companies will collectively pay \$3 billion annually over twenty-five years that will go towards the infrastructure investments needed to adapt to the impacts of climate change in New York State. The legislation requires that at least one-third of the funds go to disadvantaged communities who have disproportionately been impacted by the effects of climate change.

ADVOCATING FOR NEW YORK CITY TO BE AN URBAN POLICY LEADER - CONGESTION PRICING

In 2019, I joined my colleagues in the State Legislature in voting to authorize the MTA to establish a Central Business District Tolling Program, commonly known as congestion pricing. New York's congestion pricing initiative would be the first of its kind in the nation and make the City a leader in urban innovation. The authorizing legislation provided that congestion pricing revenues

would be used to leverage \$15 billion in financing for the MTA's capital program. The benefits of a well-designed congestion pricing program are clear – reduced traffic and improved public transportation that will lead to a more livable, prosperous, and sustainable city.

Despite her public praise for the program, in the beginning of June, the Governor announced that she wanted to "indefinitely pause" implementation of congestion pricing, which was scheduled to begin June 30th.

My office received hundreds of calls expressing opposition to the Governor's announcement and voicing support for the implementation of congestion pricing. Delaying congestion pricing means New Yorkers will not only lose the benefits of reduced traffic but also jeopardizes many essential MTA projects to modernize and improve our subways, buses, and commuter rails; these range from signal upgrades, to making trains run more efficiently to improving access for disabled riders at stations throughout the system. I will continue to advocate for the program's implementation and I am appreciative of the words of support I received from so many constituents.



Assemblymember Carroll speaking at a rally in Albany in favor of congestion pricing going into effect and in opposition to the Governor's last-minute cancellation of the program, which was due to go into effect on June 30th.

BUDGET WINS FOR BROOKLYN: \$10 Million for the Brooklyn Museum and Protecting SUNY Downstate

This year's budget includes \$10 million for capital improvements to the Brooklyn Museum. After meeting with Director Anne Pasternak and her team it became clear to me that we needed to think big and I am proud to have led the push in the Assembly for funding for the Museum. The Museum is a major cultural institution, but is also an important locus of civic life in Brooklyn and provides educational programming for thousands of school children throughout the borough. The State funding will contribute to a new African Art Gallery, a new American and Contemporary Art Gallery, a new education wing, and essential infrastructure improvements such as a new HVAC system. These investments will not only enhance the visitor experience but also help the Museum in terms of securing loans of artwork and donations of collections.

The Legislature successfully pushed back on the Governor's plan to close SUNY Downstate Hospital. The budget includes \$100 million to keep the hospital running for the next year, \$300 million in capital funds for improvements to the hospital, and legislation that would establish a community advisory board to study and make recommendations for the long-term viability of Downstate's healthcare and medical education mission.

Budget Highlights

I was proud to join my colleagues in the Assembly in voting to approve the State's Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budget. Among many important initiatives included in the budget were the following:

- An increase of \$1.3 billion in education funding to a record \$35.9 billion in school aid statewide
- \$2.4 billion in funding to address the migrant crisis – a \$500 million increase from last year
- First in the nation mandatory leave for prenatal care
- The elimination of co-pays for insulin prescriptions
- The establishment of a dedicated fund to expand and ensure abortion access
- Expansion of eligibility for the Tuition Assistance Program and an additional \$100 million for SUNY and CUNY
- Funding for and authorization of new law enforcement tools making it easier to shut down unlicensed cannabis shops

Budget Highlights Local Initiatives: Over the past several years, I have directed State funding to a variety of local cultural and educational institutions. Some of these projects are:

Prospect Park: \$1 million for the reconstruction of the paths to and around the Park's Long Meadow including at the recently completed Garfield entrance.

Local Schools: Over \$1 million for playground renovations and other capital work at elementary schools throughout the District

Brooklyn Botanic Garden: \$200,000 for the renovation of pergolas at the Eastern Parkway entrance to the gardens

Greenwood Cemetery: \$125,000 towards the construction of an education and welcome center

Brooklyn Museum: \$250,000 towards renovations to the plaza and entrance to the Museum

Brooklyn Conservatory of Music: \$250,000 towards the renovation and expansion of the conservatory's historic building

Brooklyn Children's Museum: \$125,000 towards the new exhibition "Brooklyn Time Machine"

Brooklyn Public Library and NYC Public Schools: Over \$200,000 for structured literacy programming at the Brooklyn Public Library and local schools

Super Services for Constituents from MARCH through MAY!

March 7

We kicked off constituent service spring with private, one-on-one, problem-solving appointments with the Department of Finance and the Department of Buildings.

April 21

My Annual Spring Clean and Green event in Prospect Park allowed hundreds of constituents to learn about improving the environment in NYC, while they responsibly unloaded almost 8,000 pounds of e-waste, 2,000 pounds of textiles and 4,500 pounds of household items.

May 31

At Full-Service Friday over 100 Free Rain Barrels were distributed, 1,000 pounds of paper was shredded, and the ever-popular MetroCard Van provided full MTA card services to all!

Assemblymember Carroll with Nick Nyhan, the publisher of a local newsletter on flooding, The City Sponge.



More to Come in Fall 2024!

UPCOMING SERVICE EVENTS

Sponsored by Assemblymember Carroll at the District Office

FULL-SERVICE FALL

(all services take place at my District Office at 416 7th Avenue between 13th and 14th Streets)

Free Daffodil Bulbs!

Starting Monday, September 23rd

Thanks to the Daffodil Project, pick up free daffodil bulbs in my district office. Call (718) 788-7221 to confirm before picking up.

Paper Shredding W/DSNY

Wednesday, October 9th 9 am-12 pm

No appointment necessary, walk-up service, no limit, remove all plastic and metal including staples and binder clips, no cardboard.

NYC Department of Finance One-on-One Appointments

Wednesday, October 9th 10 am - 3 pm

- Learn how to Lower Your Property Taxes
- Learn about benefit programs for home, condo, and co-op owners, including eligibility and how to apply

- Learn about your annual notice of property value (NOPV)
- Learn how to submit questions to the Department of Finance
- and more!

Call Assemblymember Carroll's District office at (718) 788-7221 to make an appointment

NYC Department of Buildings One-on-One Appointments

Wednesday, October 30th 10:30 am - 2:30 pm

- General DOB and Zoning questions
- Questions about open violations and stop work orders
- and more!

Call Assemblymember Carroll's District office at (718) 788-7221 to make an appointment

AROUND THE COMMUNITY



Assemblymember Carroll with Bazah Roohi, the President of the American Council for Minority Women (ACMW) and Haroon Zafar, from the NYU School of Medicine at an ACMW sponsored health forum on cardiovascular and diabetes risk factors among South Asians.

Assemblymember Carroll celebrating the PS 130 Brooklyn Lions chess team on winning the New York State Scholastic chess championship.



Assemblymember Carroll cutting the ribbon on the new Garfield Place entrance to Prospect Park with Prospect Park Alliance President Morgan Monaco and NYC Parks Brooklyn Borough Commissioner Marty Maher. This project was fully funded by state capital dollars from Assemblymember Carroll.

Assemblymember Carroll marking the 59th Anniversary of Medicare with (CROC) - Cross Union Retirees Organizing Committee, who have been fighting to protect Medicare and stop NYC from transferring retirees to a Medicare Advantage plan that would enrich insurance companies and provide reduced coverage for retirees.




MTA MetroCard Van



**WEDNESDAY,
OCTOBER 30TH**
10 am - 2 pm

No appointment necessary, walk-up service for all your MetroCard related issues including reduced-fare applications, transferring balances, lost, stolen or damaged cards, and more!

New York State Assembly, Albany, New York 12248



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Free Breast Cancer Screening Co-Sponsored by Assemblymember Carroll

In Partnership with the American Italian Cancer Society (AICS) Mammogram Bus

**Tuesday, November 19th
9 am - 4 pm**

You must make an appointment in advance by calling AICS at 1-877-628-9090 and meet the following criteria:

- be between age 40-70 live in NYC (5 boroughs)
- have had no mammogram in the past 12 months

