



Assemblymember
Jo Anne Simon

52nd District



Announcements & Upcoming Events

February 2018

A Message from Jo Anne...

I recently co-sponsored a rally with Senator Kavanagh, the Brooklyn Heights Association (the BHA), NYC DOT and DDC Commissioners, a large group of elected officials, business and community leaders to urge Governor Andrew Cuomo to allow design-build contracting for the BQE reconstruction from Atlantic to Sands, including the triple cantilever in Brooklyn Heights.

Design-Build for the BQE construction could save time and money, minimizing impacts on the community. Not only would it streamline this massive process to save taxpayers over \$113 million and decrease construction time by a crucial two years, but without it, massive trucks would be compelled to travel through Downtown Brooklyn – the City's third largest commercial district – because the BQE would be unable to support their weight. These mandatory diversions would back up traffic throughout the corridor, damaging the region's economy. With design-build, reconstruction can take place before trucks would need to be banned from the BQE.

Governor Cuomo recognizes the benefits of design-build for the state's transportation projects so there should be no question that this critical Interstate highway needs the same authority. While this wasn't included in the Governor's initial budget proposal, we will keep pushing for it in the final budget.

Get Involved! Join the BHA's efforts to encourage the state to include design-build in the budget, including a March 6 trip to Albany. Contact info@thebha.org, [718-858-9193](tel:718-858-9193), or www.thebha.org

For more details on the upcoming legislative session, please sign up for my email alerts by emailing simonj@nysassembly.gov.

Please Join My Efforts to Prevent Gun Violence: Help Us Reach 25,000 Signatures!

Over 22,000 people have signed my petition to research and prevent gun violence – can you help me get to 25,000? Please join me, Senators Persaud and Kavanagh, Assemblymember Titone, New Yorkers Against Gun Violence, Gays Against Guns, and the NY Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence in signing our petition asking Governor Cuomo to include \$5 million in funding for a Firearms Violence Research Institute. New York must lead the way in conducting scientific research to better understand and prevent the gun violence that claims 33,000 lives each year. Gun violence is a public health crisis. While other major health and safety concerns such as motor vehicle accidents, heart disease, and tobacco have rightly received expanded research, far too little research has been conducted on firearm violence. It is clear that common-sense legislation and effective community programs prevent gun violence. But we must do more. To sign the petition, go to my Assembly webpage: <http://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/Jo-Anne-Simon>

D15 Diversity Plan: Public Workshop #2

You're invited to District 15's Diversity Plan Public Workshop, a community planning process led by the NYC Dept. of Education. These workshops will introduce community members to this initiative and allow community members to share insights on school diversity and the middle school admissions process. The next workshop is scheduled to take place on Tues., March 13th, 2018 in the evening. Translation services, food, and child care will be available. For the final confirmed details, call [718-935-2212](tel:718-935-2212). For details on the diversity plan, go to <http://d15diversityplan.com/>

Bus Turnaround Coalition: the Grades Are In

I joined the Bus Turnaround Coalition to share their failing report cards for MTA buses and urge the MTA and Mayor de Blasio to make reforms to improve our bus service. The bus report cards highlight what we already know: bus performance is too slow and too unreliable, but it doesn't have to be this way. Common-sense ways to improve our bus service include all-door boarding, giving buses the green light with signal priority at traffic lights, and redesigning out of date bus routes. It is also especially important to provide a reliable, accessible transit option for people with disabilities and the increasing population of older adults in the city, who rely heavily on buses. Check out your bus route here: <http://busturnaround.nyc/>

Senior Citizen Lecture Series at St. Francis College

There are more lectures in the February Senior Citizen Lecture Series at St. Francis College! Historian and Pulitzer Prize Winner Steven Hahn will discuss Pre-Civil War politics on Tues., Feb. 20th, and Tyler Anbinder will present on 19th Century New York City on Tues., Feb. 27th. Lectures begin at 11:10 am in Room 3213. For tickets and information, call [718-489-5272](tel:718-489-5272).

Workshop for Parents: Calming Anxiety and Building Self-Esteem in Kids

Join Understood.org, a free online resource for parents of kids with learning attention issues, for their monthly parent gathering at the Brooklyn Public Library (10 Grand Army Plaza) on Tues. 2/27 at 6PM. They'll walk through the basics of issues like dyslexia and ADHD, as well as strategies to calm anxiety and build self-esteem in kids with learning and attention issues – and in parents too. Encouragement and light refreshments will be provided. For more information, contact nyc@understood.org or go to understood.org.

2018 NYC Pre-Kindergarten Directory

Do you have a child born in 2014 planning to enter Pre-K in September? Every NYC four-year-old can start their education with Pre-K for All. You may stop by my office to pick up directories with information on all of the Pre-K programs in the City and how to navigate the application process. I have applications in English, Spanish, and Chinese. Applications open on Monday, Feb. 5th and the deadline is Friday, Mar. 30th. If you require a directory in another language or have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to my office. Directories and information are also available online at www.schools.nyc.gov/PreK.

Java with Jo Anne

Is there a community issue you're passionate about? Let's talk about it! Next Wednesday kicks off the next in my "Java with Jo Anne" series. Join me for a cup of coffee at Kos Kaffe, [251 5th Ave](#) (between Carroll St. & Garfield Pl.), in Park Slope on Wed., Feb. 21st from 8-10am.

ICYMI, read my Streetsblog interview article on congestion pricing: <https://nyc.streetsblog.org/2018/02/08/jo-anne-simon-on-congestion-pricing-we-can-do-this/>

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