



Assemblymember
Robert C. Carroll
Assembly District 44

Greetings from Albany--

This is the 12th straight day that the legislature has been in session attempting to finalize the New York State Budget. As I am sure you are aware, we passed a budget extender on Monday to ensure that the state government would continue to function until we are able to pass a new budget. The extender will expire on May 31st. If we do not have a budget deal by then, then additional extenders will need to be passed to keep the government operational.

This is where we stand at this moment:

Budget Bills Passed by the Assembly:

- [Debt Service \(A3002 / S2002\)](#)
- [Aid to Localities \(A3003-D / S2003-D\)](#)
- [Public Protection and General Government \(PPGG\) Bill \(A3005-C / S2005-C\)](#)
- [Education, Labor and Family Assistance \(ELFA\) Bill \(A3006-C / S2006-C\)](#)
- [Health and Mental Hygiene \(HMH\) Bill \(A3007-B / S2007-B\)](#)
- [Transportation, Economic Development and Environmental Conservation \(TED\) Bill \(A3008-C / S2008-C\)](#)
- [Capital Projects \(A3004-D\)](#)
- [Legislature and Judiciary \(A3001 / S2001\) \(Passed Senate already\)](#)

Remaining Budget Bills to pass:

- State Operations Appropriations
- A Revenue Language Bill, which is the bill where many of the controversial issues will be included, such as Raise the Age, 421a, funding for our public schools, and the issues surrounding charter schools. These issues are still being debated and I cannot be sure if we will see a bill today.

Critical Issues within the budget:

*Please note that these specific items are in different bills and some of this information will change but I wanted to give you the most up to date information that I have.

- **Seniors:** \$17M of Title XX funding that would have closed 65 Senior Centers in NYC has been restored. Additionally, there will be \$20M in funding sent to early childcare providers.
- **Progressive Tax:** The Millionaires tax will be continued as is for the next two years. The Mansion tax, however, which would have helped protect us against the billions of dollars in federal aid that we may lose due to cuts from the Trump administration will not be in the budget.
- **Criminal Justice:** It looks like we are going join the rest of the nation and Raise the Age of Criminal Responsibility from 16 to 18. Specifically it looks like 16 and 17 year olds charged with misdemeanors will now be dealt with in Family Court and nonviolent felony charges will be handled in the Youth Court within the Criminal Division.
- **Education:** There will be an additional \$1 billion dollars for education, of which \$700M will be for Foundation Aid and \$300M will be reimbursable aid. Additionally, the Foundation Aid will remain in place, so we were able to push back successfully against the Governor's attempt to repeal the formula.
- **Direct Support Professionals:** \$45 Million dollars in funding will be included to help pay a living wage to our direct support professionals who serve those with developmental disabilities.
- **MTA:** We secured an additional \$65M dollars in capital funding for the MTA.
- **Water Infrastructure:** \$2.5 Billion for water infrastructure, \$200 million dollars of which will be dedicated explicitly to the New York City watershed.
- **MOU Money:** \$2.5 Billion in money from a Memorandum of Understanding 2 years ago will be released and utilized to build affordable housing with a priority in NYC.
- **Supportive Housing:** An additional \$1 Billion to be used to keep many of our most vulnerable off the streets.
- **421a:** The 421a tax abatement program for developers will cover rental buildings with over 300 units. In order to qualify for the tax abatement two criteria will have to be met. First, between 20%-30% of the rental units in the new rental development will have to be set at an "affordable" rate based on Area Median Income for the NYC metropolitan region. Second, developers of new rental unit developments will have to pay certain set wages in Manhattan (below 96th street) and select parts of Brooklyn and Queens. However, any developer can opt into this program and there are different formulas within the program which will dictate affordable housing levels. Many of the specifics of this plan are still unclear, so I will update you at a later time when I have more specifics. Finally, this program will be linked to our rent laws in the future which will likely help us maintain our rent-control and rent-regulated laws but also will help continue the 421a program -

which I believe has done little to produce affordable units - while costing the city billions of dollars in tax revenue.

- **Electoral Reforms:** None - This is especially unfortunate since if we were able to create more open and fair elections we would create a better legislature - which in turn would make attaining so many of our legislative goals so much easier.

It is very important to finalize this budget. In order for us to get back to work and start to pass substantive legislation this session, we must get past the budget process. We can revisit the budget if the federal government proposes drastic cuts to New York State later this year, but for now, we must finish this job and pass a full budget sooner rather than later. I will keep you up to date as things continue to develop.

Dyslexia Awareness Day

My colleague, Assemblymember Jo Anne Simon, whose bill, [A1480](#), would require school districts to diagnose students as having dyslexia, to acknowledge the diagnosis on their Individual Education Plans (IEP), and to provide dyslexic students with teachers trained to instruct such students, held a number of events and introduced a resolution to declare this past Tuesday Dyslexia Awareness Day.

As I said on the Assembly floor, I am dyslexic. I know firsthand how important it is for young people growing up with dyslexia and other learning differences to have teachers who are trained to deal with students with dyslexia. Had it not been for the advocacy of my mother and the great teachers that I had at The Gateway and Windward School, I would not have been able to go on and graduate from SUNY Binghamton, New York Law School, and become an Assemblymember.



As part of Assemblymember Simon's Dyslexia Awareness Day, I was proud to speak on the Panel of People with Dyslexia, where I discussed what it was like growing up with dyslexia, the importance of adopting new measures for dyslexic students and the significance of Assembly Member Jo Anne Simon's teacher-dyslexia-training legislation. I applaud Assemblymember Simon and am proud to serve as a co sponsor on this critical legislation.

Equal Pay

Also this week, I was proud to vote to pass a pay equity package that would prohibit any pay disparities and workplace discrimination based off an employee's sex, race or national origin. One bill aims to eliminate wage inequity in job titles and positions that have been segregated by sex. Another bill requires the President of the Civil Service Commission to present a study reporting researching wage disparities between state employees. These bills and others are essential to assuring all New York state workers of equal pay for equal work.

If you have any community concerns or legislative ideas, please give my office a call at (718) 788-7221.

Whenever I finally return home from Albany, I hope to see you around the neighborhood.

Bobby