



ASSEMBLYMEMBER Rodneyse Bichotte

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Mid-Year Review 2016

State of the District

The year began with the Assemblymember's State of the District Address held at Brooklyn College on February 11th. During the address the Assemblymember spoke about some of the milestones of the 2015 session, as well as some of her legislative accomplishments, and her vision for the upcoming year. As part of her address, she unveiled the Bichotte Plan, which consists of three E's: Economic Development, Education, and Ethics. To see the highlight video for her State of the District address please visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oZoEbWEAt48>

Legislative Achievements

Over the course of her first legislative term, Assemblymember Bichotte has introduced nearly 40 pieces of legislation and has been a co-sponsor, or multi-sponsor for nearly 200. This year seven pieces of her legislation were passed in the Assembly:

- **Resolution 1447** Condemning Boko Haram for its violent attacks, particularly the indiscriminate targeting of civilians; brings attention to the 276 school girls that were kidnapped in 2014 in Chibok, Nigeria, many of whom remain missing
- **A6999** Relates to determining how candidates are placed on a ballot for separate elections of males and females
- **A7582** Relates to deposits on plans and specifications for contracts for public works
- **A8044-A** Relates to opportunities for minority- and women-owned business enterprises and emerging business enterprises
- **A9122-A** Directs the Empire State Development Corporation to conduct a study on the feasibility of a minority- and women-owned business capacity enterprise mentorship program
- **A9708-A** Relates to the publication of information regarding waivers of compliance with state contract provisions concerning minority- and women-owned business enterprise participation requirements
- **A9733** Relates to the requirements of the annual report from the division of minority and women's business development

Several other bills worth mentioning are the:

- **NYS Promise Bill** – relates to free tuition for community college
- **Fair Chance Act** – relates to granting a fair chance at employment for people who have a history of incarceration
- **Voting rights legislation** - one of which would require translators at poll sites, and the other of which would require voting materials to be translated into Haitian-Creole
- **STEM legislation** – relates to providing support for the integration of a STEM curricula as well as support for educators that would be teaching those subjects



Assemblymember Bichotte delivering her first State of the District Address at Brooklyn College.



The Assembly voted on the passage of Assemblymember Bichotte's Bill, A6999, which determines how candidates are placed on a ballot for separate elections of males and females.



Assemblymember Bichotte responding to questions from constituents after her State of the District Address.



Assemblymember Bichotte (far right) joins Governor Cuomo (center) and Ronda Rousey, an MMA champion, at the bill signing to make mixed martial arts events legal in New York State.

2016 ENACTED BUDGET

Major Victories for Families and Workers

Two major wins in this year's enacted budget are the increased minimum wage, and paid family leave. The minimum wage will be phased in over time, and will depend upon the number of employees that a business has. Similarly, paid family leave will be phased in beginning in 2018 whereby employees will be eligible for up to 8 weeks of paid leave payable at 50 percent of an employee's salary, and by 2021 employee's will be eligible for up to 12 weeks of leave payable at 67 percent of an employee's salary. In addition, there was a cut in income taxes for the middle class of which some 6 million people throughout the State will benefit.

Minimum Wage Increases for New York City (businesses w/11 or more employees)

End of 2016	\$11.00
End of 2017	\$13.00
End of 2018	\$15.00

Minimum Wage Increases for New York City (businesses w/10 or less employees)

End of 2016	\$10.50
End of 2017	\$11.50
End of 2018	\$13.00
End of 2019	\$15.00

PAID FAMILY LEAVE

2018	up to 8 weeks	50% of an employee's weekly wage
2021	up to 12 weeks	67% of the employee's average weekly wage



Assemblymember Bichotte joins union members and other advocates to fight to raise the minimum wage to \$15.

Big Investment for Schools

The Assembly made significant investments in education including:

- \$627 million increase in Foundation Aid to ensure schools and teachers have the resources they need to provide all students with a quality education
- \$807 million for quality universal pre-K to continue to foster early childhood development
- \$175 million to convert schools into community schools that will benefit at-risk youth and their families
- \$20 million to implement My Brother's Keeper, a federal initiative to improve outcomes for boys and young men of color
- \$14.3 million for Teacher Resource and Computer Training Centers
- \$1 million for Career and Technical Education programs to reduce barriers faced by English language learners and students with disabilities, as well as promote gender diversity



Assemblymember Bichotte, with Assemblymember Dick Gottfried at a rally fighting to restore funding for CUNY and a contract for its professors.



Assemblymember Bichotte (at the podium) and Assemblymember Solages (to her right), at the launch of the Black Immigration Empowerment Initiative, which seeks to make visible the issues, and provide resources for immigrants throughout the African diaspora.



Assemblymember Bichotte attends the grand opening of Jahbrew, an artisanal coffee bar, in the heart of Flatbush.



Assemblymember Bichotte working with volunteers at the Council of Jewish Organizations (COJO) to distribute food to 200 families for Passover.



Assemblymember Bichotte with Assemblymember N. Nick Perry (far left), with Pastor Galbreath of Clarendon Road Church, and Pastor Galbreath's assistant.

Governor Cuomo's Advisory Council on Domestic Violence

Assemblymember Bichotte was one of six members recommended by the legislature appointed to Governor Cuomo's Advisory Council on Domestic Violence. The mission of the Council is to make recommendations on domestic violence related issues and effective strategies for preventing domestic violence; help develop

appropriate policies and priorities for effective intervention, public education and advocacy; and facilitate and assure communication and coordination of efforts among state agencies and between different levels of government, state, federal and municipal, for the prevention of domestic violence.

Haitian Studies Institute

Earlier this year, on May 2, the Haitian Studies Institute (HSI), after close to a year of programs organized by its executive and planning committees, was finally established through a unanimous vote by the CUNY Board of Trustees. The establishment of this Institute is historic. Since then, the search committee for the Haitian Studies Institute has ensured that HSI has met yet another milestone by hiring its founding director, Dr. Jean Eddy Saint Paul. Dr. Saint Paul comes to CUNY from the University of Guanajuato, in Mexico, where he was a professor of Sociology and Politics. Among his many accomplishments, Dr. Saint Paul has been a visiting scholar at the Carter G. Woodson Institute for African-American and African Studies, at the University of Virginia and a visiting fellow at the Centre d'études et de recherches internationales in Paris. He will be a tremendous asset to Brooklyn College and to the District.

The Haitian Studies Institute will act as a clearinghouse to document and disseminate the contributions of Haitian people. This will include the facilitation of collaboration among scholars, intellectuals, teachers and professors, students, and public agencies conducting research about and/or serving Haitian and other populations of the diaspora.



Nearly one hundred constituents join Assemblymember Bichotte along with her other colleagues, Assemblymembers: Solages, Jean-Pierre, Jaffee, and Richardson, and Senators: Carlucci, and Parker to celebrate **Haitian Unity Day**.

Past Events

Over the past six months the Assemblymember has hosted several events in the community including a **Black History Month** event in conjunction with East Flatbush Village, which celebrated unsung heroes in the community, and her first annual **Our Shining Stars** event, which honored women in the community in the categories of the arts and entertainment, business, community involvement, education, and lifetime achievement.

Also, the Assemblymember, along with several of her colleagues co-hosted **Haitian Unity Day**, in which Haitian people from all over the state travel to the Capitol to celebrate Haitian culture and history. Nearly fifty constituents from the 42nd Assembly District traveled to Albany. The day consisted of lunch, a tour of the Capitol, and the opportunity to observe their elected officials in session.



Assemblymember Bichotte (center) at her **Women's History Month** event, **Our Shining Stars**, with honorees Mable W. Robinson, Patricia A. Reddock, Judy Brandwein, Karen Mitchell, and Shelley V. Worrell.



Assemblymember Bichotte sharing information with clergy at her **2nd Annual Clergy Luncheon**, which took place at the Bridge Multicultural and Advocacy Project.



Assemblymember Bichotte with participants, and staff of East Flatbush Village including Executive Director, Joan Bakiriddin (center-left), and Founder/CEO, Monique Waterman (far right) at its **Black History Month** event.

In addition, she hosted both her annual clergy, and senior luncheons. The **2nd Annual Clergy Luncheon** was held at the Bridge Multicultural and Advocacy Project, where she heard about issues of concern from clergy members, and shared information that would be helpful to them and their congregants. The **4th Annual Senior Luncheon** was held at St. Mark's United Methodist Church. There was a full program including live music and dance performances as well as the presence of several community partners that shared information about housing, healthcare, and overall physical and mental health.



Seniors at Assemblymember Bichotte's **4th Annual Senior Luncheon**, which took place at St. Mark's United Methodist Church, waiting in line to be served. The luncheon was sponsored by M & T Bank, Hospice New York, and EmblemHealth.

Welcome to Summer

The middle of June marked the end of session as well as the beginning of summer, and the beginning of graduations, block parties, street fairs and parades. New this summer, the Assemblymember will be holding “Summer Office Hours” outdoors at subway stations throughout the district primarily along the B/Q lines and the 2/5 lines. The hours will be as follows:

Summer Office Hours 2016



July 11th	Newkirk Ave. B/Q	4-7 p.m.
July 13th	Church Ave. B/Q	4-7 p.m.
July 15th	Cortelyou Rd. B/Q	4-7 p.m.
July 18th	Beverley Rd. B/Q	4-7 p.m.
July 20th	Newkirk/Nostrand 2/5	4-7 p.m.
July 29th	Beverley Rd. 2/5	4-7 p.m.

Please note that the hours are subject to change, therefore, please call the District Office to confirm.



Assemblymember Bichotte joins Ditmas Park residents at their annual block party to welcome the coming of summer.



Assemblymember Bichotte visits with the young women of the Jewish Community Council Marine Park (JCCMP).



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Assemblymember Bichotte breaking ground at the construction site for Crystal Towers – an affordable housing development partnership with Crystal Towers, LLC and the Doe Fund, that will provide wrap-around services for its residents.



Assemblymember Bichotte (second from the right) and State Senator Parker (far right) present at the unveiling of murals on Nostrand Avenue – a collaboration between the non-profit Groundswell, and students from Midwood High School, and supported by Councilmember Jumaane D. Williams (to the left of Assemblymember Bichotte).