



Assemblymember
Jo Anne Simon

52nd District



Announcements & Upcoming Events

October 2021

A Message from Jo Anne...

I am once again partnering with NYU Langone Health to provide flu shots to the community, along with Senator Brian Kavanaugh. We will host the event at the NYU Cobble Hill ED (83 Amity St), instead of at my district office. Please email simonj@nyassembly.gov or call 718-246-4889 to RSVP (appointments are required). Due to the continued presence of COVID-19, the flu vaccine will not only protect your own health and give you peace of mind, but reduced cases of the flu will ease the burden on our healthcare system. Let's stay healthy!

I also invite you to join me at a [March for Abortion Access](#), Saturday, Oct. 2nd at 11:30am at Cadman Plaza Park in front of the William Jay Gaynor Memorial, Cadman Plaza E, Brooklyn, NY 11201. I will be making remarks at the Brooklyn portion, and then marching over the Brooklyn Bridge into [Manhattan to Foley Square and then to Washington Square Park](#), uniting the boroughs. If you'd like to meet up in Brooklyn and march together, please email me at simonj@nyassembly.gov. We will gather to raise awareness and our voices, advocating for abortion access and protesting the injustices against Roe that have transpired in Texas, before the Supreme Court reconvenes on October 4th.

Sincerely,

Jo Anne Simon

Clark Street Station Elevator Repairs: MTA NYC Transit is conducting a repair project to address the aging elevators at the Clark Street 2/3 subway station in Brooklyn Heights. The Clark Street 2/3 station will be bypassed in both directions from Wednesday, November 3, 2021 until Spring 2022 in order to replace all three existing elevators. Customers will be asked to use the B25 bus route that operates on Cadman Plaza West, or walk to the High Street A/C, Court Street R or Borough Hall 2/3/4/5 stations. The upper level of the station will remain open, preserving public access to businesses. All construction activity will be scheduled from 7:00am - 6:00pm on weekdays, and the vast majority of work will be done within the Clark Street station. [Click here to read the full project details from the MTA.](#)

The project received permits from DOT for a staging area for storage and a trailer on the west side of Henry Street from Clark Street to Pineapple Street (the barricades will extend in the street to the bike lane but not affect normal bike lane operation), and the north corner area of Clark Street between Henry Street and Hicks Street for compressor/generator activity and storage. The street barricades will be in place until the end of the project. Our office is working closely with the MTA and local elected officials to mitigate any quality of life issues that may arise from this project.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Other than skin cancer, breast cancer is the most common cancer among American women. Mammograms are the best way to find breast cancer early, when it is easier to treat. Take the time to make an appointment with your provider, or **HOLD THE DATE** for our **annual Mammogram Bus - Friday, December 3, 2021**. Email simonj@nyassembly.gov or call 718-246-4889 to make an appointment. [Click here for more info on breast cancer.](#)

Upcoming Election Dates. Make Your Voice Count!

- Oct. 23 to Oct. 31 - You Can Vote Early! Your early voting site is often different from your usual election day poll site; [find your poll site here](#).
- Nov. 1 - This is the last day to apply IN-PERSON for an absentee ballot at the [BOE](#).
- Nov. 2 - General Election Day:
 - Polls are open 6am-9pm.
 - This is the last day to postmark your absentee ballot, or drop it off at a poll site (mailed ballots must be received by the BOE by Nov. 9th).

There will be 5 proposals on the ballot which would amend the NYS Constitution. You can [learn more about them here](#). Here is a quick summary:

- Question 1: The Redistricting Process. This proposal would reform the redistricting process that determines representation across the state.
- Question 2: Right to Clean Air, Clean Water, and a Healthful Environment. This proposal would provide the right to clean air, clean water, and a healthful environment to all New Yorkers.
- Question 3: Same-Day Voter Registration. This proposal would allow the State Legislature to pass new laws that give New Yorkers more time to register to vote (right now, voters must register 25 days before an election).
- Question 4: No-Excuse Absentee Voting. This proposal would allow the State Legislature to pass new laws that give more New Yorkers the option to vote by mail without providing an excuse (right now, you have to provide an “excuse” to vote by mail like being away or an illness, etc.).
- Question 5: Jurisdiction of the New York City Civil Court. This proposal would allow NYC Civil Courts to hear and decide claims up to \$50,000 instead of \$25,000.



Fighting National Grid’s Rate Hike. With the climate crisis before us, it’s outrageous for National Grid to think they can do business as usual and build polluting fossil fuel projects, all while passing the buck along to New Yorkers through a rate hike. This approach is at odds with the sweeping climate protections that I was proud to support when the state legislature passed New York’s groundbreaking climate law, the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, (CLCPA) which also applies to rate cases.

My colleagues and I recently sent a letter to Governor Kathy Hochul calling on her to review and halt National Grid’s rate hike which was approved by the NYS Public Service Commission (PSC) (which was made up of then-Governor Cuomo’s appointees). The PSC order approves increased rates for 1.9 million downstate customers to pay for the North Brooklyn Pipeline which “continues a legacy of environmental racism and climate denial” and several other fossil fuel projects (as detailed in our [letter](#) here). I also joined advocates, colleagues, & the community at a rally on this topic.

DUMBO-Vinegar Hill Branch Library Opening. I was delighted to celebrate the opening of a modern 21st century library at Adams Street which will serve DUMBO, Vinegar Hill, Farragut and the surrounding areas. Libraries are one of our greatest democratic institutions, ensuring that children and adults can explore free programs, build community, and cherish the wonders of reading and civic literacy together. I applaud the Brooklyn Library for the incredible achievement of building the first new library in decades and I look forward to enjoying this accessible and innovative space.



Say Goodbye to Library Late Fees! Brooklyn Public Library no longer charges daily late fines, and all previously accrued late fines and collections fees have been cleared. They will charge you for the replacement cost of items that are a month or more overdue, but the charges will be cleared as soon as the items are returned. If you cannot return the items, you can either pay for the cost of replacement or contact them about other options. [Learn more here](#). Do you have a question that doesn't require a trip to the library? Call 718.YOUR.BPL or 718.968.7275.

Help for landlords & renters is here! Landlords can now apply for rental assistance from New York State through the Landlord Rental Assistance Program (LRAP). LRAP provides help for landlords whose tenants are unwilling or unable to apply for the [Emergency Rental Assistance Program \(ERAP\)](#), including where the tenant has left the rental property. Assistance may be provided for households with rent up to [150 percent of the Fair Market rent \(FMR\)](#) for the county where the property is located.

To learn more about LRAP eligibility or apply, visit www.otda.ny.gov/programs/landlord-rental-assistance. You can also call 844-NY1RENT (844-691-7368). For the hearing impaired, TTY phone number: 1-833-843-8829.

If you are a tenant in need of help, you may still be able to [apply for the ERAP program](#) if you meet certain requirements [detailed here](#).

NY Excluded Worker Unemployment Fund: Final Call. The Excluded Workers Fund for New Yorkers who couldn't get regular unemployment is nearing exhaustion. This is a state-funded program designed to support New Yorkers who couldn't get unemployment, pandemic benefits or other specified state or federal benefits. DOL is still taking applications but the Fund is winding down in the coming weeks and we encourage you to apply ASAP. Payments are made on a first-come, first-served basis. Applicants will be added to a list & applications will be processed in the order they are received.

Visit ewf.labor.ny.gov to apply. FAQs in multiple languages can be found here: <https://dol.ny.gov/EWFApply>. If you need help applying, NY State is partnering with trusted community-based organizations to help you. Visit dol.ny.gov/CBOlist for a full list of organizations or call 877-EWF-4NYS (877- 393-4697) to speak with an agent and find a location near you.

Making York Street Station Safe & Accessible:

I recently joined Senator Brian Kavanagh, Councilmember Stephen Levin and the community to urge MTA to address the safety & accessibility issues at the York St. F Station, and to complete its past due station feasibility study which it had said would be ready by June 30, 2021. The station's lone staircase, crowded platforms, and lack of elevators create an unsafe situation for everyone, with no accessibility for people with disabilities. And the station's ridership has increased dramatically over the last decade. It is the only station in the entire city with a lone staircase to both enter and exit. I have joined the community in calling for this station to be made safer for years. I am so grateful to our community members who are so engaged on this issue, including DUMBO Action Committee, DUMBO Neighborhood Alliance, DUMBO BID, Vinegar Hill Association, CB 2, Farragut Stakeholders, and Concord Village. [Read our press release for more details.](#)



Assembly Hearing on Employment Opportunities for People with Disabilities: I recently participated in an Assembly hearing delving into the appalling lack of employment of New Yorkers with disabilities. The Assembly committees heard testimony from the various New York State agencies that have a role in supporting workforce development, encouraging and supporting young people in planning their transition from school to work.

For decades, federal special education law has required that schools begin transition planning for students with IEPs as early as 9th grade. Many of us argue that planning for the world of work should begin earlier. That the level of active, engaged transition planning has been unsatisfying would be an understatement. It's too easy for students and families to fall between the cracks of varying eligibility standards and procedures, too many confusing forms to complete, lengthy and inaccessible assessment procedures, all of which is complicated by federal disincentives, including income limitations that form the linchpin to healthcare benefits, forcing people with disabilities to remain in poverty and outside the workforce.

We also heard varied testimony regarding sheltered workshops and the subminimum wages paid too often paid to people with severe disabilities. In my opinion, New York employers must transition away from paying subminimum wages and sheltered workshops. We need to come up with a way that includes the needs of people with disabilities so that they are empowered to achieve their goals and are not excluded within workplaces. To that end, we could have used a bit more testimony regarding workplace accommodations and access to all levels of work. I believe the collaboration of our new Committee on People with Disabilities and the Committee on Labor will yield dividends.

Expanded Eligibility for the COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shots. CDC Expands Eligibility for the COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shot to Moderna and Johnson & Johnson. Important [information from the NYC DOH](#): Vaccine booster shots are now available for many New Yorkers. They are intended to help people boost their immunity from the initial vaccination series. [Vaccine FAQ are here.](#) NYC COVID-19 and Flu Vaccine Finder: Call 877-829-4692 or visit: <https://vaccinefinder.nyc.gov/> / vax4nyc.nyc.gov

Halloween Costume Drive & 10/23/21 Give Away!

Thank you so much to the community members who donated Halloween costumes for the Gowanus Mutual Aid's collection effort.

You can go to GMA's first Monthly Community Market Day/ Halloween Costume Give Away on Saturday, Oct. 23rd at 11am, corner of Douglass & Bond by the free store; costumes will be distributed while supplies last.



Gowanus Rezoning and FEIS. While the NYC Planning Commission recently voted to approve the neighborhood-wide Gowanus rezoning, local groups and the EPA are requesting that significant portions of the FEIS (Final Environmental Impact Statement) be re-done using available data that is more current data and reflects the impacts of climate change on the fragile Superfund site and surrounding area, most of which is in a flood zone.

In the recent Gowanus CAG meeting, an EPA representative informed the group that an EPA initial review of the FEIS is underway and that there is not enough detail provided in the document for EPA to conclude whether statements about CSO volumes are accurate (which DCP and the city's environmental protection department has defended). EPA stressed that the integrity of the Superfund remediation is the goal of the EPA. As you know, I also have serious doubts that the City can ensure that sewer overflows won't be increased, therefore compromising the Superfund remedy, the health of the canal, and the health of local residents and workers. The City must do the right thing for the people who live here, now and in the future, and ensure a full and responsible remediation with integrity, instead of non-compliance with EPA orders on the overflow tanks.

The next step in the re-zoning is the upcoming NY City Council public hearing on Tues., Oct. 12 at 10am. You may share your feedback once the registration details are available.

Environmental Scorecard: I am once again privileged to have a 100% rating on the NY League of Conservation Voters 2021 State Environmental Scorecard. Climate change is one of the most pressing issues before us and I am committed to doing everything I can to protect our environment. I'm proud of our work, but we still have much work ahead of us, like fully funding the critical Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. [Read the full NYLCV scorecard here.](#)

I am also relieved that Governor Hochul just signed a bill I cosponsored (A4302) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution from the transportation sector by ensuring all new passenger cars and trucks sold in NY State to be zero-emissions by 2035. She also [directed the Department of Environmental Conservation](#) to release a proposed regulation that would significantly reduce air pollution from trucks.

Sign up for my Email Alerts. Email simonj@nyassembly.gov to stay informed of community events & policy issues!

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