



### Dear Neighbor,

While I had planned to discuss our need for open space and the inequity of asking my constituents to accept endless development within the Hudson River Park to maintain small strips of park space, the recent decision to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

program has shifted my focus. For years, the Assembly Majority has passed the Dream Act, which would make undocumented students in New York State eligible for the full array of state financial aid for college, but the bill has died in the State Senate. Many states, including Texas, have had a similar program in place for years.

It should be understood that by law, the State is obligated to educate all children through high school. Many of these undocumented youngsters are among the best students in their schools, but are denied the same financial supports for which students sitting alongside of them are eligible. Aside from the basic unfairness of this situation, it is not in our societal interest to deny students the ability to reach their full potential. We may be denying ourselves the skills and intelligence of these young people in whatever field they pursue. America has traditionally valued the hard work and dedication of those committed to the pursuit of knowledge. Indeed, diversity has been our strength.

But America has also had a history of xenophobia directed at different ethnic or religious groups, and we continue to struggle to overcome our nationalist impulses, especially in times of strife. Economic insecurity has always been a fertile ground upon which seeds of dissension have been sown. Rising income inequality has served to make America ripe for the evil notion that we must reject our better nature and close ranks against the other—whichever that might be.

For all of us shocked by Charlottesville, or angered by the DACA decision, this is but a reflection of a deeper systemic problem. In addition to those who have harbored racial animus, the economically aggrieved of our nation, who feel left out or left behind, have been manipulated to believe that there is a shortcut to their advancement by closing the door, or throwing out those who have been demonized. This is the story of Germany in the 1930s.

No matter who is denied entry, or deported, there will be no new coal jobs in West Virginia, or a return of the textile mills to the South. While we must resist the pernicious lies that are eroding our shared values, we must also fight the growing power of income inequality. Our taxes must be fairer and shared more equitably to educate children, repair our infrastructure, provide for quality healthcare, and develop a skilled workforce for the future needs of our economy. As our population grows, and with it various needs, we can't cut taxes year after year without expecting growing deficits. Together we can, and must push back against the notion that our democracy must be sacrificed for the greater good. Democracy is the greater good.

Sincerely,

Deborah

## Constitutional Questions on the Ballot

This year, the general election will be held on November 7th. While voters will have the opportunity to cast their ballot for a number of elected offices, they'll also be asked to vote on three constitutional amendments. Constitutional amendments have important ramifications for the state but often come as a surprise to voters. I wanted to take this opportunity to highlight these amendments and the issues they raise so that voters in my district can make informed choices on Election Day. **Your support or opposition for the following will be asked on the back of your general election ballot.**

### 1) Constitutional Convention

Every 20 years, New Yorkers have the opportunity to decide whether to hold a Constitutional Convention to consider amendments to the State's Constitution. That question is on the ballot this fall.

If voters choose to proceed with a Constitutional Convention, three delegates from each state senate district, in addition to 15 at-large candidates, would be elected in November 2018. Elected delegates would convene for a Constitutional Convention in April 2019, and any amendments adopted by the majority of delegates would then be voted on individually in a statewide referendum in the 2019 general election. Those amendments that receive voter support would go into effect the following year.

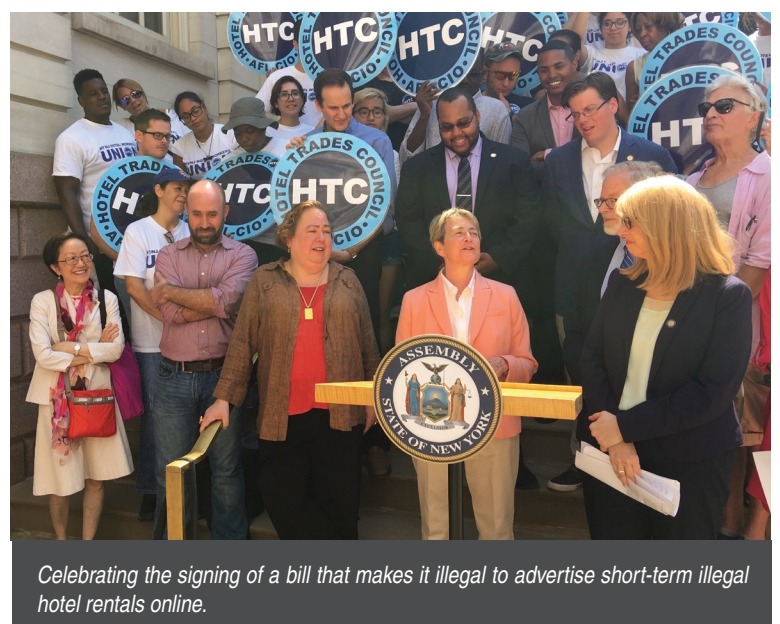
Some groups have argued for a Constitutional Convention, believing that it presents an opportunity for important reforms, such as campaign finance reform. Many others have raised serious concerns that opening up the New York State Constitution would give delegates the opportunity to weaken or even eliminate important protections such as: the right to a quality public education, the State's social safety net, the ability of the Legislature to protect affordable housing, and the general protection of the State's environment including protection of parks and forever wild land.

A Constitutional Convention would also offer the opportunity to change the Constitution to address the social issues we face, such as protecting reproductive freedom, limiting gun ownership and permits, and various civil rights issues such as increased rights for the transgender community. Progressive voices would have the chance to advance rights and freedoms. At the same time, their opponents would have the opportunity to work to limit those precise rights and freedoms, a serious concern given the national climate at this time. Many organizations have public positions on this which you can seek out. I strongly encourage voters to carefully consider these issues.

### 2) Forfeiture of Public Officer's Pensions

Currently, the New York State Constitution states that public pensions or retirement funds cannot be reduced or impaired. This amendment

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*Celebrating the signing of a bill that makes it illegal to advertise short-term illegal hotel rentals online.*

## A New Generation of Teachers is Needed

Teachers provide an essential service to the community by serving as a fundamental support for students' academic and personal achievements. Teachers not only influence students' lives by providing encouraging words and, often times, igniting a flame to pursue a certain course of study, but also serve as mentors and even counselors as a result of the various hats they're asked to wear throughout the day.

Unfortunately, New York State is in the midst of a teacher shortage due to a decline in enrollment in teacher education programs. This shortage is cause for deep concern, as even though teacher enrollment is declining throughout the nation, the number of students entering the educational system is increasing. The teacher shortage will likely impact the quality of education and students' school experiences if we do not find creative ways to attract new teachers to meet the rising demand in school districts, especially for our high-need students. In New York City alone there is already a shortage of teachers for English Language Learners, special education services, social studies, and career and technical education courses.

We must empower a new generation of college students to enter the teaching profession by actively recruiting teachers as well as increase their salaries in order to attract and retain qualified applicants in high need areas. In fact, SUNY Chancellor Nancy Zimpher has predicted that if we do not invest in promoting and encouraging students to enroll in teacher programs, we could see a teacher shortage of 180,000 in the next decade.

Teaching used to be a highly respected career. We must work aggressively to overcome a decade of denigration of teachers by political



*Advocating for my bill which would authorize an increase in speed cameras in school zones throughout New York City. The exiting pilot program has proven extremely successful at reducing speeding and keeping our children safe.*

figures, who found teachers to be an easy scapegoat for many societal changes and failures. We need to use creative ways to attract new teachers to the profession. New York City and State have begun initiatives to support teachers that can be models for moving forward. The City's Teacher Leader program identifies exemplary classroom teachers, giving them leadership and coaching responsibilities as well as stipends for their new roles.

Similarly, the New York State Master Teacher program provides professional development opportunities and stipends to teachers working in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields.

Efforts like these, which seek to reward and retain high quality teachers, stand in stark contrast to the efforts by the SUNY Charter Schools Institute to attract new, under-qualified teachers by undermining the rigorous state certification process for teachers. Recently, the SUNY Charter School Institute proposed a new teacher certification process, which would undermine the rigorous state certification process for teachers. This sort of short cut is a counterproductive approach to confronting any future teacher shortage. Under their proposal, announced in July, charter schools would be allowed to certify their own teachers, in many cases requiring only 30 hours of instruction and 100 hours of work in the classroom, requirements pale in comparison to those for traditional public school teachers in the State. This sort of short cut is a counterproductive approach to confronting any future teacher shortage.

If allowed to move forward, these regulations would create a two-tiered system, allowing charter school students to receive education from unprepared teachers who would not be allowed to teach in traditional public schools. Our goal must be to have highly qualified teachers in every classroom and not cut corners in order to staff classrooms in schools that already have high rates of teacher turnover.

To learn more about the New York State certification process please visit: <http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/certificate/rightpathway.html>.

Additionally, below are some City and State resources for those interested in gaining the skills and support needed to enter the teaching profession:

- The New York City Education Department is looking for teachers to serve in Pre-K, science, technology, engineering, bilingual education, English as a second language, special education and District 75 schools. For more information, visit <http://teachnyc.net/why-teach-nyc/high-need-subjects>
- NYC Teaching Fellowship is a unique opportunity to gain necessary skills to enter the teaching profession while gaining a Masters Degree and completing the certification process. For more information, please visit <https://nycteachingfellows.org/overview>

## National Preparedness Month

As we mark the five-year anniversary of Superstorm Sandy and watch the heart wrenching aftermath of the hurricanes that have ravaged Texas, Florida, and the Caribbean, it is increasingly clear that individuals and communities must plan ahead to withstand the devastating impact of Mother Nature's fervor.

I want to remind everyone to be prepared for weather-related emergencies and other natural disasters by creating emergency preparedness kits, often called "go-bags." First, make copies of your passport, photo ID, insurance papers and other important information to store in a small portable safe along with some extra cash.

Leading up to a storm, assess your risks by listening to the weather forecast, reviewing your evacuation zones, and monitoring storm predictions for your community. If ordered to leave your apartment, listen to this order. Take your go-bag and relocate into a shelter, or make other living accommodations until conditions improve.

To get real time updates on emergency events throughout New York City, sign up for Notify NYC. You can sign up for text or email messages: <https://a858-nycnotify.nyc.gov/notifynyc/home.aspx>

You can also sign up to help people prepare or recover from a disaster by joining the Community Emergency Response Team,

or CERT. For more information, please visit: <https://www.ready.gov/community-emergency-response-team>.

Put items into a backpack so that you can grab it quickly if your power goes out or if you need to leave quickly. Below are a few suggestions to help you to create your own go-bag:

- Medications (if applicable)
- Water (3-4 day supply per person)
- Non-perishable foods for 3-4 days (don't forget a can opener)
- First Aid Kit
- Whistle to alert people if you get trapped or stranded
- Hand wipes
- Garbage bags
- Diapers, baby food, pet supplies (if applicable)
- Batteries, flashlights, candles, matches
- Battery operated radio

## Addressing the Loss of Longtime Businesses in the Village

Throughout our communities, we are confronted with empty storefronts, rising commercial rents, and the threat that even more long-time business attrition will continue to plague our neighborhood. We have seen a number of businesses, that had been mainstays of Greenwich Village, the East Village, SoHo, and Lower Manhattan, close over the past decade. Places like Avignone Chemists, Bleecker Bob's Records, and Shakespeare & Co Books have all left our neighborhood while empty storefronts continue to grow. While they are safely in their space for now, the owners of Cornelia Street Café have been featured in *The Villager* discussing their extremely high rent and the difficulty that they would have maintaining and operating this longtime Village eatery and performance space. Some businesses have weathered changes in the community and have been able to find new locations or adapt their business model like Li-Lac Chocolates or East Village Cheese. However, rampant real estate speculation and the march of luxury condo developments have sanitized our neighborhood as we lose the diverse businesses that have served the community for decades.

While I have called upon the Mayor and this Administration to address small business attrition in our community, I fear that the pressures of real estate speculation will continue to drive out these

local businesses. If our community does not want to see an empty Bleecker Street, or lose another restaurant where one can have an affordable dinner, we must work to quickly end these practices that reward luxury development and drive out small businesses. I try my best to shop at local small businesses and encourage others to patronize local neighborhood shops. We must all encourage friends, family, and visitors to patronize our favorite neighborhood gems. The character of our communities depends on these businesses.

A major way that the City can alleviate the immense burden that small business owners experience is by changing to the Commercial Rent Tax (CRT). The CRT levies an additional tax on rents that commercial tenants are required to pay, but only if they are renting space in Manhattan south of 96th Street. This is an example of an outdated tax structure that is benefiting only owners who are incentivized to continue to increase rents without caring about the long term status of neighborhood businesses. I have advocated to the Mayor that this Administration significantly reform the CRT.

We need a partnership of both City and State stakeholders working to ensure long term businesses stay in our communities in order to foster continued growth.

## Understanding Our Complex Subways

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) has been at the forefront of discussions recently as many of the City's transportation system's chronic infrastructure issues have given way to breakdowns, service changes, and track failures. These issues have snarled the system and frustrated commuters who, having seen regular fare increases and paid City and State taxes supporting the system, are met with the prospect of declining service and increased costs while wondering where their dollars have gone. While problems with the subways and issues at Pennsylvania Station have been the main discussion this summer, it's also important to understand the complex issues that impact MTA funding so that commuters are better able to understand and advocate for the solutions that would best help the system.

The MTA is a New York State Authority whose Board is controlled through appointments by the Governor and Mayor, while the State Legislature participates only through funding allocations through the State budget. The MTA operates on 5-Year Capital Plans to address major infrastructure needs. The MTA presents needs and the State Assembly and State Senate then vote on funding as part of the State's annual budget, which is then signed into law by the Governor. Funding priorities are generally driven by the MTA Board and encompass all aspects of the MTA in the downstate region, including NYC Transit (Subways & Buses), Metro North Railroad, Long Island Railroad, and the MTA Bridges & Tunnels. New York City is responsible for contributing a portion of its budgetary allocation to the MTA, but that amount is significantly less than the burden shouldered by the State.

Non-maintenance funding is also allocated through 5-year Capital Plans, which include the construction of new subway lines, car replacements, commuter train replacements, station improvements, signal replacement, and other non-maintenance allocations. The last 5-year Capital Plan was passed in 2016 for 2015-2019, and encompassed over \$32 billion in capital funds to be allocated in annual budgets over those five years.

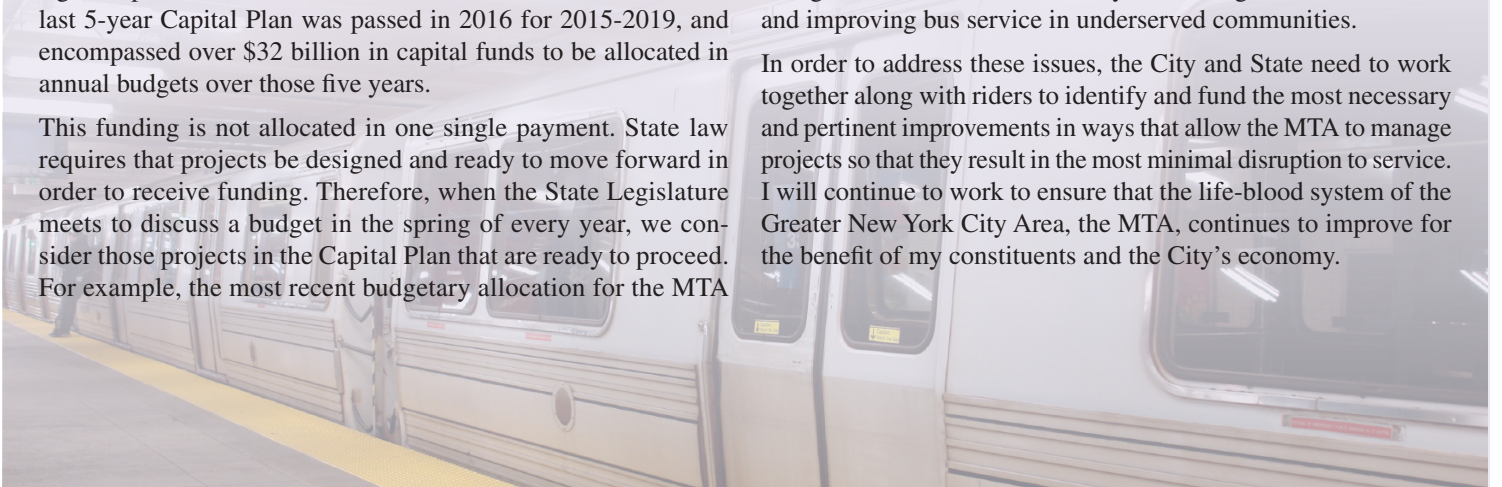
This funding is not allocated in one single payment. State law requires that projects be designed and ready to move forward in order to receive funding. Therefore, when the State Legislature meets to discuss a budget in the spring of every year, we consider those projects in the Capital Plan that are ready to proceed. For example, the most recent budgetary allocation for the MTA

included \$8.3 billion from the State and \$2.5 billion from the City, which are a part of the 2015-19 Capital Plan. In order for the MTA to access that funding, they must first exhaust all previously allocated funds given for Capital projects. They cannot have left over money meant for capital construction that goes unused.

This can make planning difficult for the MTA, which must try to predict the fluctuating cost of construction, wait for the State Legislature to act on a budget, and then time the exhaustion of funds from the State and City, along with Federal contributions, in order to continue capital developments. As many projects require more than 5 years to complete, there can also be multiple 5-year Capital Plans active and seeking funding at one time. Currently there are funding needs being met in the State budget, with contributions from the City, across three separate 5-year Capital Plans.

As the MTA, along with State and City Legislatures, navigate these complex funding processes, the needs of our transportation systems continue to change and grow. The subways continue to experience record ridership, Metro North and the Long Island Railroads require improvements and expansions, and maintenance allocations need to be made in order to keep the entire system running. The very real facts are that as the City's population continues to grow, ridership will increase and the City and State must work together to fund future projects and technological improvements as well as maintaining the system we currently have. Some independent groups such as Rider's Alliance, NYPIRG, the Straphangers Campaign, Regional Planning Association, Transportation Alternatives, and Streets PAC are currently advocating for various improvements to the system that align under both capital improvements and operational funds such as fare reductions for low-income New Yorkers, changing the allocation of real estate taxes when the City re-zones a neighborhood to more accurately fund changes in infrastructure, and improving bus service in underserved communities.

In order to address these issues, the City and State need to work together along with riders to identify and fund the most necessary and pertinent improvements in ways that allow the MTA to manage projects so that they result in the most minimal disruption to service. I will continue to work to ensure that the life-blood system of the Greater New York City Area, the MTA, continues to improve for the benefit of my constituents and the City's economy.



## Constitutional Questions on the Ballot

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would change the Constitution to allow courts to reduce or revoke a public officer's pension when that officer is convicted of a felony related to their duties. A public officer is defined in State law and includes elected officials, judges, and many political appointees and government employees. Should the amendment pass, the Legislature would then need to pass a law putting the proposal into effect, and it would only apply to crimes committed on or after January 1st, 2018.

### 3) Creation of a Land Bank

The New York State Constitution currently bars the lease, sale, exchange or taking of any forest preserve land. When municipalities need to make repairs or improvements on infrastructure located within a forest preserve, the request must first be approved through a long constitutional amendment process, where it is voted on by two separate successive legislatures and then by the general public. The new amendment would create a 250-acre land bank to which a local municipality could apply if it needs to make repairs or improvements and have no viable alternative but to use forest preserve land, allowing them to bypass this lengthy process. Any approved use would need to meet qualifications ensuring that the land will be used for limited health and safety purposes, and the State will be required to purchase additional land to maintain 250 acres to replace the land used for these projects.

Additionally, the amendment would allow bicycle paths and specified types of public utility lines to be located within specified highways that are located in forest preserve land. The amendment makes clear that it will not permit the construction of new intrastate gas or oil pipelines that have not yet received approval.

More information on the amendments can be found here at <https://www.elections.ny.gov/ProposedAmendments.html>.



*Celebrating another year of Summer Streets with Department of Transportation's Commissioner Polly Trottenberg. This annual, car-free event allows people to see the City from a different vantage point and without the congestion of car traffic.*



*Joined by mental health professionals, I'm speaking in support of the bill I sponsor, along with Senator Hoylman, which would ban so called "conversion therapy" on minors. This bill passed the Assembly again this year.*

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*Deborah Glick's*



## NEIGHBORHOOD UPDATE

ASSEMBLY MEMBER  
66<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT  
NEW YORK CITY

*HOW TO REACH US:*  
Call 212-674-5153 or  
email [glickd@nyassembly.gov](mailto:glickd@nyassembly.gov)

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### Join Our Email List

While I am thrilled to be able to mail out these newsletters a few times a year, I also send out a monthly e-newsletter. In addition to updates from my office, news about community events or initiatives, I also send occasional emails with critical information about city services and safety concerns. Please visit my website, <http://nyassembly.gov/mem/Deborah-J-Glick/enews> to sign up for my e-newsletter and start receiving regular updates.

### Shop Bleecker Event!

For everyone from Bob Dylan to Dylan Thomas, Jimi Hendrix to Alicia Keys, Bleecker Street has been the center of what's great about New York City, and now with #ShopBleecker, the Greenwich Village Chelsea Chamber of Commerce is reminding everyone that Bleecker Street is still one of the best places in the city to shop, eat, and play.

For the month of November, 2017, Bleecker Street will be unmissable, with raffles, giveaways and tours augmenting it's already world-class shops, restaurants, and nightclubs, as a targeted media campaign draws all eyes on the street that's always been the heart of the Village. All of this will be highlighted in a one-day shopping event on November 18th, spotlighting the fantastic retail spaces of the Chamber's participants and sponsors.

Are you a Bleecker Street business owner? Join us, and help make sure everyone remembers that Bleecker Street is as hip as it gets by signing up to become a participant or sponsor of this important program. Contact the Chamber of Commerce at [info@villagechelsea.com](mailto:info@villagechelsea.com).