



Assemblyman  
**Walter T.  
MOSLEY**

New York State Assembly, 57<sup>th</sup> District  
Contact: 718-596-0100

WalterTMosley  
 AssemblymanWalterMosley

*Reports to  
the People*

55 Hanson Place, Brooklyn, NY 11217

Summer 2016

*Dear Friends and Neighbors,*

*I am honored and privileged to have the humble responsibility of serving you in the New York State Assembly. Our community of Prospect Heights is a thriving and vibrant neighborhood for all New Yorkers. This past year in Albany, we fought hard to create a truly progressive state in an effort to reflect the needs and demands of our districts. As our community continues to grow, it is my duty to keep you informed of my continued work in the People's House.*

*This year, not only did we pass one of the most progressive budgets in New York State history, but also invested in our aging infrastructure and renewable energy resources. While we moved in the Assembly to outlaw hydrocracking, I am sponsoring a bill to make it illegal to transport hydrocracking material through our state in an effort to curtail the environmentally unsafe practice.*

*As our city moves forward into the 21st century, we must ensure that our green spaces are protected for generations to come. This is why I signed on to a letter with my colleague Assemblywoman Amy Paulin, chair of the Assembly Committee on Energy, calling on the Public Service Commission to implement clean energy standards to ensure New York meets its goal of reducing climate pollution.*

*I look forward to continuing to serve you in our community and renew my pledge to fight for the progressive standards set by our district all in an effort to make our neighborhood a welcoming place for all to live in.*

*Should you have any questions, concerns, or requests for assistance, do not hesitate to reach out to my district office through email, phone, or in-person. We are open Monday through Friday, from 9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.*

*Sincerely,*

Walter T. Mosley  
Member, New York State Assembly, 57th AD

## ASSEMBLYMAN WALTER T. MOSLEY FIGHTS TO FUND PEDESTRIAN/BICYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

New York State is considered to be among the nation's most dangerous places to bike and walk, with 29% of those dying on our roads being someone who is either biking or walking to their destination. Moreover, motor-vehicle transportation accounts for the single largest share of our State's greenhouse gas emissions. In the context of the State's larger, more high-profile transportation infrastructure needs, the importance of projects that make it safer and more accessible to ride a bike, walk, and take public transportation get lost. Amidst the recent calls for funding to keep parity between transit, roads, and bridges, those who walk or bike to their destinations are often left out of the conversation.

That is why Assemblyman Mosley, along with his colleagues in the Assembly majority, requested that out of the \$22.1 billion proposed for the New York State Department of Transportation (NYS-DOT) five year Capital Plan, a minimum of \$20 million be included in increased spending, each year for the five years of the Plan, to supplement the federally dedicated dollars for pedestrian and bicycling infrastructure (formerly known as the Transportation Alternatives Program).

The two most recent federal transportation laws (MAP-21 and the FAST Act) have dedicated money to bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, but over the years, these funds have been reduced by approximately 30%. These declining resources inhibit the ability to implement the NYS Complete Streets Law. By making an additional \$20 million annual investment in bicycling and walking infrastructure, we will improve safety, help stimulate local economies, address challenges posed by climate change, and give New Yorkers access to healthy, low-cost transportation options to improve quality of life for the residents of New York State. To better implement the spirit and letter of the Complete Streets Law enacted in 2011, Assemblyman Mosley, in conjunction with his colleagues, also recommended the budget include language for the NYSDOT Capital Plan that prioritizes funding of projects that incorporate pedestrian, bicycling, and transit components.

As New York State makes significant overall investments in its transportation system, Assemblyman Mosley urged building a national model for a multi-modal transportation system that improves the health, safety, environment, local economies, and overall quality of life for all New Yorkers.



# END OF THE 2016 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

## NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY PASSES ELECTION REFORM

After the presidential primary this past April and the shocking revelation that the Board of Elections purged over 160,000 registered voters off their rolls, the Assembly moved to pass reform legislation to overhaul the state's election process in order to increase voter participation, ensure greater access to the polls, protect voting rights, and promote efficient, voter-friendly registration and elections.

Among the Assembly's Election Law reform measures sponsored by Assemblyman Mosley is legislation (A.6975-C, Kavanagh) to close the LLC loophole by requiring that campaign contributions from a Limited Liability Company not exceed \$5,000, which currently is the standard limit for contributions made by corporations. The bill also would require that an LLC's contributions disclose the identity of all direct and indirect LLC owners and attribute each contribution by the LLC to such owners' contribution limit.

To provide voters with more options to vote and reduce the likelihood of long lines at polling locations, the Assembly passed legislation that would:

- Permit voters to vote by mail at their convenience without being required to meet the narrow criteria that currently apply to voters requesting absentee ballots. The bill would provide first passage of an amendment to the state Constitution; such amendments must be approved by two consecutive legislatures and approved by voters in a statewide referendum. No-excuse absentee voting by mail is already permitted in at least 25 states, including Alaska, Arizona, Florida, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, Washington, and Wisconsin (A.3874-B, Brennan);
- Provide for early voting, permitting voters to vote in person eight days prior to election day, including during evening and weekend hours. The bill would require early voting poll sites in every county with the number of sites per county tailored to the voting population. New York would be joining 33 other states that have already enacted early voting, many with bipartisan support (A.8582-B, Kavanagh); and
- Modernize voter registration, improve the communication efforts of the various board of election offices, and allow qualified New Yorkers to register to vote or update their registration from any computer, smart phone, tablet, or other portable device with internet access (A.10370, Cusick).

Other initiatives approved by the Assembly to improve the administration of elections to ensure that they run more smoothly and efficiently would:

- Enact the Voter Friendly Ballot Act, ensuring that ballots are clear and easy for voters to read and complete accurately (A.3389-B, Kavanagh); and
- Enable boards of elections to replace paper voting lists currently used at poll sites with electronic poll books, ensuring that the most up-to-date information is available for voters and poll workers, including votes cast previously in the same election through early voting or absentee ballots (A.8608-A, Cusick).

The Assembly also approved a bill to continue the state's support for a compact to elect the president by national popular vote, which will take effect when states representing a majority of the nation's electoral votes adopt similar legislation (A.6044, Dinowitz).

The Assembly has a strong commitment to protecting the principles of democracy and the rights of voters. Toward that end, legislation was passed to require that actions of local boards of elections be pre-cleared by the state Attorney General's Civil Rights Division, to ensure that they do not have a discriminatory effect based on race or ethnicity. The new process would

replace U.S. Justice Department review of such actions in certain counties, which was suspended after an unfortunate ruling of the U.S. Supreme Court that significantly weakened the Voting Rights Act (A.10712, Walker).



**Brooklyn Pride Parade** – Assemblyman Mosley and his colleagues at the 2016 Brooklyn Pride Parade.



Assemblyman Mosley honors Gib Viconi, President of Prospect Heights North Development Council, at his Annual State of the District Address.

## ASSEMBLY PASSES CONSTITUTIONAL AND ETHICS AMENDMENT TO TAKES STEP TO STRIP PENSIONS FROM CORRUPT POLITICIANS

"I have zero tolerance for corruption in government. That's why I passed a resolution to amend the New York State Constitution (A.10739-A) that provides for the stripping of pensions for public officials convicted of a felony related to their official duties. Politicians who betray the public trust and use their office to line their own pockets shouldn't be rewarded with pension benefits paid for by taxpayers.

Unfortunately, those who serve in government sometimes forget what public service is all about and help themselves instead of their constituents. Politicians aren't above the law, and this legislation makes clear that there are serious consequences when they commit a crime. If you defraud the people, we'll defund your pension," said Assemblyman Mosley.

**\*Note:** This resolution has passed in both chambers. For this amendment to become law, it must pass in both chambers again next legislative session. At that point, it will be placed on the ballot as a public referendum for voters to amend the New York State Constitution.

## ASSEMBLYMAN WALTER T. MOSLEY AND THE ASSEMBLY PASSES LEGISLATION TO ENSURE SAFE DRINKING WATER IN SCHOOLS

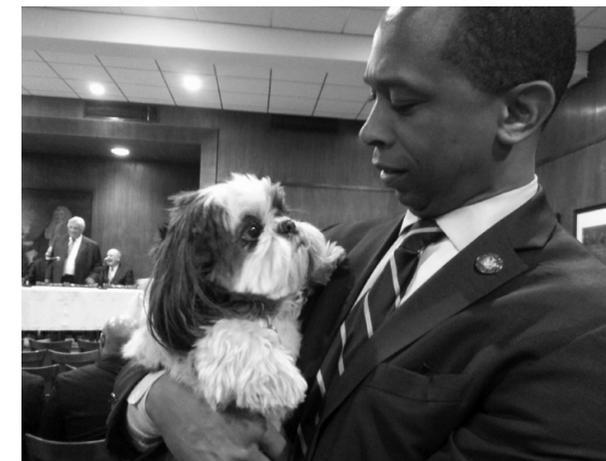
As the end of the legislative session in Albany approached this year, the Assembly passed legislation requiring the state health and education departments to create statewide guidelines for school districts and Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) to test drinking water for lead. Under the measure, costs associated with testing and remediation will be eligible for reimbursement by the state (A.10740).

"When parents send their children to school, they do so expecting they will learn in a safe environment. However, recent test results have shown some schools in New York State have unsafe levels of lead in their drinking water," said Assemblyman Mosley. "This legislation will create standards that ensure every school across the state—whether in a wealthy area or a poor community—has the resources it needs to test its drinking water, so we can be sure our kids aren't being exposed to harmful levels of lead."

The legislation passed by the Assembly would direct the state Department of Health and Department of Education to enact regulations for schools to periodically test for lead and help school districts pay for the testing. Currently, some school districts have voluntarily tested for lead, however it is not required. This legislation further specifies that if lead is found in the water, testing must occur at a frequency to be determined by the regulations to ensure the water is safe. Additionally, safe drinking water must be provided and parents need to be notified of the test results in a timely manner.

Studies show that high levels of lead can negatively impact a young child's ability to learn and even cause brain damage.

"The health of our students is too important to put at risk," Assemblyman Mosley said. "When a child is drinking from a school water fountain, parents should feel 100 percent confident that the water is clean and safe."



**Animal Advocacy Day** – Assemblyman Mosley attends the Annual Animal Advocacy Day in Albany.

## ASSEMBLY PUSHES RESOLUTION MAKING NEW YORK STATE A "TPP-FREE ZONE"

Assembly Resolution K597 would seek to declare New York State a "TPP-Free Zone." This declaration would urge Congress not to grant President Obama "fast-track" authority over, or permission to sign, the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade agreement.

The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) is a free trade agreement currently being negotiated between the United States, Canada, Australia, Chile, Mexico, Malaysia, Peru, Singapore, Vietnam, Brunei, New Zealand, and Japan.

Together, these nations contribute 40% of the world's Gross Domestic Product, and one third of the world's trade and the Office of the United States Trade Representative, through the terms of TPP, is seeking to eliminate both tariff and non-tariff "barriers to goods and services trade and investment" among the twelve participating nations.

It has been reported that the agreement would include provisions concerning financial regulations, environmental protection, prescription drug pricing, and food sanitation standards, the adoption of which could negatively affect the public's health, safety and welfare, and require an overhaul of America's domestic legal system.

The exact terms of this proposed agreement have not been disclosed to the public, with most known details having been ascertained through unapproved 'leaks' from stakeholders.

Article II, Section 2 of the United States Constitution empowers the President of the United States "by and with the advice and consent on the Senate, to make treaties, provided two thirds of Senators present concur." While some members of Congress have been able to view certain sections of the

negotiation text from the TPP, they have been prohibited from sharing what they saw with the public or with their staffers.

President Obama has pressed Congress to provide "trade promotion authority," or "fast track" authority, which would allow Congress only an up-or-down vote on the agreement once it has been negotiated by the executive branch with the other nations and if Congress were to grant President Obama "fast track" authority, then discussions surrounding the TPP agreement could be made with inadequate transparency and public review. Congress would be unable to enact substantive changes to the agreement if it only exercises its oversight powers after the negotiations have been completed.

There are concerns that the TPP's investor-state dispute settlement clauses, which were 'leaked' in 2012, could grant international corporations the right to sue the federal government for damages if environmental, worker protection, food safety, or other local, state, or federal regulatory safeguards do not guarantee their ability to profit from their investments.

Over 500 employees of the same corporations maintain positions on U.S. Trade Representative advisory panels, which allow them to act as advisors to the drafting of the TPP.

As the negotiations currently stand, there are concerns that the passage of the TPP would ban "Buy American" and "Buy Local" efforts by U.S. industries, which could put goods and services created and based in New York State at a competitive disadvantage.

Neither the National League of Cities nor the U.S. Conference of Mayors has been included in TPP negotiations, mak

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## “TPP-FREE ZONE”

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ing it difficult to know whether New York State’s quality of life or financial and legal interests are being considered.

Several other American municipal governments, such as the Berkeley, California City Council and the Dane County, Wisconsin Board of Supervisors, have expressed their opposition to the TPP by declaring themselves “TPP-Free Zones,” in which the TPP’s regulations will not be respected, to the maximum extent allowable by federal and state law.

Resolutions from the City Council of Madison, Wisconsin and the City Council of Los Angeles, California have also declared their opposition to the TPP. These local governments have recognized the harm that passage of the TPP can create and as a result have shown commendable leadership by opposing a treaty that would do a disservice to their citizens, as well as to New Yorkers.

# Assemblyman Walter T. Mosley Remaining Evening & Outdoor Summer Hours

## July

Thursday, July 21 <sup>st</sup>	Clinton Avenue & Lafayette Avenue G Train	4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
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## August

Wednesday, August 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Franklin Avenue & Fulton Street C & Shuttle Trains	4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
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Tuesday, August 16 <sup>th</sup>	Eastern Parkway & Washington Avenue; 2 & 3 Trains	4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
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Saturday, August 20 <sup>th</sup>	Farmers Market Dekalb Avenue & Washington Park	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
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Monday, August 22 <sup>nd</sup>	District Office 55 Hanson Place, Suite 328	Open until 6:00 p.m.
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**Every Friday – from July 1<sup>st</sup> through September 2<sup>nd</sup>  
the district office will be closing at 3:00 p.m.**

## Have a great summer!



For more information, contact Assemblyman Mosley’s District Office at 718-596-0100.



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**Brooklyn Jewish Hospital Apartment Complex Rally** – Assemblyman Walter T. Mosley, Public Advocate Tish James, and Councilmember Laurie Cumbo rally at Brooklyn Jewish Hospital Apartment Complex. In June of this year, the City Council was able to pass an Article XI regulatory agreement returning nearly 600 units back into rent stabilization.