

# Around the Community



Assemblyman Braunstein congratulated the winners of his annual Mother's Day Essay & Poetry Contest: (l-r) Eleanor De Silva, P.S. 221 Little Neck; Katrina Li, P.S. 115 Glen Oaks; Pierce Zhong, P.S. 159 Bayside; and Roy Park, P.S. 130 Flushing.



Assemblyman Braunstein marched in the annual Little Neck-Douglaston and Whitestone Memorial Day Parades. He is pictured at right with Whitestone Parade Grand Marshal Louis Clavell, Jr.



Assemblyman Braunstein stopped by the 6th Annual Spring Cleanup at Glenwood Landing Park in Little Neck with the Westmoreland Association and Douglaston Garden Club.



Assemblyman Braunstein spoke at a press conference outside of City Hall calling on the Biden Administration to declare a state of emergency to address the ongoing asylum seeker crisis in New York City.

## Assemblyman Edward C. Braunstein

DISTRICT OFFICE: 213-33 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 238 • Bayside, NY 11361 • 718-357-3588 • Fax: 718-357-5947  
ALBANY OFFICE: Room 842 Legislative Office Building • Albany, NY 12248 • 518-455-5425 • Fax: 518-455-4648  
EMAIL: braunsteine@nyassembly.gov  
Follow Assemblyman Braunstein on Twitter



# 2023-24 Budget Highlights

This spring, Assemblyman Edward Braunstein and the New York State Legislature passed the State Fiscal Year 2023-24 Budget. Assemblyman Braunstein, who serves as Chair of the Cities Committee, fought to improve public safety, was instrumental in the defeat of a proposal that would have overridden local municipal planning laws and threatened single-family zoning, and advocated for an “AAPI Equity Budget” that will support AAPI New Yorkers through social services and community-based programming.

**Public Safety:** “In Northeast Queens and in communities throughout the state, New Yorkers’ call to action has been clear: improve public safety. In this year’s budget, I pushed for the implemented changes to the state bail laws that will provide judges greater discretion to set bail for those accused of serious crimes and repeat offenders, as well as greater discretion to set pretrial release conditions.”

**Zoning/Housing:** “As Chair of the Cities Committee, I had significant concerns with elements of the Governor’s ‘Housing Compact,’ which proposed several measures that would have overridden local governments and circumvented local zoning processes. I expressed these concerns early in the budget process, as did many of my constituents, who reached out to my office, petitioned and held rallies to voice their opposition to this top-down approach. In response, I proposed a plan that both respects home rule and offers local governments incentives to build needed housing. In the final budget, the Assembly rejected the inclusion of the ‘Housing Compact,’ including accessory dwelling units. I look forward to continuing the conversation on housing with the Governor and my colleagues and working to achieve a long-term plan that will increase housing stock while engaging municipalities and local stakeholders in all stages of the process.”

**AAPI Funding:** “To combat a rise in bias-related crimes and to better meet the needs of Asian American and Pacific Islander New Yorkers, the state budget establishes a \$30 million AAPI Equity Budget. I celebrate this historic funding investment, which is earmarked to support AAPI social service programs, crisis intervention and community-based programming throughout New York State.”

## Assemblyman Braunstein Provides Benefits Assistance for Seniors

Assemblyman Braunstein, in partnership with Services Now For Adult Persons, Inc. (SNAP), is offering benefits and entitlements counseling to individuals 60 years of age and older. This includes help with EPIC, Food Stamps, HEAP, Medicaid, Medicare Part D, SCHE and SCRIE. Please call Assemblyman Braunstein’s office at 718-357-3588 if you would like to schedule an appointment with a SNAP caseworker.



*Assemblyman Braunstein helped pass legislation to establish Diwali as a New York City public school holiday.*



*Assemblyman Braunstein marched in the annual Celebrate Israel Parade in Manhattan, which celebrated the 75th Anniversary of Israel’s founding.*

# Assemblyman Braunstein's Legislative Update

## Preserving Affordability for NYC Co-op and Condo Homeowners

The New York State Assembly and Senate have passed two critical bills aimed at providing tax relief to middle-class New York City cooperative and condominium owners. Sponsored by Assemblyman Edward Braunstein, A.7758 extends and expands the J-51 program, and A.4972A extends the property tax abatement available to New York City co-op and condo owners.

The J-51 tax abatement is a property tax abatement for co-ops and condos intended to assist with the affordability of capital improvements. Braunstein's bill A.7758 (S.4709A) improves upon the J-51 Program – which expired on June 29, 2022 – and will allow co-ops to initiate upgrades that might otherwise have been financially burdensome. As a result of this legislation, the qualification threshold for co-ops to be eligible for the program will also be raised from \$35,000 to \$45,000 assessed value (AV), significantly expanding the number of co-ops that can take advantage of the program.

Under NYC's property tax system, co-op and condo owners pay significantly higher effective property tax rates than owners of comparably valued one-, two- and three-family homes. Braunstein bill A.4972A (S.3252A) seeks to address this inequity by extending for another four years New York City's partial property tax abatement program for co-op and condo owners. Extending the current abatement program will continue property tax relief for hundreds of thousands of New York City co-op and condo owners.

“With the cost of living on the rise, it is critical that we do all we can for middle-class co-op and condo owners by holding down their maintenance costs,” said Assemblyman Braunstein. “The extension and expansion of the J-51 program, as well as the extension of the co-op and condo property tax abatement, are crucial to protecting this vital stock of affordable housing in New York City.”

In 2019, New York City enacted Local Law 97, which set carbon emissions caps on large buildings starting in 2024. Should New York City move forward with the implementation of Local Law 97, Assemblyman Braunstein has introduced bill A.5050 (S.943A), which seeks to provide buildings working to comply with the requirements of the NYC law with two-fold relief: tax abatements in accordance with the total reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and a tax exemption equal to any assessed value increase due to the eligible improvement for a period of twenty years.

“While we recognize the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in order to protect the environment, middle-



class co-op and condo owners, whose buildings fall under the purview of Local Law 97, would not be able to withstand the financial burden placed on them to meet the requirements of this law,” said Assemblyman Braunstein. “Acknowledging the pending implementation of the law by the City of New York, I’ve introduced and am urging passage of a bill seeking to offer relief in the form of a tax abatement and exemption to eligible co-op and condo owners. This would help offset the costs associated with the work and upgrades necessary to reduce building emissions.”

## Improving Public Communications on City Projects: A.603

Assemblyman Braunstein's bill to require NYC agencies to provide advance notice to state elected officials and community boards about construction, acquisitions and other projects that will take place in their communities was signed into law by the Governor. This bill will better equip elected officials and local offices to deliver accurate and timely information to their constituents.



*Assemblyman Braunstein delivered hundreds of items generously donated by Northeast Queens schools and families through the “Valentines for Vets” gift drive to hospitalized and disabled veterans at the New York State Veterans’ Home at St. Albans.*



Dear Neighbor:

I hope you are enjoying a pleasant summer. This newsletter highlights the actions I have been taking in our district and in Albany on behalf of our community. If you would like to sign up for my email list to receive more frequent updates, please email me at [braunsteine@nyassembly.gov](mailto:braunsteine@nyassembly.gov).

As always, my office is available to assist you. If you are having trouble with state or local government issues, please do not hesitate to contact us. My staff and I are always here to help you obtain benefits, provide information on government programs and develop legislative solutions to community problems. I thank you for the privilege of serving as your Assemblyman and I wish you and your family a healthy and happy rest of the year.



Edward C. Braunstein  
Member of Assembly, 26<sup>th</sup> District

New York State Assembly • Albany, New York 12248

PRSR STD.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Albany, New York  
Permit No. 75



Assemblyman  
**Edward C.  
Braunstein**  
Reports to the People

Summer 2023



Assemblyman Braunstein attended St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Shrine Church's Annual Festival in Flushing.



Assemblyman Braunstein marched in the 5th Annual Bayside Saint Patrick's Day Parade on Bell Boulevard.