



Assemblymember Robert Carroll

Legislative Update



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Winter
2024 / 2025

Legislative Priorities for 2025

In 2024, the Assembly passed significant legislation on housing and tenant protections, street safety, climate change mitigation, and a host of other issues. The State must always calibrate its policy making in response to national events and the uncertainty surrounding what policies the new presidential administration will pursue necessitates a re-evaluation of priorities for 2025. In New York, we have already done much to guarantee women’s reproductive rights, strengthen gun safety laws, and fight climate change, but we need to consider what additional legislative and budgetary actions are necessary in these areas. We also need to plan what legislative and budgetary actions the State can take independent of the federal government to protect the rights of immigrants, the LGBTQ community, health care access, freedom of the press and assembly, voting rights, and fair labor practices.

Below are some of the bills I will be advocating for in 2025. Among them are legislation that is now more urgent than ever, while others are policy reforms that remain important and necessary even in the face of an especially challenging policy making environment. Other bills will emerge as priorities as the Assembly assesses how best to respond to changes in federal policy.

The NY HEAT Act (A.4592 – Cosponsor): This bill aligns natural gas utility regulation and planning with the CLCPA by removing subsidies for gas system expansion that would burden ratepayers for decades to repay, and instead require a statewide gas service transition plan that decreases our reliance on gas. This would both significantly reduce state emissions and lower household energy bills, with a proposed energy bill cap for working families at a maximum 6% of household income.



Assemblymember Carroll speaking at a rally on the Build Public Renewables Act, a piece of legislation that Assemblymember Carroll sponsored in the Assembly which became law as part of the 2023-2024 budget.

The New York For All Act (A.5686 – Cosponsor): This bill brings New York in line with states like Illinois, Washington, and California by limiting how state and local law enforcement can use their resources for immigration enforcement and thereby protect immigrants from unjust detainment and deportation by federal officials.

The Dignity Not Detention Act (A.4354 – Cosponsor): This bill calls for local jails to be barred from renting out cell space to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) for profit.

Permanently Affordable Social Housing for New Yorkers Act (A.9808 – Cosponsor): This bill would create a new state authority with the mandate to build, acquire, rehabilitate, and preserve permanently affordable housing statewide.

Housing Access Voucher Program (A.4021 – Cosponsor): This bill creates a statewide housing voucher program to provide rental

assistance in the form of vouchers to individuals who are homeless or who face an imminent risk of losing their homes.

New York City Arts Space Act (A.10694 – Prime Sponsor): This bill provides property tax incentives for the development of affordable arts space in New York City in buildings being converted from commercial to residential space under the Affordable Housing from Commercial Conversions tax incentive benefits program (the “AHCC Program”). Such space would be used by arts organizations for studio, rehearsal, performance space, or arts and cultural programming.

Reforming and Restricting Felony Murder (A.2899 – Prime Sponsor): This bill would reform New York’s felony murder statute to make it less draconian. Felony murder laws such as New York’s that allow defendants to be charged for murder in circumstances where they were committing or attempting to commit a felony but did not actually kill anyone have been found to be highly racially discriminatory with especially negative consequences for young people and victims of domestic violence.

The Elder Parole bill (A.2035 – Cosponsor): This bill if passed would mean 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 (A.162 – Cosponsor): This bill requires parole to be offered to incarcerated people who are eligible unless they pose a risk that cannot be handled by parole supervision.



Assemblymember Carroll with Families for Safe Streets and the DOT Commissioner announcing the implementation of Sammy's Law.

Street Safety – Delivery Drivers (A.8871 Prime Sponsor): This bill requires food delivery companies like Grubhub and Uber to carry no-fault insurance covering drivers who work for them. This will incentivize these companies to promote safe driving practices to keep insurance premiums down instead of prioritizing speed and volume of deliveries.

Dyslexia Advocacy and Literacy Work Continues

This fall, *New York State's Dyslexia and Dysgraphia Task Force*, which was established by legislation (A.133/S.2599) I authored, held a series of public hearings. The Task force heard from hundreds of educators, parents, and people with dyslexia across New York.



Assemblymember Carroll giving testimony at the New York State Education Department Dyslexia and Dysgraphia Task Force Public Hearing, which was created by Assemblymember Carroll's legislation.

It is my hope that the Task Force will take a strong stand and in its report, which will be released by the end of this year, call on the State to mandate dyslexia screening, evidence-based interventions that are explicit, direct, sequential, systematic, and multi-sensory, training for our educators, and parental notification regarding a child's screening and interventions.

My bills, the *NY IDEA ACT - New York Individuals with Dyslexia Education Act (A.7101)* and the *Right to Read Act (A.2897)* set forth what would be best practice

in terms of childhood literacy for all students as well as specifically for those with dyslexia.

The *NY IDEA Act (A.7101)* would establish statewide standards for the screening of students in grades kindergarten through five for dyslexia, for the interventions required for students identified as being at risk for dyslexia or having dyslexia, for parental notification regarding the outcomes of screenings and interventions, and for the training of educators and other school personnel regarding dyslexia screening and interventions.

The *Right to Read Act (A.2897)* would require the State Education Department to provide guidance to school districts to establish literacy programming based on the science of reading as the standard throughout the state and require teachers in the elementary grades to complete fifty hours of training in this programming. It would prohibit SED from promoting curriculum based on the debunked "three cueing" method, which while still widely used has not been proven to be effective.

Many of those who spoke before the Task Force mentioned the high cost of neuropsychological exams for the purpose of diagnosing dyslexia as a major barrier to getting services for their child. My bill, the *Dyslexia Diagnosis Access Act (A.2898)*, which passed the legislature earlier this year, mandates that private health insurance policies pay for such exams and I anticipate it being signed into law by the Governor before the end of the year.

Introducing the New York City Arts Space Act

In October, Senator Julia Salazar and I were joined by arts organizations at the home of the non-profit theatre Bushwick Starr in Bushwick, Brooklyn to announce the introduction of our bill, the *New York City Arts Space Act (A.10694/S.9199)*.

This innovative legislation is intended to help New York City maintain its premier position in the arts and culture world by addressing the lack of affordable arts space. It builds on the Affordable Housing from Commercial Conversions ("AHCC") Program included in the State's Fiscal 24-25 budget by adding an enhanced property tax exemption in buildings being converted from commercial to residential space under the AHCC Program in exchange for including affordable arts space in the building.



Assemblymember Carroll, joined by Senator Julia Salazar and advocates speaking at the launch of his NYC Arts Space Act legislation.

Saving the PS 889 After School Program

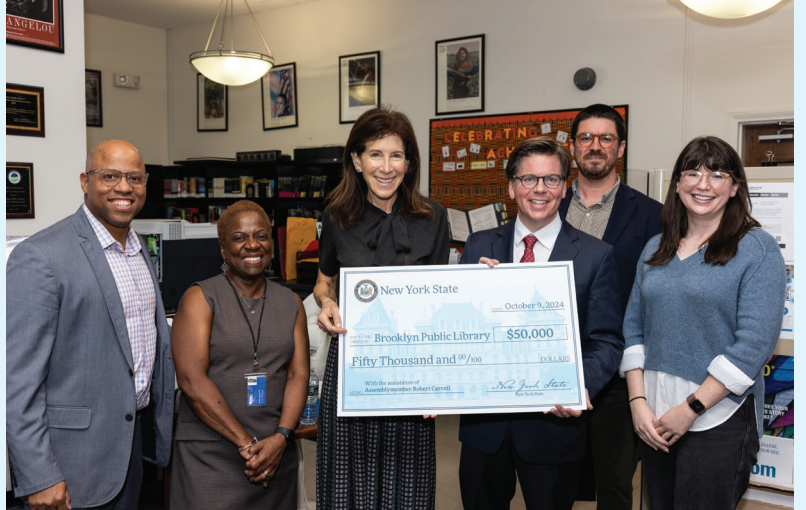
When school officials and parents from PS 889 in Kensington came to me at the end of last school year distressed that their free after school program option had been eliminated for the upcoming school year, I knew I had to do all I could to help. Thanks in part to the efforts of my staff and the Speaker of the Assembly and his staff, we were able to provide emergency state funding for the PS 889 community to reinstate their free after school program. I was pleased to join the school community in November to celebrate this critical win for the community.



Assemblymember Carroll with school leadership and members of the PS 889 student council at the recent celebration honoring Assemblymember Carroll for helping to save the free after school program at PS 889.

Assemblymember Robert Carroll Awards \$50,000 to the Brooklyn Public Library

I was proud to join Linda E. Johnson, President and CEO of the Brooklyn Public Library in September, to announce that I secured \$50,000 in State funds to support the Library's Adult Learning Education and Training Programming. The Brooklyn Public Library is one of our Borough's most vital institutions and I am proud to be able to support their efforts to align their adult literacy programming with evidence-based practices following the science of reading. As a person with dyslexia, I know first-hand how much of a difference evidence-based reading interventions can make. Becoming a fluent reader can transform one's life and we want everyone to have the chance to achieve this. Big thanks to Margaret Stephenson, who is pictured on the far right. Margaret is a constituent and a volunteer at BPL's adult learning center. Earlier this year Margaret came to my office and raised the issue of BPL's literacy materials needing to be updated.



Assemblymember Carroll presenting a \$50,000 check to Brooklyn Public Library President Linda Johnson, to upgrade BPL's adult literacy program to utilize science of reading based curriculum.

Photo: Gregg Richards

Prime Sponsored Bills Passed by the Legislature this Year

The Dyslexia Diagnosis Act (A.2898) mandates that private health insurance policies pay for neuropsychological evaluations for the purpose of diagnosing dyslexia and related disabilities. I anticipate this bill being signed by the Governor by the end of the year.

The Wildlife Crossing Act (A.4243) establishes protocols for New York State to identify where wildlife crossings are most needed and will help preserve biodiversity and prevent vehicular-wildlife accidents. **This legislation positions the State to better be able to take advantage of federal funds allocated for wildlife crossings, but unfortunately Governor Hochul vetoed the bill this November. I am deeply disappointed by the Governor's decision and will continue advocate for what I know to be good environmental policy.**

The Autobroker Regulation Act (A.3499) will prevent deceptive practices by autobrokers and protect union jobs in the auto-sales industry. I anticipate this bill being signed by the Governor by the end of the year.

Supporting Prospect Park



Through \$500,000 in state funding Assemblymember Carroll secured, Prospect Park Alliance has restored the pedestrian path between the Endale Arch and Meadowport Arch in Prospect Park. The improvements completed include new drainage, paving and benches.



Assemblymember Carroll co-hosted a legislative breakfast with the Prospect Park Alliance in November to kickstart his advocacy for the State to support the PPA's Lakeshore Restoration project. The project would combat flooding in Brooklyn and make the park a site of stormwater resiliency for surrounding neighborhoods.

Supporting Our School Communities



Assemblymember Carroll, pictured here with the Principal of PS 124, Valeria Ossa, donating turkeys, generously provided by local non-profit, Council of Peoples Organization (COPO), for the thanksgiving distribution for the school community.



Assemblymember Carroll presenting a \$25,000 check to PS 9 Principal, Sha-Wonda Williams-Credle and PTO President, Julie Whitaker in support of PS 9's arts enrichment curriculum.

New York State Assembly, Albany, New York 12248



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Spread Joy! Donate a Toy!

I am collecting toys at my district office to be distributed to children during the holiday season.

You can drop off new toys at my district office Monday – Friday between 9:30am-4:30pm through Tuesday, December 17th

My District Office is located at 416 7th Avenue between 13th and 14th Street in Park Slope

Thank you for your generosity this holiday season.

