



Assemblyman  
**CARL E.  
HEASTIE**  
*Reports To The  
People*

WINTER 2009

**Dear Neighbor(s):**

*As the holiday season approaches, I wanted to send an update to the community. I would like to wish you and your family a happy and safe holiday season.*

*As 2009 draws to an end, I wanted to inform you of the progress we have made to meet the needs of the people of New York State. As always, if there is any way that I can be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me. My office is here to serve you.*

*With Love and Hope,*

*Carl E. Heastie  
Member of Assembly*

## Assemblyman Carl E. Heastie and Pathmark Grocery Store Provide Turkeys for Thanksgiving Dinner

Assemblyman Carl E. Heastie in conjunction with Pathmark grocery stores provided turkey dinners for seniors and families in the Northeast Bronx for Thanksgiving. In the true spirit of Thanksgiving, turkey dinners with “all the fixins” were given to local families through Charity Cathedral International, Inc., Grace Baptist Church, St. Lukes Episcopal Church, Our Lady of Grace, Butler Memorial United Methodist Church, Greater Faith Temple Church, RAIN Boston East Senior Center, East Chester Heights Community Center, and NCNW.

“I would like to recognize the goodwill and generosity of Pathmark grocery stores as they help local families enjoy the spirit of the Holiday season,” said Assemblyman Heastie. “This is just another example of how New Yorkers share the holidays with each other,” stated Assemblyman Heastie.

Assemblyman Heastie, with the help of the Food Industry Alliance, solicited the donation and provided the coordination of these events.

## 2010 Census just around the corner— Make sure you're counted!

Assembly Member Carl E. Heastie announced that preparations are underway for the 2010 Census. Beginning this spring, census employees will go door-to-door to update address lists to reach an estimated 310 million people.

“The census offers a critical snapshot of the Northeast Bronx and our community,” Assemblyman Heastie said. “The federal government uses census figures to allocate billions of dollars in federal funding, impacting everything from schools and hospitals to our roads.” Conducted once every 10 years in accordance with the U.S. Constitution, the detailed look at the nation’s resident population also provides businesses with vital data for store locations and housing development.

Census questionnaires will be mailed or delivered to every U.S. household starting in February 2010. Questionnaires include 10 easy questions and should take no more than 10 minutes to complete, Assemblyman Heastie said. The

new, shorter forms are a departure from 2000’s lengthy questionnaires, but participation is still required. The forms are available in English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Russian and Vietnamese.

By law (Title 13, U.S. Code), the Census Bureau maintains a strict privacy policy. Personal information cannot be shared with anyone, including the Internal Revenue Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services or any other government agency. Additionally, every Census Bureau employee takes a non-disclosure oath and faces severe penalties if the oath is violated.

The U.S. Census Bureau will create thousands of temporary jobs to update local address lists and conduct interviews with area residents. To inquire about employment opportunities, contact the U.S. Census Bureau at 1-866-861-2010 or visit its Web site at [www.census.gov/2010census](http://www.census.gov/2010census).

# Important Legislation

## Elder Care

### Missing Vulnerable Adult Alert System

Creates an alert system so that law enforcement may quickly disseminate information to the public concerning missing vulnerable adults.

(A.5220-A; Passed Assembly/S.2056-A; Finance)

### EPIC Income Eligibility

Provides that an individual participating in the Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage program would not become ineligible if their pension or Social Security benefits increase to keep pace with inflation.

(A.6646; Passed Assembly/S.1454; Aging)

### Long-Term Care Workers

Authorizes the Office for the Aging to create a Long-Term Care Worker Training Pilot Program. The bill would expand access to enhanced education and training for health care and social service practitioners who provide services to the elderly.

(A.5864; Passed Assembly/S.5455; Finance)

## Codes

### Gun Trafficking Prevention

Establishes a series of regulations for firearm dealers to comply with in order to prevent guns from getting into the hands of criminals. The bill would require gun dealers to display firearms and ammunition in a secure way, restricting sales to the locations listed on a dealer's federal firearms license or at gun shows and mandate that dealers conduct the national instant criminal background check on gun purchasers.

(A.1093; Passed Assembly / S.1715; Codes)

### Bias Related Crime

Provides a civil remedy to address bias-related violence or intimidation by permitting victims of such acts to sue those responsible.

(A.529; Passed Assembly/ S.5923; Rules)

### Training to Help Sexual Assault Victims

Requires police officers, prosecutors and judges to undergo mandatory training for cases involving sexual assault. The measure aims to ensure that the state's law enforcement personnel are properly trained in understanding the impact of sexual abuse trauma experienced by victims of sexual crimes.

(A.938; Passed Assembly)

### Firearms Childproofing Devices

Creates a class A misdemeanor of selling guns without childproofing devices. The legislation includes the sale of pistols and revolvers manufactured 12 or more months after the bill is enacted.

(A.1326; Passed Assembly / S.5228; Codes)

### Ethnic and Racial Profiling

Prohibits law enforcement officers from using racial profiling. The bill also would require police departments to collect and maintain records related to traffic stops and "stop and frisk" actions and regularly submit the information to the Division of Criminal Justice Services. The bill also would permit victims of racial or ethnic profiling to seek recourse against those who would use race and ethnicity as a basis for exercising their powers.

(A.1676; Passed Assembly/S.65; Finance)

### Multi-Lingual Police Officer

Provides incentives for police officers with foreign language skills to use them in the course of their duties. The bill also would provide greater incentives to individuals who speak foreign languages to become officers and help police departments better communicate with growing multi-lingual immigrant communities.

(A.5950; Passed Assembly/S.1333; Local Government)

### Protecting Domestic Violence Victims

Bans domestic violence perpetrators from legally possessing firearms.

(A.7575-A; Passed Assembly)

## Corporations, Authorities, and Commissions

### Teleworking Expansion Act

Requires public authorities with 25 or more employees to establish a policy and program that would allow employees to perform their duties through teleworking.

(A.2000-A; Passed Assembly/S.5790; Rules)

### Public Authority Subcontracting

Prohibits the use of subcontracting by public authorities, except under certain circumstances, when it would duplicate services of employees of the authority. A public authority would be required to perform a cost benefit analysis to evaluate the cost effectiveness of any subcontract.

(A.4343; Passed Assembly / S.3508; Passed both houses)

### Notification of Utility Rate Increases

Requires all utility corporations to include on their bills to customers advance notice of the date and place of any public hearings, including but not limited to, those public hearings concerning a proposed rate increase.

(A.4671; Passed Assembly/S.3573; Energy & Telecommunications)

### MTA Small Business Mentoring Program

Establishes the MTA Small Business Mentoring Program to provide small businesses in the construction trades with annual revenues of less than \$5 million with the opportunity to compete for public works contracts of the MTA. Under the bill, these small firms would receive advice and technical assistance of experienced firms within the construction industry.

(A.8681; Passed Assembly / S.5987; Rules)

## Corrections

### Rockefeller Drug Law Reform

Reforms the state's drug laws by eliminating most mandatory minimum state prison sentences and restores judicial discretion and permits judges to sentence non-violent drug offenders to probation, local jail or a combination of both. The bill also enhances options for substance abuse and drug treatment and rehabilitation. It also would augment reentry initiatives designed to facilitate the reintegration of offenders into society thereby breaking the revolving door of drug abuse and prison. In addition, the measure would allow certain non-violent drug offenders to be eligible for treatment and judges will have more sentencing discretion. Under the measure, long prison sentences continue to be available, particularly for drug peddlers, those who sell on school grounds or to minors and for "kingpin" drug dealers.

(A.156-B / S.56-B; Chapter 56)

### Sex Offender Alert

Permits citizens to be notified with automatic email alerts of a Level 2 and Level 3 sex offender living in their community. The bill allows citizens to request the cost-free email updates for up to three counties or zip codes.

(A.1242-B / S.1362-C; Chapter 478)

### Caring for Pregnant Female Inmates

Provides for the care and custody of pregnant female inmates before, during and after delivery and prohibits the use of restraints while traveling to the hospital for purposes of giving birth unless the inmate is a substantial flight risk.

(A.3373-A / S.1290; Chapter 411)

## Education

### Dignity for All Students Act

Prohibits discrimination and harassment based on the actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, gender or sex on school grounds or any school function. Under the bill, the Board of Education of each school district would be required to adopt a policy to be included in the district's code of conduct to prohibit discrimination and harassment. In addition, the Commissioner of Education must assist boards of education in developing model policies and must report on incidents of discrimination and harassment in schools on an annual basis.

(A.3661-B; Passed Assembly / S.1987-A; Education)

## Environmental Conservation

### Bottle Bill Expanded

Expands in the SFY 2009-2010 budget the state's Returnable Beverage Law to include water beverage containers under one gallon, which will increase recycling and provide a new revenue stream to New York State. Under the bill, a five cent deposit would be placed

on water bottles, and stores over 40,000 square feet would be required to have reverse vending machines on their premises to process returnable containers. In addition, 80 percent of all of the unclaimed nickels on beverage containers would be remitted to the state.

*(A.159-B / S.59-B; Chapter 59)*

## Governmental Employees

### Comparable Worth

Makes it a discriminatory practice for public employers to compensate employees of different sexes differently for work that is of comparable worth. The bill would make an exception for the seniority system and prohibit the reduction of anyone's compensation to conform with this provision.

*(A.1119; Passed Assembly / S.5480; Finance)*

### Service Equally

Implements the state policy of compensating employees in state service equally for work of comparable value by eliminating wage inequality in job titles which have been segregated by sex, race, or national origin.

*(A.6712; Passed Assembly / S.5271; Finance)*

### Surviving Spouse Benefits

Extends the escalation of a cost of living increase of approximately three percent for all line-of-duty widows or widowers for fiscal year 2009-10.

*(A.4905-A Assembly / S.2343-A; Delivered to governor)*

## Health

### Nursing Home Patient Representatives

Extends current prohibition of nursing home retaliation against a patient who sues the facility for alleged injury to apply where the patient is unable to act on his or her own behalf and the lawsuit is pursued by the patient's representative.

*(A.724 / S.3841; Chapter 60)*

### Nursing Home Patient Right to Sue

Clarifies the right to sue a nursing home under section 2801-d of the Public Health Law by making explicit that such a right extends to injuries against physical and emotional health, financial injury as well as death.

*(A.763 / S.3907; Chapter 61)*

### Child Health Plus

Requires the Commissioner of Health to contract with school based health centers to promote the benefits and availability of Child Health Plus or Medicaid in order to encourage the participation of more children in these health-care programs.

*(A.734; Passed Assembly / S.4060; Finance)*

### Minority Health Status Study

Requires the Office of Minority Health to establish a program designed to collect data on participants and compile a report based on race, ethnicity and primary language and to submit the annual report to the Legislature. The measure aims to provide Assembly members and Senators and the public with a comprehensive report on the health status of the state's minority populations.

*(A.1475; Passed Assembly / S. 2878; Health)*

### Affordable Prescriptions

Establishes a Prescription Drug Discount Program to help manage consumer prescription and medication purchasing power by negotiating rebates with suppliers, which would then be applied toward reduced prescription drug costs for participants.

*(A.2007; Passed Assembly / S.121-A; Finance)*

## Labor

### Unemployment Benefits Extension

Provides an additional 13 weeks of unemployment compensation. The measure uses \$645 million in federal grant money designated for assisting the unemployed, potentially providing the state's residents who are without work with a total of 79 weeks of unemployment benefits.

*(A.8273 / S.4110-A; Chapter 35)*

### Domestic Violence Leave

Requires employers to authorize a period of time off of up to 90 days within one year to victims of domestic violence. The measure aims to provide victims with a reasonable amount of time to address the myriad of issues caused by the violence without fear of losing their job or benefits.

*(A.438-B; Passed Assembly / S.5610; Labor)*

### Fair Pay Act

Establishes the New York State Fair Pay Act which seeks to ensure that pay differentiation is not based on a person's sex or national origin. The measure also would require that private and public employees are compensated for the work they perform based on their job titles.

*(A.3911; Passed Assembly / S. 955; Finance)*

### Domestic Workers

Provides rights and benefits to domestic workers who are otherwise excluded from such basic protections as a weekly day of rest, overtime pay, and the ability to bargain collectively. The legislation also extends disability coverage and provides protections under the anti-discrimination law while granting the Department of Labor greater ability to enforce wage and hour standards for these workers.

*(A.1470; Passed Assembly)*

## Public Authorities Reform Bill will Bring Oversight and Accountability to State Government

Assemblyman Heastie announced the Assembly passed legislation to enact sweeping public authorities reform, stepping up accountability and shedding new light on the more than 700 public authorities operating with startling autonomy throughout New York (A.40012). Public authorities are quasi-governmental agencies created for a public purpose, such as the Metropolitan Transit Authority, public benefit corporations and the Thruway Authority, that operate largely without government oversight and with limited public scrutiny.

"For years we've been acutely aware that the state's public authorities are in need of serious reform. This summer, I supported legislation to streamline public authority operations and increase oversight," Assemblyman Heastie said. "Too often, public authorities have lost their focus—burning through money and straying more and more from their mission statements. The Assembly has been a leader in recognizing the need for these reforms."

Recognizing the need for comprehensive reform of New York's public authorities, this legislation delivers critical reform by:

- Strengthening the Authority Budget Office by adding additional powers and responsibilities;
- Adding to and strengthening provisions governing

public authorities' boards of directors, encouraging accountability and reform;

- Providing the comptroller the power to pre-approve public authority contracts over \$1 million that are not competitively bid;
- Strengthening rules and closing loopholes regarding the sale of property by public authorities below fair market value;
- Creating strict new rules to control public authority debt;
- Ensuring that public authorities, including some subsidiaries, are subject to legislative and executive approval;
- Requiring that state authorities maintain a record of lobbying contacts made in an attempt to influence any rule, regulation or ratemaking procedure of such authority;
- Providing whistle-blower protections for employees of public authorities;
- Requiring confirmation of the CEO/Executive Director of the Dormitory Authority, Thruway Authority, Power Authority, and Long Island Power Authority; and
- Strengthening labor agreements for the development of hotels and convention centers in which a public authority has a proprietary interest.

# 2010 Calendar

## JANUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

## FEBRUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

## MARCH

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

## APRIL

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

## MAY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

## JUNE

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

## JULY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## AUGUST

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

## SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

## OCTOBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

## NOVEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

## DECEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

**Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>** New Year's Day  
**Jan. 18<sup>th</sup>** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  
**Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>** President's Day  
**May 31<sup>st</sup>** Memorial Day  
**July 4<sup>th</sup>** Independence Day  
**Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>** Labor Day

**Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>** Columbus Day  
**Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>** Election Day  
**Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>** Veterans Day  
**Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>** Thanksgiving Day  
**Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>** Christmas Day



### Office Addresses of Assemblyman Carl E. Heastie

**DISTRICT OFFICE:** 1351 East Gun Hill Road, Bronx, NY 10469 • 718-654-6539  
**ALBANY OFFICE:** LOB 417, Albany, NY 12248 • 518-455-4800