

# Yuh-Line Niou

REPORTS TO YOU

#### Dear Neighbor,

Thank you for all your support and input these last few months. I wanted to take the opportunity to update you on some of the work we've accomplished in the district and in Albany.

It's been an exciting and challenging first few months in office. I have been working hard to ensure all of my constituents are properly represented in our State Capital, and to deliver the best possible constituent services. Together with your support, we have made an impact here in our neighborhoods, and I look forward to continuing to advance the interests of all of lower Manhattan's residents.

I appreciate all of your continued feedback as we move forward this session. My office is also equipped to provide constituent services in both Spanish and Chinese, so I encourage you to contact my office with any neighborhood concerns. We can be reached at 212-312-1420. I look forward to seeing you around the neighborhood!

Sincerely,

Yuh-Line Niou Assemblymember 65th District



### Budget Update

I wanted to update you on our state budget, which I helped pass. This was my first budget, and below you will find some highlights. Many of these items will benefit our neighborhoods here in lower Manhattan, and I encourage you to contact my office with any questions.

#### **Senior Services**

We restored cuts to our local senior centers, including a \$2 million allocation for Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORCs) and Neighborhood Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NNORCs), which provide critical services to our seniors. In the Assembly, I spearheaded a letter pushing against cuts to NORCs given how important they are in keeping our seniors healthy and active.

#### **Housing**

We secured \$200 million for NYCHA repairs. Although this funding will not solve all of NYCHA's repair needs, these funds are critical as our state is stepping up to help maintain our public housing in the City. The budget also contains funds to combat homelessness, with \$1 billion to help build supportive housing for our most vulnerable.

#### **Civil Rights and Immigration**

We Raised the Age of criminal responsibility in New York from 16 to 18 years old, giving our youth a more fair shot at turning their lives around. Although the final Raise the Age agreement was not perfect, New York will no longer be one of two states in our country to treat 16- and 17-year-old defendants in nonviolent cases as adults in Criminal Court. The budget also has \$2 million



for refugee resettlement programs, to assist new immigrants in their time of need, as well as \$10 million to expand legal defense services for immigrants.

#### **Education**

This budget includes a 4.1 percent increase in state school aid from last year's budget, and \$700 million for Foundation Aid, which provides funding to high-needs districts. As a state, we have a long way to go to fulfill the obligation to fund our public schools. Our district is in dire need of education funds, and it is critical that we continue to push for what we are owed.

#### **Environment**

The budget allocated \$2.5 billion to improve water quality in our state. I fought alongside my colleagues for the City to be eligible for this funding, which is why we need to work closely with the community to ensure we can take advantage of these funds, and apply them to increase resiliency in order to flood proof lower Manhattan.

### **District Updates**

#### **Sworn into Office**

In January, I was joined by community members from across lower Manhattan as I was sworn into office in the New York State Assembly Chamber, in Albany. An in-district inauguration was also held in January at the Museum of Jewish Heritage in Battery Park City. Community members from throughout lower Manhattan and over a dozen elected officials, including Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, attended the event.



#### **Women's History Month**

I hosted a Women's History Month Panel and Community Forum at the Abrons Arts Center, on the Lower East Side. I moderated a panel made up of more than a dozen women leaders, including Assemblymembers Glick and Rosenthal and women from a variety of advocacy organizations with expertise on various issues. The panel covered women's issues around themes such as housing, healthcare, labor, education, and the arts. Together, we reflected on the achievements of women, and urged attendees to forge ahead, organize, and inspire the next generation of women leaders. Thank you to those who were able to attend and engage the panel!



# **Protecting Tenants** from Lead Exposure

In response to improper construction practices exposing tenants to dangerous levels of poisonous lead, I organized with Cooper Square Committee to bring more attention to this issue, along with my colleagues. Along with housing and environmental advocates, we are working to strengthen policies to prevent lead exposure in tenants' homes, at both the City and State level. The safety and health of our community is one of my top priorities. If you are concerned with lead levels in your home, please contact our office.



#### **Standing with Fearless Girl**

In March, during Women's History Month, I led a city and statewide coalition of over 50 female elected officials calling for the longer-term placement of the Fearless Girl statue at its current location, across Wall Street's Charging Bull. Due to this advocacy, the City announced that Fearless Girl will remain in lower Manhattan for another year! Fearless Girl ignited a conversation around gender equity and the need for more women in leadership roles, and it is important that as a City and State we encourage this discussion.



### Improving Construction Protocols in Lower Manhattan

In an effort to improve traffic conditions and residents' quality of life in lower Manhattan, I joined several elected officials in asking the city to implement a construction coordinator to oversee the many construction projects in lower Manhattan. I will continue to push for construction coordination throughout lower Manhattan. If you are experiencing problems with construction and noise, please contact our office.

# Bringing Local Voices to Battery Park City

Since being elected, I've been pushing for a more transparent and community friendly Battery Park City Authority. I am pushing legislation at the state level that would require the majority of members on the Authority's board to be lower Manhattan residents, alongside Senator Squadron. Local representation provides an invaluable insight into the everyday needs of our community, and it is time for the Authority's board to reflect the neighborhood it represents. Please contact my office to join the push.

#### **Fighting for Schools**

Access to a sound education is a right we need to provide each one of our students, which is why I have been advocating for the timely and safe construction of Trinity Place School – lower Manhattan's newest elementary school. Our neighborhoods continue to thrive, which has resulted in overcrowded schools. I am working to ensure that this school is built quickly, that all safety concerns around traffic nearby are addressed, and that delays are mitigated with the proper tools so families can plan their children's education.



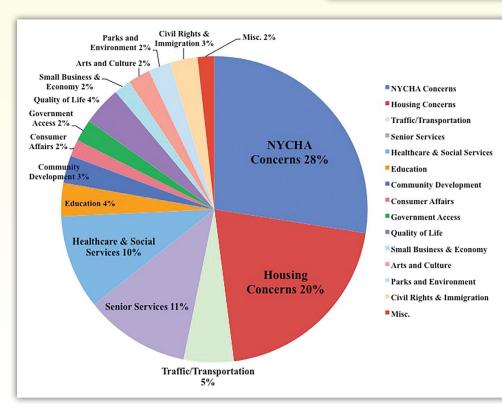
#### **Celebrating Lunar New Year**

In Albany, I introduced and passed my first resolution as an Assemblymember which commemorated the Asian American community's celebration of Asian Lunar New Year, the Year of the Rooster. The resolution honored the contributions of the Asian American community to our City and State and was presented at a number of Lunar New Year celebrations throughout lower Manhattan.

#### **Fighting Discrimination**

I spoke on the Assembly floor in support of the Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act (GENDA), which protects gender identity and expression in New York State's human rights and hate crime laws. It is unacceptable that this community is not afforded the same protections against discriminatory practices in the workplace, at schools, or in public spaces. I will continue to push to pass GENDA, and to bring equal protections and rights to gender-nonconforming New Yorkers.





# Constituent Services Update

Providing the best possible constituent services is one of my top priorities. In my first 100 days, my office assisted nearly 175 constituents from across lower Manhattan. We also fielded hundreds of legislative inquiries. We've assisted families in need of NYCHA apartment repairs, helped our small businesses navigate red tape, ensured our veterans and their families received their benefits, and helped address quality of life issues like noise in our neighborhoods. Here is a graph breaking down the types of constituent cases that my office has worked on so far. Please contact my office with any neighborhood concerns.





In the district and in Albany, Yuh-Line has fought to protect our immigrant communities.

New York State Assembly • Albany, New York 12248

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Assemblymember **Yuh-Line Niou** *REPORTS TO YOU* 

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