

Around the Community



Assemblyman Braunstein congratulated the winners of his annual Mother's Day Essay & Poetry Contest: (l-r) April Lee, P.S. 209 in Whitestone; Evelyn Cho, P.S. 98 in Douglaston; Eleni Katakis, William Spyropoulos School in Flushing; Ryan Rampersaud, P.S. 115 in Glen Oaks.



Assemblyman Braunstein stopped by the Westmoreland Association's annual cleanup at Glenwood Landing Park and presented President Walter Mugdan with a NYS Assembly Citation in recognition of the Association's first century of community-based work.



Assemblyman Braunstein visited the Selfhelp Community Services Clearview Older Adult Center's Volunteer Appreciation Event and joined Senator Toby Ann Stavisky in announcing a combined allocation of \$45,000 in state operating funds for the Center.



Assemblyman Braunstein marched in the annual Little Neck-Douglaston and Whitestone Memorial Day Parades.



Assemblyman Edward C. Braunstein

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2024-25 Budget Highlights

This spring, Assemblyman Edward Braunstein and the New York State Legislature passed the State Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budget. Assemblyman Braunstein, who serves as Chair of the Cities Committee, fought to improve public safety and close a squatter loophole, supported record education funding, and advocated for an AAPI Equity Budget that will support AAPI New Yorkers through services and community-based programming.

Public Safety: “In this year’s budget, I pushed for the implementation of several laws that will serve to improve overall public safety in Northeast Queens. The state budget provided \$35 million statewide to organizations tackling hate crimes, and expanded what offenses can be considered hate crimes. It also included \$70 million for Nonpublic School Health and Safety Grants to enhance security measures at nonpublic schools, as well as \$35 million for the Securing Communities Against Hate Grant Program to protect houses of worship, religious schools and other at-risk sites. To crack down on illegal cannabis, the budget also strengthened the authority of local law enforcement to padlock and shut down illegal operations. Finally, the budget strengthened penalties for those who shoplift, assault retail workers, or foster the sale of stolen goods.”

Squatters: “New York State homeowners were put on edge by reports of people returning to their properties and finding squatters, only to discover that the squatters cannot be removed without a lengthy and costly eviction proceeding. Trespassing individuals in these situations are abusing a law meant to protect lawful tenants and they absolutely should not be afforded the same rights and protections. I am pleased that clarifying language was included in this year’s state budget that closes this loophole and protects New York homeowners from these unlawful opportunists.”

Education: “Schools must have the resources they need to continue giving every student a world-class education. The state budget provides just that, with \$35.9 billion in funding to the General Support for Public Schools, which will include \$24.9 billion in Foundation Aid, a \$934.5 million increase over the 2023-24 School Year.”

AAPI Funding: “Despite being New York’s fastest growing population demographic, the Asian American Pacific Islander community has faced historical underinvestment. The \$30 million AAPI Equity Budget seeks to help close this gap by supporting the community-based organizations working on the ground to offer comprehensive services and resources to Asian American New Yorkers.”

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 participated in the first ever NYS AAPI Summit, where hundreds of attendees from around the state gathered in Albany to advance the needs of New York’s Asian American population.



Assemblyman Braunstein marched in the 6th Annual Bayside Saint Patrick’s Day Parade on Bell Boulevard.

Assemblyman Braunstein's Legislative Update

Protecting Ground Lease Co-ops

The New York State Assembly and Senate have passed a bill aimed at giving ground lease residential cooperatives more initiative in the renewal and/or extension of their ground leases. Sponsored by Assemblyman Edward Braunstein, A.10467A would allow for these cooperatives to initiate such renewals and/or extensions prior to the expiration of the lease.

Currently, prospective cooperative homeowners are having difficulty obtaining mortgages for units in a cooperative that has a ground lease renewal date coming up within the next 30 years. Allowing ground lease residential cooperatives to exercise the renewal before the execution date will make it easier for buyers to obtain mortgages.

“Northeast Queens has a large concentration of affordable cooperatives. It is essential that the state helps protect this vital stock of affordable housing,” said Assemblyman Braunstein. “Allowing ground lease cooperatives to renew their ground leases sooner than later will help do just that.”

The Senate companion bill, S.9721A, sponsored by Senator Toby Ann Stavisky, also passed. The bill will be sent to Governor Hochul for her signature.



Assemblyman Braunstein and students from Cardozo High School 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.

Progressive Design-Build: A.10543

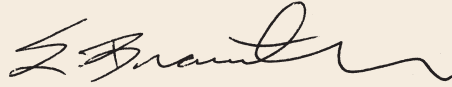
Assemblyman Braunstein’s bill to improve efficiency on major New York City construction projects, which would cut down project delivery times and taxpayer costs, passed in the Assembly. The bill accomplishes this by better facilitating the use of design-build construction.

The Senate companion bill, S.9849, sponsored by Senator Leroy Comrie, also passed. The bill will be sent to Governor Hochul for her signature.

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.

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, 26th District

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

Summer 2024



Assemblyman Braunstein attended the Bayside Village BID's Food & Music Fest and Restaurant Stroll.



Assemblyman Braunstein visited students at P.S. 169 and spoke about his job as a NYS Assemblymember during their Career Day.