



Assembly Member
**HARVEY
EPSTEIN**



74TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT • REPORTS TO THE PEOPLE • SPRING 2022

Dear Neighbor,

It feels like spring. I hope you take the time to get outside and enjoy the many parks and community gardens in our neighborhood. In this newsletter, I'll provide a breakdown of the recently enacted 2022-23 State Budget, as well as update you on some of my recent legislative accomplishments. You'll also find information about events our office is sponsoring, as well how our office can help you if you're in need. If you need anything, feel free to contact our office. We are happy to help with PPE and free in-home covid tests. Please stay safe out there.

See you around the district,

Harvey

Budget Update

We won some important victories in the budget, but we still have to keep fighting, especially on the criminal justice front. In addition to winning our fights to extract the Governor's wasteful 421-a developer giveaway as well as mayoral control of schools from the budget, we also delivered in the following areas:

Childcare

- Increases eligibility for subsidies up to 300 percent of the federal poverty level.
- Increases market rate reimbursement at 80 percent.
- Provides stabilization grants including funds for wages and other provider needs. Unfortunately undocumented children were excluded.

Education

- Includes \$31.2 billion in School Aid.
- Includes \$21.3 billion in Foundation Aid.
- Includes \$1.1 billion for Universal Prekindergarten.



Higher Education

- Includes \$48.8 million for SUNY and \$59.6 million for CUNY to fully reimburse each system and accelerate the planned elimination of the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) gap by two years.

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Budget Update (continued from page 1)

- Includes \$150 million to expand TAP eligibility to 75,000 additional part-time students and \$5 million to restore TAP eligibility for incarcerated individuals.
- Extends \$2 million in funding to support students with disabilities.

Rental & Housing Arrears

- Includes \$1.1 billion in funding for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) and the Landlord Rental Assistance Program (LRAP).
- Includes \$250 million for a utility arrears program, to be administered by the Department of Public Service.
- Allocates \$350 million in capital for NYCHA, which is the greatest single investment by the state in the last 20 years.

Environment

- Authorizes an additional \$1.2 billion for the Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act, bringing the total investment to \$4.2 billion.
- Invests a record \$400 million Environmental Protection Fund to support climate change mitigation projects, improve agricultural resources, protect our water sources, advance conservation efforts, and provide recreational opportunities for all New Yorkers.

- Includes \$2 million for municipal composting projects to help drive down greenhouse gas emissions caused by food scraps rotting in landfills.

Lastly, I want to applaud Speaker Heastie for standing up and fighting for facts and against fear. The policy making was not informed by data this year. In combination with the resurgence of failed broken windows policing in New York City the last minute changes to the historically successful bail reform law are going to put more people in jail. These changes will disproportionately impact low-income people of color. This is a moral and policy failure that will senselessly spend public dollars on incarcerating poor people. While there is so much good in this budget, the rollbacks to the bail law come up short for New Yorkers.



Welcoming our New Staff Member, Chanel!

Chanel Elliott is a proud member of the Lower East Side Community. Her passion for public service was sparked while advocating for the TLC drivers of New York City. She intends to be an ally of the community and elevate the voices of the unheard. Chanel is excited to join the team and she looks forward to working with all of the constituents to bring positive change to the community.



Our Legislative Victories



A Non-religious Option for Substance Use Treatment

I'm proud to report my bill to ensure New Yorkers court mandated to attend a substance use treatment program can exercise their right to participate in a nonreligious treatment program, if that's what will work best for them.

The purpose of the legislation is to ensure that New Yorkers in recovery are matched with treatment programs and support meetings that align with their personal beliefs. The bill also seeks to avoid costly lawsuits brought against the state by defendants seeking to enforce their constitutional rights. Courts have repeatedly upheld defendants' rights to participate in nonreligious treatment programs, if the defendants object to religious elements of a program assigned by the court. I was proud to work with Senator Harckham on this legislation and I look forward to its passage in the Senate.



Ending Transcript Withholding

I'm happy to report that after a long fight we passed legislation to end the practice of transcript withholding. We expect the Governor to sign it soon. Transcript withholding is a tactic used by colleges against students who owe fees or tuition to force them to settle their balance. The school refuses to issue a transcript—the student's record of their accomplishments—until the student settles their balance with the school. Imagine needing to provide an employer with a transcript to begin your first job so you can start earning an income to pay back student loans but having your school stand in the way of that. The policy did not make sense. I am proud we worked with higher education advocates and Senator Kevin Thomas to end it and protect students.



Increasing Transparency in Higher Education

My bill to create a centralized online repository of information maintained by the New York State Education Department to help students make informed decisions about where to attend college has been reported from the Committee on Higher Education! By providing them with data on the cost of attendance, how schools spend their tuition dollars, debt students may reasonably expect to incur, and other students' employment outcomes after attending the school, students, parents, and guidance counselors will have the resources they need to choose the right school.



UPCOMING EVENTS

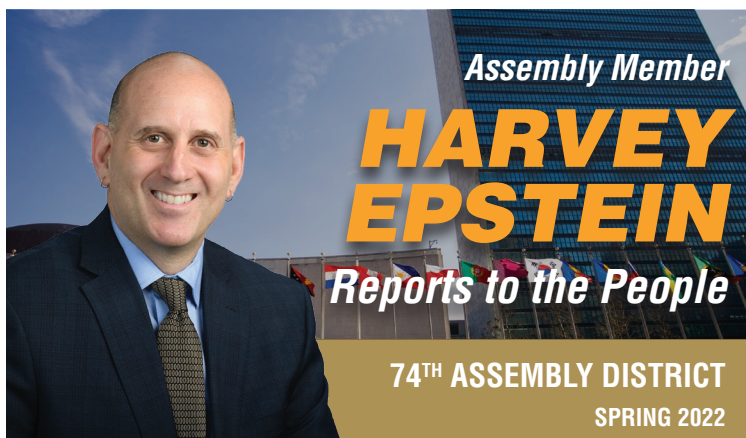
Paper Shredding Event

May 21st: 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

We're partnering with Beam Living to host a paper shredding event on Saturday May 21st from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM at Stuy Town on 14th St Loop Road (1 Stuyvesant Oval)

No electronics or batteries, paper only.
Please call 212-979-9696 with any questions.

New York State Assembly, Albany, New York 12248



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HANG WITH HARVEY - JUNE

Tuesday June 7th, 4:00 - 5:30 pm
C Town Supermarket - 188 Avenue C

Thursday June 9th, 2:00 - 3:30 pm
St. Vartan Park - East 35th St & 1st Ave

Thursday June 16th, 2:00 - 3:30 pm
Augustus St. Gaudens Playground
East 20th St and 2nd Ave

Wednesday June 22, 4:00 - 5:30 pm
Stuyvesant Town - East 14th Street & Avenue A

Info on COVID19, Education, Housing, Senior Services, Housing, and more.
Questions? Call 212-979-9696.