

# NEWS FROM

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**Carl E. Heastie**  
Member of Assembly



Dear Neighbor(s),

This year's state budget included the most challenging negotiations I have had since becoming Speaker of the Assembly. Your continued encouragement and input has inspired me to make the right decisions for our community and the state as a whole.

The fiscal outlook for the state has become uncertain since the federal government ended the State and Local Tax Deduction, which allowed residents to deduct their taxes from their federal earnings. This change has had a profound effect on New York State and has resulted in less revenue. In the wake of these fiscal changes, my Assembly colleagues and I focused on **preserving existing services and securing additional funding for critical areas like health care and education**. I wanted to update you about some funding allocations that I have secured for the Northeast Bronx. The Assembly and I have **enacted historic progressive policies since the start of this year**.

I know there is still much work to be done. I look forward to continue working with you to improve our community. As always, if there is any way that I can be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me. My office is here to serve you.

With Love and Hope,

Carl E. Heastie  
Member of Assembly

## Historic criminal justice reform legislation

### *NYS budget expedites trials, ends cash bail for low-level offenses and reforms antiquated discovery laws*

Assemblyman Carl Heastie announced that the 2019-20 state budget includes important reforms designed to make our criminal justice system work for everyone regardless of background, race or wealth. The budget also funds critical legal assistance programs.

- The budget eliminates cash bail for most misdemeanor and non-violent felony offenses, allowing the release of accused non-violent offenders. It also requires that police officers issue a desk appearance ticket, in lieu of arrest, to most people charged with a misdemeanor or class E felony.
- The budget ensures the speedy trial clock will continue to run during the time between court appearances to make certain a defendant's right to a speedy trial is honored. The legislation will also allow the court to inquire as to whether the prosecution is, in fact, ready for trial when the prosecution claims readiness. Under New York's statutory speedy trial law, the prosecution must generally be "ready for trial" within six months for a felony charge and 90 days for a misdemeanor charge.
- The budget requires the prosecution to disclose evidence to the defense before plea negotiations in criminal cases. Under the new law, the prosecution will be required to provide discovery to the defense within 15 days after arraignment. Reciprocal discovery from the defense to the prosecution is expedited as well.

The budget also provides:

- \$4.83 million in Legal Services Assistant Fund (LSAF) support for civil and criminal legal service program grants;
- \$600,000 for Byrne/JAG legislative allocations;
- \$1.5 million in funding for New York City gun violence street outreach programs;
- \$1.06 million for the New York State Defenders Association;
- \$750,000 for Prisoners' Legal Services of New York;
- \$609,000 in domestic violence-related civil and criminal legal services support;
- \$600,000 for immigrant legal services;
- \$400,00 for Neighborhood Legal Services; and
- \$147,000 for rape crisis centers.

## Update on the Northeast Bronx YMCA construction project

The \$60 million Northeast Bronx YMCA construction project has passed the design and demolition phase and is nearing construction. The site has been cleared and leveled and construction of the facility could begin as soon as this spring.



Above is a current picture of the site of the future Northeast Bronx YMCA Community and Recreation Center.

## Assembly passes and funds the DREAM Act

The final spending plan includes \$27 million to fund the Jose Peralta New York State DREAM Act. This legislation will allow undocumented students to apply for tuition assistance programs so they can attend college.

## 2019-20 budget includes \$641 million in Medicaid restorations

Assemblyman Carl Heastie announced that the 2019-20 budget includes \$641 million in restorations for Medicaid and \$34 million for public health programs. The approved budget restores \$550 million in Medicaid cuts, including:

- \$222 million for a 2 percent rate increase for hospitals and a 1.5 percent rate increase for nursing homes;
- \$190.2 million restoration for the 0.8 percent across-the-board Medicaid claims cuts;
- \$137.8 million for the hospital Indigent Care Pool;
- \$18.7 million to preserve prescriber prevails provisions for pharmacies; and
- \$12.3 million to maintain coverage for over-the-counter (OTC) drugs and prevent copay increases.

Other critical public health investments include:

- \$16 million in contingency funding for potential changes to Federal Family Planning grants;
- \$4 million for the prevention of maternal mortality;
- \$3.82 million for School Based Health Centers;
- \$500,000 for the Nurse-Family Partnership program; and
- \$500,000 for the Diversity in Medicine program.

The plan also expedites the award of \$300 million in capital funding to support health care facilities.

## Assemblyman Heastie secures \$1 billion in new education aid

In spite of the lower state revenue, Assemblyman Carl Heastie was able to secure a \$1 billion increase in education aid, or 3.7 percent, over the 2018-19 school

year. The enacted budget includes \$27.86 billion in General Support for Public Schools, and \$18.4 billion in Foundation Aid to help fund the state's neediest schools.

The budget allocates:

- \$250 million in Community Schools Aid. Community schools act as community hubs, offering wraparound services including: academic, health, mental health and social services and afterschool programs to students and their families;
- \$822 million in funding grants for prekindergarten. These programs will ensure children get the head start they need to succeed in their education;
- \$1.5 million for mental health grants for junior high schools; and
- \$2 million restoration for the Supportive Schools Grant Program to help districts improve school climate, safety and implement the Dignity for All Students Act.

The budget also includes:

- \$10 million increase for afterschool programs;
- \$1 million to help schools increase access to advanced courses;
- \$18.5 million for bilingual education grants;
- \$770,000 for training programs for teachers in bilingual/multilingual education;
- \$7.8 million in funding for adult literacy education and English language instruction;
- \$14 million for Teacher Resource and Computer Training Centers;
- \$103.9 million for Schools for the Blind and Deaf;
- \$2.3 million to eliminate remaining student costs under the reduced-priced meal program;
- \$1.5 million restoration for the Consortium for Worker Education (CWE); and
- \$5 million restoration to Aid to Public Libraries, for a total of \$96.6 million.

## Assemblyman Heastie secures \$18 million for My Brother's Keeper program

Assemblyman Heastie fought to make New York the first state in the nation to fund the My Brother's Keeper initiative, which focuses on improving outcomes of young men of color by concentrating on family and community engagement, professional development and education. The 2019-20 budget includes \$18 million in ongoing funding for My Brother's Keeper programs, for a total of \$74 million in funding since the program's creation.



Assemblyman Carl Heastie and staff host the First Annual Northeast Bronx Premie Awareness Walk for members of the community.

## Budget bans single-use plastic bags

The 2019-20 state budget negotiated by Assemblyman Carl E. Heastie implements a statewide ban on single-use plastic bags given out by grocery stores and other retailers. The proposal also authorizes counties and cities to impose a 5-cent fee on paper carryout bags, with 40 percent of the fee going back to the municipalities to help distribute reusable bags and 60 percent going toward the Environmental Protection Fund.

## Assemblyman Heastie secures \$20 million for census efforts for community-based outreach

The 2019-20 state budget includes \$20 million to promote the census and to assist with funding for local outreach efforts, including programs led by public libraries. It is critical for communities to participate in the census as it ensures our state gets its fair share and protects our federal representation.



Team Heastie comes out to support the Breast Cancer Awareness March.

## Child Victims Act signed into law

The Child Victims Act allows more victims of childhood sexual abuse to face their abusers in court (Ch. 11 of 2019). The law extends the civil and criminal statutes of limitations, as well as institutes a one-year “look-back window” during which past victims will be able to seek justice in civil court.

The new law:

- extends the existing statutes of limitations for criminal cases, allowing them to be commenced until the victim turns age 28 for felonies and age 25 for misdemeanors;
- will push back the statute of limitations to permit civil actions to be brought until the victim’s 55th birthday; and
- creates a one-year window for adult survivors to commence civil cases that, under current law, are barred because the statute of limitations has expired.



Assemblyman Heastie was joined in Albany by members of the Northeast Bronx community for opening day of the New York State Legislature.

## Assemblyman Heastie announces the continuation of The Doe Fund Clean Streets project on White Plains Road

Assemblyman Heastie has secured \$100,000 for The Doe Fund’s “Ready, Willing & Able” street cleaning and beautification project in the Northeast Bronx. Since 2003, The Doe Fund has had a work crew along White Plains Road from Gun Hill Road to 233rd Street. These workers collect trash and keep the sidewalks and streets clean.

## The budget raises funds for MTA repairs and improved service through congestion pricing, Mansion Tax and Real Estate Transfer Tax

The budget enacts a congestion pricing program that will charge people an extra fee to drive below 60th Street in Manhattan. Passenger vehicles will be charged once per day by electronic tolling devices, effective Dec. 31, 2020. The program is expected to raise \$15 billion dedicated to only the MTA capital budget.

The budget also implements a supplemental Mansion Tax starting on properties valued at more than \$2 million. The Mansion Tax is projected to raise \$243 million. Additionally, the budget creates a supplemental Real Estate Transfer Tax of 0.25 percent for residences above \$3 million. Together, they will raise \$365 million in financing for the MTA capital lockbox. The budget also allocates \$232 million from internet sales tax revenues to the MTA.

## Investing in higher education in New York

New York’s SUNY and CUNY systems are invaluable assets that have long served low- and middle-income families in our state, providing an affordable, quality education. The final budget provides a community college base aid rate of \$2,947, reflecting a \$100 per full-time student increase, while also committing to critical maintenance for SUNY and a range of investments to support opportunity programs in both the SUNY and CUNY systems as follows:

- Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP), \$35.5 million, a \$5.9 million restoration;
- Educational Opportunity Program (EOP), \$32.2 million, a \$5.4 million restoration;

- Search for Education, Elevation, and Knowledge (SEEK), \$28.1 million, a \$4.6 million restoration;
- Liberty Partnerships, \$18.4 million, a \$3 million restoration;
- Science and Technology Entry Program (STEP), \$15.8 million, a \$2.6 million restoration;
- Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP), \$11.9 million, a \$2 million restoration;
- College Discovery, \$1.3 million, a \$225,000 restoration; and
- \$1 million for Advanced Technology Training and Information Networking (ATTAIN) Labs within SUNY.

Other budget actions include:

- CUNY Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (ASAP), \$2.5 million;
- The CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies, formerly known as the Joseph S. Murphy Institute, \$1.5 million;
- Telecounseling and mental health services at SUNY, \$500,000;
- Small Business Development Centers, \$700,000;
- Restoration of \$4.5 million for the Foster Youth College Success Initiative to support foster students on their path to higher education; and
- Restoration of funding for SUNY and CUNY child care centers, \$1.1 million and \$902,000, respectively.

## Local funding secured in the state budget

**Bay Eden Senior Center (\$20,000):** Funding will provide materials and supplies for senior programs.

**Mind-Builders (\$50,000):** Funding will provide materials and supplies for education in arts and culture.

**St. Luke's Community Food Program (\$25,000):** Funding will provide materials and supplies to run senior food program.

**R.A.I.N. Inc. (\$100,000):** Funding will provide programming at senior centers throughout the Northeast Bronx.

**St. Nicholas Chess for Kids, Inc. (\$10,000):** Funding will provide materials and supplies to run an afterschool chess program for local youth.

**More funding announcements coming soon!**

New York State Assembly, Albany, New York 12248

# News from

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## Carl E. Heastie

Member of Assembly

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*"This year's state budget was challenging, but we fought for a spending plan that's right for our community and continues the progressive history we've made this year."*

— Assemblyman Carl E. Heastie



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