



**June 14, 2023**

Greetings –

After an intense week of debate and voting, the Assembly adjourned this past Saturday, but we will be back in Albany next week to address unfinished business. Here are some important developments that I would like to share with you.

**Bills Passed - Prime Sponsor**

Four bills that I am the prime sponsor of passed both the Assembly and Senate. These bills are “Golden Day” Voter Registration ([A.6132](#)), Solar and Energy Storage Tax Abatement ([A.6113](#)), Flood Disclosure for Homebuyers ([A.1967](#)); and The Dyslexia Task Force Act ([A.133](#)).

The Golden Day bill builds on my previous legislation ([A.8858](#)) passed in 2022, which reduced the 25-day deadline for voter registration to the constitutional minimum of 10 days creating a scenario where the voter registration deadline now overlaps with the first day of early voting. Now [A.6132](#) establishes a mechanism for enabling New Yorkers to register at an early voting site on the first day of early voting and then cast a ballot, all in one visit.

The Solar and Energy Tax Abatement bill ([A.6113](#)) will improve New York City’s property tax abatement program for solar panels and electric energy storage systems. The bill extends the current property tax abatement, which was also authorized by legislation I sponsored but set to expire at the end of this year, to 2035, better aligning it with federal solar tax credits. My legislation allows buildings to use the solar abatement and storage abatement in conjunction when previously they had to choose between technologies, and it makes solar parking canopies eligible for the program. In addition to helping the City and State meet its climate goals this legislation will create thousands of jobs and save New Yorkers an estimated \$800 million on their utility bills in the first five years of the program.

In terms of reducing carbon emissions, the impact is estimated to be the equivalent of taking 173,000 cars off the road for one year.

Last year, I passed legislation regarding flood disclosure requirements for renters. This year, my bill ([A.1967](#)), [establishes a flood risk “right to know” for homebuyers](#). New York already has a flood disclosure requirement for homebuyers, but there is a major loophole: sellers preempt disclosure by offering a \$500 waiver. New York is the only State among the thirty that have flood disclosure requirements that has such a mechanism. This bill eliminates the “credit provision” and requires the disclosure of information concerning flood risk, flood history, and flood insurance on real property transactions. Homebuyers will now be empowered to have the information they need to protect their home and their families.

The “Dyslexia Task Force Act,” [A.133](#), will require the New York State Education Department Commissioner to establish a task force to hold public hearings and examine appropriate and effective evidence-based screening methods, reading interventions and other educational supports for dyslexia and related disorders. This is the same legislation vetoed by the Governor last year for spurious reasons regarding administrative costs. It is clear to me that the need and demand for this legislation is greater than ever.

Another bill that I am the prime sponsor of, the “Dyslexia Diagnosis Access Act” ([A.2898](#)) passed the Assembly unanimously, but the Senate failed to bring it to the floor. This legislation would require that private health insurance policies pay for neuropsychological exams for the purpose of diagnosing dyslexia. Most medical insurance companies do not reimburse for this and schools typically only offer limited assessments. Neuropsychological exams are often administered over the course of two days and currently may cost in excess of six thousand dollars making them unaffordable to many families. Educational research has unequivocally demonstrated that early identification of dyslexia, coupled with interventions like multi-sensory sequential phonics instruction drastically improves educational outcomes limiting the harm caused by dyslexia. I will continue to work to see this legislation pass both houses and become law.

### **Bills Passed - Co-Sponsor: The Clean Slate Act**

I am proud to have co-sponsored and voted for the passage of the Clean Slate Act ([A.1029](#)). This important criminal justice reform provides for the automatic sealing of misdemeanor and felony criminal convictions under circumstances where there

is objective criteria indicating that the concerned individual is unlikely to engage in further criminal activity. Class A felonies for which a maximum life imprisonment sentence may be imposed and convictions requiring registration as a sex offender are not eligible for sealing. The law also provides for keeping people's conviction records accessible for certain law enforcement purposes and other necessary needs under specific circumstances. It will help prevent discrimination against formerly incarcerated New Yorkers and help give them a better opportunity to secure a job, find stable housing, and rebuild their lives. New York will be the 11th state to enact legislation that provides for the automatic sealing of criminal convictions.

### **Legislation That I Opposed - Changes To The State's Public Campaign Finance Program**

I voted **no** on [A7760 \(Walker\)/S7564 \(Myrie\)](#) - to change the State's public campaign finance program. This legislation was opposed by [every major good government group](#) and many editorial boards including [the New York Times](#). The public matching funds program was originally authorized in 2019 and will first be utilized in the 2024 elections. Like New York City's program, it is intended to expand opportunities for a greater range of candidates to run for office and reduce the influence of large donors by providing public matching funds for small dollar contributions to candidates who participate in the program.

Two changes in the legislation voted on and passed by the Assembly and the Senate are particularly problematic. First the threshold for in-district donors required for candidates to receive public matching funds was increased from 75 donors to 145 for the Assembly and from 150 donors to 350 for the Senate. This will simply work to protect incumbents who have had the opportunity to already establish a broad network of committed supporters. Second, the new legislation changes how we match contributions without lowering the maximum allowable contribution limits. While the initial law was flawed because a contribution of even \$1 over \$250 would render an otherwise matchable contribution unmatchable creating an administrative nightmare relating to returning disqualified matching funds, advocates were correct that the legislature should not have allowed excessively large contributions to be eligible for matching funds. The solution is simple - lower the maximum allowable contribution for Assembly and Senate campaigns, but allow the first \$250 of any eligible contribution to be matched, similar to the City's program. The complexity in designing a well-functioning matching funds program makes it even more important that it be done in a deliberative manner. The legislation that the Assembly and Senate passed was rushed through and while I understand that the calculus of when to vote against

leadership can be complicated and that there was a good argument for making some changes to the current law, voting no was the right thing to do.

### **Legislation Requiring Action**

There was much important and good legislation that we did not act on last week and so far, we have entirely failed to address the State's housing crisis. Here however, I will only focus on two bills. [I am especially unhappy with the inaction on Sammy's Law \(A.7266\)](#), which would give New York City more authority to lower speed limits on its streets. Lower limits and better street design will save lives and this bill should be passed. I will continue to forcefully advocate for this legislation.

I am also continuing to advocate for my bill the New York Wildlife Crossing Act ([A.4243](#)), which directs the State Department of Transportation to identify sites along all highways, thruways and parkways in the State where wildlife crossings are most needed to increase public safety and improve habitat connectivity. These crossings help wildlife adapt to climate change and biodiversity loss by connecting habitats essential for wildlife survival and have been identified as a key strategy to mitigating the effects of climate change. This bill will better prepare the State to take advantage of \$350 million allocated for wildlife crossings in Federal Infrastructure and Jobs Act.

### **Celebrate Brooklyn Concert Series**

Upon return from Albany over the weekend, I had the great fortune to attend BRIC's Celebrate Brooklyn! Opening Night at the bandshell in Prospect Park. Celebrate Brooklyn is NYC's longest running continuously operating free concert series and I look forward to it every summer. BRIC, under the new leadership of Wes Jackson has another amazing summer of shows planned for all. [Check out the schedule here](#) and I hope to see you there.



### **MTA Metro Card Van**

The very popular MTA Metro Card Van will be back in front of my District Office on July 31st at 10am. See full details on the flyer below and call or email my office if you have questions.

# The MTA MetroCard Van is Coming to Park Slope!

Sponsored by Assemblymember Robert Carroll



**Monday, July 31<sup>st</sup>**  
**10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**  
**416 7th Avenue**



### Services Offered at the Mobile Sales Van:

- Get help with a Reduced-Fare application
- Transfer MetroCard balances (Full fare and Reduced-Fare)
- Exchange a damaged Reduced-Fare MetroCard for a temporary replacement
- Report a lost/stolen Reduced-Fare MetroCard
- Ask our team about any MetroCard-related issues
- Ask about the OMNY Program

If you can't come on July 31<sup>st</sup>, here is  
the regular MetroCard Bus/Van Schedule for Brooklyn

LOCATION	DAY	TIME
Sheepshead Bay at 3520 Nostrand Avenue (Between Avenue V & Avenue W)	1st Tuesday	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Starrett City at Pennsylvania Avenue & Twin Pines Drive	1st & 3rd Tuesday	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Coney Island at Neptune Avenue (Between West Fifth Street & Sixth Street)	1st Tuesday	1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Flatlands at Kings Plaza Shopping Mall (Avenue U & Flatbush Avenue)	1st & 3rd Tuesday	2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Flatlands at 2424 Ralph Avenue (Avenue N & Mill Lane)	1st & 3rd Tuesday	12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Bensonhurst at 86 Street & Bay Parkway	2nd & 4th Friday	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Bay Ridge at 86 Street & Fourth Avenue	2nd & 4th Friday	1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.



For additional information on this event or any other local or state issue,  
please call Assemblymember Robert Carroll's District Office at 718-788-7221



If you have any concerns about these or any other legislative or community matter please email me at [carrollr@nyassembly.gov](mailto:carrollr@nyassembly.gov) or call (718) 788-7221.

Bobby

**Assemblymember Robert Carroll**

**416 7th Avenue**

**Brooklyn, NY 11215**

**(718) 788-7221**

**LOB 557**

**Albany NY 12248**

**(518) 455 5377**

**[Carrollr@nyassembly.gov](mailto:Carrollr@nyassembly.gov)**