



# New York State Senator **BRAD HOYLMAN**



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## **REPORT TO COMMUNITY BOARD 6**



*Senator Hoylman and Governor Hochul attending service at St. Georges Ukrainian Church*

### **Legislative Update**

I recently introduced Senate bill S.8439 to shine light onto the murky world of New York's limited liability companies (LLCs) by requiring them to disclose the names and addresses of their beneficial owners to the NYS Department of State. This legislation could be used to assist New York State uncover the assets of international purchasers of NYC real estate. For the international super-rich, LLCs are used as shell companies to move vast sums of money without little concern of detection. I'm proud to introduce this LLC transparency bill with Assemblymember Emily Gallagher to assist our state and federal governments in targeting international financial criminals, force tax scofflaws to pay their fair share, and ensure all business operators in our state - including bad landlords - are held accountable for any misdeeds.

I'd also like to share some additional legislative updates:

- My new bill, [S.8422](#), directs New York State to apply for a Medicaid waiver so the State can reimburse long-term stays in large residential mental health institutions. New York is experiencing a severe shortage of in-patient mental health care options, especially for those suffering from serious mental illness, and the lack of Medicaid reimbursement for large institutions fails to provide an incentive for the provision of these services.
- In response to [findings](#) that revealed it was common practice in California for police to use a victim's DNA collected in a "rape kit" as DNA evidence to identify them as a suspect in unrelated crimes. I introduced legislation [S.8408](#) to ensure that is practice is not allowed in New York State and to confirm to survivors that we have their backs. This practice treats victims as criminals in cases completely unrelated to their sexual assault. When someone elects to have a sexual offense evidence kit exam, they are consenting to the use of their DNA for a very narrow focus: to hold the perpetrator of their assault accountable. Any other use is a violation of the survivor's privacy.
- This week I introduced [S.8423](#) to ensure that anti-retroviral medications are readily available to patients and not subject to procedural delays so that patients can start an HIV treatment regimen as soon as they are diagnosed or exposed to possible infection.
- I introduced [S.8424](#) to reform New York's overly complex court system. Court reform is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to fix our labyrinthine state courts and make our judicial system fairer, especially for low-income litigants. I look forward to working with the Chief Judge and my legislative colleagues on a consolidation proposal that reflects these goals, while diversifying the bench and respecting our unionized workforce. As we emerge from the pandemic, now is the time to address the deficiencies in New York's court system.



### Standing with Ukraine

I'm proud to represent "Little Ukraine," a 150-year old community in the East Village. I recently visited a Ukrainian community center to show my support for constituents with family members in Ukraine, and offer support however I can to this community while Putin wages an immoral war against their home nation. I also attended a mass at St. George's Ukrainian Church with Governor Hochul (*photos above*).

### Tax Resources

As many of you know, 2022 Tax Season is upon us (!). Here are some resources:

- **IT-201G Resident Income Tax Return Form.** Is your 2021 income \$73,000 or less? If so, you can prepare and file your federal and state returns for free using the New York State Department of

Taxation and Finance website, [here](#). While you can e-file online for free, if you need help receiving a physical form, please call my office at 212-633-8052 or by email at [hoylman@nysenate.gov](mailto:hoylman@nysenate.gov).

- **NYC Office of Consumer and Worker Protection Free Tax Help.** The NYC Office of Consumer and Worker Protection has free tax preparation with their certified volunteers. If you make \$72,000 or less, the Office of Consumer and Worker Protection can help you file your taxes for free, and there are options for in-person and drop-off services, in addition to virtual appointments and assisted self-prep. More information can be found [here](#).
- **1099-G Form for Unemployment Benefits.** My office has been receiving calls from constituents about getting access to their 1099-G forms to report their unemployment benefits in their taxes. Thankfully, there are two ways that the NYS Department of Labor has to get this form. On the Department of Labor's website the 1099-G form for calendar year 2021 will be available in your online account at [labor.ny.gov/signin](https://labor.ny.gov/signin) to download and print. You may also call them at : **1-888-209-8124** if you do not have an online account with NYSDOL. This automated phone line allows you to request your 1099-G via U.S. Mail to the address that the DOL has on file for you.



### Rally for Restaurant Workers Living Wage

I recently joined advocates from One Fair Wage and New York Communities for Change at [Charm's Thai](#) restaurant in support of two bills to make sure all restaurant workers get paid fair wages in addition to tips. The federal wage for tipped workers is only \$2.13/hour. I co-sponsor legislation to end the tipped minimum wage and recently introduced [S.8386](#) to provide forgivable loans to restaurants that pay their workers a full minimum wage plus tips. I'm proud to stand with the One Fair Wage movement and restaurants paying their workers living wages, like Charm's restaurant in Chelsea.



### Breaking Ground on the High-Line Connector

The High Line is one of the greatest urban parks and urban reclamation projects in the world. Now, thanks to the Connector, the park will be directly and safely accessible from New York's newest transit hub: Moynihan Train Hall. The Connector began from Community Board 4's suggestions to protect pedestrians from vehicular traffic. I'm proud to have provided support to this project through the State Senate and commend Governor Hochul and Empire State Development for providing state funding

along with Brookfield Properties.

### **Fighting to Save Composting**

I recently introduced legislation to require New York City to provide composting services to every residential building, which is especially important since the City Administration has announced cuts to this program. Every year, homes throughout the city produce one million tons of organic waste (about 11 pounds of organic material per household, per week!) that could be reused in a sustainable way.

### **We Need CHARAS as a Community Center**

Recently, I joined Council Member Carlina Rivera, Assembly Member Harvey Epstein, advocates and community members to reaffirm our support for CHARAS to be returned to the neighborhood as a community center. With the current owner in foreclosure, there is hope that this could be an opportunity to purchase the building, fulfilling the previous City Administration's pledge.

### **Fighting for Survivors of Sexual Abuse**

On February 15<sup>th</sup>, I participated in a press conference with advocates, survivors, and Assembly Members Linda Rosenthal to support the Adult Survivors Act (S.66-A). This month marks three years since the Child Victims Act (CVA) became law. Until 2019, New York's statute of limitations for civil lawsuits arising out of sex crimes was prohibitively short for adult survivors. In most cases, survivors had one year to sue abusers directly. The Adult Survivors Act will create a one-year window for the revival of time-barred civil lawsuits for claims of sexual abuse committed against a person who was 18 or older at the time of the conduct.

### **Supporting the Starbucks Union**

Earlier this month, I joined Congressman Nadler in visiting one of the Starbucks locations in our district that is in the process of unionizing. I will be staying in close contact with these workers to make sure Starbucks does not interfere with their legally protected right to organize. The next time you are in Starbucks, order your coffee under the name "Union Yes" to show your support!

### **Let My People Sit! Moynihan Needs Benches**

I led a letter to Amtrak CEO William Flynn and MTA Chair and CEO Janno Lieber, joined by Senator Robert Jackson, Representative Jerry Nadler, Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine, Assembly Member Richard Gottfried and Council Member Erik Bottcher, urging them to add additional seating in Moynihan's main hall. All New Yorkers, especially older adults, people with disabilities, and adults traveling with young children, deserve a clean, safe, and comfortable place to wait for their train. As all transit agencies work to bring back ridership, making stations as accessible and welcoming as possible should be top of mind. Read the full letter here: <https://www.nysenate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/brad-hoylman/letter-mta-amtrak-requesting-seating-moynihan-train-hall>

### **Center for Urban Community Services Resources**

I am partnering with the Center for Urban Community Services to promote new resources they provide for anyone who may need them, including help with unemployment insurance, financial coaching, legal support services such as eviction protection assistance, and employment issues. Resources are free and open to any member of the public. If you or anyone else is interested, please call CUCS at 1-855-932-2827 or visit their website at [www.cucs.org/connects](http://www.cucs.org/connects). Please reach out to my office at [hoylman@nysenate.gov](mailto:hoylman@nysenate.gov) if you have any issues.

### **State Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)**

As of January 11th, 2022, the State Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) is accepting applications. ERAP funds can be used to help with rental arrears, utility arrears, and limited future rent payments. This is a federally funded program and as of January 2022, funds have been exhausted and relief is not guaranteed, but the state has requested more aid from the federal government. Meanwhile, applying for ERAP will provide tenants with specific protections as a final determination on their application is pending. More information, including information on eligibility and a link to apply, can be found [here](#).

### **Recent Con-Edison Rate Increase**

Some of you may have heard about large increases in Con Edison bills, primarily due to the significant increase in the price of electricity produced by natural gas. Con Edison also implemented a scheduled rate increase previously approved by the Public Service Commission in 2019. On February 11, the Department of Public Service sent a letter to Con Edison seeking that the utility provide more transparency to customers in the next billing cycle, reassess power supply billing practices to reduce the risk of price volatility, and improve customer communication regarding commodity pricing, particularly in advance of expected bill increases. The Department determined that the combination of higher market prices for natural gas and electricity, coupled with higher energy use due to cold weather, resulted in significantly higher bills for consumers. I am continuing to monitor this situation and will take legislative action as appropriate.

### **Order Free At-Home Test Online**

The Biden Administration has announced that all Americans are now able to order four at-home tests at **no cost**. With the Omicron variant still being the dominant case of COVID-19, we must continue to stay vigilant. You can order for free [here](#). If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to my office at 212-633-8052 or [hoylman@nysenate.gov](mailto:hoylman@nysenate.gov)

### **Home Energy Assistance Program**

The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) is a federally funded program designed to help low-income homeowners and renters pay for utility and heating bills. Regular HEAP opened October 1st, 2021 while Emergency HEAP opened January 3rd, 2022. The program is set to run through March 15th, 2022. For more information on eligibility and the application process, please visit <https://otda.ny.gov/programs/heap/>.

### **Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT)**

The Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) Food Benefits is a temporary federal food program to help families make up for school meals that were missed while students studied remotely. Families can expect \$820-1300 for the 2020-2021 school year, exact amounts will vary based on the number of days a student was learning remotely.

### **Service: FREE Notary**

It's getting harder to find notaries in the city. In response, I'm happy to offer my notary services for free to the community. If you are in need of notary services, please call me to make an appointment and I will personally notarize your documents. Proof of vaccination is required. Call

212-633-8052 to schedule an appointment.

### **COVID-19 Vaccine Information**

Visit <https://vaccinefinder.nyc.gov/locations> and enter your zip code to view all vaccination sites. You can filter by vaccine type and walk-up availability. If you are doing a walk-up appointment be sure to check the hours of the site before you go!

There are mobile vans and pop-up sites providing vaccines throughout all 5 boroughs. Check this site to see the location and times for the coming week:

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/coronavirus/vaccines/covid-19-vaccines.page#nycmobilevax>

You can still schedule your appointment, including one just for a second dose. Visit <https://vax4nyc.nyc.gov/patient/s/> or call 877-VAX-4NYC (877-829-4692).

### **Booster Shots**

Boosters are widely available across New York City. Head here to learn more about eligibility or to find a location for you to receive a booster:

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-vaccines.page>

*Who is eligible for a booster shot & which booster should you get?*

People who received both doses of the **Pfizer or Moderna** vaccine at least five months ago are eligible for a booster shot. To receive a booster shot, you must be one of the following: ● 12+ with two vaccinations from either Pfizer or Moderna.

- Those 12-17 are only approved for the Pfizer vaccine and booster at this time. ○ Those 18+ are approved for a booster from any brand, although it is recommended that they get a booster shot from the same brand.
- Everyone 18+ who received **Johnson & Johnson** at least two months ago should get a booster. While Johnson & Johnson recipients can get any of the three brands, the CDC recommends getting an mRNA booster (Pfizer) as they are more effective. If you're not sure which booster to get, speak with your doctor.

*Reminders:*

- At the vaccination site, you will receive a card with your name, date of birth, the vaccine you received, and the place and date you received it. Keep it in a safe place and make a photocopy or take a picture just in case you lose it. If you got the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, bring the card with you when you go for your second shot. If you are fully vaccinated but lost your COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card or need verification of your vaccine status, you can [request a copy of your COVID-19 vaccination record online](#). Vaccines are available at no cost to you and regardless of immigration status.
- The Excelsior Pass is a voluntary way to provide digital proof of vaccination on your smartphone. Businesses and entertainment venues can scan and validate the pass to ensure you meet any COVID-19 vaccination or testing requirements for entry. When using the pass, you'll be asked to show a photo ID that shows your name and birth date to verify identity. Visit <https://portal.311.nyc.gov/article/?kanumber=KA-03386> for

more information about how to use the application.

### **COVID-19 Testing**

NYC Health + Hospitals offers free, walk-in testing throughout the five boroughs. Visit <https://www.nychealthandhospitals.org/covid-19-testing-sites/> to view a schedule of locations and hours.

The Federal Government is now shipping rapid antigen tests to those who request them. To request four free at home tests, please visit <https://www.covidtests.gov/>. Please note that each address is limited to *one* four-test order. Tests begin shipping via the US Postal Service in late January.

An appointment for at-home testing for those 65+ and immunocompromised individuals can be requested by calling (929) 298-9400 between 9:00 AM and 7:00 PM any day of the week.

### **Assistance for New Yorkers Who Test Positive for COVID**

The Test & Trace Corps will make sure that anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 and their close contacts will have the resources needed to safely separate in a hotel free of charge or at home to help prevent the spread of the virus. To request a hotel room or learn more about how to safely separate in a hotel or at home, call 1-212-COVID19 (212-268-4319). Speaking with the Test & Trace Corps will not change your ability to apply for permanent residency (or “green card”).

NYC Health + Hospitals has two Community Health Centers in the Bronx and Queens dedicated to those recovering from COVID-19. Both centers provide short and long-term follow-up care for those recovering from COVID-19. For appointments, call 1 (844) NYC-4-NYC or 1-844-692-4692. 24-hour access to a health care provider is available.

### **Small Business Services Employment Assistance**

The City’s Department of Small Business Services has a new “Find A New Job” page, which lists open employment listings from across NYC: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/sbs/careers/find-a-job.page>

### **Mental Health Resources**

The pandemic has shown us that mental health care is more important than ever. I want to share some free, confidential resources that you can use or share with others:

- NY Project Hope: Emotional Support Helpline: 1-844-863-9314.
- NYC Well: 1-888-NYC-WELL or text "WELL" to 65173. They also offer free access to digital mental health apps and a [database](#) of behavioral health and supporting services (substance use, housing, legal, social and community services) within the five boroughs.
- The Trevor Project is based in our district and operates a national 24-hour toll-free confidential suicide hotline for LGBTQ youth. Call 1-866-488-7386 or text "START" to 678678.
- National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-7233 or text "LOVEIS" to 22522.

