

Dear Neighbor,

What a session! I am proud to have been a part of such a productive time in Albany. We did so much for so many and all New Yorkers should be proud. This session, I sponsored 531 bills, 64 of those passed Assembly, 48 of those passed both houses. Six bills which I prime sponsored also passed the Assembly.

We were successful in advancing our legislative priorities this session and I am proud to be able to share them with you.

Harvey Epstein
74th Assembly District

Wins in Our Legislative Priorities



Criminal Justice Reform

Decriminalization, Discovery, Cash Bail, and more

For too long, our antiquated and unnecessarily harsh drug laws have disproportionately hurt communities of color. In recognition of this injustice, I co-sponsored and helped to pass legislation to decriminalize possession of small amounts of marijuana and expunge the records of those with low-level convictions, as well as legislation to improve rules around speedy trials, end cash bail for low-level offenses, and reform antiquated discovery laws.



Education

Mayoral Governance

Mayor de Blasio came up to Albany to speak with me and my colleagues about the changes we were seeking in Mayoral Governance this session. For years, the recommendations

that the parent leaders around the city had proposed had been ignored and gone without proper attention. Because of the great organizing by community-based organizations and all of the Community Education Councils all over New York City, we were able to make great strides in Mayoral Governance by strengthening parent involvement and getting the Mayor to commit to long-term changes.

Transportation

Establishing Sustainable Funding for the Metropolitan Transit Authority

The MTA is a critical economic driver in New York State and is in desperate need of upgrades and repairs. With the enactment of the SFY 2019-20 Budget, we announced a groundbreaking congestion pricing plan to establish a sustainable revenue stream for the MTA.



Student MetroCards

Over the last year, I worked to end a problem system called a Half-Fare MetroCard for public school students. Right now, students who live less than 2 miles from their school must pay half fare—currently \$1.35—in exact change when boarding the bus to get to school. As a result, students with these MetroCards are forced to carry \$13.50 in coins per week just to get to school and then return home. This is a social justice and equity issue for at least 130,000 students who are forced to pay to go to public school. No school-age child who travels to school and then home can realistically be expected to carry the

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Wins in Our Legislative Priorities (continued from page 1)

remaining fare—a total of \$13.50 in change per week—that makes the Half-Fare cards usable. The MTA and Department of Education heard our advocacy and on May 22nd the MTA voted to give these students three free fare cards. A huge win for 130,000 public school students.

I commend the MTA for agreeing to our proposal that will provide more equity in transportation for New York's students and I applaud the MTA for implementing full-fare cards to these students in time for the 2019-20 school year.

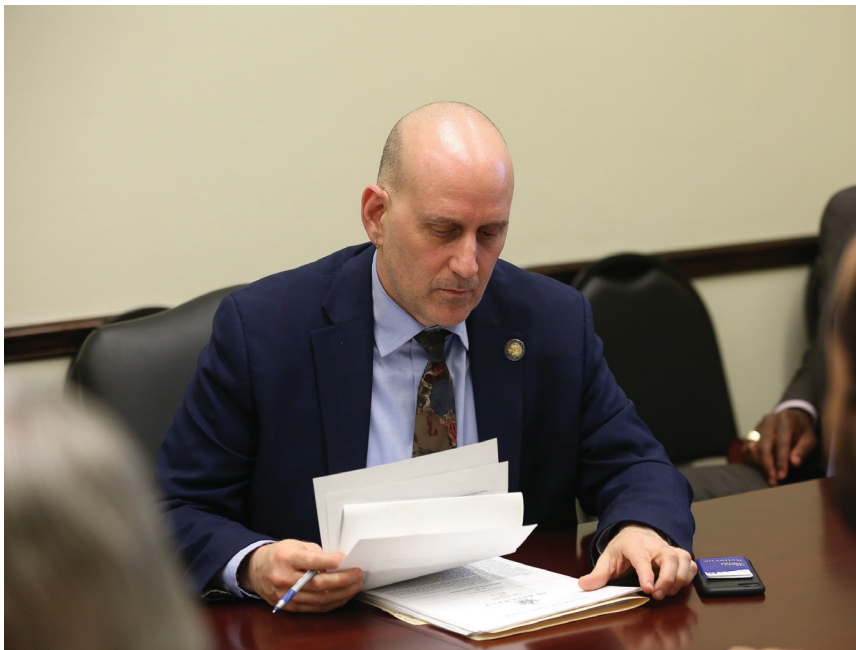
Voting Reform

Making Voting Easier, Modern, and More Accessible

This session we passed major reforms to making voting more accessible for all New Yorkers. We passed same-day voter registration combined non-presidential state primaries, and we established a commission to create a system of voluntary public campaign financing for statewide and state legislative public offices.

Environmental Justice

We also took a major step in reducing the state's plastic usage and plastic pollution. As part of the approved SFY 2019-20 Budget, New York banned plastic carry-out bags to protect the state's waterways and the environment. I also helped to pass the New York State Climate and Community Protection Act to combat climate change by requiring the state to cut 85 percent of its greenhouse-gas emissions from 1990 levels by 2050.



Housing

In addition to all the great progressive legislation we passed this session, we also passed the State's strongest package of tenant protections in decades. I am also proud to report that several of my bills were included as part of the omnibus bill. Some of the biggest changes include:

Extending the Rent Regulation Laws and Making them Permanent Reforming Rent Increases for Major Capital Improvements (MCIs):

- Lowering the rent increase cap from six percent to two percent.
- Eliminating future MCI increases after 30 years instead of allowing them to remain in effect permanently.
- Significantly tightening the rules governing what spending may qualify for MCI increases and tightening enforcement of those rules by requiring that 25 percent of MCIs be inspected and audited.

Reforming Rent Increases for Individual Apartment Improvements (IAIs):

- Capping the amount of IAI spending at \$15,000 over a 15-year period and allowing owners to make no more than three IAIs during that time.

- Making future IAI increases temporary for 30 years rather than permanent and requiring owners to clear any hazardous violations in the apartment before collecting an increase.

Repealing High Rent Vacancy Deregulation and High Income Deregulation:

- Repealing the provisions that allow the removal of units from rent stabilization when the rent crosses a statutory high-rent threshold and the unit becomes vacant or the tenant's income is \$200,000 or higher in the preceding two years.

Repealing the Vacancy Bonus and Longevity Bonus:

- Repealing the "vacancy bonus" provision that allows a property owner to raise rents as much as 20 percent each time a unit becomes vacant.

Making Preferential Rents the Base Rent for Lease Renewal Increases:

- Prohibiting owners who have offered tenants a "preferential rent" below the legal regulated rent from raising the rent to the full legal rent upon lease renewal.

Reforming Co-op/Condo Conversions:

- Eliminating the option of "eviction plans" and instituting reforms for non-eviction plans.
- Requiring 51 percent of tenants in residence to agree to purchase apartments before the conversion can be effective. (Currently, 15 percent of apartments must be sold and the purchasers may be outside investors.)

Enhancing protections for tenants by:

- Banning the use of so-called "tenant blacklists" which protects tenants who enforce their rights.
- Ending the current practice of allowing owners to avoid treble damages if they voluntarily return the amount of the rent overcharge prior to a decision being made by a court or Housing and Community Renewal.

I am proud to have worked with the Housing Justice for All coalition and so many of my Assembly and Senate colleagues to deliver these landmark reforms and I look forward to continuing this work in partnership with them.

Recap of this Legislative Session



We accomplished a great deal this session and I am incredibly proud of the work that was done. Here's a list of just some of what the New York State Assembly passed this session:

- Voting Reforms
 - Early Voting (A.780)
 - Combining non-presidential and state primaries (A.779)
 - Same Day Voter Registration (A.777)
 - Restriction of LLC Campaign Contributions (A.776)
- Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act (A.747)
- Ban Gay Conversion Therapy (A.576)
- Eliminate the Gay and Trans Panic Defense (A.08375)
- Reproductive Health Act (A.21)
- Comprehensive Contraception Coverage Act (A.585A)
- Equal Rights Amendment (A.271)
- Domestic Violence Survivors Justice Act (A.3974)
- End Discriminatory Pricing for Gendered Goods (A.629)
- Child Victims Act (A.2683)
- DREAM Act (A.782)
- Drivers Licenses for All (A.3675-B)
- Minimum Wage for Car Wash Workers (A.6346-C)
- Farmworkers Fair Labor Practices Act (A.2750)
- Protections for Employees Who Have Been Harassed (A.8421)
- The Red Flag Bill (A.2689)
- Background Checks (A.2690 & A.1213)
- Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (A.8429)
- Decriminalization of Marijuana & Expungement of Records for Certain Offenses (A.8420-A)
- School Zone Speed Cameras (A.6449)
- Predatory Equity Study Bill (A.3275-B)
- Prohibition of Cat Declawing (A.1303)
- Require Boating Safety & Make New York's Waterways a Safer Place (A.4853-A)
- Elimination of Cash Bail & Right to Speedy Trial (A.2005-C)
- Police-STAT Act (A.5946)
- Decriminalization of Gravity Knives (A.5944)
- Maternal Mortality Review Board (A.3276)
- Ban Offshore Drilling (A.2572)
- Lower Blood Lead Level Threshold for Children (A.5779)
- Safety Cameras on Buses (A.4950-A)
- Making Child Care Costs a Campaign Expense (A.1108-B)
- Medical Insurance Coverage for Eating Disorders (A.1619)
- Housing Stability Tenant Protection Act (A.8281)

If you have any questions about the legislation above, please feel free to call my office at 212-979-9696, or if you'd like to look up the legislation above, please go to <https://nyassembly.gov/leg/> and search bill numbers provided.

EVENTS

Census Job Fair

The 2020 Census is hiring and they need a field operation to knock on doors. Apply to be a part of making sure everyone in our community is counted.

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

at the Lower East Side Girls Club, located at 402 E 8th St., NY 10009.

August 8th

Join me on

Saturday, September 14th

to garden alongside volunteers at Stuyvesant Square Park.

10 a.m.

SAVE THE DATE!

Education Town Hall
Tuesday, September 17th
7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Hang with Harvey

I will be out in the district every other Wednesday to meet with you! Come say hi at the following dates and times:

July 31, Wednesday

8:30–10:30 a.m.

Tompkins Square Park on Avenue A and St. Mark's Place

August 14, Wednesday

4:30–6:30 p.m.

By the L Train on the corner of 1st Avenue and 14th Street

September 4, Wednesday

8:30–10:30 a.m.

By the F Train on the corner of Houston Street and 1st Avenue

September 17, Tuesday

4:30–6:30 p.m.

Corner of Avenue C and 11th Street

October 2, Wednesday

8:30–10:30 a.m.

Stuyvesant Square Park

October 16, Wednesday

4:30–6:30 p.m.

2nd Avenue and 23rd Street
(Near Morton Williams)



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MOBILE OFFICE HOURS

FRIDAY, AUGUST 9TH:

Sirovich Senior Center at 331 E 12th Street: 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17TH:

344 E. 28th Street Family Day: 12 p.m. – 6 p.m.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 22ND:

Grand St. Settlement at 80 Pitt Street: 12 p.m. – 2 p.m.

We are still working out additional dates and times for our office to be out in the district throughout the summer. If you want to be kept in the loop, call our office simply to ask for updates or sign up to receive our email blasts at **212-979-9696**.

Currently, we have a recurring mobile office hour at the **StuyTown Community Center** located at **449 E 14th St., New York, NY 10009**, the third Thursday of every month from **12 p.m. – 2 p.m.**