



# Assemblymember Robert Carroll

## Legislative Update



District Office: 416 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11215 • 718-788-7221 • [carrollr@nyassembly.gov](mailto:carrollr@nyassembly.gov)  
Albany Office: Room 557 LOB, Albany, NY 12248 • 518-455-5377 • <https://nyassembly.gov/mem/Robert-C-Carroll/>

Spring 2022



## 2021 LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS



by **ASSEMBLY MEMBER ROBERT CARROLL**

The work continues in Albany to pass a State budget with an unprecedented surplus to try to address the continuing economic, educational, and mental health impact from the COVID pandemic. Mask and social distancing mandates around New York State and the country are being lifted as the Omicron wave has subsided. Despite the promising trends across all metrics, including declining positivity and hospitalization rates, I know this continues to be a difficult time for many, and some uncertainty and fear remains. Please reach out to my office if you need any assistance, and we will do our best to connect you to any available resources or help you in any way we can.

### 4 CARROLL BILLS PASSED ASSEMBLY/SENATE/SIGNED INTO LAW

#### Bill A.2591 - The Low Embodied Carbon Concrete Leadership Act (LECCLA)

Concrete emits 8% of all global emissions. LECCLA requires New York to establish guidelines for the procurement of low embodied carbon concrete.

**Bill A.935** - Requires the MTA to provide the public information on how to react safely, timely, and effectively when someone falls onto the subway tracks.

**Bill A.7931** - This amends the Election Law to make sure New York is no longer the last state in the nation to count and canvass its absentee ballots, and that every valid vote by a qualified voter is counted.

**Bill A.1442 - MTA Open Data Act** - Requires the MTA to publish its data in open data formats.

### 1 CARROLL BILL PASSED ASSEMBLY/SENATE

#### Bill A.502 - Same Day Voter Registration Constitutional Amendment

Will re-introduce this legislation in 2022!

### 2 CARROLL BILLS PASSED ASSEMBLY

#### Bill A.499 - NYC Department of Buildings Accountability Act

Bill A.1932 - Requires registration of new automotive broker businesses

## Outrageously High Con Ed Bills

This winter, many of you who are Con Ed customers reached out to my office over a dramatic increase in your power bills. This spike was the result of decades old deregulation and surging fuel costs that are driving up the cost to supply electricity to consumers. While some reasonable cost increases are expected on a seasonal basis, bills doubling and tripling are not. For background, there are two parts to every bill: supply and delivery. New York State regulates the delivery costs Con Edison is allowed to charge customers, but the supply charge was deregulated in 1998 with the idea that competition would keep prices down. Because a great deal of electricity requires fuel to produce and because fuel charges are surging (evident at the gas pumps), the supply charges on electric bills are also surging. With many consumers barely recovering from the economic impacts of COVID and inflation, this electric bill increase is especially hard hitting.

I have called on the Public Service Commission (PSC) to initiate an investigation into Con Edison's billing practices. I have also asked Governor Hochul and the New York Congressional delegation to request that the federal government release fuel reserves to bring down electricity costs. In addition, \$1.25 billion should be earmarked in the budget from the American Rescue Plan to tackle consumer utility arrears. These costs are endangering the economic stability of low income households across the State.

I fully support the efforts of the Public Utility Law Project (PULP) to help people deal with this recent spike. I am also asking my colleagues in the Assembly to join me in demanding that New York State pick up the pace in switching to renewable energy sources, so we are no longer at the mercy of investor-owned utilities. This includes passing my bill A.1466 (discussed on the next page), to allow the creation of public renewable energy infrastructure and storage.

Please contact my office at (718) 788-7221 or email [carrollr@nyassembly.gov](mailto:carrollr@nyassembly.gov) if you need assistance with your Con Ed bills.



Assemblymember Carroll with Public Advocate Jumaane Williams calling on utility arrears funding and for passage of the NY Build Public Renewables Act.

# Budget Priorities



Assemblymember Carroll with Assemblymember Mitaynes and climate advocates in front of the Governor's office in January.

## NY Build Public Renewables Act

Despite the bold agenda passed in 2019 with the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), New York State remains overly reliant on fossil fuels to meet our energy needs. As we have seen with the recent spike in Con Ed bills, this is harmful economically and environmentally. That is why I sponsored A.1466, the New York Build Public Renewables Act (NYBPRA). The NYBPRA lifts the arbitrary generation cap on the New York Power Authority (NYPA), the largest Public Power Authority in the country, and enables them to own and build new renewable projects to ensure we meet the mandates of the CLCPA. My bill would make NYPA accountable to everyday New Yorkers and expand interconnection by removing uncertainty in the renewable build-out. Without the NYBPRA, New York is unlikely to meet the goals set forth by the CLCPA. Governor Hochul has a unique opportunity to use NYPA's strong bond rating to create desperately needed renewable energy projects. Projects that will create good jobs and be revenue neutral. This bill will help us get to where we need to be both economically and in our legally mandated goal to vastly reduce greenhouse gas emissions. That is why I continue to fight for the legislature to pass it and for it to be included in the budget.

In order for New York to reach the necessary and aggressive goal of producing 70% of its energy via renewable resources by 2030, we need aggressive investment in renewables and renewable infrastructure. Relying solely on the private market is not only insufficient for our needs, it would also result in an environmental justice catastrophe, where renewable infrastructure will be built for affluent communities downstate, while poor and upstate communities will continue to be forced to rely on dirty energy from fossil fuels.

In December, my office sent a letter to Governor Hochul, with the support of fifty-four other members of the legislature, calling on her to include the NYBPRA in the Executive Budget, even though the Build Public Renewables Act is revenue neutral. Its funding mechanism uses NYPA's existing nation-leading bond program and financing while creating synergies between our State energy agencies. In fact, according to research out of the University of Pennsylvania, the Build Public Renewables Act could add up to \$90 billion to the State's economy over the next decade and up to 51,000 sustained, union jobs.

In January, I, along with my Assembly colleague Marcela Mitaynes and environmental justice activists, engaged in civil disobedience and were arrested at an action outside Governor Hochul's office in support of Build Public Renewables.

In February, the legislature held its joint budget hearing on Environmental Conservation and Energy where I questioned Doreen Harris, President & CEO of NYSERDA about the NYBPRA and the future of renewables in New York State. New York State currently only gets about 6% of its energy from wind and solar, a figure which hasn't changed in the 6 years I have been in office. Clearly, relying on the private market is not sufficient to meet our renewable energy needs.

The NY Build Public Renewables Act has a chance to turbocharge our renewable energy generation and make New York a leader on sustainable energy production. Our State and our planet can't wait any longer for this sound policy.

## #NewDeal4CUNY

I'm a SUNY grad (Go Bearcats!), my mother and brothers are CUNY grads, and I believe in the power of a strong and affordable public higher education system. We have a historic budget surplus, so there's no better time to invest in students and pass #NewDeal4CUNY to increase faculty, counselors, and move toward a tuition-free system. This would make a college education more accessible, especially to those who are first in their family to attend and would open up economic and career opportunities to many disenfranchised and underserved communities and students.

Assemblymember Carroll with a host of other legislators advocating for a new deal for CUNY in Albany.



## *Dyslexia Screening and Evidence-Based Literacy Curriculum*

Since I was elected in 2016, I have been open about my struggle with dyslexia as a child and have tried to use my platform to advocate for students. That is why I introduced A.2185, legislation that would establish a statewide dyslexia task force to create guidelines for how to appropriately screen students for dyslexia, provide necessary teacher training, and institute an evidence-based literacy curriculum that is rooted in multi-sensory sequential phonics.

This year I again circulated a budget letter in the Assembly calling upon Governor Hochul to invest \$10.2 million for universal dyslexia screening, comprehensive teacher training, and evidence-based curriculum changes. As I have said before, my life was saved by early identification and the ability of my parents to advocate for me to receive the evidence-based curriculum I needed to remediate my dyslexia. If not for that, I would not have the life I have today. That is why it is my responsibility to advocate for children who have dyslexia so they can be identified and provided with the resources they need in order to thrive.

During the education budget hearing, Mayor Adams spoke about his own dyslexia and I was humbled to hear him say that my openness about my diagnosis helped him overcome the stigma and to speak about his experience of being diagnosed with dyslexia as an adult. I am partnering with Mayor Adams and DOE Chancellor David Banks in these efforts, both of whom have been strong supporters of my calls for universal screening for dyslexia and evidence-based curriculum interventions. It is a sea change to have these kinds of partners in city government and I am optimistic about the impact we can have for students with dyslexia and other learning disabilities and differences.



### **Visit to The Windward School With Chancellor Banks**

*Left to right: Kenita Lloyd, Deputy Chancellor for Family Engagement; Brad Hoylman, New York State Senator; Robert Carroll, New York State Assemblymember; David Banks, Chancellor, NYC Department of Education; Jamie Williamson, Head of The Windward School; and Deputy Chancellor, Carolyne Quintana.*

## *Fair Pay for Home Care Act*

New York is at the center of a national home care workforce crisis. The need for home care workers is only increasing, and the benefit to the individuals and families these workers serve are immeasurable. Recruitment and retention of home care workers is at an all-time low, and people in need of care are going without services, or their care is falling to unpaid family members, or they are becoming unnecessarily institutionalized. Home care aids are among the lowest paid workers in the State, averaging just \$22,000 in annual earnings. Fifty seven percent of home care workers rely on public benefits to care for their own families. This must change. That is why I am urging the Legislature and Governor to fully fund Fair Pay for Home Care in this budget.

## *Advocating for Subway Safety*

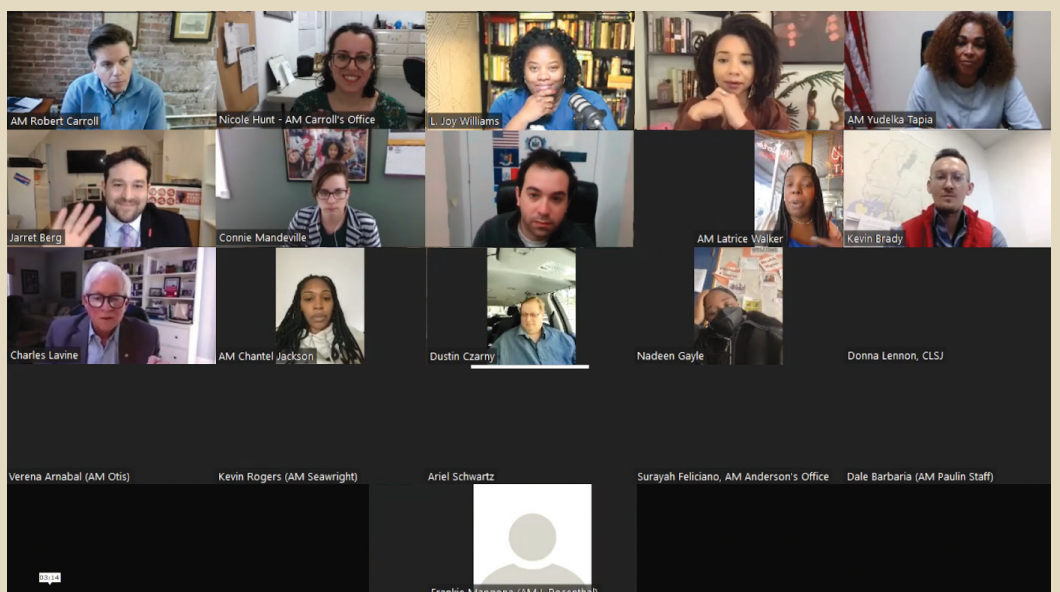
In February, I sent a letter to Governor Hochul and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer calling on each of them to set aside \$3.5 billion, for a total investment of \$7 billion, for the MTA to make system wide safety upgrades. These include installing platform security such as track sensor systems and the installation of platform strips and platform doors, where feasible. The letter was sent in partnership with my colleague in the Senate Leroy Comrie, and was co-signed by thirty-three of our colleagues in the Assembly and Senate.

We were pleased when the MTA announced later that month they would be launching a pilot program, installing safety barriers at three stations. I am confident this pilot will demonstrate the effectiveness of these devices to reduce delays, fatalities, as well as costly trash and fires on the tracks, and will lead to the expansion of this program to many more platforms.

## *Voting Rights and Reform*

As a member of the Election Law Committee in the Assembly, I sponsor a number of bills to reform and expand voting rights and access. For this session, my top priority bills in the Election Law committee are A.642-B, to end the practice of disqualifying otherwise valid ballots because a voter went to the wrong polling place, but in the correct county; and A.8858, to allow for 10 Day Voter Registration, which brings the registration deadline in line with the constitutional minimum of 10 days for all elections.

I also sponsor the constitutional amendment to remove the 10 day requirement for voter registration from the constitution, opening the way for same day voter registration in New York State. Unfortunately, it was defeated at the polls in November, but I am undeterred in fighting for this important reform. I am re-introducing the Same-Day Registration Amendment and am urging the Assembly to pass this key voting reform this year so that we can pass it again next session and have this important constitutional amendment before the voters again in 2024. Same Day Voter Registration is a key reform to increase voter participation, and removes an arbitrary barrier rooted in a history of exclusion.



*Assemblymember Carroll sponsored a legislative briefing with Election Law Chair Assemblywoman Latrice Walker in support of A.642-B.*

# Community Events



Assemblymember Carroll distributing free COVID testing kits and KN95 masks in front of his District Office during the Omicron surge.



Assemblymember Carroll with Joseph Ferris Jr., Comptroller Brad Lander, former Assemblymember Jim Brennan and former Assemblymember Rhoda Jacobs at the co-naming event of 3rd Street between 7th and 8th Avenues in honor of former Assemblymember Joseph Ferris.




Assemblymember Carroll at the Christ Apostolic Church's Goke Food Pantry on Cortelyou Road distributing Thanksgiving Turkeys.



Assemblymember Carroll with Windsor Terrace neighbors presenting a citation to Sajit Patel, the owner of Ballard Pharmacy for all the amazing work his and all our local pharmacies have done throughout the pandemic.

New York State Assembly, Albany, New York 12248



Assemblymember  
**Robert Carroll**  
Spring 2022  
*Legislative Update*

PRSR STD.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Albany, New York  
Permit No. 75

## In-Person Event – Spring Clean & Green 2022

Sponsored by  
**Assemblymember Robert Carroll**  
**Sunday, April 3**  
**10am-2pm**  
Prospect Park Entrance at  
Bartel-Pritchard Square  
(next to the Greenmarket,  
across the Street  
from Nitehawk Cinema)

- **ELECTRONICS RECYCLING**  
*(TVs, VCRs and DVD players, game consoles, computers, keyboards, monitors, printers, scanners, fax machines, tablets, and phones)*  
*PLEASE NO APPLIANCES, NO BATTERIES, NO LIGHTBULBS*
- **TEXTILE RECYCLING**  
*Footwear (in pairs only); all clothing; accessories such as hats, belts, backpacks and bags (no hard suitcases), linens, bedding, towels, curtains, comforters, Halloween costumes, throw rugs (no room size rugs)*
- **BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN**  
*Flower and Vegetable Seed Giveaway*
- **BROOKLYN SOLARWORKS**  
*Find out how to reduce your electric bills with renewable energy alternatives*
- **MTA New York City Transit**  
*Bus and subway updates, maps and information*
- **NYPD 72th Precinct**  
*Free Bike Etching*
- **Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)**  
*Sustainable giveaways and information for homeowners*
- **And more!**

Call the District Office at (718) 788-7221 if you questions.