



Assemblymember
Jo Anne Simon

52nd District



Announcements & Upcoming Events September 2019

A Message from Jo Anne...

National Grid announced a moratorium on new gas hookups as of May 2019, and several private residences and small businesses in this area have been denied gas as a result. National Grid has asserted that they will not process any new applications until the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) approves their proposed Williams Pipeline, which they maintain they need in order to ensure they have enough supplies down the road to cover existing and new customers. The Williams Pipeline, a.k.a. the Northeast Supply Enhancement (NESE) pipeline, would run from Pennsylvania to NYC.

Even though this is DEC's jurisdiction, I do not support this proposed pipeline and have encouraged them to disapprove it, as it is urgent to reduce our reliance on fracked gas given the climate emergency before us. I have serious concerns about National Grid's actions, including their lack of notice on the moratorium and bullying behavior. We need transparency and detailed information on their current capacity.

I joined my colleague, Assemblymember Bobby Carroll, and others [to request that the NYS Public Service Commission \(PSC\) investigate the legitimacy of this moratorium](#), and they have agreed to do so. I also [testified at PSC's public hearing on this issue](#). I also recently attended a meeting, hosted by Borough President Eric Adams, with National Grid and Con Edison, but my questions were not adequately answered. For example, National Grid maintained that they would provide gas to customers who reached out to them before the moratorium, but I have constituents who did coordinate with them before the moratorium, or folks who appropriately turned off their gas lines while they were doing construction on homes or small businesses, only to not have it turned back on. I will continue to work with National Grid on behalf of my constituents and encourage PSC to conduct a thorough investigation.

If you have gas hook up problems, contact my office at 718-246-4889 or simoni@nyassembly.gov.

Sincerely,

Jo Anne Simon

Clark Street Station Meeting, Mon. Sept. 16th, 6-8pm, St. Francis College. MTA NYC Transit has plans for an elevator replacement project to address the aging elevators at the Clark Street 2/3 subway station in Brooklyn Heights. NYC Transit President Andy Byford will attend a community meeting to discuss the possible options for renovation, including a potential station closure or reduced station operations during the replacement (St. Francis, 180 Remsen St.). This meeting is organized by me and Senator Kavanagh, Brooklyn Borough President Adams, Council Member Levin, and with Congresswoman Velázquez.

Save the Date! Atlantic Yards Meeting, 10/3. BrooklynSpeaks & its partners are hosting a community meeting on the Atlantic Yards / Pacific Park project on Thursday, 10/3/2019, 7pm. More details coming.

Join me to Get Your Free Flu Shot! 10/15/2019. I am pleased to offer free flu shots in my district office, 341 Smith St., in conjunction with NYU Langone Medical Center on Tues., Oct. 15, 2019, from 10am-2pm. The vaccines are for adults 18+ years old. Contact my office to make an appointment: simonj@nyassembly.gov.

Hurricane Dorian - Aid for The Bahamas. The Bahamas Consulate General NY is accepting donations of supplies for those impacted by Hurricane Dorian. They will be accepting donations Mon.-Fri., 9am-5pm, and Sat., 1-5pm at 231 E. 46th St., New York, NY 10017 through the month of September. Canned goods, bottled water, and baby supplies are needed (no clothing or shoes). Direct questions to consulate@bahamasny.com.

Summer Reading Challenge – Time to Return Your Form! I was pleased to once again sponsor a Summer Reading Challenge for students. If your child participated, please remember to return your form so you can receive notification of the certificate ceremony in the fall. Email simonj@nyassembly.gov for details.

Homeless Shelter – 399 3rd Ave. This fall, a transitional housing facility will open at 399 3rd Ave., housing 58 adult families experiencing homelessness. The shelter is located in CB6 and will be operated by Praxis, a non-profit service provider. Praxis operates a similar shelter on the Upper West Side, and invites you to tour the Manhattan site to learn more. Priority will be given to families with ties to Brooklyn, such as schools, work, family, or community. Individuals will have case managers who will assist them in finding permanent housing, health services, and employment, if needed. I recently joined Council Member Lander, Senator Myrie, and CB6 in hosting a meeting with [NYC Dept. of Homeless Services](#) and Praxis to learn more about the shelter, the community, and how the site was chosen. As part of the [“Turning the Tide”](#) plan on homelessness, NYC is building 90 new shelters across all five boroughs, to address the needs of people who are homeless, and to eliminate the use of cluster sites and commercial hotels. If you were unable to attend the meeting or you still have questions, [click here for more details](#) or contact my office: 718-246-4889 / simonj@nyassembly.gov.

Ovarian & Prostate Cancers Awareness Month. September is both ovarian and prostate cancer awareness month. Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men after skin cancer. 70 percent of ovarian cancer diagnoses are made in later stages. Consider taking a day this month to get screened and encourage loved ones to get checked, as well. For more info on ovarian cancer: <http://ovarian.org/> or check out the local group T.E.A.L.: <https://tealwalk.org/>. For more info on prostate cancer: <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/prostate-cancer/about/what-is-prostate-cancer.html>.

BQE Reconstruction Update. I recently joined with NYC Comptroller Stringer, Congresswoman Velázquez, Congressman Jeffries, Senators Kavanaugh and Montgomery, Assemblymember Mosley, and Council Members Levin and Lander to write a [letter to NYC Department of Transportation](#) (DOT) to ask about the scope and timeline of the BQE Reconstruction project. Our offices also plan to meet with DOT and the BQE Panel to discuss the questions we posed in the letter and I will continue to keep you abreast of any updates.

Meanwhile, I know that the BQE Expert Panel has been hard at work this summer to evaluate the suggested reconstruction ideas, review the project assumptions, and to develop a set of guidelines on this project to be shared in the fall. They had two meetings so far with elected officials and community groups all together, and they have met weekly with several other stakeholders, as well, in addition to their technical work and data collection. I look forward to seeing an in-depth analysis of the plans and more as we move through this process. I'm still working to bring State DOT and its technical expertise back to the table for this project. For updates from the DOT, the panel, and to sign up for their emails, go to: <https://www.bqe-i278.com/en/home>

Environmental Scorecard: I am once again privileged to have a 100% rating on the NY League of Conservation Voters 2019 State Environmental Scorecard. This year, we passed historic environmental protections because bold actions to protect our environment must be a priority. I'm proud of our work this session, but we still have much work ahead of us. Read the full scorecard at their Web site.

No Way to the 24-Hour Work Day for Home Care Aides. I was proud to stand with my colleagues, home care workers, and labor activists to announce a new bill to protect home care workers and their patients from unfair labor conditions. Home care workers provide critical care to vulnerable seniors and people with serious health needs, and they deserve to be paid fairly and to work reasonable hours so they can properly provide these important services. However, right now, they are working 24 hours a day for patients who need around-the-clock care, while they are only getting paid for 13 hours, under the assumption that they have a break to sleep and for meals. But, we know that people with dementia or with other serious needs wake up at night or need to use the restroom, so in fact, these workers have been toiling with inadequate breaks and no pay. It is unconscionable that hard-working people are caring for others and aren't getting paid for all of the hours they work – that is involuntary servitude. I'm glad to cosponsor the bill (A.08064), sponsored by Assemblymember Harvey Epstein and Senator Persaud, that prohibits a 24-hour workday, split up shifts, and caps hours at 50 hours a week so that home care workers and the people they care for are better protected.

Students in grades 8-12 are encouraged to join my next Youth Policy Council! Students in my district, along with the districts of Congresswoman Velázquez, Council Member Levin, and Senator Kavanagh, will meet once a month in Downtown Brooklyn and review existing City and State legislation and propose ideas that affect the lives of young people and all New Yorkers. This year-long, volunteer program will benefit students throughout the community, along with the elected officials and their staff, by bringing the academic world and the practical world together. We encourage all high school students to apply and share! Applications can be submitted here: <https://www.youthpolicycouncil.com>.

donateNYC Food Donation Event, 9/23. The NYC Department of Sanitation recently launched the [donateNYC Food Portal](#), an online tool for businesses and non-profits to reduce the amount of edible food sent to landfill. To promote the new portal, donateNYC will be hosting a mixer between local food businesses and food rescue/social service organizations, featuring networking and registration support on Mon., 9/23, 4-6pm at 8511 5th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11209. RSVP at foodportal.eventbrite.com

Improving Safety for Bicyclists & Pedestrians: This year has been a tragic one for bicyclists and street safety advocates as we have seen numerous cyclist and pedestrian deaths, and at a much higher rate than last year. We cannot continue to prioritize the convenience of drivers at the expense of the lives of New Yorkers. The City must prioritize public transportation, cycling, and walking to help end the preventable deaths on our streets. Biking in the city can and should be fun, accessible, and safe, but we must make sure it's not so risky. Improving safety through street re-designs and increased cycling infrastructure will allow the public to have greater confidence when they get on a bike or step out into the crosswalk. We also need drivers to do a better job of keeping the bike lanes free and increase enforcement when this occurs (people often send me pictures of dangerous blocked bike lanes). There is much work to do to reclaim street space for people, not cars.

The State has invested more in mass transit this past legislative session and passed congestion pricing, but we still need to invest much more to fix our subways to encourage people to rely less on cars. At the state level, this year we were also able to not only bring back the school zone speed cameras, something I have advocated for many years, but we were also able to dramatically increase the numbers from only 7% of schools to all public schools. We also authorized design build in New York City, so the City can build out

needed infrastructure more economically and in a more timely fashion. In addition, for a number of years I have carried [a bill](#) that would impose additional surcharge for cars parked in bike lanes.

[Bike NYC](#) hosts classes, like NY Bike Law, Bike Commuting, CitiBike Unlocked, or Winter Cycling. I plan to host one in my office; please let me know if there's something in particular you'd like to see.

NY Foundation for Senior Citizens' Home Sharing Programs & More. I was thrilled to have New York Foundation for Senior Citizens' (NYFSC) own Linda Hoffman at my senior resource fair this summer. She spoke at our Town Hall on Housing about the services NYFSC offers, including placing seniors in affordable housing through their [Home Sharing Program](#). Social workers match adults with one another throughout the five boroughs. One of the guests must be 60 or older, or if someone is interested in sharing their home with an adult with disabilities, the host may be 55. NYFSC also has a [Respite Care Program](#), which provides relief to caregivers for seniors who are not eligible for Medicaid. For more info, go to <https://www.nyfsc.org/>.

Child Victims Act: NY's One Year "Look-Back Window" for Civil Cases is Now Open. I am so relieved that the Child Victims Act ([A.2683](#)) is now effective so that more victims of childhood sexual abuse will be able to hold their abusers accountable in a court of law. This legislation extends the current civil and criminal statutes of limitations, and also institutes a one-year "look-back window" so that past victims of any age may have an opportunity to seek justice in court. The one-year "look-back window" opened on Aug. 14 and will be open until Aug. 13, 2020. During this "look-back window", adult survivors of any age can file a civil case against an abuser or an institution that may have harbored them, regardless of the previous statute of limitations.

Please review Safe Horizon's website for detailed FAQs on the law. Safe Horizons can help survivors answer questions about the law, access support resources, and help navigate the legal process of filing a suit and understanding if legal action is the right approach. 24-hour hotline: 1-800-621-4673.

Build Trust Campaign for the MTA Capital Program. I recently joined transportation advocates to fight for more transparency from the MTA to build up trust with straphangers. New Yorkers deserve an efficient and accountable MTA that we can all rely on, regardless of ability. That's why I stood with TransitCenter, Rider Alliance, Tri-State Transportation Campaign, and Reinvent Albany, along with my colleagues in State and City government for the release of the [Build Trust Campaign](#). This campaign recommends four points for the oversight of the MTA capital program: to set the right, achievable priorities, get costs under control, be transparent and accountable, and make legislative oversight work for straphangers.

Climate Wednesdays: Solutions for a Cooler Brooklyn, 9/18 & monthly. Join 350Brooklyn and the Brooklyn Public Library for a monthly educational series to engage citizens in accessible solutions to the climate crisis. This series will feature discussions with experts on the energy, economic, policy, agricultural, social and psychological dimensions of climate change, bringing them together with the community to explore the challenges of the global climate crisis. The series begins on Wed., Sept. 18, in the Info Commons Lab at Brooklyn's Central Library (10 Grand Army Plaza) with "The Big Green Picture: Local Strategies for a Livable World." For details, go to <https://350brooklyn.org/climate-wednesdays/> or <https://www.bklynlibrary.org>

For community and policy updates, sign up for my email alerts by emailing simonj@nysassembly.gov

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