

**Dear Neighbor,**

It has been an extremely challenging few months. The new federal administration has attacked many of our country's institutions, our federal workforce, the global economy, and even private businesses and individuals. Amid these challenges, I have been especially struck by the anguish of so many I speak with about the havoc the administration has wreaked

in the lives of immigrants, both documented and undocumented, and their communities.

Americans proudly proclaim that we are a nation of immigrants, but our history reveals a deep ambivalence about immigration. We have welcomed immigrants when it suited us – to build our nation after the Revolutionary War, to provide critical labor during the Civil War, to construct our railroads, and to work our farms. At the same time, any influx of immigrants has been met with a strong nativist backlash, especially when the country has experienced economic challenges. Leaders have on occasion scapegoated the very immigrants the country has relied on to get us through crises and strengthen our economy, and too many in our country have been more than willing to go along with them.

In the 1800s, nativists warned that we had to curb immigration because German and Irish immigrants would steal American jobs, drive wages down, and use too many public funds. Chinese women weren't allowed to immigrate to the U.S. because nativists spread the lie that they were prostitutes. During the Great Depression, the U.S. deported one million people of Mexican ancestry, despite the fact that approximately 60% of those deported were U.S. citizens. It would be easy to view this history as a relic of a past, less enlightened era if it wasn't being repeated so vividly in the present.

Undocumented Americans are part of every community. Some came here on student visas, built a life here and chose to stay. Some left their families and homes to start over in a new community in order to provide for those they left behind. Some fled persecution and came to the U.S.

because they believed us when we said we would protect them. Some came to the U.S. legally with protected status, only to find themselves suddenly undocumented based on the whims of federal leadership. No matter how they came to this country, undocumented Americans are an integral part of its fabric. Especially in New York, it's likely that we all interact with undocumented Americans daily - they are our neighbors, our co-workers, our caretakers, our friends, and our service providers. They pay taxes despite reaping little of the benefits citizens do, plant roots, and contribute to their communities.

It is difficult to overstate the horror of many of the immigration actions we are witnessing. Venezuelan immigrants have been deported to a draconian prison for terrorists in El Salvador without due process for the crime of having a tattoo, which the government has said is proof of a gang affiliation. Documented immigrants with legal protections are being taken off the street and even deported because of trumped up criminal allegations, speech activities, or sometimes based on what even the government admits are mistakes. In these cases, federal authorities have thrown up their hands, essentially saying "oops" when asked to answer for flouting the law and shattering families.

As the federal government repeats the mistakes of the past, it's my hope that New Yorkers won't follow suit and fall for their hateful rhetoric. I hope that we can extend empathy to our neighbors, and the understanding that whatever complex circumstances brought immigrants to our city, that they are part of our communities and we should fight for them. And lastly, I hope that we understand that our fates are tied - that if the government can ignore the law and the judicial system and treat immigrants as disposable, they can do the same to all of us.

Sincerely,

Deborah

Updates From Albany

State Budget Work Continues...

Each year, the Governor presents an executive budget to the Legislature, and we are tasked with advocating for our constituents and the state, and negotiating to achieve a final budget that will fund the critical services we all rely on and set priorities for years to come. These negotiations are rarely simple or straightforward, and this year is no different. In order to be passed, the budget must be agreed upon between both the Assembly and the Senate, and signed by the Governor, and the often grueling process to come to agreement necessitates uncomfortable compromises.

The budget is a fiscal document. However, every Governor has seen the budget additionally as an avenue to press for their policy changes. Even when a policy initiative from the Governor is worthwhile, the compressed budget process doesn't provide sufficient time for review and consultation with stakeholders to adequately ensure that the negotiated language fully addresses the goals of that policy initiative. At the time of this writing, the budget is still being negotiated.

New Legislation Introduced

I am thrilled to be the new prime sponsor of these pivotal bills in the Assembly. Once enacted, **A.7738 will prohibit the use of PFAS substances in many consumer products including textiles, rugs, cookware, and dental floss.** PFAS substances do not degrade in the environment and are linked to many negative health outcomes including increased risk of several cancers; this bill is an important step in getting PFAS out of our daily lives. In addition to the harms they cause our bodies, these substances are washed into water treatment plants, which are not always prepared to mitigate them properly.



It is always an honor to participate in **Budget Hearings** and learn firsthand about the priorities of stakeholders from all around New York State who come to Albany to testify.

I am also sponsoring the **Tropical Rainforest Economic & Environmental Sustainability Act, or the "TREES Act."** This bill (S.7203) will make certain that companies that contract with New York State are not contributing to tropical forest degradation both directly and indirectly through their supply chains. By leveraging the purchasing power of the state, we can work to protect tropical hardwoods and prevent deforestation in parts of the world that are critical for maintaining biological diversity of the planet's plant and animal species.

Protecting the Environment

On Weds, January 29th, I hosted a Hearing in Albany on **Current Horseshoe Crab Management Practices**. Horseshoe crabs have existed on Earth for over 400 million years and are an integral part of the marine ecosystem. New York’s horseshoe crab population is primarily harvested by the commercial fishing industry for use as bait and by the biomedical industry for use of their blood to produce Limulus Amoebocyte Lysate, which is used to test medical products for contamination.

In 2024, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) designated horseshoe crab stock in three out of four New York horseshoe crab management regions as poor, the worst of any state along the Atlantic coast. In addition, since the neighboring states of Connecticut and New Jersey have implemented moratoria, pressure on New York’s horseshoe crab fishery seems likely to increase. The purpose of this Hearing was to examine current horseshoe crab management practices and solicit input on potential solutions to address the horseshoe crab population decline. All NYS Assembly Hearings are livestreamed and archived recordings can be viewed here, along with transcripts and testimony: <https://nyassembly.gov/av/>.

In early March, I was very pleased by a big step forward in our work to enact my **Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act (PRRIA)** (A.1749/S.1464) as the legislation was passed out of the Environmental Conservation Committee. **The legislation incentivizes the reduction of packaging and a shift to more sustainable recyclable material, while removing toxic substances from packaging.** We face a crisis of trash- the cost of recycling and disposal has fallen to municipalities- and therefore taxpayers- or individuals paying for private waste removal. This legislation provides the incentive for producers to redesign packaging to use

Late last year, I stood with colleagues and community advocates to urge the Governor to sign the **Local Input in Community Healthcare Act (A.6004/S.1226)**, known as the LICH Act, which I was proud to co-sponsor and support. We have seen the detrimental impact hospital closures have on communities in New York City and around the State time and again. Despite the Governor’s veto, it is essential that communities have a voice in addressing their medical needs. I look forward to advocating again for its passage this Session.



less and to use recycled content. It is time for producers to share the cost of disposing the packaging over which they have sole control.

During the last few months, I’ve had several opportunities to join colleagues and environmental advocates in Albany to call attention to a range of conservation priorities, including **rallying for Clean Water Infrastructure, the New Yorkers for Clear Air coalition, Forestry Awareness Day, the Nature Conservancy, Hudson River Advocacy Day, and Beyond Plastics** and others in our push for the passage of my aforementioned packaging reduction bill, PRRIA.

Responding to the Onslaught of Federal Actions

In the face of distressing actions being taken by the new federal administration, it’s essential to remember that we can take steps to protect ourselves, our communities and the country. In this spirit, I’ve been taking action to respond to the administration’s actions:

- I wrote to Senators Thune and Schumer to demand that they **act urgently to assert Congressional oversight over Elon Musk** and the Department of Government Efficiency;
- I joined my colleagues, the New York Immigration Coalition and advocates in **speaking out and fighting against ICE’s draconian agenda** when federal ICE Director Tom Honan visited Albany to promote the Administration’s inhumane immigration policies.
- I spoke out against Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Lee Zeldin’s statement that the EPA’s job is to **lower costs** - not protect Americans from the health risks of pollution and the dangers of climate change, and affirmed New York’s commitment to environmental stewardship;
- I signed on in support of the State Innovation Exchange’s submission to the United Nations for the **Universal Periodic Review of the United States**. The submission documents the regression of reproductive and maternal health in the U.S. as well as the many ways state legislators from across the country are taking the mantle to meet our human rights obligations as a nation;
- I attended a rally with colleagues at NYU Langone to **defend gender-affirming care for minors** and wrote to NYU Langone Health, Mount Sinai, and NewYork-Presbyterian to express my concern that they appear to be backing away from providing **gender-affirming care to minors** in response to an executive order signed by President Trump. I asked these health networks how they plan to comply with New York State law, which protects transgender patients from discrimination. I also wrote to New York Health + Hospitals to thank them for continuing to provide gender affirming care to all patients;
- I attended a rally at the **Stonewall National Monument protesting the removal of all references to transgender and queer people** from the Monument’s website and materials;
- I have been in communication with my congressional colleagues to make sure I can keep my constituents informed about any



On March 12th, federal ICE Director Tom Homan visited Albany to promote the administration’s inhumane immigration policies. I was **proud to join my colleagues and advocates in speaking out and fighting against ICE’s draconian agenda. I am also proud to co-sponsor the New York for All Act (A.3506/S.2235)** which would strengthen protections and clarify procedures for those who have emigrated to New York in search of safety and a stable life for themselves and their families.

changes that will impact them most, particularly regarding the **costs of essential prescription medications**;

- I wrote to U.S. Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy to **protest the Department of Transportation’s prioritization of high-birth and high-marriage areas** for federal funding; and
- I wrote to FCC Chairman Brendan Carr to ask whether the FCC remains committed to the **free press protections put forth in the Constitution** in light of their repeated attacks on news outlets deemed unfriendly to the administration;

I’ll keep advocating for New Yorkers in the face of unlawful and immoral federal actions - I hope you’ll join me.

Correspondence Corner

Letters and testimony play an essential role in the offices of elected officials and I want to highlight some of the writing my office has produced in the past few months to share this important part of our work with you.

FDNY Waivers for Dining Out NYC Applications

As Spring arrives with the return of flora, roadway cafes also returned on April 1st. I recently wrote to Commissioner Tucker of the New York City Fire Department (FDNY) to express concerns about the New York City Dining Out Program, specifically regarding “letters of no objection” that have been issued for roadway cafes that block emergency travel lanes. **While regulations require a 15-foot lane, restaurants can seemingly apply for de facto waivers from the FDNY, allowing them to install structures that are not necessarily in compliance.** It is worrisome because these waivers can endanger public safety by obstructing emergency access for fire trucks on already narrow streets, particularly in densely populated areas like Lower Manhattan. There is a lack of transparency in the waiver process, with no clear communication about how safety is ensured or the criteria for approval. I question the responsibility of agencies in prioritizing restaurants’ profits over public safety. Thus, I must urge the City to cease issuing new letters of no objection until public hearings are held to address these concerns to ensure emergency vehicle access is not compromised.

New NYPD Commissioner Congratulated and Alerted

On her new appointment to lead the NYPD, I congratulated Commissioner Tisch, confident that her experience within the NYPD would lead to a smooth transition. I also took the opportunity to **raise a few issues in my district. Specifically, Washington Square Park and the surrounding area continues to struggle with open drug use, drug sales, criminal activity, and individuals demonstrating mental health crises.** While I believe that policing is important, it can’t be the only solution. I’ve been working with outreach providers, and the city has created an Interagency Hub to address these issues, but the police are still a critical partner in keeping the area safe. One of my main concerns is the reduction in officers assigned to the 6th precinct, and **I urged Commissioner Tisch to increase personnel and ensure that the 6th precinct has the resources they need.** I also mentioned my ongoing work on pedestrian and driver safety, particularly after reading alarming reports about the increase in police chases and related crashes. The number of chases in the first half of 2023 was higher than the past five years combined, many resulting in crashes and injuries. I’m urging that the NYPD stick to their policy of terminating pursuits that pose risks to public safety, and that we see a significant decrease in these dangerous chases. I’m hopeful that Commissioner Tisch will take these issues seriously and work with us to improve safety for everyone in the community.

Requesting Status of the Proposed Tower at Independence Plaza

In late 2023, Vornado and Stellar Management presented a proposal to Manhattan Community Board 1 for a new residential tower, 940 feet tall with two smaller 85-foot buildings at the base, located just south of Harrison Street on the site of Independence Plaza. Naturally, a project of this size raised concerns for local residents and the broader Lower Manhattan community. **The initial presentation lacked many details about key aspects of the proposal, as it was still in the early planning stages. I joined colleagues in requesting an update on the current plans.** Specifically, we wanted to know about the bulk, height, and configuration of the buildings, the number of housing units planned, how many would be affordable, and at what income levels. We also requested information on the project’s environmental sustainability, the necessary reviews and approvals, and the expected development timeline.



On February 14th, I rallied with community and advocates to **fight against the federal administration’s attempted erasure of Transgender people, as the National Park Service shamefully removed any mention of Transgender individuals from the Stonewall National Monument’s website.** I will keep fighting as we continue to face dangerous efforts to further harm our LGBTQ communities.

Preventing Lead in Your Water Supply

According to a recent report by the New York League of Conservation Voters Education Fund (NYLCVEF), at least 12% of the water pipes in Assembly District 66 are made from lead. We know that lead pipes can result in lead in the water supply. While lead exposure is most dangerous for babies and children, lead presents a health risk for all.

To help ensure that you minimize the risk for lead exposure, take these steps:

- RUN your water for at least 30 seconds or until it gets cold. Once the water is cold, run it for 15 seconds more.
- USE COLD WATER for cooking, drinking, or preparing infant formula. Hot tap water is more likely to contain lead and other metals.
- REMOVE and CLEAN the faucet screen monthly (also called an aerator), where small particles can get trapped.
- HIRE a licensed plumber to identify and replace plumbing fixtures and/or service lines that contain lead.
- To confirm the presence of lead in your drinking water, REQUEST a free lead test kit by calling 311 or visit nyc.gov/dep

For more information on the NYLCVEF’s report, including viewing their interactive map, visit: <https://nylcvef.org/nycleadpipes>.



I was pleased to join advocates in support of the **New York Home Energy Affordable Transition Act (A.4870A /S.4158), or NY HEAT Act,** a bill that I proudly co-sponsor, which would move the state toward reaching our climate goals while lowering energy costs for New Yorkers.

Curbside Composting Guidelines

You may be aware that **as of April 1, 2025, all NYC residents are required to separate food scraps, food-soiled paper, or yard waste from trash.** Compost is picked up every week on your recycling day. Visit: <https://www.nyc.gov/site/dsny/collection/residents/curbside-composting.page> to learn more and find your collection schedule.

For Property Owners:

- DSNY will pick up all leaf and yard waste, food scraps, and food-soiled paper in a labeled bin with a secure lid or in a DSNY brown bin.
- Property owners may receive a fine if compostable material is not separated from trash.
- Extra leaf and yard waste can be put in a paper lawn and leaf bag. Twigs and branches can be bundled with twine and placed next to bins and bags.

For Residents:

- Collect all compostable scraps in a bag or container in your apartment.
- You can secure and store food scraps in your freezer to preserve them and eliminate odor before dropping into your building's compost bin.

What to Compost:

DSNY will pick up all leaf and yard waste, food scraps, and food-soiled paper.

This includes:

- Leaf and yard waste, including flowers, leaves, twigs, grass, and Christmas trees

- Food scraps of fruits and vegetables, including meat, bones, shells, and dairy
- Prepared and cooked foods
- Food soiled paper including uncoated paper plates and pizza boxes, napkins, towels, tea bags, plates, coffee filters
- Products certified or labeled compostable

DO NOT Compost:

- Trash such as wrappers, pet waste, medical waste, diapers, foam, personal, or hygiene products
- Materials intended to be collected with recycling including metal glass, plastic, cartons, clean paper, or cardboard

What is the Purpose of Composting?

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, more than half of the greenhouse gas emissions from landfills come from food waste. When organic material goes to landfill, biogas is released directly into the air, accelerating climate change.

Composting reduces the organic materials that are in landfills, therefore reducing methane emissions from landfills and protecting the climate. By separating these organic materials, your yard waste and scraps will be processed and turned into compost and will then be given back to the city as nutrient-rich soil. Using compost enriches soil, decreases emissions and the need for chemical fertilizers, sequesters carbon, and builds climate resiliency.

New Remote IDs for Drones

The use of drones has exploded in popularity in recent years. When we see a drone fly by, it is nearly impossible to know who is piloting it and for what purpose it is being flown. Thankfully, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has instituted registration and remote identification requirements for the vast majority of drones. Unless a drone weighs less than 0.55 lbs (250 grams) and is being flown for

a purely recreational purpose, it must be registered with the FAA. Any FAA registered drone also must broadcast a unique Remote ID. Learn more about the new requirements here: <https://www.faa.gov/uas>. There are several third-party apps available for download on smartphones that allow bystanders to be able to get information on drones in their vicinity.

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Deborah Glick's NEIGHBORHOOD UPDATE



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I was thrilled to nominate **Dr. Carla Smith as a Woman of Distinction** for this year's Women's History Month celebration coordinated by the Legislative Women's Caucus. It was wonderful to see Dr. Smith and her colleagues from New York City's LGBT Community Center--an invaluable resource--and to commemorate her first year as The Center's CEO.

Fall 2025 Shred Event



*I'm pleased to partner with the
NYC Department of Sanitation
to present a Free Shred Event!
Join us to dispose of your
sensitive documents.*

Wednesday, October 8th

Time & Location TBD
Contact my office for details:
glickd@nyassembly.gov
212-674-5153