

**Dear Neighbor,**

I hope you have had a safe and happy summer enjoying the city's many festive sports activities, and managing through the challenging weather conditions. The beginning of summer marked the end of the legislative session. As I will be leaving the Assembly at the end of this year, it also marked my last legislative session and the end of my tenure as Chair of the Assembly's

Committee on Environmental Conservation. The session was bittersweet; I was proud of the bills I fought for and to serve alongside long-admired colleagues, and disappointed that the delayed state budget process left little time for us to debate and pass critical legislation.

As I reflect on my career in the Assembly, I am grateful to have successfully advocated for and passed a number of important pieces of legislation over the years, including the Reproductive Health Act, a ban on conversion therapy, hospital visitation rights for domestic partners, the school zone speed camera program and its various iterations, and important updates to housing bills like the Loft Law.

As the Environmental Conservation Chair, my environmental work stands out as a point of pride. I have sponsored and passed bills that were not only big wins for animals and our environment, but also, significantly underscored the importance of our ecosystems. We are all, animals and humans, tied together in a web of mutual reliance. Parts of our ecosystem, like birds and bees, or horseshoe crabs, may seem distant and unimportant to our survival. In fact, they are the foundation of what keeps our ecosystem going. As Chair, I sponsored and fought for the passage of the Birds and Bees Protection Act (**A.7640**), a piece of nation-leading legislation that protects pollinators from potentially toxic pesticides called neonicotinoids. I also sponsored and passed a ban on commercial horseshoe crab harvesting (**A.4997**). Horseshoe crabs are almost twice as old as dinosaurs, but their populations have plummeted in recent years due to harvesting for biomedical industries and bait. The ban will ensure that this ancient species can continue to thrive and serve as a vital food source for other animals.

I have also fought relentlessly to protect humans from the impacts of industrial chemicals and toxins. We have seen more and more evidence that exposure to plastics and harmful chemicals in our household and hygiene products are impacting human health. Unfortunately, our federal government has been slow to act, and even at the state level these bills have been some of the hardest to pass, as they face the most

sustained opposition by corporations. I sponsored the Beauty Justice Act (**A.2054A**), which would restrict a number of toxic substances in beauty products and especially focused on reducing the disproportionate risk of exposure faced by people of color. I co-sponsored a ban on PFAS and other toxic chemicals in menstrual products (**A.1502**), which I'm proud to say passed in this last session and was signed into law.

I also fought hard for passage of the Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act (**A.1749A**), an ambitious environmental bill that would mandate that major producers eliminate certain toxins from their packaging, reduce their packaging waste and would also shift disposal costs for that packaging away from taxpayers. While the Beauty Justice Act and the Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act have not yet passed, I remain hopeful that the next legislature will understand the urgent importance of these common-sense bills and vote them into law.

As a lifelong animal lover, I've also championed legislation to protect the welfare of animals. These bills have included a ban on killing contests (**A.2917**), in which hunters were awarded for killing the most of a certain species, such as foxes or squirrels. These contests were not only cruel but also disrupted key parts of the food chain. I also fought for a ban on horse slaughter (**A.5109A**), preventing the killing (and transport for slaughter) of horses for human and animal consumption. Most recently, in May the legislature passed my bill banning traveling acts featuring wild animals (**A.5850**), putting an end to this cruel practice; the bill awaits the Governor's signature.

Lastly, I have worked throughout my career to offer information to you, my constituents, about how to protect yourselves and the planet. In that spirit, this issue of the Neighborhood Update will highlight how to get involved in environmental issues and advocate that the government take more action to fight climate change and prioritize human and ecosystem health. I look forward to continuing to work with you as an Assemblymember through December, and soon in my capacity as your neighbor, in fighting for our future.

Sincerely,

Deborah

Update from Albany

The 2026-27 state budget season proved to be an incredibly difficult and protracted process. After being nearly two months late, the Legislature and the Governor agreed to a \$277 billion spending plan. As is the case with every state budget, this year's plan reflects a challenging negotiation in which many important investments were made, and some unwelcome policy decisions were enacted. Here are some of the highlights of this year's budget:

- I'm thrilled that the budget has enacted my long-fought priority of instituting a pied-à-terre surcharge on high-value second homes in New York City. For years, I have argued that if you are able to invest in luxury housing in our city that is not your primary residence, you should contribute a bit more toward the maintenance of municipal infrastructure. This common-sense measure is estimated to contribute \$500 million to the city's budget.
- I have also long fought for updates to the SCRIE, DRIE, SCHE, and DHE programs. This budget increases the maximum household income limit for eligibility from \$50,000 to \$75,000. There is more work to be done to modernize these essential programs that keep elderly and disabled New Yorkers in their homes, but increasing this threshold is a much-needed update. I will work with my partners in the City Council to ensure these changes are adopted at the city level as swiftly as possible.
- The Legislature vigorously opposed the Governor's proposal to roll back the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) but the final budget includes some disappointing changes to the law. The state now has until 2028 to issue regulations to reduce emissions; the methodology used to count emissions has been changed to a more lenient standard; and the interim goal of a 40% emission reduction by

2030 has been replaced with a target of a 60% reduction by 2040.

- Climate funding received a boost, including \$450 million for the Environmental Protection Fund, a \$25 million increase. An additional \$1 billion was included to maintain the Sustainable Future Program, which will fund building decarbonization programs, thermal energy networks, and other related investments. An additional \$750 million has been allocated for clean water infrastructure.
- So-called "super-speeders" - those who have received more than 16 speed camera citations over a 12-month period in New York City will now be required to install a speed-limiting device in their vehicle at their own expense.
- Local law enforcement agencies are prohibited from entering into agreements with ICE for the purpose of immigration law enforcement. In addition, federal, state, and local law enforcement officers are prohibited from using face coverings while performing their duties.
- Tier 6 members of the New York State and Local Retirement System (NYSLRS) will have their ongoing contributions lowered, and teachers will now be eligible for retirement after 30 years of service and upon reaching age 58.
- Universal Pre-K is being expanded to support full-day instruction for 4 year olds by the 2028 school year, and newly created 2-care childcare for New York City is funded at \$73 million.
- \$1 billion has been allocated to provide relief for rising utility rates.

If you have any questions about these provisions or other aspects of the enacted budget, please reach out to my office for more information.



The last week of this year's Legislative Session, my final one as your NYS Assemblymember, were filled with hard work, a few tears and a lot of laughs with cherished colleagues and my longtime, dedicated Albany staff: Louise Mahon, Ginnie Farrell, and Charles LeDuc, seen here with Governor Hochul. It has been a tremendous honor to serve as your representative in Albany, and I am so grateful.



In June, I was happy to give remarks at the Third Street Music School's annual Partners Open House. Each year, thousands of students that Third Street serves through their Partners public school and community programs are invited for a day-long event at their main campus. Students participate in sample music and dance lessons and spend time with Third Street's teaching artists.



I was proud to stand with my counterpart, Senator Pete Harchham, Chair of the State Senate's Committee on Environmental Conservation, and advocates fighting to preserve our climate protection laws.

Update from Albany *Continued*

2026 Legislative Session Recap

As mentioned, this year's session was almost entirely dominated by budget negotiations. By wrapping up that process with less than two weeks left in the scheduled session calendar, many priorities were left unfinished at the conclusion of our work. Although I had hoped for more bills to be passed this year, the Legislature still passed many important measures that will make New York a better place to live.

Low Impact Landscaping (A.1890) – For the second year in a row, I am pleased that both houses passed my bill to prevent homeowners associations (HOAs) from prohibiting low impact landscaping like vegetable gardens, rain gardens, and native plantings. This bill will ensure that all homeowners are able to **choose environmentally responsible landscaping for their own yards**, unincumbered by outdated or misguided HOA bylaws. As more New Yorkers are trying to find ways that they can personally participate in addressing the impact of climate change, **low impact landscaping can serve to protect property from the effects of increasingly heavy rain events that cause local flooding, by absorbing excess water where it runs off turfgrass and carries with it contaminants.**

Safe, Humane Wildlife (A.5850) – After many years, my bill to prohibit dangerous wildlife from being used in traveling roadside shows has passed both houses. Big cats, bears, nonhuman primates, kangaroos and wallabies should not be forced to live on the road and perform tricks in dangerous proximity to humans. This practice is inhumane and unsafe for all involved, and this bill will bring an end to this outdated practice.

Protecting Tropical Forests (A.9598) – New York State need only examine its own purchasing habits to protect tropical deforestation. The state currently purchases many species of hardwoods that are only found in rapidly diminishing tropical ecosystems that are a critical nexus of much of the planet's biodiversity. When signed into law, this bill will leverage the sizable contracting power of the state to help protect these vital forests from further degradation.

Tidal Wetland Regulation (A.10936) – The Hudson River is a unique example of a freshwater tidal wetland. Due to that uniqueness, special protections are needed to ensure that the birds, fish, and other aquatic and adjacent life that depend on these habitats can flourish. My bill will ensure that these areas are properly regulated despite their unusual status as freshwater wetlands that are also subject to tidal action.

After several years of fierce advocacy, sadly, my highest priority bills were not brought to the floor for a vote in the Assembly. This includes the **Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act (PRRIA) (A.1749A)**, **The Bigger Better Bottle Bill (A.6543)**, **The Beauty Justice Act (A.2054A)**, and a bill to ban PFAS in consumer products (A.7738A). Together, these bills would reduce waste sent to our rapidly filling landfills and remove dangerous chemicals that come into contact with the food we eat and the products we use every day.

I worked tirelessly with my colleagues in the Assembly and scores of passionate advocates to advance these measures, but the chemical industry and business organizations that profit from the status quo were once again successful in defeating these bills. Although I am deeply disappointed that these bills were not passed, I am proud of the dedication and hard work that so many people invested in this effort. I am hopeful that the progress we made this year will provide a strong foundation for success next year.

I cosponsored or supported other important legislative accomplishments from my colleagues as well.

- A one-year moratorium on the construction of energy-intensive AI data centers (A.11560)
- A five-year moratorium on the use of AI chatbots in toys (A.11144B)
- A prohibition on the use of so-called surveillance pricing, in which companies and stores use consumer data to raise or lower prices for individuals (A.9349)
- Constitutional amendments to allow for mid-decade redistricting and to move non-NYC local elections to even numbered years (A.11553A)

Ways to Be a Good Steward of the Environment

Whether you’re looking to beautify your local park, or stay informed about nationwide environmental protection actions, there are a multitude of ways to get involved. As we learn news from the federal administration of their rollbacks to long-standing environmental conservation efforts and as we experience the encroaching effects of the climate crisis, it’s increasingly important to stay informed and learn how to take action on the federal decision-making that is impacting the protection of wildlife and their habitats, the conservation of the environment, and the preservation of our precious public lands and shared resources.

Hands-On Opportunities to Get Involved Locally

The Battery Conservancy

<https://www.thebattery.org/volunteer/>
212-344-3491

Maintain perennial gardens, care for crops on the farms, beautify the grounds

Billion Oyster Project

<https://www.billionoysterproject.org/volunteer>
Restore reefs to New York City’s waterways

Grow NYC

<https://grownyc.org/individual-volunteering/>
212-788-7900

Volunteer with GrowNYC Greenmarkets and Farmstands

High Line

<https://www.thehighline.org/volunteers/>
Sign up to learn when openings arise to volunteer as greeters, docents, and to assist horticulturists

Homegrown National Park

<https://homegrownnationalpark.org/>
Learn how you can grow native plants on balconies and in community gardens to support our local insects and pollinators

Hudson River Park

<https://hudsonriverpark.org/get-involved/volunteer/>
212-242-6427
Garden and beautify the park, facilitate composting, clean up the shoreline

Lower East Side Ecology Center

<https://www.lesecologycenter.org/volunteer/>
212-477-4022
Conduct outreach, stewardship, support compost operations

NYC Bird Alliance

<https://nycbirdalliance.org/take-action/taking-action>
212-691-7483
Assist injured birds and migrators, monitor window collisions, report findings through www.dBird.org

NYC Department of Parks & Recreation

<https://www.nycgovparks.org/events/volunteer>
Clean the parks, garden, engage the community

NYC H2O

<https://nych2o.org/>
Learn and volunteer to protect the city’s local water ecology

Take Action and Stay Informed on Environmental Issues

Beyond Plastics

<https://www.beyondplastics.org/>
Address plastic pollution

Defenders of Wildlife

<https://defenders.org/>
1-800-385-9712
Protect and restore America’s wildlife at risk of extinction

Earth Justice

<https://earthjustice.org/>
1-800-584-6460
Public interest environmental law organization protecting habitats, wildlife, and people, and combating climate change

Food and Water Watch

<https://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/>
Fight for sustainable food, clean water, and a livable climate

The Jane Goodall Institute

<https://janegoodall.org/>
703-682-9220
Community-led conservation to benefit the environment, animals, and people. For a youth action program, visit Jane Goodall’s Roots & Shoots

National Audubon Society

<https://www.audubon.org/new-york>
1-844-428-3826
Protect birds, their habitats, and the resources they depend upon

Natural Resources Defense Council

<https://www.nrdc.org/>
212-727-2700
Safeguard the earth’s people, plants and animals, and natural systems

Oceana

<https://oceana.org/>
1-202-833-3900
Protect the world’s oceans

Sierra Club

<https://www.sierraclub.org/get-involved>
415-977-5500
Restore wild places and protect earth’s ecosystems and resources

Trust for Public Land

<https://www.tpl.org/>
1-800-714-5263
Protect public land and connect people to the joys of the outdoors

World Wildlife Fund

<https://www.worldwildlife.org/support/advocacy>
202-293-4800
Protect nature and its resources, reverse nature loss, and conserve biodiversity

Correspondence Corner

While taking action is crucial, letters and testimony also play an essential role in the offices of elected representatives, and I want to highlight some of the writing my office has recently produced.

Objecting to the Proposed Independence Plaza Tower

A developer is proposing to build a tower as tall as 1,090 feet at Independence Plaza in Tribeca - a former Mitchell-Lama development that still houses a significant number of affordable units and tenants relying on rental vouchers. In July, I submitted comments to the NYC Department of City Planning on the Draft Scope of Work for the project’s required Environmental Impact Statement (EIS),

unequivocally opposing the creation of another immense luxury tower built on the promise of too few affordable units elsewhere. My comments raised significant environmental concerns from the impacts of such expansive construction that must be fully assessed. Although the project narrowly falls under the citywide threshold that would otherwise require review of water and sewer impacts, the area’s history of flooding and existing resiliency planning make it **essential that the EIS still examine sewer capacity and the risk of increased sewage outflow into the sensitive Hudson River Estuarine Sanctuary.** The Draft Scope of Work also omits any wind study, despite the site’s exposure to high winds off the river

and around the World Trade Center that could create a concerning wind-tunnel effect. I further called for a shadow study on the tower’s impact on Washington Market Park, given the neighborhood’s existing scarcity of open space.

Beyond these environmental issues, my comments also addressed the **unacceptable direct and indirect displacement of low- and middle-income, senior, and disabled residents during a lengthy four-to-five-year construction period; the noise, dust, vibration, and crane-safety impacts on residents**, Borough of Manhattan Community College, and nine nearby landmark structures; and the impact on Independence Plaza’s senior center and childcare facilities.

Pressing City Hall on Affordable Housing in Lower Manhattan

I have written to the First Deputy Mayor and the Deputy Mayor for Housing and Planning to raise several ongoing affordable housing concerns in the district. As you likely know, our communities have long faced gentrification driven by egregious real estate speculation, luxury development, and the consolidation of units into single-family mansions.

I shared that as the City moves forward with plans to accelerate the building of more housing, our downtown communities have pushed for the creation of more affordable units, only to be faced with a glut of luxury buildings. **Any review of the district’s rate of affordable housing production must reflect previous City policy failures and inadequate developer accountability rather than any lack of community effort.**

I also raised concerns about a number of specific projects in the district. For instance, the Gansevoort Square proposal, led by the NYC Economic Development Corporation, would create an out of scale luxury tower on publicly owned land, with only a modest number of affordable units – rather than the community’s pushed for one hundred percent affordability. **I support Community Board 2’s call for a new strategy for the development, which would use**

additional public parcels to increase affordability and provide a more comprehensive evaluation of how best to redesign the area as it has moved away from its industrial past. Lower Manhattan is mired with projects like these and it is **unacceptable that even when the land being developed is already publicly owned, we do not see an increased investment in affordability.** I will continue to raise these issues, along with the impacts of the SoHo/NoHo rezoning and the potential use of eminent domain for affordable housing.

Fighting the Use of Cyanide Bombs on Public Lands

I was troubled to learn that the U.S. Bureau of Land Management has quietly overturned its 2023 ban on the use of cyanide bombs — devices baited to attract wildlife and, when triggered, spray a lethal dose of sodium cyanide on whatever bites them. Supporters of these devices argue they help control predator populations that threaten livestock, but **cyanide bombs don’t discriminate between their intended targets and anything else that sets them off.** Before the ban, these devices had injured or killed endangered species, pets, and even people. I wrote to the Secretary of the Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Land Management Director to argue that classifying cyanide bombs as an approved tool puts wildlife and public safety at serious risk and urge them to reinstate the ban on public lands.



**Assemblymember
Deborah J. Glick**
853 Broadway, Suite 2007
New York, NY 10003
212-674-5153
glickd@nyassembly.gov

853 Broadway, Suite 2007, New York, NY 10003

Deborah Glick's
**NEIGHBORHOOD
UPDATE**



ASSEMBLYMEMBER
66TH DISTRICT
NEW YORK CITY
HOW TO REACH US:
Call 212-674-5153 or
email glickd@nyassembly.gov

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It’s always a pleasure to partner with the terrific, hard-working NYC Department of Sanitation to host a shred event in the district. This Spring we were joined by representatives from several great non-profit organizations who presented information on how you can volunteer in your communities. Contact my office for more information!

Join me for a
**FREE SHRED
EVENT!**
Thursday, October 8
9:00 AM to 12:00 PM
NYC AIDS Memorial Park at St. Vincent’s Triangle
(on Greenwich Avenue, near 7th Avenue)
*I’m partnering with the NYC Dept of Sanitation,
and we’ll be joined by a few organizations sharing information
about how to be a good steward of our environment.*