

ASSEMBLYMAN WILLIAM COLTON

COLTON FIGHTING FOR OUR QUALITY OF LIFE



ASSEMBLYMAN COLTON HONORED DISTINGUISHED WOMEN IN THE COMMUNITY



In honor of Women’s History Month, Colton hosted his 9th Annual Distinguished Women’s Award Ceremony in March. He wants to bring recognition to all women who play important roles in our communities. Some of the honorees are business owners, educators, healthcare workers, government employees, volunteers, and more.

There were close to 100 attendees at this event, with the support of their families and friends who celebrated these wonderful women who have made an impact in our community and neighborhood. Colton personally awarded and recognized these distinguished women by giving them an award and pink roses.



Assemblyman Colton was honored to have a meeting with The Consul General of Israel in New York, Asaf Zamir, in Albany.

ASSEMBLYMAN COLTON STATEMENT ON THE UNACCEPTABLE WAR ON UKRAINE

“Months have passed since Russia invaded Ukraine and began a senseless war. This is a brutal war that Putin calls a “special military operation” to disarm Ukraine. The unjustified violence of Russia initiated a situation where brothers and sisters kill their own without even realizing it, parents lay to rest their children, and this is all because the powerful choose so. As local state elected officials, we must acknowledge that we have little power to stop Putin’s war crimes. But we can appeal to and unite with the moral conscience of our local communities to rise together with local communities all over the world, in demanding and praying for the end of the horrific war crimes being committed in Ukraine,” Colton stated.

“We are not powerless morally or spiritually to make our consciences heard in support of the great people of Ukraine, as they continue their courageous fight for freedom against the powers of tyranny. Early Americans fought that same fight in the American Revolution. Let America and the moral strength of people all over the world now join in support of the people of Ukraine,” Colton continued.

ASSEMBLYMAN COLTON HOSTED TOY DRIVE AND CELEBRATED THREE KINGS AT MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD

The “Christmas in February” Toy Giveaway held at St. Simon and Jude Church was a great success.

Colton also celebrated Three Kings Day, also known as Epiphany with friends and locals which was a fun and successful celebration. It’s customary to gather with friends and family to celebrate by opening gifts, playing music, and lots of food.



ASSEMBLYMAN COLTON LAUDS HISTORIC



COLTON: A STRONG VOICE WINNING RECORD INCREASES FOR EDUCATION

Colton has always been a fierce fighter for increased funds for a top-quality education for all our children. As a former educator, he understands the needs and the importance of funding for the students so that our children can succeed.

Colton is thrilled to announce that this year's budget includes a record total of \$31.5 billion in total School Aid, which is a \$2.1 billion increase from last year's budget with \$1.5 billion fulfilling the second of three installments to fully repay high needs school districts like NYC, which have been shortchanged funding for decades.

FUNDS FOR UNIVERSAL PRE-KINDERGARTEN

There is \$1.1 billion in Universal Pre-k, which is \$125 million above last year, a total of \$375 million over 3 years.

This budget also provides \$53 million for school mental health programs to help students thrive in the classroom and beyond. It also increases the funding for public libraries by \$5.5 million over last year for a total of \$99.6 million.

COLTON INVESTS IN CHILD CARE

The record budget makes critical investments in child care by investing \$7 billion over four years, to help make it more affordable for more New Yorkers by increasing eligibility for subsidies to up to 300 percent of the federal poverty level. It would also increase rate reimbursement at 80 percent and would provide stabilization grants including funds for wages and other child care provider needs.

Further, it raises the reimbursement in the market rate from the 69th percentile to the 80th percentile, provides \$343 million for additional child care stabilization grants and invests \$50 million for the capital needs of child care providers across the state.

Assemblyman Colton exults over historic \$220 billion New York State budget full of significant funding to meet crucial needs of people.

This historic budget combines investments of short and long-term funds to meet the significant needs of New Yorkers. These investments include support for the environment, education, health insurance, tax cuts for the middle class, mental health law, tax break for gas, an expansion of child care, and raises for home health care workers.

ASSEMBLYMAN COLTON CLAIMS BIG VICTORIES FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

The budget invests \$2.2 billion for capital projects at SUNY and CUNY, \$1.2 billion for SUNY's State-operated campuses, \$879 million for CUNY's senior colleges, and \$102 million for community colleges across the State.

It provides \$150 million to expand the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) to support part-time students in degree-seeking programs and non-degree training programs at community colleges.

The budget includes \$500 million in New Operating Support for SUNY and CUNY. It provides SUNY and CUNY with \$106 million, with \$53 million for each system to hire additional full-time faculty at both four-year colleges and community colleges. The budget also includes \$225 million for SUNY and \$170 million for CUNY in additional capital funding.

The budget provides a total of \$203 million for opportunity programs. Funding for these programs includes:

- \$48.3 million for Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP)
- \$43.8 million for Educational Opportunity Program (EOP)
- \$38.2 million for Search for Education, Elevation and Knowledge (SEEK)
- \$21.5 million for Science and Technology Entry Program (STEP)
- \$16.3 million for Collegiate Science and Technology Program (CSTEP)



SMALL BUSINESSES ASSISTANCE

Many small businesses were hit hard and forced to close due to the pandemic shutdown. The Budget provides significant support which includes a new capped refundable tax relief program targeting COVID-19-related expenses. The program provides up to \$250 million in additional relief to small businesses.

BUDGET PASSED FOR NEW YORKERS

COLTON'S STRONG VOICE DEMANDS BUDGET INCLUDE BAIL REFORM CHANGES TO BETTER PROTECT PUBLIC SAFETY

Back in the 2019 budget, Colton voted against the controversial bail reform proposal. This year Colton demanded changes to those bail reforms must be included in this year's budget to protect New Yorkers. These changes include expanding the number of crimes where the Judge will have the discretion to detain a defendant based on the seriousness of the crime charged, harm to persons or property, past criminal history, and most importantly record of repeated offenses charged while the defendant is out awaiting trial. The list of crimes has been expanded to include hate crimes, violations of orders of protection, and gun trafficking charges and crimes including possession of illegal and defaced guns.

These changes also include closing problematic loopholes on Raise the Age and Discovery, and strengthening Kendra's Law which permits

a Judge to hold persons with mental health issues who are dangerous to themselves or others.

The Public Safety Budget also includes \$90 million, including giving DA's funding for discovery implementation and pretrial services.

This includes:

- A \$65 million investment in approaches to discovery that ensure public safety, including system-wide coordination, technology, expanded storage capabilities, and administrative support; and
- \$25 million for pretrial services, alternative to incarceration services and reentry programs. These services include reminders and monitoring of court attendance, screening, and referrals for mental health and substance abuse treatment.

ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION

Colton has always been a strong supporter of the Environment and considers it one of the top priorities in the budget. This budget includes an additional \$1.2 billion for the landmark Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act, bringing the total investment to \$4.2 billion.

Additionally, the budget includes a \$400 million Environmental Protection Fund to support climate change mitigation projects, improve agricultural resources, protect our water sources, advance conservation efforts, and provide recreational opportunities for all New Yorkers.

As for transportation, this budget includes a historic \$32.8 billion five-year capital plan for programs and proposed projects administered by the New York State Department of Transportation. This new capital plan, the largest investment in the state's transportation infrastructure, represents a \$9.4 billion (40.2 percent) increase over the prior five-year plan period.

COLTON HELPS FAMILIES IN CRUCIAL AREAS

SUSPENDING GAS TAX

Colton is happy to announce the suspension of state taxes on gasoline and highway diesel from June 1 through December 2022. That would allow New York motorists to save roughly 16 cents per gallon at the current price of gas.

TAX RELIEF FOR MIDDLE-CLASS

The budget includes critical tax credits and rebates to help New York families. The budget also provides critical tax credits, including a one-year property tax rebate credit for households that are eligible for STAR and Enhanced STAR and have incomes below \$250,000; supplemental earned income tax credit (EITC) to taxpayers equal to 25 percent of their 2021 EITC benefit, which would be an average of \$190 per taxpayer; and supplemental Empire State Child Credit for families with children over the age of four and would be calculated based on the taxpayer's 2021 Empire State Tax Credit.

HEALTH CARE

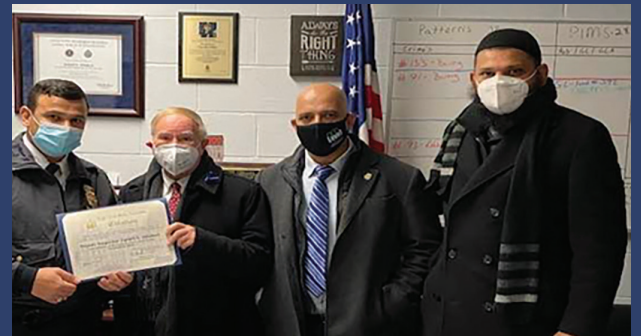
The budget includes \$2.4 billion being directed to improving health care infrastructure and \$3.9 billion in funding to provide aid to hospitals struggling financially from the COVID-19 pandemic.

HOME CARE AIDES

Home care workers do the work of our families, caring for the elderly parents while saving the state billions of dollars in nursing home expenses. Colton is proud to announce a \$7.7 billion will be spent over four years to increase the home care worker minimum wage by \$3. The budget also includes \$1.2 billion in bonuses for other health care workers, to keep workers in the industry after a tough two years.

ASSEMBLYMAN COLTON PRESENTED CITATION TO LOCAL DEPUTY INSPECTOR AND SHOWS HIS SUPPORT FOR ALL OFFICERS

Assemblyman Colton visits the 115 Precinct together with Imam Ahmed Ali and members of the Masqid Iqua to present a citation to the first Yemini Deputy Inspector, Jamiel S. Altaheri, as Commanding Officer of the 115th Precinct. Colton has always supported our police officers and was proud to congratulate and thank all the officers at the Precinct for their work every day in protecting families in our community.



RENT ASSISTANCE AND HOUSING

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many New Yorkers faced financial hardship and were unable to pay their rent or their mortgage. This budget makes critical investments in rent and homeownership relief which includes \$1.1 billion in funding for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) and the Landlord Rental Assistance Program (LRAP), as well as \$250 million for a utility arrears program to be administered by the Department of Public Service.

The budget also includes a five-year housing plan with \$4.5 billion in capital funding to support the construction or rehabilitation of 100,000 units of affordable housing. \$350 million for the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA), \$50 million for public housing outside of New York City, \$100 million for additional Mitchell-Lama repairs and homeownership programs, \$100 million in funding for the Housing Our Neighbors with Dignity Act (HONDA), \$7 million for the construction of rental housing with under 20 units, and \$2 million in additional funding for the HOPE/RESTORE program for a total of \$3.4 million to help keep seniors in their homes.

The budget also includes \$41 million in federal funding for flooding victims of Hurricane Ida.

COLTON CONTINUES FIGHT AGAINST TWO PROPOSED HOMELESS SHELTERS

Assemblyman Colton led a protest against the two proposed homeless shelters on 2147 Bath Avenue and 137 Kings Highway. With a large community and organizations by his side they demonstrated to stop these proposals.

Colton supports helping homeless individuals, however, he does not support building more homeless shelters at the cost of taxpayers. Furthermore, Assemblyman Colton emphasizes that these two homeless shelters do not help the homeless, nor serve the community. Rather as a money making business, these homeless shelters profit developers and owners. Colton believes the real solution to solving homelessness is affordable housing.

The first proposed shelter at 2147 Bath Avenue violates the city zoning and is being proposed in a residential setting with many schools, day care programs, and parks in the vicinity. The second site, 137 Kings highway, raises environmental concerns and is also within 2 blocks of 8 schools and many residences.

Assemblyman Colton has organized multiple protests and meetings to bring awareness and action towards the two shelters. With large support from local constituents, organizations and media outlets, Assemblyman Colton urges constituents to continue to speak out about these two homeless shelters.

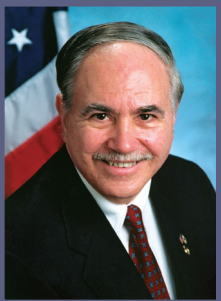
He strongly urges constituents to send letters to the Mayor's office, Buildings Department and Department of Homeless Services to fight together against these poorly thought out plans.

The office of Assemblyman Colton demands that the NYC Mayor and Department of Homeless Services withdraw their proposals. The community will stay vigilant in fighting against any plans which attempt to threaten our quality of life.



Community Office, 155 Kings Highway, Brooklyn, NY 11223

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ASSEMBLYMAN
**WILLIAM
COLTON**



**COLTON FIGHTING FOR
OUR QUALITY OF LIFE**

SPRING 2022

ASSEMBLYMAN COLTON'S COMMUNITY OFFICE SERVES YOU



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Monday-Wednesday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Thursday 12:00 Noon to 8:00 p.m.

Friday 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon

We will help you with: Small Business Concerns + Housing Issues + STAR /E-STAR + SCRIE / DRIE + HEAP + HeartShare + Food Stamps + Health Insurance + State/City Agencies Problems + Quality of Life Issues, getting traffic safety measures, such as traffic lights, speed bumps, getting potholes and dangerous conditions fixed and much more.