



Assemblymember
Jo Anne Simon

52nd District



Announcements & Upcoming Events September 2018

A Message from Jo Anne...

State Education Department Issues New Guidance to Schools on Dyslexia! What a great way to start the new school year off right: I'm thrilled to announce that the long-awaited Dyslexia guidance memorandum for school districts has been issued! This guidance was required pursuant to my legislation ([A.8262/S.6581](#)) and the advocacy efforts of many people across the state.

The New York State Education Department recently issued the new guidance documents on dyslexia and other learning disabilities. This will help more children learn to read and be successful students because when children's learning disabilities are clearly defined, educational interventions can be tailored to their needs and educators will be in a better position to teach them. The memorandum, created in cooperation with stakeholders, clarifies that school districts may use the terms dyslexia, dysgraphia, and dyscalculia in evaluations, eligibility determinations, or in developing an individualized education program (IEP).

None of this could have happened without help from parents, students, advocates, and educators across the state. (Listen to the [powerful testimony from our first Dyslexia Town Hall](#)). But there is still more to do. These documents represent an incredible step forward, but now we must make sure that it is shared widely with parents, teachers and school administrators so that every student has the opportunity to succeed. Spread the word: <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/publications/guidance-on-chapter-216-of-the-laws-of-2017.html>

School Zone Speed Safety Cameras Are Back On! Government works best when it works together. School speed cameras had gone dark over the summer because of the expiration of state authorization. While the Assembly passed legislation that I cosponsored that would have re-authorized and expanded the cameras ([A7798 Glick](#)), the Senate refused to act. Fortunately, cameras were reactivated in time for the first day of school because of an executive order crafted by the Governor and legislation passed by the City Council and the Mayor. This was also largely due to the advocates at Transportation Alternatives and the brave members of Families for Safe Streets, who have their turned indescribable losses into action to save lives.

However, the city measure is merely a stop gap, and I will continue call for the Senate to pass long-term legislation to keep our children safe. To get involved in the efforts to support speed safety cameras and streets that work for all of us, connect with [Transportation Alternatives](#) and [Families for Safe Streets](#).

Sincerely,

Jo Anne Simon

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Renters & Homeowner's Tax Exemption & Rent Freeze Enrollment Event for Seniors and People with Disabilities, 9/21/2018

I am pleased to partner with the NYC Department of Finance to help you enroll in programs like the Senior Citizen Homeowner's Exemption (SCHE), Disabled Homeowner's Exemption (DHE), Enhanced STAR, Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE), Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE), and more! Many people are eligible for these programs, but do not participate. This free event is on Sept. 21st, 10am-12pm at the Brooklyn Public Library, Brooklyn Heights Branch, 109 Remsen Street. You must bring certain materials with you, so please contact us to make an appointment at simonj@nyassembly.gov or call 718-246-4889.



Join me to Get Your Free Flu Shot! 10/16/2018

I am pleased to offer free flu shots in my district office, 341 Smith Street, in conjunction with NYU Langone Medical Center on Tuesday, October 16, 2018, from 10am-2pm. The vaccines are for adults 18+ years old. Please contact my office to make an appointment at [718-246-4889](tel:718-246-4889) or email simonj@nyassembly.gov.

Free Mammograms & Clinical Breast Exams, 11/16/2018

I am pleased to partner with the American-Italian Cancer Foundation to bring their Mobile Care Clinic to our neighborhood! If you are a woman between 40 and 79 and have not had a mammogram in 12 months, you can get a free mammogram and breast exam whether or not you have insurance (no co-pays and deductibles are waived). The van will be outside my office at 341 Smith St. between Carroll and President Streets from 2-4:30pm on Friday, Nov. 16. To make an appointment, email simonj@nyassembly.gov or call 718-246-4889.

Summer Reading Challenge: Time to Turn in Your Form! I was happy to once again sponsor the Summer Reading Challenge which is not only fun, but keeps those "learning muscles" well-toned for when kids return to school. Remember to have your children turn in their forms to my office so that we can recognize them during the certificate ceremony at the Carroll Gardens library in October (additional details coming).

Make Your Vote Count! Please spread the word about the upcoming [voter registration deadlines](#):
Thursday, September 13, 2018 State & Local Primary Deadlines:

- Absentee Ballot: Postmark application by September 6th or apply in-person by September 12th. Postmark ballot by September 12th (received by September 20th). Deliver in-person ballot by Sept. 13 (someone other than voter).

Tuesday, November 6, 2018 General Election Deadlines:

- Mail Registration: postmarked by October 12th & received by October 17th.
- In Person Registration: October 12th
- Change of Address: October 17th
- Absentee Ballot: Postmark application by October 30th or apply in-person by November 5th. Postmark the ballot by November 5th (received by November 19th). Deliver in-person ballot by November 6th (someone other than voter).

Change of Enrollment: Apply to change your party enrollment for 2019 so it's received by Oct. 12, 2018.

Register to Vote: <http://voting.nyc/>

Brooklyn School Gardens Crawl, 9/29/2018. Garden Train, the District 15 School Gardens Consortium, will be hosting its first annual Brooklyn School Gardens Crawl on September 29, 2018 in partnership with Grow to Learn! School gardens are wonderful vehicles to strengthen ties between schools and community. Garden Train strongly believes that by engaging with school gardens, we are able to share our school-wide resources with the rest of the district. The event is on Saturday, Sept. 29th, 10am – 2pm, with a kick-off at 9am at the Old Stone House, 336 3rd St., Brooklyn, 11215. For more information, visit their [Facebook page](#), or email Kathy Park Price: KathyParkPriceCEC15@gmail.com.



Pool Talks, 9/12/2018 and 9/16/2018: Brooklyn Bridge Park is planning to build a pool at Squibb Park! Get involved and have your voice heard at PS8 at 37 Hicks St., Brooklyn, NY, 11201 on Wed., September 12th from 6pm-8:30pm or Sun., September 16th from 2pm-4:30pm. To find out more information, go to the [Brooklyn Bridge Park website](#)

Fast Forward: Community Conversation on the Subways, 9/25/2018. NYC Transit President, Andy Byford, released the [Fast Forward](#) plan to modernize the subway system in May. There will be a community conversation with Byford and MTA NYC Transit staff on Tues., September 25th, at Medgar Evers College Founders Auditorium (Crown Street between Franklin Avenue and Bedford Avenue) from 6:30pm-8:30pm (doors open at 5:30pm).

Join our new Youth Policy Council! Students in grades 8-12 are invited to join the Youth Policy Council, which will advise representatives on legislative matters and solutions to everyday problems that students face. Students will have a unique opportunity to make real change by working directly with their own representatives. I am coordinating the council with Council Member Stephen Levin, and State Senators Brian Kavanagh and Velmanette Montgomery. [Students should here apply ASAP](#) or email simonj@nyassembly.com.

D15 Diversity Plan: The District 15 Diversity Plan Working Group recently out with their final recommendations for D15 which you can find [here](#). Over the past 6 months, the D15 Diversity Plan Working Group and School Community have worked to develop a set of recommendations to create diverse, meaningfully integrated middle schools. The final recommendations were sent to the Dept. of Education in July. You can provide any feedback or ask questions about the plan at info@d15diversityplan.com. [Click here for details on the diversity plan.](#)

Brooklyn House of Detention (BHOD) Public Scoping Session, 9/20. The NYC Department of Correction (DOC) recently released a [Draft Scope of Work for a borough based jail system](#). The proposed project will include expanding the BHOD and adding support space for correctional programming and therapeutic services, community space, and parking. I know that my constituents are committed to working with the City to ensure that the BHOD is part of a jail system that is smaller, safer, and fairer, and I joined the neighborhood walk in August to ensure that our voices are heard in the process. Unfortunately, thus far the City has not engaged with the community to the extent desired. That is why I urge you to attend the Public Session on Sept. 20 at P.S. 133, 610 Baltic St. at 6pm. Written comments on this Draft Scope will also be accepted by DOC through 10/15/18, and should be sent to Howard Fiedler, 75-20 Astoria Blvd., Ste 160, East Elmhurst, NY 11370 or boroughplan@doc.nyc.gov. We are also working to set up a public town hall with the Mayor's office and other stakeholders.

78th Precinct Park Slope, Gowanus, and South Slope NCO Meeting, 9/12. Sector A of the 78th Precinct is hosting their Neighborhood Coordination Officer (NCO) public safety meeting on Wed., Sept. 12th, at 7:00pm at Saint Thomas Aquinas Church, 249 9 St. Come and discuss your public safety needs and concerns with your local law enforcement officers. To find your NCO Sector, [view the map on the 78th Precinct's website](#).

84th Precinct NCO Meeting, 9/12. Sector A of the 84th Precinct is hosting their NCO public safety meeting on Wednesday, September 12th, at 6:30pm at Borough Hall, 209 Joralemon St. (light refreshments at 6:00pm). Come and discuss your public safety needs with your local law enforcement officers. [84th Precinct's website](#).

76th Precinct Carroll Gardens NCO Meeting, 9/19. Sector A of the 76th Precinct is hosting their Neighborhood Coordination Officer (NCO) public safety meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 19th, at 7:00pm at Cobble Hill Health Center, 380 Henry St. Come and discuss your public safety needs and concerns. [76th Precinct's website](#).

84th Precinct Downtown Brooklyn NCO Meeting, 9/24. Sector C of the 84th Precinct is hosting their NCO public safety meeting on Monday, September 24th, at 6:00pm at The Sheraton Hotel, 228 Duffield St.

78th Precinct Park Slope and Prospect Heights NCO Meeting, 9/25. Sector C of the 78th Precinct is hosting their NCO public safety meeting on Tues., Sept. 25th, 7pm at Sixth Avenue Bible Baptist Church, 97 Lincoln Pl.

84th Precinct Pet Adoption, 10/14. Come adopt your new best friend at Brooklyn Bridge Park Pier 5 on Sun., October 14th. From 12-4pm, Neighborhood Coordination Officers Ruggiero and Sy will be working with the Animal Care Center to find cats, dogs, and rabbits a home. Adoption fees vary, but NYC ID cardholders will receive a \$25 discount and veterans' fees will be waived except for the NYC dog license fee (\$8.50).

NY Attorney General's Clergy Abuse Hotline. NY Attorney General Barbara D. Underwood announced a clergy abuse hotline and online complaint form through which victims and anyone with information can call; 1-800-771-7755. Or, you can file a complaint online at ag.ny.gov/ClergyAbuse. An investigator will review all allegations; the Attorney General and law enforcement partners will seek to protect victims' and witnesses' identities. As a cosponsor of the Child Victims Act ([A05885](#)), I am so glad that the Attorney General has created this tool to help victims of abuse, and I stand with her calling on the Legislature to pass the Child Victims Act this year (the Assembly has passed this bill, while the Senate has not).

New Policies on Smoking in Residential Buildings. NYC residential buildings with 3 or more units are now required to create a policy on smoking within residential units. Find more info on the new City Council law [here](#). View a [sample policy](#), can find instructions and print signs from the Dept. of Health's [website](#).

Java with Jo Anne: Is there a community issue or current event you're passionate about? Come and talk with me about it! Join me for a cup of coffee through my "Java with Jo Anne" series. The next one will take place in October in Park Slope (more details coming soon!). Thanks to [Daly Pie](#) in Prospect Heights for hosting us last month.

For community and policy updates, sign up for my email alerts by emailing simonj@nysassembly.gov



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