



Budget Update:

It's budget season in Albany, so I wanted to give you a few notes on items that matter and that you'll be hearing about over the next month.

Education

- **New York City is owed roughly \$9B in Foundation Aid in the upcoming FY 2017/2018 budget.** Foundation Aid is the formula used to determine funding for school districts after the NYS Court of Appeals ruling in 2006, which found that New York State was violating students' constitutional right to a "sound and basic education" by leaving schools without the funding necessary. Foundation Aid accounts for Teachers, Para-professionals, Principals, and other operating expenses associated with running our schools.
- In the Governor's 2017/2018 Executive Budget, Cuomo is only allocating \$7.3B in Foundation Aid for New York City Schools, which means that New York City will again be shorted \$1.7B in critical Foundation Aid. Further, Governor Cuomo is seeking to repeal the Foundation Aid formula and turn back the clock on funding our public schools.
- Foundation Aid was designed to create an equitable district-by-district funding structure so that all of our children are able to receive a sound and basic education. In his attempt to repeal the foundation aid formula from Education Law, the Governor will exacerbate the inequities in districts across our city and I, along with Speaker Heastie and my majority colleagues, will fight to make sure that New York City Schools get the Foundation Aid to which we are entitled. I urge you to call the Governor at 518-474-8390 and tell him to fully fund our New York City Public Schools.

Funding for our Seniors

- The Governor's budget includes a proposal to cut \$17M of Title XX funds which have been used to fund senior centers in New York City.
- This \$17M cut would result in the closure of 65 senior centers across New York City and impact over 6,000 seniors per day. 1.5 million meals annually would be lost, and 24,000 hours of case assistance to help seniors access public benefits, housing concerns, and other necessary aid would disappear.
- The Governor is directing the Title XX funds to go to childcare services. **We should not be playing our children and our seniors off of each other in the state budget – both need critical funds and BOTH should be fully funded.**

Transportation

- The MTA is the lifeblood of the state and we must find ways to fully fund the MTA capital plan.
- **[In his Executive budget Governor Cuomo is proposing a \\$65M Cut to the MTA](http://www.nydailynews.com/news/politics/cuomo-executive-budget-quietly-slashes-mta-funds-65m-article-1.2970610)** (<http://www.nydailynews.com/news/politics/cuomo-executive-budget-quietly-slashes-mta-funds-65m-article-1.2970610>) – which is just unacceptable. I am proud to have signed on to a letter with 65 of my Assembly colleagues to oppose this cut and I will continue fight these cuts because it is critical that our subways and buses are fully funded.
- On Friday, February 24th, I will be joining with Riders Alliance and others for a press conference to call on the Governor to restore this critical funding in the MTA budget.

Parks

- As a member for the Parks Committee in the Assembly, and as the Assemblymember who has the privilege to have Prospect Park in his District – I am committed to fighting for our city parks to get the funding necessary to maintain them. Governor Cuomo has budgeted \$53M for his Empire State Trail, which is a paved path for anything but driving that will stretch from Manhattan to northern New York, across to Albany and Buffalo.
- While the trail is a fine idea, The Governor’s budget is only setting aside \$20M for ALL of our municipal parks statewide – which includes Prospect Park. Neglecting our parks is not an option and we must make it a top priority to make certain that we are properly maintaining the park through the budget so that it remains a gem of our community.

Housing

- I am advocating for an additional mansion tax on luxury housing at the point of sale to help produce funds that could be used to create more affordable and senior housing. By taxing the sale of homes over \$5M at the point of sale we will raise necessary funds to produce future affordable housing. The state should also create a tax on new luxury rental and condo units that will be directly earmarked for the construction of new affordable and senior units.

Legislative Update:

Here is list of some of my most recent bills. Please click the Bill number to read the text of the bill. If you have legislative ideas, I would love to hear them. Please feel free to contact my office at (718) 788-7221 to schedule a meeting with me to discuss them.

[A05734](#) Relates to petitions for election to the party position of member of the county committee

[A05735](#) Relates to warning voters about New York's closed primary system on voter registration forms

[A05986](#) Requires lobbyists to provide annual reports disclosing clients that they have advocated on behalf of before any state or local governmental entity

[A05987](#) Relates to application for an absentee ballot

[A05988](#) Relates to giving notice to the public of upcoming elections

[A05989](#) Relates to authorizing early voting in this state

[A05992](#) Relates to automatic voter registration when applying for licenses through the department of motor vehicles and graduating from high school

See you around the neighborhood,

Bobby