



# New York State Assembly Assistant Majority Leader **CHARLES D. FALL**



## Dear Neighbor,

As we close another year, I want to express my gratitude for serving as your Assemblyman for the 61st District. This past year, connecting with North Shore residents, attending community events, and visiting our local public schools has been truly rewarding.

This year brought significant milestones, delivering meaningful wins for our district and communities across the state. It prioritized public safety, expanded resources for our schools, strengthened healthcare access, and made substantial investments in mental health support. These efforts reflect our commitment to building a community where every resident feels safe, supported, and equipped with the resources they need to thrive.

**Looking forward to the next legislative session, my mission remains steadfast: to serve with integrity and a relentless focus on the needs of our community.** In the coming term, I will continue to prioritize public safety by working to ensure our neighborhoods are protected and our streets are secure. I will advocate for improved transportation options and quality of life, making it easier for residents to move throughout our district. Additionally, I am committed to expanding educational opportunities so that every student has access to the tools and resources needed for success.

Together, I am confident that we can build a brighter, stronger future for the North Shore and beyond. Thank you for your continued trust and partnership in this important work.

Sincerely,

Charles D. Fall  
Assistant Majority Leader  
New York State Assembly, District 61

## YEAR IN REVIEW: Securing Key Investments for Our Community

As your Assemblyman, I am proud to share the investments we secured in this year's \$237 billion state budget:



### Public Safety

- Secured \$40.2 million to combat retail theft and established a \$5 million tax credit for small businesses to enhance security.
- Allocated \$40.8 million to expand dedicated domestic violence units within District Attorneys' offices.
- Continued funding for initiatives to reduce gun and domestic violence, with a total of \$347 million committed to community-based solutions.



### Education

- \$36 billion allocated toward education initiatives to ensure strong support for schools across the state including \$1.6 million for P.S. 44.
- Secured \$1.29 billion for capital projects at SUNY and CUNY institutions, enhancing facilities and resources for higher education.
- \$20 million invested in school-based mental health clinic satellites to expand mental health services for students.



### Health and Child Welfare

- Extended the Empire State Child Tax Credit to cover children under age 4, providing \$1,000 per child in this age group.
- Passed legislation to protect low-income New Yorkers from medical debt lawsuits.

# YEAR IN REVIEW: Securing Key Investments for Our Community (continued)

- Expanded access to prenatal care, including up to 20 hours of leave for prenatal appointments.

## Cannabis Regulation

- Empowered NYPD, local governments, and the Office of Cannabis Management with new enforcement powers to close illegal cannabis operations and impose strict penalties on non-compliant landlords.
- Implemented targeted tax adjustments to enhance the economic viability and regulatory compliance of the medical and recreational cannabis sectors.

## Transportation

- Secured \$32.8 billion over five years for transportation infrastructure improvements including the launch of the new R211S train serving the Staten Island Railway.
- Introduced the fare-free S46 bus initiative, improving accessibility for residents from St. George to Arlington, with plans to evaluate and potentially expand fare-free transit options.
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## On the Ground



**Port Richmond Students Visit State Capitol for Civic Engagement:** Excited to have hosted students from Port Richmond High School at the 53rd BPHA Caucus. Their visit to the State Capitol highlights the importance of civic engagement and the power of young voices in shaping our democracy. Engaging youth today builds informed leaders tomorrow!



**Standing United Against Illegal Cannabis Shops:** Meaningful conversations with the West Brighton residents at the Forest Avenue Regional Residents Civic Association meeting. It's clear we stand united against illegal, unlicensed cannabis shops plaguing the safety and well-being of our community.



**Celebrating Irish Heritage and Community:** Always a pleasure to enjoy the St. Patrick's Day Parade under the warm sun on Forest Ave., thanks to the incredible efforts of the Forest Ave. Bid and everyone involved — This parade showcases our rich Irish heritage & our community's inclusivity.

## **Honoring Kamora Freeland: Staten Island's Trailblazer in Aviation:**

During Women's History Month, it's an honor to celebrate Staten Island's own Kamora Freeland. At 17, she's become NY's youngest African American woman to earn a private pilot's license. Her journey from sea to sky shows that with determination, the sky's the limit.



**Honoring the strongest & boldest from NYC Dept. of Sanitation & Dept. of Corrections:** Proud to honor the strongest and the boldest from NYC Sanitation and NYC Corrections at our Annual Iftar Dinner this past year. Their service often going unrecognized is the backbone of our city. Let's continue to celebrate these heroes who keep our city thriving.



**Engaging with Our Local Schools:** It was a pleasure to visit P.S. 78, P.S. 84, and P.S. 57, where I had the chance to meet with dedicated faculty and connect with bright, eager students. Supporting our schools and listening to those at the heart of education is key to investing in our future.

## On the Ground (continued)



**Townhall Recap:** Thank you to everyone who joined our Town Hall Meeting this past year, where we discussed budget updates, community matters, and local initiatives. We appreciate your engagement and look forward to the next one!



**Strengthening Public Safety on Staten Island:** A huge win for public safety in Staten Island! New license plate readers at the Bayonne Bridge and Outerbridge Crossing are now in place to help reduce auto thefts and enforce toll evasion. Special thanks to the Port Authority, the District Attorney, and all involved in making this important investment possible.



**Fighting Food Insecurity on Staten Island:** Grateful for our continuous partnership with Rethink Food & our local partners for always supporting our small businesses & our underserved communities. Your relentless commitment to combating food insecurity and ensuring excess food reaches those in need is truly admirable.



**Breaking Ground on Renovations at West Brighton Houses:** This year, we celebrated the groundbreaking of the \$332 million PACT project at West Brighton Houses. This initiative will bring essential renovations, including new kitchens, bathrooms, and community spaces, to improve residents' quality of life. A big thank you to our partners and Shekina Butler for their dedication and hard work in making this project possible.



**Addressing Quality of Life Issues:** I was proud to stand with colleagues in government and community leaders to address Bay Street's quality of life challenges impacting our local businesses. Many thanks to our state Senator for leading this critical discussion and supporting enhanced safety measures to benefit our community.



**Celebrating the Start of Snug Harbor Little League Season:** It was a pleasure to join the Snug Harbor Little League for their spring season opener this year! Wishing our young athletes a fantastic season filled with growth, teamwork, and fun. Proud to be part of this longstanding community tradition—here's to a great season ahead!



### 114th Travis Fourth of July Parade:

Thrilled to have joined the 114th Travis Fourth of July Parade this year. Great to see so many familiar faces and celebrate our nation's independence together. Thanks to everyone who came out and made it a memorable day!



### Backpack Giveaway:

I was glad to join the NYPD 121st Precinct and Precinct Community Council for a Back To School Supplies Giveaway this year. Great to see our community come together to support our students as they prepare for the new school year. Thank you to everyone who contributed in making this day a success!



**East Shore Seawall:** Honored to join the East Shore Seawall groundbreaking—a major step in protecting Staten Island's coastline. As we remember Hurricane Sandy's impact, it's encouraging to see this vital project advancing for our community's safety. Thanks to our Congresswoman for her leadership!

## On the Ground (continued)



### Hurricane Relief Efforts:

Thank you to everyone in our community who contributed to the Staten Island Hurricane Relief Drive! Our office was proud to help deliver these essential supplies to support families affected by the hurricane.



### JCC Childhood Center:

Thrilled to be part of the ribbon-cutting for the new Early Childhood Center at the Jewish Community Center of Staten Island alongside Temple Israel and fellow colleagues. This wonderful new space will provide vital 3-K and Pre-K services supporting our young learners.



**Hispanic Heritage:** Honored to have participated in the Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration on Staten Island. Gatherings like this unite our community and I'm thankful to the organizers for all of their efforts.



### St. George Theater:

Proud to help secure \$500,000 in state funding for the St. George Theater's 'Sidewalk to Stage' project — improving accessibility and preserving this historic gem for all to enjoy!



**MLK Day of Service:** Heartfelt thanks to my colleagues & countless volunteers who braved the cold for the MLK Day of Service cleanup & local community outreach for flood prevention. This effort exemplifies Dr. King's vision of unity and service.



### R211S Trains:

Proud to see the new R211S trains now serving the Staten Island Railway. These are the first new trains in over 50 years, replacing the R44 cars. With wider doors, better accessibility, and improved travel info, our community is stepping into the future of transit!



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New York State Assembly  
Assistant Majority Leader

**CHARLES D. FALL**

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## 2024 By the Numbers:



10,000+ responses to legislative emails, calls and letters



Secured funding for capital projects and local nonprofit organizations



100+ events attended in the community



9 key pieces of legislation signed into law



532 constituent cases closed



Recognized 50+ local heroes, businesses, and organizations for their contributions