



### Dear Neighbor,

The beginning of 2019 has illuminated what a difference the composition of the legislature makes. While the Assembly has long passed the kinds of progressive legislation that most New Yorkers support, for years the leadership of the State Senate had ensured that many of these bills were never even brought to the floor. With a change in Senate leadership, we have seen progressive bills that have languished in the Senate for years (if not decades) pass and be signed into law.

It is hard to understate the breadth of these accomplishments, many of which codify basic rights and empower the marginalized. The laws passed in the first quarter of the year include the Reproductive Health Act, which I sponsored and gives pregnant people in New York the right to receive an abortion throughout pregnancy if there is a threat to their lives or health; the Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act, which adds gender identity and gender expression as protected classes in the state's human rights and hate crimes laws; a ban on gay conversion therapy, which I sponsored and which bans licensed mental health professionals from taking part in this damaging practice; the Child Victims Act, which greatly extended the statute of limitations for criminal and civil complaints made by victims of child sex abuse; and a package of voting reforms including allowing early voting and same-day voter registration, among other progressive changes to expand voting opportunities and increase transparency.

These accomplishments would not be possible without the advocacy and participation of so many, both those who have been politically active for years and those whose involvement is more recent. The first few months of this year have shown how important elections are at every level of government, and it is because of participation in the political process that we have seen so much change.

At the same time, we still face many challenges, and the policy-making process remains long and often arduous. I know that for some, expectations are high that we will be able to accomplish any and every progressive goal. At the same time, I want to remind my constituents that developing legislation and building support remains incredibly complex. Legislators have to weigh the views of multiple constituencies, the impacts on different parts of the state, the ramifications of any change to the law, and understand how it will be paid for and/or enforced. I take my responsibility as a legislator extremely seriously, and part of that responsibility is taking a careful approach to ensure that our legislation helps, not harms (the distinction is not always as clear as you would assume!) In fact, a huge part of why the important bills we've passed so far this session have been able to pass so quickly is because they have been carefully crafted and debated over the course of many years.

I am very excited to be legislating at a time when the state has the opportunity to move forward on important issues like climate change, voting rights, criminal justice reform, and gender equity, and I look forward to continuing to work with my constituents as we work towards these important goals.

Sincerely,

Deborah

## Albany Update

The 2019 Legislative Session has gotten off to an exceptionally productive start. As we approach the midway point of the session I wanted to share with you some of my personal accomplishments-victories that I was proud to be a part of:

### The Reproductive Health Act

After several years of being blocked by the former Senate majority, I am pleased to report that with a new majority my legislation has been signed into law. The Reproductive Health Act has updated New York's antiquated abortion laws in a number of critical ways: abortion is moved out of the penal code and into the health code; the law ensures that the health, as well as the life of the pregnant person, is a factor for determining access to abortions later in a pregnancy; pregnant people are protected from being forced to bring a nonviable pregnancy to term; and confirms that all medical professionals who are licensed to provide abortions are able to do so. More information on the passage of the Reproductive Health Act is found in another section of this newsletter.

### Ban on Conversion Therapy

Being lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender is not a disease or deficiency. So-called "conversion therapy" is a dangerous and discredited pseudo-scientific method for attempting to alter one's sexual orientation and/or gender identity through such techniques as electro-shock therapy and aversion conditioning. Now that this bill has been signed into law, any mental health professional who engages in this harmful practice on a minor will be guilty of professional misconduct.



*Thrilled to commemorate the signing of my bill to ban "conversion therapy" practices from being administered to minors, which passed during the first week of the legislative session in January.*

### School Zone Speed Camera Bill Passed in Both Houses

I am so pleased to report that on March 19th, my school zone speed camera expansion bill was passed in both the Assembly and Senate. This historic passage is the culmination of several years' work to ensure that all children, their caregivers, and school staff are protected against the dangers of speeding motorists as they travel to and from school.

In 2013, I sponsored legislation that created a demonstration program to test the effectiveness of speed cameras in a small number of school zones in New York City. The results on driving in these school zones



*I was honored to join with colleagues and advocates whose tireless work helped to ensure the passage of my Speed Camera Safety Bill on March 19, 2019.*

demonstrated the powerful behavior modification effect these cameras possess; locations with cameras saw speeding violations drop more than 60% and traffic fatalities drop by 55%. Yet under the restrictions of the demonstration program, less than 10% of City school children attended a school protected by a camera. My recent bill expands this life-saving and proven program by increasing the number speed cameras from 140 to 750; lengthening the time cameras are authorized to operate to 6 a.m.-10 p.m., Monday through Friday; and redefining a school zone as a quarter-mile radial distance around a school building. Under this expansion, the streets surrounding every elementary and middle school and the majority of high schools in New York City can be protected from reckless drivers.

Due to the recalcitrance of the previous Senate majority, the school speed camera program was prevented from expanding, and even more shockingly, was allowed to expire without being reauthorized. Thankfully, with the partnership of Senator Gounardes and the new Senate majority, we were able to put children's safety above political posturing and secure this hard-fought victory for pedestrian and cyclist safety. A major thank you is owed to Families for Safe Streets and Transportation Alternatives for the dedication and perseverance they demonstrated throughout this journey. I look forward to the Governor signing this crucially important bill into law.

## Response to the Reproductive Health Act

After sponsoring and advocating for the Reproductive Health Act (RHA) for many years, I was so glad that it was finally signed into law by Governor Cuomo in January. This essential bill brings New York State into compliance with federal law, allowing pregnant people to receive abortions throughout pregnancy if there is a threat to their lives or their health.



*Debating the Reproductive Health Act on the Assembly floor shortly before its passage on January 22, 2019, the 46th anniversary of Roe v. Wade.*

While my constituents are largely supportive of the RHA, many of my colleagues who voted for the bill are meeting strong opposition in their districts, and frankly, these are conversations that will probably continue for some time. My office has also received emails and calls from people in other parts of the state and the country who are extremely opposed, either because they've read false information about what the law allows or because of their religious beliefs.

Given that, I wanted to share some of the points my office has been highlighting when we communicate with those who are strongly anti-abortion, explaining the scope of the bill and why I believe it's an important and vitally necessary step for New York.

The intention of the RHA is simply to ensure that New York women have access to reproductive healthcare to protect their health and life. The bill brings New York State Law into conformance with federal protections that have been guaranteed by Roe v. Wade since 1973, which provided for protection of both the health and lives of pregnant people, while New York's law from 1970 only protected their lives.

Some of the arguments regarding the bill reference religious views. I respect every individual's right to exercise their religious beliefs. However, there are divergent religious and secular views on abortion, and I do not believe our Constitution allows the Government to enforce sectarian religious beliefs and practices on the entire population.

Under Roe v. Wade, federal protections for abortion before 24 weeks are broadly protected, and in truth, 90% of abortions occur before 12 weeks, and 99% are performed before 21 weeks. Importantly, throughout pregnancy there are conditions that can arise that are unforeseen and the option must remain to ensure that a pregnant person's health or life can be protected, and that no pregnant person be forced to carry a non-viable fetus to term.

It is important to remember that abortion is a medical procedure, not a crime. As we all know, pregnancies are not all the same; pregnancy is a complex and very personal experience. Legislators and private citizens have no business interfering in private health decisions. In the end the denial of access to healthcare cannot be the policy of New York State.

## Opposing the Williams Pipeline

The Williams Pipeline is a 23-mile pipeline proposed by Williams Transco that would run under New York Harbor to deliver fracked gas from Pennsylvania through the waters off Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island. Williams Transco's application for the pipeline was approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Committee (FERC) in December, 2018. However, New York State has the opportunity to stop this dangerous pipeline by refusing to grant Williams Transco the permits and certificates they need to begin construction.

The Pipeline would have extensive environmental consequences should it be approved. Williams Transco would need to dig a huge trench extending throughout New York Harbor in order to lay the pipeline, disrupting marine life in a sensitive estuary with ongoing construction and churning up toxins like PCBs, dioxin, lead and arsenic that have settled on the harbor's seabed. The impact on fish and animals would be immense and irreversible, and the chemical contamination of the shoreline would be dangerous to New Yorkers. And this is only the damage that construction would cause; the environmental impacts of a leak or explosion would be devastating. In the last ten years alone Williams Transco pipelines and compressor stations have either exploded or caught fire ten times. They have also suffered another five explosions and fires in other Williams' natural gas facilities. The unfortunate result of these events left six people dead and 103 injured, in addition to releasing methane into the atmosphere, leveling buildings, and contaminating groundwater.

In January, Governor Cuomo announced a Green New Deal agenda for New York State, including moving the state to one hundred percent clean energy by 2040. The Williams Pipeline is not only totally antithetical to this goal, as it would deepen our dependence on fracked gas, but it is also unnecessary. As New York moves toward cleaner energy sources, like wind and solar, our need for natural gas will decrease. As a state, we have made clear that we believe that fracking is unsafe and unsustainable. The Williams Pipeline would undermine the basic environmental goals the state has laid out, economically benefitting the natural gas industry and supporting fracking in Pennsylvania while worsening climate change and increasing our fossil fuel dependence. It's essential that the state remain resolute in the face of this unnecessary pipeline and refuse to grant Williams Transco any permits to move forward.

## Anticipating Long Awaited L Train Changes

Service changes to the L Train are upon us as we prepare for the final stages of implementation of the Alternative Service Plan (ASP) in advance of the L Train Tunnel Reconstruction Project. On April 27th, 2019, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) will partially close the L Train between Eighth Avenue in Manhattan, and Bedford Avenue in Brooklyn in order to the repair the Canarsie Tube which was badly damaged during Superstorm Sandy. In late 2018, Governor Cuomo convened a panel of engineers to develop an alternative option in lieu of the original plan the City had been working toward. It was decided that the MTA could operate scaled down service on the L Train by working on one tunnel at a time and allowing service through the other tunnel in order to connect Manhattan and Brooklyn.

Questions remain surrounding the status of the ASP and how commuters will get between the boroughs or across town along 14th Street during construction. One thing is clear: when construction begins commuters can expect to see service changes beginning roughly at 8 p.m. daily until the morning commute, and fully on every weekend for at least the next 15 months. Some elements of the ASP remain, and some are being discussed

with affected Community Boards along 14th Street. For the duration of the L Train Tunnel Reconstruction Project, we can expect the following service changes:

- Weeknights from 8 p.m. to 5 a.m., trains will run every 20 minutes between Eighth Avenue in Manhattan and Bedford Avenue in Brooklyn. Within Brooklyn only, trains will run every 10 minutes and alternating trains will terminate at Bedford Avenue without traveling into Manhattan.
- Weekends beginning on Fridays at 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. Monday, trains will run every 20 minutes between Eighth Avenue in Manhattan and Bedford Avenue in Brooklyn. Within Brooklyn only, trains will run every 10 minutes and alternating trains will terminate at Bedford Avenue without traveling into Manhattan.
- M14A and M14D service will remain but will be converted to SBS service along their routes on 14th Street.
- There will be no L1, L2, L3, and L4 alternative bus routes in Manhattan coming across the Williamsburg Bridge. Instead, Brooklyn based commuters to Manhattan will use ramped up service on the M, G, and 7 lines.
- Finally, traffic restrictions on 14th Street will not be implemented, though a dedicated bus lane for SBS service will be established. New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) will soon change the markings on 14th Street to reflect the new ASP.

This information is not exhaustive of the scope of service changes on the L Line. Please visit <https://new.mta.info/l-project> for more details, to submit comments, and to sign up for updates. As always, I am working to ensure that any elements of the ASP that our community may see become permanent is reviewed through the Community Boards so that the public has ample opportunity to comment on their impacts to our neighborhoods.

## Correspondence Corner

Letters play an important role in the offices of elected officials – we write to formally state positions on important issues, ask agencies and officials key questions, and express both our outrage and our appreciation. I want to highlight some of the letters my office has sent so far in 2019 to share this important part of our work with you.

**E-Bikes and E-Scoters:** the New York City Council is considering whether to legalize e-bikes and e-scooters. I wrote to City Council Speaker Corey Johnson to express my concerns about pedestrian safety should these motorized bikes and scooters be legalized, and my specific concern that the Council is tying the legalization of e-scooters to e-bikes. While I generally oppose e-bikes, their use is already allowed as part of the Citi Bike program and there's a reasonable conversation to be had about whether delivery people and others are being unfairly targeted for their use. E-scooters, on the other hand, do not yet have a substantial presence in New York. I have watched other cities try to cope with the proliferation of e-scooters with great consternation, because of negative impacts ranging from increased injuries to the destruction of scooters by angry residents. In addition, e-scooter parking encroaches on limited sidewalk space creating problems for people with disabilities.

**Opposition to Drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge:** In 2018, Congress passed legislation opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to oil and gas exploration. Currently, the Department of Interior's Bureau of Land Management is fast-tracking a leasing program so that drilling can begin as soon as possible. The ANWR is an invaluable resource, and many indigenous communities and animals depend on it to sustain them. I am deeply concerned that any oil and gas exploration will have catastrophic and irreversible effects, and I wrote to the acting Secretary of the Department of Interior to make my opposition clear.

**Reducing the Tax Burden on Longtime Residents:** For years, I have expressed concern to City officials about the impact of luxury development on the property tax bills of longtime residents. In my district I have seen people who bought their homes 30 or 40 years ago face increasingly dire financial situations as their property tax assessments are driven up by nearby real estate sales, and some constituents are facing tax bills that may drive them from their homes. I recently wrote again to the Mayor's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to recommend that they institute a circuit-breaker tax structure through which owners who meet certain qualifications, such as their age, income, or length of ownership, not face an insurmountable tax assessment. The OMB has hosted a series of hearings on property tax reforms, and I am continuing to monitor their plans and advocate on this crucial issue.

**Worth Street Project:** Lower Manhattan has been inundated by disruptive, unrelenting construction projects for years. In February, I was joined by Councilmember Chin and State Senator Kavanagh in a letter to First Deputy Mayor Dean Fuleihan to highlight the negative impact that projects like the Worth Street Reconstruction Project have on the quality of life of residents, and renew the call for the creation of an entity to oversee and coordinate construction in Lower Manhattan.

**Concerns about Leadership at HUD:** I have been greatly concerned about the lack of housing expertise or experience in the current leadership at the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), which oversees the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA.) I have been especially shocked by statements made by Lynne Patton, a former event planner and HUD's Regional Administrator for New York, that have undermined NYCHA's estimates for needed repairs and betrayed a basic misunderstanding of how major capital projects are allocated and accounted for in budgets. I wrote to HUD Secretary Ben Carson to ask that someone with the necessary experience be appointed to oversee the country's largest housing authority.

## Reshaping the Judiciary

The President has been in office for over two years, during which time he has exerted long-term influence over our judicial system. The number of confirmations far outpaces recent presidencies; in fact, Trump appointees now make up at least 25 percent of the judges serving in five of the country's 12 circuit courts. These are lifetime appointments, and the reshaping of our courts will be one of the most lasting legacies of the Trump presidency.

These confirmations should concern us all, as they have included increasingly politicized appointments. Nominees include a judge who has protested Planned Parenthood by stating that they are responsible "for killing over 150,000 females a year," an attorney whose past writings stated that anti-LGBTQ discrimination was simply a Marxist paradigm and that "charges of sexism often amount to nothing but irrelevant pouting," and an attorney who interned at an anti-LGBTQ organization.

One must only look to the confirmation proceedings of Justice Kavanaugh to see the lengths to which the Senate majority will go to confirm a nominee, even when they receive what should be patently disqualifying information. While judicial appointments often receive less press coverage than significant legislation, appointments at all levels of the federal judiciary have an immense impact on our country, as these judges often have the final say on important questions of civil rights, the environment, and government regulation and oversight.

The Federalist Society, a group of conservative and libertarian attorneys who believe that law schools are currently dominated by "orthodox liberal ideology" and looks to instead promote Constitutional originalism and a belief in "individual liberty, traditional values, and the rule of law," has had unprecedented influence over the appointment process. There is some evidence that they have been allowed to vet lists of potential judicial appointees, and current and former Federalist Society members (like Judge Kavanaugh) make up a large proportion of the appointees put forward by the Trump administration.

Access to crucial rights hangs in the balance; these appointees will play a significant role in determining issues like access to voting, reproductive health, the ability to procure healthcare for millions of Americans with pre-existing conditions, and the rights of members of the LGBTQ community to be assured that their marriages will continue to be recognized. The philosophies of these nominees fall far outside of the American mainstream. It is essential that our judiciary remain impartial, and that the confirmation process be more faithful to our values of freedom and liberty than partisan politics.

## Spotlighting CUNY and SUNY Programs: Borough of Manhattan Community College

As Chair of the Higher Education Committee, I have the opportunity to visit with various presidents, faculty, students and staff at campuses throughout the City University of New York (CUNY) and the State University of New York (SUNY) systems. While many may be familiar with their four-year campuses, the system's community colleges may not be as well-known. SUNY has 30 community colleges and CUNY has seven throughout New York City.

Historically, community colleges have provided access to quality, affordable education, especially for those who need it most. In fact, many of our community colleges are able to attract talented people, adult learners, high school students, and international scholars at an impressive rate, making them a destination where some of our greatest minds discover their hidden talents and potential. Additionally, community

colleges provide a pathway to four-year universities, which creates more diverse student bodies, adding to the richness of the educational experiences at institutions of higher education.

In my district, Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC), which was originally founded as a small business focused school, now has more than 45 associate degree programs offering a vast curriculum. BMCC includes students who are returning to school to take a few exploratory courses, gain advancement in their careers, obtain an associate degree or earn extra credits in order to transfer to a four-year institution in a specialized field. They currently enroll more than 36,000 students across their associate, adult, and continuing education programs.

BMCC offers a child daycare center that serves students with children; a food pantry for students in need of an emergency three-day food supply; and for those in need of supportive services the student affairs center is available to guide students through their educational experience. BMCC is also noted for having one of the borough's largest rooftop solar panels.

If you would like to learn more about the wide array of community colleges in New York State, visit [www.suny.edu/hr/cc](http://www.suny.edu/hr/cc). Or [www2.cuny.edu/about/colleges-schools/#community-colleges](http://www2.cuny.edu/about/colleges-schools/#community-colleges).

## American Red Cross's *Sound the Alarm Initiative*

I am pleased to partner with the American Red Cross as a *Sound the Alarm Champion* and help to promote their important initiative to reduce the occurrences of home fires nationwide. Across the country, the Red Cross has worked with fire departments, community based organizations, and volunteers to install free fire alarms in homes and educate families about fire prevention and safety.

The Red Cross will be in the 66<sup>th</sup> district on Wednesday, May 1st to install FREE smoke alarms. To make an appointment for a free smoke alarm installation in your home, please call 877-733-2767 or visit [SoundtheAlarm.org/nyc](http://SoundtheAlarm.org/nyc).

## FREE PAPER SHREDDING AND CLOTHING SWAP EVENT!

**Friday, May 10, 2019  
1:00 to 4:00 P.M.**

**In front of St. Vincent's Triangle on Greenwich Avenue between 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue and West 12<sup>th</sup> Street**

Please join my office for our annual free and secure paper shredding event. Safely disposing of sensitive documents helps protect your identity. Some things you might want to bring include: bank and credit card statements, contracts, medical records, old bills, receipts, pay stubs, and mail containing your name and address.

This year we are delighted to provide a Clothing Swap in partnership with GrowNYC. An offshoot of GrowNYC's Stop 'N' Swap® community reuse program, the Clothing Swap offers New Yorkers the opportunity to bring clean and reusable clothing, shoes, and accessories to share with those who can use them. No one is required to bring clothing to take clothing.



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*Deborah Glick's*



## NEIGHBORHOOD UPDATE

ASSEMBLYMEMBER  
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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## "Skip the Trip!" for SNAP Benefits

Are you in need of assistance with paying for groceries? Now, for the first time ever, you can easily apply for SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits and re-certify for Cash Assistance, check your benefit balances, update your account, take photos and upload documents, and much more, right from your phone with the newly designed ACCESS HRA mobile app. Access all of your benefits in the palm of your hand.

Get the ACCESS HRA mobile app and skip the trip to an HRA office. Go to [nyc.gov/accesshra](http://nyc.gov/accesshra) or download the app today. Learn more at: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/hra/help/accesshra.page> or by calling the HRA Infoline at 718-557-1399 or 311.