



June 11, 2021

Greetings --

The 2021 legislative session concluded early this morning, wrapping up weeks of debate, advocacy and voting. While there is still plenty of work to be done, I am proud of the bills that we passed during this session. I am happy to return to Brooklyn, and will continue to keep you updated on the work that I am doing for our neighborhoods.

Please read below for highlights on bills that I sponsored that were passed in the past two weeks.

Legislation to Expedite the Counting and Canvassing of Absentee Ballots

This week, my bill to improve New York's voting system ([A.7931](#)) was passed by both the Assembly and the Senate. The bill serves two purposes: to expedite the counting of absentee, military, special and affidavit ballots and to create a process to ensure that all valid ballots are counted. The bill removes the previous policy which did not allow absentee ballots to be counted until election day and instead allows the Board of Elections to begin canvassing ballots as they are received and to process valid ballots starting the day before early voting begins. All absentee ballots that are canvassed and processed will then be tabulated at 8pm on Election Day. This will allow New York to announce and certify election results sooner. No longer will New York be last in the nation to know the results of closely contested elections. The bill also eliminates several minor technical errors from the list of mistakes that previously would require a ballot to be invalidated and creates a system for determining if an invalid ballot can be cured. Both of these measures ensure that every eligible voter who sends in a ballot will have their vote counted.

[See my remarks on A.7931 below:](#)



Low Embodied Carbon Concrete Bill

Also this week, the Assembly and the Senate passed my bill ([A.2591-A](#)) to require contractors that wish to sell the State concrete to manufacture it in a way that reduces its carbon footprint. It does this by instructing the Office of General Services to create a low embodied carbon standard for concrete that is procured by the State.

Concrete is the most common building material in the world, and the process for creating its main ingredient - cement - is one of the most significant contributors to global carbon emissions. This bill will encourage the use of more environmentally friendly concrete options. I was proud to cosponsor and contribute to the Climate and Community Leadership Protection Act, and I believe that this bill will help New York meet its goal of reducing 85% of total carbon emissions by 2050.

Bills Increasing Transparency, Accountability of the MTA and Department of Buildings

Our City and State agencies and authorities are in need of reform and transparency. That is why I sponsored and passed two bills to increase transparency and accountability in the MTA and NYC Department of Buildings:

- [A.1442-B](#) creates the MTA Open Data Act, which requires the MTA to compile its internal data and publish it in a way that is easy to read and understand and easily accessible to public viewing.
- [A.499-A](#) creates the NYC Department of Buildings Accountability Act. This act requires the Department of Buildings to publicly publish its information on construction site citations, complaints, violations, and accident and injury reports on its website, as well as all enforcement actions they have taken. The DOB will also have to submit biannual reports to the borough presidents and community boards on all the actions they have taken in their districts.

Safety on the Tracks

- Every year over 150 New Yorkers fall onto NYC subway tracks. That is why I sponsored and passed [A.935](#); which directs the MTA to study and then educate the public on how to react when an individual falls onto Authority facility tracks.

Small Business Recovery Grant Program

Applications are now open for the \$800 million New York Small Business Recovery Grant Program. To qualify, businesses must prove a loss of income over the past year due to the effects of COVID-19. This program is an important step to helping New York recover from COVID-19. You can find out more information, including eligibility requirements and [how to apply here](#). Please reach out to my office for more information or assistance.

It's My Park Monday

Join me this Monday 6/14 for the Prospect Park Alliance's *It's My Park Monday!* *It's My Park Monday* is a volunteer cleaning program that helps keep the park litter free during its busiest season.

The Prospect Park Alliance always needs more volunteers to help keep Brooklyn's Backyard green and vibrant! Dates are available throughout the summer. Learn more and register: prospectpark.org/its-my-park



If you have questions about these or any other legislative or constituent matters, please email me at carrollr@nyassembly.gov or call the district office at (718) 788-7221.

Stay Safe,

Bobby

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