



Assembly Member

HARVEY EPSTEIN



74TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT • REPORTS TO THE PEOPLE • WINTER 2021

Dear Neighbor,

As we near the end of 2021, I want to reflect on our accomplishments as a community and think about where we need to go. As always, I am impressed and humbled by the strength of our district, and our ability to be resilient and to thrive even as we face difficult times.

We have a new Governor in New York, a vaccine to stop needless loss of life because of COVID, and an opportunity to advance a stronger vision of the future of our state. It's an honor to be representing our district and I look forward to working for you in 2022 to bring our progressive vision to Albany.

See you around the district,

Harvey Epstein

74th Assembly District

DISTRICT OFFICE:

107 Avenue B, New York, NY 10009, New York, NY 10007 • 212-979-9696 • FAX: 212-979-0594

ALBANY OFFICE:

Room 427, LOB, Albany, NY 12248 • 518-455-5506 • FAX: 518-455-4801
epsteinh@nyassembly.gov

2021 RECAP

We passed historic legislation this year to support millions of New Yorkers who were struggling during the COVID epidemic. I am proud of what we passed, knowing it helped millions of New Yorkers get through this terrible pandemic:

Saving Small Businesses

We allocated over \$1 billion in grants and tax credits as a part of the Pandemic Small Business Recovery Grant Program

Protecting Tenants and Paying Back Rent for Landlords

We passed one of the strongest eviction moratoriums in the country and steered over \$2 billion of federal funds towards impacted tenants and landlords

Passing My Progressive Legislation

I'm proud to have passed 8 bills through both houses, tackling progressive priorities and making common sense reforms across a variety of issue areas.

Reforming Prisons

- 1 **A3078 / S923** – This bill allows incarcerated people convicted of nonviolent offenses to be eligible to shorten their sentences by taking college classes (Signed Chapter 242)

Protecting the Environment

- 2 **A5605 / S6334** – This bill requires all towns, cities and villages to create and publish a plan to deal with solid waste, including recycling and composting (Signed Chapter 551)

Protecting Tenants

- 3 **A3320A / S4455A** – This bill ensures that unrepresented tenants are explained in detail what they are signing in court before they sign any court agreement
- 4 **A5393A / S4485A** – This bill includes landlord training classes in the definition of neighborhood preservation activities to allow state funding to cover those expenses
- 5 **A3112B / S427A** – This bill requires housing voucher recipients, including Section 8 recipients, to be informed about source of income discrimination and how to assert their rights if they believe they are being discriminated against (Signed Chapter 243)

Protecting Our Environment

We authorized the \$3 billion Environmental Bond Act of 2021 to invest in projects that reduce the impact of climate change

Excluded Worker Fund

We created a \$2.1 billion Excluded Worker Fund to provide unemployment benefits to workers who lost employment or income during the pandemic but were ineligible for federal benefits

Taxing the Ultra-wealthy

We created new tax brackets for those whose income is between \$5 million and \$25 million and over \$25 million

Modernizing the Electoral System

- 6 **A4257A / S1277A** – This bill modernizes the practices of administering examinations and instructional courses by providing the opportunity to complete these requirements online, with supplementary in-person instruction (Signed Chapter 310)

Supporting New Yorkers with Disabilities

- 7 **A7223A / S6276A** – This bill requires the president of the civil service commission to conduct a study on the employment of persons and veterans with disabilities by the state

Protecting College Students

- 8 **A3136A / S4237A** – This bill prohibits a college from receiving state funding if they require mandatory arbitration for students who get student loans (Signed Chapter 573)

Five of these bills have become law already, and the rest are awaiting the Governor's signature. You can read the full text of my bills by visiting <https://nyassembly.gov/> and using the Bill Search feature at the top of the webpage.

In the Field

Supporting Small Business

Our office is dedicated to ensuring that the policies we pass in Albany are being put into action in our community. We have continued to go door to door in our district to ensure that small businesses know about the resources available to them and we are happy to be providing sanitizer, masks, and application support to the Business Pandemic Recovery Initiative.



Visiting Rikers Island

As an elected official, I have a statutory right to visit prisons and jails unannounced. Earlier this year, I exercised that right at Rikers Island. There I witnessed an appalling failure of government that underscored the urgency behind closing the jail. The conditions at Rikers are deplorable, inexcusable, and violate basic human rights principles. It can't continue. New Yorkers are sleeping on the floor, in garbage, and lacking everyday necessities like food, water, and medical care. The disregard for human life is beyond unacceptable. In the short term, the Mayor must use his authority to release incarcerated people at Rikers. The only way to end this crisis is to close the jail permanently, and end our overreliance on cash bail and incarceration as tools for public safety.

Launching a Community Fridge and Providing Food Delivery for New Yorkers in Need

I was proud to partner with the community to launch several community fridges around the district, including one on the corner of East 9th Street & Avenue B, as well as facilitate hundreds of free food deliveries across the district.



Apply To Join Our Youth Council

We are seeking local middle and high school students to join our district youth council.
The deadline to apply is **Friday, January 14, 2022.**

HELP ENGAGE OUR COMMUNITY! Join the AD74 Youth Council!

As a member of the youth council, you'll have the opportunity to:

- Help determine legislative priorities in our community
- Organize community events
- Increase civic engagement across the district
- Develop valuable leadership skills...and more!

For more information contact our district office at 212-979-9696.

New York State Assembly, Albany, New York 12248



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CONSTITUENT SURVEY



I want to hear from you. Visit <https://nyassembly.gov/mem/Harvey-Epstein>
and click **"Take my 2022 Constituent Survey"**

on the homepage to complete our constituent survey online.

If you would like to request a hard copy of the survey, call **212-979-9696.**