



# Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz

*Reports to the People of the 81<sup>st</sup> Assembly District*

*Este noticiario está disponible en español en nuestro sitio Web o en nuestra oficina.*

District Office: 3107 Kingsbridge Avenue, Bronx, NY 10463 • (718) 796-5345

Office Hours are Monday-Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Appointments are strongly preferred and will be outdoors only.

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Serving the communities of Kingsbridge, Kingsbridge Heights, Marble Hill, Norwood, Riverdale, Van Cortlandt Village, Wakefield, and Woodlawn

## AMIDST A STUBBORN PANDEMIC, MY OFFICE IS OPEN AND READY TO HELP

Dear Neighbor:

Twenty-one months into a stubborn COVID-19 pandemic, I think many of us feel the same desire to get back to a state of normalcy in New York. We want to be able to see our friends and family members without worrying whether we will be bringing them a deadly virus, or becoming infected ourselves. We want to go walk out the front door without having to worry whether we remembered our mask. But there are some things that we should not return to.

The pandemic has made clear that our healthcare system is too reliant on employer-based health coverage and that our top priority must be ensuring that all New Yorkers need access to high-quality, affordable healthcare within their own neighborhoods. The New York Health Act is the policy that would get us to this point, and it remains a top priority of mine as we prepare to return to session in January.

The pandemic has also made clear that we need to root out the sources of anti-science, anti-vaccine misinformation, and pseudoscience. Too many people are making the medical decision about whether to get vaccinated or even about the risks of acquiring COVID-19, based on social media posts and not based on conversations with their trusted medical professionals.

As Bronxites, we are no strangers to challenging times. And we will get through this pandemic, stronger and more resilient than before.

My office remains available to everyone in our community who needs help, has questions, or simply wants to share an opinion on policy issues before the state. My staff and I are available Monday through Friday, 10 am to 4 pm at my District Office located at 3107 Kingsbridge Avenue (we are currently handling all matters outdoors due to the ongoing pandemic). We are also available by telephone and email.

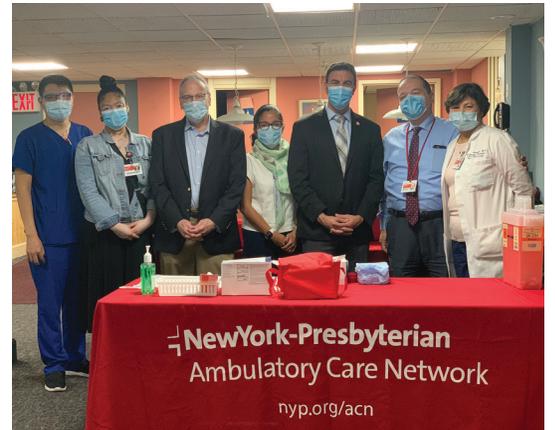
Please contact us without any hesitation, and we are ready to help you in any way that we can. Thank you for being a part of our community here in the north and northwest Bronx.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Dinowitz  
Member of Assembly

### Keeping Our Community Healthy

My office hosted a series of flu shot events throughout the district. We made stops in Van Cortlandt Village at Vladeck Hall, in northern Riverdale at the Riverdale Y, and in central Riverdale at St. Gabriel's Church, where we also had COVID-19 vaccines available.



Pictured above: (1) Assemblyman Dinowitz getting a flu shot provided by DuaneReade/Walgreens at the Riverdale Y (2) Assemblyman Dinowitz and Council Member Dinowitz standing with doctors and nurses from NewYork-Presbyterian ready to administer flu shots and COVID-19 vaccines at St. Gabriel's Church.

### Fighting For Pro-Science Legislation on Vaccination

I have made no secret of my strong support for pro-science policies around vaccinations, and I am proud to continue this work in 2021 and going into 2022. Everyone who is medically able to get the COVID-19 vaccine should do so — not only to protect themselves but to protect our whole community including those who are medically unable to be vaccinated. If you have personal questions or concerns about the vaccination, please speak with your doctor to get accurate and personalized advice on your medical situation.

This year, I successfully passed legislation to crack down on forged vaccination records. This legislation would explicitly state that the manufacture or possession of a fake COVID-19 vaccine card is classified as a felony under forgery statute, and it expands this statute to include fake electronic vaccination records as well. I believe this legislation is critically important to ensure that vaccine requirements designed to keep New Yorkers safe are working as intended, instead of lulling people into a false sense of public health security.

I have also introduced a package of new legislation to promote COVID-19 vaccination. These bills include the addition of the COVID-19 vaccine to the list of existing vaccine requirements to attend school in New York State, the prohibition of non-medical exemptions to any vaccine requirement in New York State, and the elimination of a double standard in municipal vaccination requirements where visiting performers are held to the same requirements as resident performers (ex: sports teams based in New York are required to have all players vaccinated in order to play in home games, but visiting teams are not).

I understand that vaccine-related bills may face strenuous opposition, particularly among a fringe minority of vocal anti-vaccine activists. However, I believe these bills are grounded in good public health policy and science. Vaccines work, and there is no reason we should accept a world full of preventable diseases simply because there are some people who would rather take advice from YouTube videos and social media memes than experts who are building on centuries of research into the spread and prevention of diseases.

## Opposing Proposed Homeless Shelter at 6661 Broadway

The New York City Department of Homeless Services has informed our community of their plans to construct a new 130-bed shelter for single adult men at 6661 Broadway, which is located a block south of the Yonkers-Bronx County line. I oppose this proposal for several reasons. The proposal aims to open this shelter in two years, and would require the construction of a new building.

First, the city plans to put 4-6 adult men in each room together. While I understand that this may be standard operating protocol for shelters in our city, I don't think anybody believes that housing multiple people who likely have similar underlying issues, such as substance use or other mental health disorder, together in one room is an ideal solution — let alone on the scale of 130 people. There are obvious cost considerations to be had here, but I believe single-occupancy rooms would be more humane and frankly more effective at helping people experiencing homelessness.

Second, there are several small businesses located on the current site, including some that have been in our community for at least a quarter of a century. It defies logic that the City of New York would propose to essentially evict these business owners who are just beginning to emerge from the devastation of the COVID-19 pandemic. I don't know what the terms of their leases are, but I am deeply concerned and angry that these hard-working entrepreneurs may lose their livelihoods as part of this proposal.

Third, I remain concerned about the organizational structure of the non-profit organization (African American Planning Commission, Incorporated) given the fact that the city is offering them a \$195 million contract that lasts more than three decades. When we are dealing with a \$195 million contract, I think it is important that there are no questions about how an organization is being run.

Fourth, similar shelters in my district have a history of problems in recent years. Most notably, the former Executive Director of an adult men's shelter in Wakefield was violently stalked, sexually assaulted, and murdered by a former resident. Following this tragic incident, the community learned that around 40% of the shelter residents had been convicted of sexually-based offenses. Additionally, an adult men's shelter in Norwood has resulted in continual problems in adjacent businesses with shoplifting and loitering. This is by no means an indictment of every unhoused person, but I think it is very important to recognize that there are legitimate concerns about safety involved with this type of large facility.

The vast majority of my constituents who have contacted me about this proposal have been adamantly opposed, and that number is even higher when looking only at comments from people who live in the immediate vicinity of 6661 Broadway. There are some, ironically who do not live near 6661 Broadway, who are attempting to reductively paint opposition to this shelter as simple NIMBYism (Not In My Back Yard), or even in racial or class-based terminology. In my opinion, this argument grossly mischaracterizes most people who have spoken up about this proposal. The people I have heard speak up at public forums organized by Community Board 8, as well as those who emailed or called, or visited my office, have been racially and ethnically diverse. Most, if not all, of the people who live along the northern Broadway corridor, have working-class backgrounds. Most people have expressed a desire to help those without homes, but they just want to be more involved in the process instead of having a plan shoved down their throats, *fait accompli*.

I will continue to engage with our community about this important subject, and I will continue to try to work with the Department of Homeless Services to ensure that our concerns are heard and addressed.



Assemblyman Dinowitz speaks to News12 at a rally organized by community members in opposition to the proposed shelter at 6661 Broadway.

## Successful Shred Day Return

After a pandemic-related hiatus, I am very pleased that we were able to organize another free and secure paper shredding event outside of my office this fall. Thank you to Council Member Eric Dinowitz and Congressman Adriano Espaillat for their partnership!



Council Member Eric Dinowitz and Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz at a busy paper shredding event outside the Assembly District Office on Kingsbridge Avenue.

## Rosh Hashanah Celebration at the Y

I am very excited that our older adult centers have finally started to reopen, and I was pleased to join the Riverdale Y this year for a celebration of Rosh Hashanah. It was great to get to talk to neighbors about the issues that they care about!



Assemblyman Dinowitz talks with older adults over apples and honey at the Riverdale Y in celebration of Rosh Hashanah.

## Dinowitz Request For New Public School at Visitation Site Moves One Step Closer to Reality

For several years, I have been actively lobbying the City to acquire the site of the former Church of the Visitation campus on Van Cortlandt Park South for use as a new primary school to alleviate overcrowding at adjacent schools. This site became vacant after the Archdiocese of New York decided to close and deconsecrate the school and church, and I am very pleased to share that the New York City School Construction Authority has announced that they intend to open a new primary school at this location.

The proposal is to open a new, approximately 696-seat primary school facility at this location by the year 2027. As part of this new school construction project, there would also be a new residential housing development. I believe that it is a significant victory for our community to acquire a new primary school, which will help alleviate overcrowding at four neighboring schools: P.S. 7, P.S. 24, P.S. 81, and P.S. 95.

## No Time to Waste, We Need Climate Action Now

Climate change is real, and its impacts are being felt right here and now. There should have been no doubt about this fact before, but the back-to-back record-setting rainfalls in New York City this summer from Tropical Storm Henri and Hurricane Ida have made abundantly clear that our weather is indeed becoming more intense and more frequent. We need to continue to build on the progress made in the landmark 2019 Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, which established the most aggressive climate goals in the nation, and we need to pass significant climate-related legislation to meet these ambitious goals.

I have authored a pair of bills related to greenhouse gas emissions in the transportation sector, which have been gathering support among my colleagues. The first bill would require all public transit agencies in the state to purchase only zero-emission buses starting in the year 2029, tasking the New York State Department of Transportation with helping facilitate this conversion. The second bill would create contracting incentives for transit agencies to procure these zero-emission buses and charging equipment from communities right here in New York through a best-value contracting framework.

Additionally, I am proud to support the Climate and Community Investment Act. This legislation may be the single most impactful climate-related bill we can enact in New York. It would functionally establish a carbon tax in New York for massive industrial corporations, funneling that money back into communities that have been most impacted by climate change and air pollution. This concept utilizes free-market principles to establish restrictions on the amount of greenhouse gas emissions allowed to be produced and would effectively incorporate the social cost of greenhouse gas pollution into the corporate accounting of goods and services, instead of foisting it on everyday people in the form of contaminated air and water and negative health impacts.

### Keeping Wakefield Clean

One of the most common complaints I receive is about trash littering the streets of our neighborhoods. I was proud to sponsor several community clean-up events along White Plains Road, East 241st Street, and East 242nd Street along with Wakefield4Change and Council Member Eric Dinowitz. We came back after cleaning up the tree pits and planted some daffodils and tulips, and I can't wait to see how it looks in the spring. Thank you to Christlean of Wakefield4Change for taking the initiative to keep our community clean and looking good!



Assemblyman Dinowitz with Christlean from Wakefield4Change and staff from the offices of Council Member Eric Dinowitz and State Senator Jamaal Bailey at a community cleanup event.

### New Stanley Manne Center at Bronx High School of Science

The Bronx High School of Science broke ground on a new Stanley Manne '52 Science Institute, which will become a state-of-the-art research building on campus. This building is expected to be completed in Fall 2022, and was made possible by a donation from Bronx Science alumnus, Stanley Manne, in what is one of the single largest donations to any public school in New York City ever. I was proud to join fellow Bronx Science alumni at this exciting ground-breaking, including my colleagues in government Assemblymember Kenny Burgos, State Senator Jamaal Bailey, and Council Member Eric Dinowitz.



Assemblyman Dinowitz breaks ground at the Stanley Manne '52 Science Institute along with Department of Education Commissioner Meisha Porter, Mayor Bill de Blasio, and others.

### Celebrating Our Veterans

Thank you to each and every veteran, as well as their families, who have courageously served our country. I have continued to fight for legislation to help support veterans, including the enactment of a new law this year to ensure that people applying for veterans designations at the DMV are provided with information about veterans programs available to them.



Pictured above: (1) Assemblyman Dinowitz with Korean War veteran Herb Barret at the annual veterans' celebration at Memorial Grove in Van Cortlandt Park. (2) Assemblyman Dinowitz standing with veterans Nick and Joelle Lynch of Tree Army and Council Member Eric Dinowitz at the newly restored flag pole at the monument on Riverdale Avenue and West 239th Street, at a new ceremony organized by Danny Monge. (3) Assemblyman Dinowitz speaks to veterans at Woodlawn Cemetery for a Laying of the Wreaths ceremony organized by State Senator Jamaal Bailey. Also present were Council Members Eric Dinowitz and Kevin Riley, Assemblywoman Nathalia Fernandez and Borough President-elect Vanessa Gibson.

# SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

These are issues that are expected to be particularly relevant during 2022. If you would like more information on any topic, please feel free to contact my office

There is room for two people to respond on each sheet. If you have more than two registered voters in your household, or prefer to respond electronically, please visit [Dinowitz.us/Survey2022](https://Dinowitz.us/Survey2022)

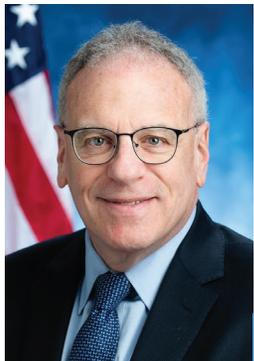
Mail Survey to District Office • 3107 Kingsbridge Avenue, Bronx, NY 10463

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1. Do you support vaccine requirements for access to public spaces, including workplaces and schools?  
 Yes  No  Undecided/No Opinion  
 Yes  No  Undecided/No Opinion
2. Do you support a “Good Cause” standard for eviction? This would mean that property owners who own a minimum number of units would be obligated to offer lease renewals to all tenants unless justification can be provided for not doing so.  
 Yes  No  Undecided/No Opinion  
 Yes  No  Undecided/No Opinion
3. Do you think speed cameras should be allowed to operate at all times? Currently, speed cameras are only able to operate between the hours of 6am and 10pm on weekdays.  
 Yes  No  Undecided/No Opinion  
 Yes  No  Undecided/No Opinion
4. Do you think older inmates who have served at least 15 years in prison should be eligible for a parole hearing at 55 years of age, regardless of the original sentence or crime?  
 Yes  No  Undecided/No Opinion  
 Yes  No  Undecided/No Opinion
5. Do you think parole commissioners should retain the ability to deny parole release based solely on the crime for which the incarcerated person was convicted?  
 Yes  No  Undecided/No Opinion  
 Yes  No  Undecided/No Opinion
6. Do you support a carbon tax in New York, where large industrial entities would be required to pay a fee for each unit of greenhouse gas emissions produced with that money directed to communities most impacted by climate change?  
 Yes  No  Undecided/No Opinion  
 Yes  No  Undecided/No Opinion
7. Do you think that eligible New Yorkers should be allowed to register to vote and vote in an election on the same day?  
 Yes  No  Undecided/No Opinion  
 Yes  No  Undecided/No Opinion
8. Do you think that funding for the police should be significantly reduced or eliminated?  
 Yes  No  Undecided/No Opinion  
 Yes  No  Undecided/No Opinion

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3107 Kingsbridge Avenue • Bronx, NY 10463



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**Jeffrey  
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Winter 2021-2022

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## Commemorating 20 Years of Children’s Hospital at Montefiore

I was pleased to join Montefiore this fall for a celebration of the 20 year anniversary of The Children’s Hospital at Montefiore. This institution has been at the forefront of pediatric research and has been a vital lifeline for families in the Bronx, and I was proud to issue them an official Proclamation signed by every member of the New York State Assembly Bronx Delegation.



Pictured above (l-r): Council Member Mark Gjonaj, Council Member Kevin Riley, State Senator Jamaal Bailey, Council Member and Bronx Borough President-elect Vanessa Gibson, Council Member Eric Dinowitz, Dr. Michael D. Cabana (Physician-in-Chief, Children’s Hospital at Montefiore), Congressman Adriano Espaillat, Dr. Philip O. Ozuah (President & CEO, Montefiore Medicine), Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz, and Deputy Bronx Borough President Marricka Scott-McFadden.