

Assemblymember  
**Tony Simone**

Assembly District 75



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Dear friends,

With the passage of the 2024-2025 State budget last month, I am turning to my legislative priorities for the final weeks of session in Albany. Below you will find details on the bills that I am working to pass this year, including protections for tenants, cutting red tape in order to build more housing, defending the LGBTQ+ community from discrimination, increasing access to public meetings, and more. My office is always open to ideas and comments on legislation being considered in Albany; if you would like to share your opinion on these or any other topics, contact us! You can call my office at (212) 807-7900 or email [simonet@nyassembly.gov](mailto:simonet@nyassembly.gov).

Thank you!

Tony

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**Housing & Tenant Protections**



*Rallying with Housing Conservation Coordinators and Housing Chair Assemblymember Linda Rosenthal to call for the passage of Good Cause Eviction*

Last month, [I wrote to you about the housing deal reached in the state budget](#). This deal did much to increase New York's housing supply, which is sorely needed while expanding protections for market-rate tenants with a form of Good Cause legislation. Unfortunately, this version wasn't good enough. We still face many battles ahead to ensure all New Yorkers have access to secure and affordable housing. I am championing several bills to help current tenants stay secure in their homes and develop more affordable housing.

- [A8920](#): The Department of Health estimates 3.2 million New York residents report having a disability, including limitations in hearing, vision, mobility, or cognition affecting their daily lives. This bill will prohibit any rent increase due to housing modifications made to accommodate the needs of these persons living with a disability.
- [A9157](#): As New York's affordable housing crisis continues to squeeze the economic livelihoods of families throughout the State, the issue of succession rights is of growing importance to the many New Yorkers who face the prospect of becoming homeless due to eviction upon the death of a loved one and/ or family member. This legislation

addresses the potentially arbitrary nature of the current process by requiring landlords to provide essential data to the State. This provision enables policymakers to move forward with rational policies that balance the rights of both tenants and landlord.

- [A9354](#): Getting approved to build affordable housing in New York, is extremely complicated. There is no shortage of forms, applications, rules, and bureaucratic hurdles in order for developers to be approved to build, resulting in prolonged waits for tenants before they can move in. This red tape is a contributing factor to the current vacancy rate of 1.4% in New York City, and I won't allow it to continue. I have teamed up with Senator Rachel May to create a common portal for developers to apply for all the permits, funding, tax credits, and other items they need to build housing in New York. Not only will the portal cut down on the time developers spend filling out applications, it will decrease the cost of building, as it will reduce the staff time and resources needed to complete the applications.
- [A6997](#): Equalizes the rights of tenants statewide to sue in the county where their home is located in matters concerning their tenancy or lease. The current law differentiates between downstate and upstate tenants, such that upstate tenants are more restricted in where they can send service of process in order to sue their landlord. Under this current scheme, a tenant in Brooklyn with a landlord located in Buffalo can sue their landlord in Kings County Small Claims Court, but a tenant in Buffalo with a landlord in Brooklyn is restricted to serving them in Erie County or an adjoining county.

### **Strengthening Local Voices**

- [A9885](#): The public consultation provisions of the Urban Development Corporation (UDC) Act disempowers communities impacted by massive redevelopment projects. Under the current provisions, a public hearing must be held within ten days of publication of notice of a redevelopment project. The failings include the fact that projects are developed in secret and not made public for the community planning process. The Mayor and City Clerk are made aware but the residents who live on the project site are not. Community Boards are supposed to be notified about a project before a public hearing occurs; however, more often than not, they do not learn about a hearing until after it has occurred. It is often the case that these so-called "public" hearings are conducted without any member of the public present. This legislation will expand the current ten-day period between notice of a project and a public hearing to thirty business days. Ensuring the public and all affected parties have the additional time to learn of public hearings and subsequently mobilize; creating meaningful public participation will promote transparency, accountability and good governance.
- [A10266](#): The COVID-19 pandemic changed the way New Yorkers interact with their government. Virtual public meetings allowed people who found it challenging to attend in person meetings to interact with their community, particularly people with disabilities and parents with young children. The 2022-2023 budget made many of the COVID era practices for virtual meetings permanent, but did not mandate that hybrid meetings are available statewide. By requiring all public meetings by state and local public bodies in

accordance with the open meetings law, this legislation ensures the future accessibility and transparency of public meetings. Additionally, this legislation ensures that public comments can always be taken virtually along with in person accessibility.

- [A10237](#): The MTA board includes representatives of riders from throughout the region. This bill extends the terms of these critical voices to ensure the urgent priorities and insights of riders are heard at every board meeting. Additionally, I cosponsor A.923 which will upgrade these board members to full voting status which ensures rides are prioritized by the board.
- [A8620](#): There are over 70 opioid treatment programs in New York City alone. These clinics are a crucial part of our city's health services infrastructure serving the nearly 30,000 people across the city that receive methadone treatments each year. This bill would require that methadone and other controlled substance clinics establish a community advisory board in order to receive an operating certificate from OASAS. This will encourage collaboration and conversation between service providers and the local communities in which they reside to meet the needs of New Yorkers during this public health crisis.

## Protecting our Environment



*Pushing for the NY HEAT Act to pass the Legislature with advocates and colleagues in Albany*

- [A10352](#): The polystyrene foam container and loose fill ban, enacted in 2010, has helped reduce the amount of waste and litter in New York, improving the recyclability of packing materials overall. This bill is necessary to ensure that counties retain their incentive to help with enforcement of this ban, furthering New York's progress to a greener future.
- [A9164](#): We love composting on the west side and it's critical to expand composting programs. This study will help us find what's working best so that we can implement better policies statewide. Upwards of 40 percent of the food purchased is wasted. Most of this ends up creating methane gas as it decomposes in a landfill, contributing to climate change. Resources are wasted from growing, packaging, transporting and refrigerating food through labor, water, energy, and other inputs. When we waste food, we also waste these resources. Initiatives have been put in place to reduce the amount of food wasted and resources used.
- [A10098](#): New York's landmark 2019 Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) set a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions 40% economy-wide by 2030 and 80% by 2050 from 1990 levels. The Climate Action Council's Final Scoping Plan, which lays out a roadmap for how New York State may achieve these goals, calls for 40% or more of medium- and heavy-duty vehicle sales and 10% of medium and heavy-duty vehicles total to be zero-emission by 2030. By 2050, the scoping plan declares, the transportation sector must shift almost completely to zero emission vehicles. This bill will set requirements for truck fleets to switch to zero emission vehicles, meaning lower emissions and cleaner air for all.

**Defending the LGBTQ Community**



*Marching at Pride in 2023 with Assemblymember Grace Lee & other friends, neighbors and colleagues*

- [A4576](#): Transgender kids have been under attack across the country and most recently right here in Manhattan. I have been working with Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal to pass legislation to codify protections for transgender students in state law. By codifying a requirement that school districts have procedures and policies in place to ensure that they treat students consistently with their gender identity or expression, allow students to access sex-segregated facilities and activities consistent with their gender identity or expression, and protect the privacy of data related to students' transgender or gender nonconforming status, this legislation will help guide school districts towards the best practices for creating a safe and healthy learning environment for all students.
- [A6059](#): Ensuring easy access to PrEP medication is key to ending the HIV epidemic. New Yorkers at risk for HIV have faced barriers in accessing PrEP, particularly insurance companies' use of stringent prior authorization requirements and improper denials of

coverage. Health care providers should be the only step needed to access PrEP. By banning prior authorization for PrEP, this legislation will result in fewer people contracting HIV.

### **Completing Hudson River Park**

- [A.10224](#): In summer of 2023, the Hudson River Park Trust convened the Pier 76 Task Force to explore and discuss ideas that could lead to the successful redevelopment of the largest piece of undeveloped area in Hudson River Park that would help support the overall care and maintenance of the park. Pier 76 faces up to \$150 million in repair and reconstruction costs that must be faced in the near future to avoid the complete removal of the pier for any public use. This legislation updates the Hudson River Park Act to allow for new uses at the pier that will allow for the needed repairs and a tremendous new green space for the west side!
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### **Out & About in the District**

#### Shred Truck Days

Spring is a great time to clear out your space and go into the warmer weather refreshed. To help constituents do just that, my office organized a shred truck day for our friends and neighbors in Chelsea: check out some photos from the event below! Thank you so much to everyone who came out; we had a fantastic turnout with nearly 200 neighbors stopping by to shred their old papers.







The need was so great in Chelsea that I co-sponsored another shred day with my colleagues, Assemblymember Harvey Epstein and Assemblymember Alex Bores.



### AIDS Walk 2024

It was a joy to attend the AIDS Walk this year with friends and colleagues! HIV and AIDS still affect 39 million people worldwide, and millions have died from AIDS since the beginning of the epidemic in the 1980's. I'm proud to support GMHC, the nation's leading provider of HIV/AIDS care, prevention services, and advocacy, serving thousands of people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS in New York City.



[AAPI Summit Panel with Assemblymember Karines Reyes](#)

[The AAPI community has experienced traumatizing, disturbing instances of violence and hatred, \(https://stopaapihate.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/22-SAH-NationalReport-3.1.22-v9.pdf\)](https://stopaapihate.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/22-SAH-NationalReport-3.1.22-v9.pdf) which leaves its mark on the community's psyche. That's why I was so proud to be part of a panel as part of the inaugural AAPI Task Force Summit in Albany, talking about mental health

care for AAPI youth. The message from New York State is simple: we've got you. We are here for you, we have your back. [We passed millions of dollars in mental health funding in this year's budget](https://www.budget.ny.gov/pubs/press/2024/fy25-enacted-budget-mental-health.html), (<https://www.budget.ny.gov/pubs/press/2024/fy25-enacted-budget-mental-health.html>) and I'll keep fighting to support mental health investments in the future.



*Speaking on a panel at the inaugural AAPI summit*

### Good Cause Eviction Town Hall with Senator Liz Krueger

On **Thursday, June 20th from 6:30pm – 8pm**, join me, Senator Liz Krueger, and other elected officials for a virtual town hall on the new Good Cause Eviction law, which was passed in this year's State Budget and signed into law by the Governor.

Senator Krueger's  
Virtual Town Hall:

# Good Cause Eviction: New Protections for Market Rate Tenants

DATE: Thursday, June 20th  
TIME: 6:30pm – 8pm

Please REGISTER to attend at  
[www.tinyurl.com/Good-Cause-6-20-24](http://www.tinyurl.com/Good-Cause-6-20-24)

Participants and sponsors include:

- Liz Krueger (State Senator)
- Brad Hoylman-Sigal (State Senator)
- Kristin Gonzalez (State Senator)
- Brian Kavanagh (New York State Senator)
- Jose M. Serrano (New York State Senator)
- Tony Simone (Assembly Member)
- Linda B. Rosenthal (Assembly Member)
- Alex Bores (State Assembly Member)
- Rebecca Seawright (Assembly Member)
- Harvey Spetznick (Assembly Member)
- Carlina Rivera (New York City Council Member)
- Keith Powers (New York City Council Member)
- Julie Menin (New York City Council Member)

This provision will finally add some new tenant protections for renters in market rate units - in other words, those that are not rent regulated. At the town hall, you will hear from a leading Housing Attorney on what is in the law and what it means for you.

You will have the option of joining the event online through Zoom and Facebook. Please note that you do not need a Facebook account or profile to view this event. Finally, you will have the option of calling in to access the audio-only portion of the event.

The event will feature a question and answer session with Ellen Davidson. If you have questions about the new Good Cause Eviction law, if there are limits on how much your landlord can raise your rent, and what kinds of rental units are covered by this law, you should attend the Town Hall on June 20th. Attendees will be able to submit questions through Zoom and Facebook during the event but are *\*strongly\** encouraged to submit them in advance.

This event will be recorded, and the link to the event video and all the resources listed in the chat will be sent to everyone who RSVPed approximately a week after the event. A *\*confirmation\** email will be sent approximately two weeks before the event.

[Click here to register for the town hall!](#)

This event is cosponsored by State Senators Kristin Gonzalez, Brad Hoylman-Sigal, Brian

Kavanagh, and Jose Serrano, Assembly Members Linda Rosenthal, Alex Bores, Harvey Epstein, Rebecca Seawright, and Tony Simone, and NYC Council Members Julie Menin, Keith Powers, and Carlina Rivera.

## **Community Events & News**

### CBO Grant Opportunity - \$25k for Food Insecurity & Economic Mobility

Since 2022, as part of a \$5 million commitment to expanding equitable access, Shipt has awarded \$500,000 in grants to organizations focused on food insecurity, economic disparities, and youth workforce development. Across the country, Shipt's grants have helped supply nearly 400,000 pounds of healthy foods, served nearly 225,000 food-insecure individuals, engaged 106 small businesses, and supported training and workforce development for 880 learners and workers.

Last year's recipients include New York non-profit Equity Advocates. Located in Harrison, Equity Advocates partners with other New York-based organizations – including the NYC Food Policy Alliance – to alleviate hunger through the provision of policy education, advocacy training, and coalition-building services. With these funds, they'll lead at least eight workshops for 200 food justice leaders doing direct service work across all five boroughs.

For more information and a link to the application, please visit:

<https://corporate.shipt.com/news/apply-today-shipt-now-accepting-community-impact-and-innovation-grant-application>.

The application can be completed online and only takes 7 minutes! Apply by **June 14**.

### Virtual Briefing on Renting in New York City from the New York Public Library

On **Wednesday May 29th from 12-1:30pm**, Pamela Glaser guides you through the process of finding your new home from your apartment search through signing the lease. The discussion includes:

Application requirements and fees

Typical financial requirements; insurance

The difference between a rent-stabilized apartment and a market-rate apartment

Leases

Rental guidelines

Protections against discrimination

The NYC housing lottery

[Click here to register!](#)

The Edna A. Lauterbach Scholarship is now accepting applications!

The application period is now open for the 2024 Edna A. Lauterbach Scholarship, which provides up to \$6,200 for nurses! This scholarship is designed to encourage New York State LPNs and RNs to pursue a life-long career in home and community-based care – a growing field that needs high-quality nurses. Nurses licensed in New York State can use these funds for tuition to explore or expand their career in home or community-based care!

To qualify, applicants must be either an LPN or an RN licensed in New York State.

The application deadline is **June 1**.

The scholarship application can be found at [www.ednascholarship.org](http://www.ednascholarship.org).

Those with questions about the EAL scholarship should contact Caroline Casale at 518.463.1118, ext. 824 or [casale@nyshcp.org](mailto:casale@nyshcp.org).

Requesting Feedback on the Truck Route Network Redesign

NYC DOT has launched its [Truck Route Network Redesign Public Feedback Portal!](#) The Portal will allow the public and freight industry to learn about the city's truck route network and provide feedback. The public is able to comment and provide feedback through identifying issues and concerns of the current network via an interactive map. Feedback will help inform NYC DOT on how and where we can look to improve movement of trucks on city streets.

The deadline to provide public feedback is **June 30, 2024**.

Resources from the Manhattan Chamber of Commerce

The Manhattan Chamber of Commerce provides a number of free resources and support for small businesses in Manhattan. See below for several opportunities!

**FREE ONE-ON-ONE CONSULTING FOR SMALL BUSINESSES**

The NYC Small Business Resource Network is a comprehensive support program for small businesses located in the five boroughs of New York City. It conducts outreach to businesses throughout the city, offering free resources, one-on-one consulting and other sources of help. This includes help with:

Grants and loans

Digital marketing

Business planning and strategy

Lease negotiations

Legal needs and compliance

To learn more visit [www.smallbiz.nyc](http://www.smallbiz.nyc) or contact the Manhattan Chamber of Commerce at [helpdesk@manhattancc.org](mailto:helpdesk@manhattancc.org) or (212) 473-7875.

**FREE WEBSITES AND LOGOS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES**

The NYC Small Business Resource Network is accepting applications for its Open + Online Program: businesses can receive a professionally designed website OR personalized SEO consulting OR logo and branding support!

Website building services include having the hosting fee paid in advance for one year! Graphic designers can help you create a logo and provide additional branding items like a color palette, font selections, and a brief style guide.

View examples on [their website](#), or get in touch with your local borough Chamber of Commerce. Space is limited, and applications are reviewed on a rolling basis, so apply soon!

Apply now: <https://www.nycsmallbusinessresourcenetwork.org/openandonline>

### RETAIL STOREFRONT ACCELERATOR

The Manhattan Chamber of Commerce is launching a Retail Storefront Accelerator program – a six-month initiative designed to support retail entrepreneurs in launching and growing their first brick-and-mortar business in Manhattan.

We are currently in the process of selecting businesses to include in the program (storefronts that want to expand to Manhattan, or online stores that want to launch a storefront in Manhattan), as well as mentors for those business owners to learn from during the program (that could be you or another retail expert in your network!).

More information about the program can be found [here](#).

### The People's Money: Voting is Open!

The NYC Civic Engagement Commission (CEC) is excited to announce the second-year of voting in The People's Money, its citywide participatory budgeting process! Your constituents' ages 11 and up, regardless of immigration status, are able to decide how to spend millions of the City's budget.

The voting process is **NOW LIVE** and goes through **Wednesday, June 12th**. New Yorkers are encouraged to vote to fund projects in their boroughs online at [on.nyc.gov/pb](http://on.nyc.gov/pb), or by paper ballot thanks to partnerships with community based organizations, [locations listed here](#). Residents living in any one of the five boroughs will be able to vote on a ballot for that borough.

### Summer Jazz Sensations in Lincoln Square

Summer is almost here, and that means that the rhythms of jazz will soon lead you to Lincoln Square. For the third year in a row, the Lincoln Square BID's highly successful Summer Jazz Sensations concert series will return to **Dante Park (Broadway and W 64th Street) every Wednesday from noon to 1:30pm between June 19 and September 18, 2024.**

This year, the series, curated by saxophonist Eric Person, will be bigger and better than ever, featuring a total of 14 performances. Come with friends or make new ones at each show. Every note promises to be a celebration of music, summer joy, and the Lincoln Square neighborhood. This summer's series will include the following performers:

June 19: Dave Stryker

June 26: Shirley Crabbe



July 3: Bill Ware  
July 10: Steve Kroon  
July 17: Pat Bianchi  
July 24: Eric Walentowicz  
July 31: Lezlie Harrison  
August 7: Gabriele Tranchina  
August 14: Kenny Davis  
August 21: Ronald Jackson  
August 28: Duane Eubanks Quartet  
September 4: David Janeway Quintet  
September 11: Cynthia Scott  
September 18: Eric Person & Rhythm Edge