



Assemblyman

Walter T. MOSLEY

New York State Assembly, 57th District
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*Reports to
the People*

Spring 2015

55 Hanson Place, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11217

New York State Legislature Passes Monumental Budget!

Dear Neighbors,

As the New York State Assembly and Senate moved to pass this year's budget on April 1st, I am proud of the work we have accomplished in the state capital. By adding record setting appropriations to support affordable housing programs, reinvest into our aging stock of public housing and funds to higher education opportunity programs, we are truly making investments in our future.

However, I am still deeply concerned over the persistent failure to pass the Dream Act within the state budget. This provision is critically needed to help hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers attain a college education and be able to provide better lives for themselves and their families.

I also take issue with the recent education reform that has been placed into the education appropriation that ties test scores to school funding, teacher rating, and tenure status. The possibility of denying already underfunded public schools access to crucial dollars in an effort to turn around performance is not the answer.

Additionally, the teacher evaluation system is a clause which I believe to be fully under the purview of collective bargaining rights. Using the state budgetary process to enact changes to the future of the teaching profession possibly opens the door to supersede that profession's ability to collectively bargain and undermines labor practices going forward.

As we move past the budget negotiations I reaffirm my commitment to the People's Priority agenda outlined by my colleagues this year, which calls for criminal justice reform measures, workforce development programs and, most importantly, not only to renew rent regulations, but to strengthen the laws. The state budget, in conjunction with these progressive legislative initiatives, aims to better the lives of the hard working families in our communities and ensure that New York State continues to work for the people.

Sincerely,

Walter T. Mosley
Member – New York State Assembly



Alliance for Tenant Power press conference- Assemblyman Walter T. Mosley with tenant advocates and his fellow colleagues in the legislature commit to strengthening rent regulations in the state of New York.

New York State Assembly Legislative Highlights:

2015 Year of the Tenant

As many New Yorkers know, this June the rent regulation laws of the state are set to expire. These laws, which protect hundreds of thousands of people in New York City, are crucial to maintaining our communities in times of skyrocketing housing prices and wage stagnation. The rent laws afford working class families protection and assurance that they have stable housing as they raise their families in this great state of New York.

This year is a tipping point in the fight for affordable housing and I, along with my colleagues in the state Assembly and Senate, must work to not only renew the rent regulation laws, but to strengthen them. As a member of the Assembly committee on housing I promise to continue to fight for the hard working families in our neighborhood to have a safe and affordable place to live, and this is why I am sponsoring the following legislation:

Reforming Individual Apartments Improvement (IAI) increase system

This legislation would revise the system of rent increases through individual apartment upgrades. It has become apparent that the imposition of unwarranted and fraudulent rent increase based on alleged "improvements" in vacant

2015-2016 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Expanding access to affordable housing

This year's budget invests in our communities and expands affordable housing options including:

- \$415.6 million for housing and community development programs, allotting \$225 million for repair and rehabilitation programs, including:
- \$100 million for New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) capital repairs, while also requiring the NYS Division of Housing and Community Renewal and NYCHA to develop a plan detailing how the funds will be used
- \$25 million for Mitchell-Lama Repair and Revitalization
- \$34.7 million for community development programs and \$155.5 million for other affordable housing programs
- \$742,000 in restored funding to the New York City Housing Authority Tenant Watch Program

Investing in our schools

When it comes to our schools, students have to be our top priority. By securing critical increases in funding to ensure our schools have the resources they need, this budget puts students first. The budget secures a \$1.6 billion increase in education aid over last year, for a total of \$23 billion.

This includes:

- over \$9.2 billion for New York City Schools, which is roughly \$505 million more than last year
- a \$19 million increase to support grants for a total of \$90 million
- a school aid run increase of nearly \$1.3 billion, which includes \$428 million more for Foundation Aid
- \$75 million in grants for struggling schools
- \$20 million in grants, including aid for libraries, teacher centers and bilingual education
- \$2.3 million to support a rate increase for 4201 schools for a total of \$98.5 million

Responding to New York's homelessness crisis

We're facing a homelessness crisis here in New York, and we need to take immediate action to address it and prevent more families from losing their homes. The initiatives included in the state budget will help ensure more New Yorkers have access to safe, stable places to live, because no one should be forced to sleep on the street.

The state budget provides nearly \$440 million for homelessness services and programs over the next four years, including:

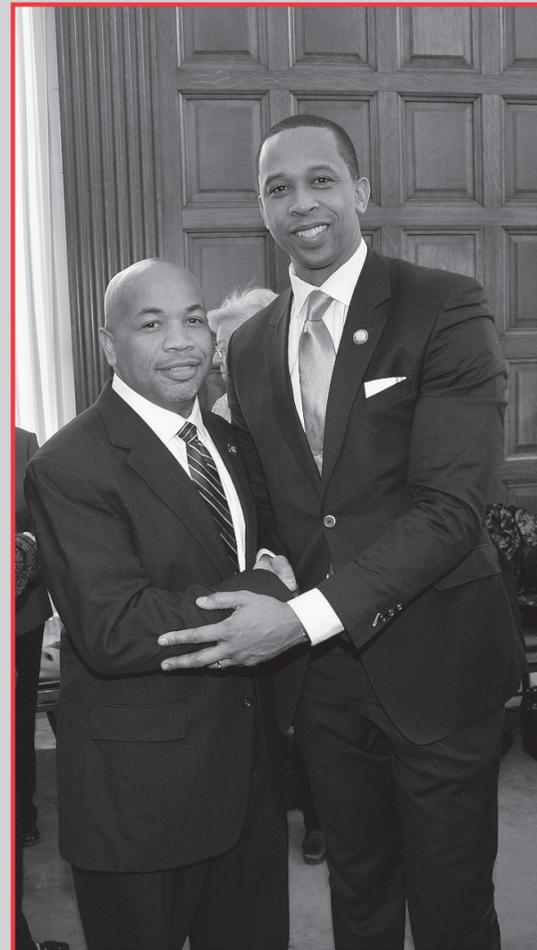
- \$220 million to provide rental subsidies for domestic violence victims, seniors and families struggling to afford rent



People's Priority Press Conference – Assemblyman Walter T. Mosley stands with his fellow members of the Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic and Asian Legislative Caucus for their Announcement of the People's Priority Legislative Agenda 2015.



Read Across America - At the Brooklyn Public Library Assemblyman Walter T. Mosley reads to children for the annual Read Across America event.



WTM and Speaker - Assemblyman Mosley greeting the new Speaker of the State Assembly, Carl Heastie.



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apartments is one of the many tactics landlords are using to drive up the prices on rent stabilized apartments in a bid to hit the \$2,500 dollar threshold needed to deregulate a unit.

Repeal Vacancy Destabilization A.1865

For far too long New York has seen a precipitous drop in the number of rent stabilized units. Now more than ever is the time to repeal vacancy decontrol which allows a landlord to convert rent stabilized units to market rate as soon as rents reach \$2,500 dollars a month, robbing tenants of protections and the community of affordable housing.

Eliminate the "Vacancy Bonus" A.5567

This bill would close another loophole in housing protections which allows landlords to increase standing rent by 20% once a tenant moves out. This loophole provides incentives to landlords to find ways to get rid of long term tenants in communities that are rapidly gentrifying where the housing market is sky rocketing.

Protection of tenants with "Preferential Rent" A.3809

This bill would protect thousands of tenants with "preferential rent." Preferential rent occurs when a landlord offers a rent stabilized apartment for less than the legal regulated rent (rent rates registered with Department of Housing and Community Renewal) which can be legally registered at hundreds of dollars more due to legal increase of Major Capital Improvements (MCI), IAI, and Vacancy Bonus. As of now, when tenants renew their leases with the landlord, the landlord can raise rents all the way up to the legal regulated rent, which can be hundreds of dollars higher than the preferential rate. This bill would require that preferential lease renewals be offered based on the lower rate and only be raised in accordance with the Rent Guidelines Board.

- \$124.5 million to provide services that allow individuals to live independently in supportive housing outside the homeless shelter system
- \$40 million for the Living in Communities (LINC) program, which provides rental subsidies for working families living in shelters
- \$34.2 million for shelter, transitional housing and homelessness prevention programs
- \$15 million for a new pilot program in New York City aimed at preventing evictions by increasing housing allowances
- \$4.5 million to assist runaway and homeless youth
- \$1 million for emergency homeless needs

Strengthening NY's criminal justice system

Reform of New York's criminal justice system is long overdue. While we continue working to "Raise the Age," something I believe must happen this legislative

session, the state budget invests in legal services that safeguard access to justice for at-risk populations.

The agreement includes the following:

- a total of \$12.27 million to support various legislative restorations, including \$1 million for the New York State Defenders Association
- \$5.58 million in the Legal Services Assistance Fund, including \$2.8 million for civil and criminal legal services grants and \$1.2 million for Prisoners' Legal Services
- \$2.2 million for domestic violence-related civil and criminal legal services support
- \$715,267 for alternatives to incarceration programs
- \$600,000 to support immigrant legal services

These investments will help restore faith in our legal system while protecting public safety. In addition, the Assembly Majority plans to hold public hearings with community leaders, law enforcement officials, legal experts and other stakeholders to discuss criminal justice reforms in an open and transparent forum.

Available Community Resources

Black Veterans for Social Justice (BVSJ)

BVSJ is available to help veteran families, homeless female veterans and homeless veterans with children.

The organization provides assistance with housing, transportation and child care needs, supportive services and access to emergency food.

665 Willoughby Ave. (between Marcus Garvey Blvd. and Throop Ave.) 718-852-6004 at ext. 269 or ext. 255

Tenants and Homeowners

Facing eviction?

Tenant and Landlord dispute?

Foreclosure? First-time homebuyer?

There are a number of organizations in the community available to help:

Pratt Area Community Council

201 Dekalb Ave. (between Carlton Ave. and Adelphi St.)
718-522-2613

Neighborhood Housing Services of Bed-Stuy

1012 Gates Ave., 1st Floor (between Ralph Ave. and Broadway), 718-919-2100

Workforce 1 NYC Business Solutions

Workforce 1 offers services for job seekers, assistance with job placement, workshops, training and education, work support and opportunities for continuous advancement.

Please contact Workforce 1 NYC Business Solutions at 718-577-2194

Brooklyn Navy Yard Center at BLDG 92 Employment Center

For job seekers: The Employment Center specializes in placements for job seekers of all skill levels, with emphasis on local residents, veterans, and individuals with experience in industrial/manufacturing, hospitality, warehousing and distribution. The center also provides internship or job training options.

For employers and local business owners: Brooklyn Navy Yard Employment Center can do all pre-screening and vetting for business owners, saving valuable time and resources. With key partnerships with local groups, and a great reputation with local residents, the Employment Center can help identify (and retain) qualified employees.

Visit their website at brooklynnavyyard.org/employment or contact center@brooklynnavyyard.org or 718-907-5996



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Chamber on the Go is bringing free, expert business assistance to YOU!

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