

DISTRICT UPDATE

Passport Backlog

The US passport agency is facing a huge surge in passport applications as many Americans resume international travel and work to replace passports that expired over the last few years. This flood of applications has created a backlog, and processing times are increasing. This has also increased the demand for in person appointments at passport agencies, making it very difficult to secure one. If you have travel scheduled in Fall or Winter 2023, please apply for your passport renewal now. Current processing times are 7-9 weeks for expedited processing and 10-13 weeks for routine service. This means you should count on being without a passport for 3-4 months, as you will have to mail in your old passport with your renewal application. Passport applications already increase during the summer months so it is likely processing times will continue to increase. You can find the current processing times and everything you need to know about submitting a passport application or renewal at <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/passports.html/>

Travel tips

- Before you book international travel find your passport, make sure it is undamaged, not expired and remains valid long enough to be eligible for your trip.
- Check that your passport remains valid long enough to be eligible for where you would like to travel. Many countries require that your passport be valid for 3 or 6 months from your departure date. This is called passport validity. Check online to see what the required passport validity is for the country you would like to travel too.
- Child passports are only valid for 5 years so don't forget to check their passports as well.
- Consider paying for expedited shipping and processing if you do need to apply for a new passport. This will help get your passport to the agency more quickly and once it is approved it will be shipped back within 1-2 days.
- If you are 2 weeks out from your trip and you have not received your passport, reach out to our office. If you wait until the last day or two to reach out there is a lot less we can do than if you give us the full two weeks.
- Be advised that passport agencies do not take walk in appointments. You must have a scheduled appointment. If you go to the Hudson Street location, our office will not be able to get you in the door.

USPS Mail Issues

Dan sent a letter to United States Postal Service Postmaster General Louis DeJoy urging him to address the rise in mail theft from USPS mailboxes in New York City. Our office received numerous complaints over the past weeks from concerned New Yorkers who have had their vital documents stolen from USPS mailboxes. Having checks, medical documentation, passports, or other identifying information stolen puts New Yorkers at serious risk. It is imperative that the United States Postal Service do everything in its power to ensure that mail, property, and information transported through the USPS is secure. Residents experiencing mail theft should report the incidents by going to their local NYPD precinct or dialing 911. New Yorkers can also file a report with the Postal Inspection Service by calling the hotline at 1-877-876-2455 or by going to uspis.gov/report so that federal crimes can be investigated and addressed.

The Nonprofit Security Program

TAs hate crimes rise to record levels, nonprofits, community organizations, and places of worship have increasingly become the target of violence and intimidation. The Nonprofit Security Grant Program ("NSGP") provides federal funds for these nonprofits to invest in security infrastructure, including security cameras and security guards. Dan joined his colleagues in Congress to request \$180 million for the NSGP, as well as \$180 million for the Urban Area Security Initiative, in the Fiscal Year 2024 Homeland Security Appropriations bill. Our office is hard at work at the federal level to protect New Yorkers from hate and bigotry, and I encourage any nonprofit who feels that they could be a target of violence to apply before the deadline of April 20th. Go to <https://www.dhses.ny.gov/nonprofit-programs> to learn more.

Dan Calls for \$800 Million for Communities Caring for Migrants and Asylum Seekers

Dan and Congresswoman Veronica Escobar (TX-16) led a group of 25 Representatives in calling for \$800 million in funding for the newly established Shelter and Services Program (SSP) in the FY24 federal budget. The Shelter and Services Program provides communities with much-needed funding to deliver lifesaving resources to migrants, including food, shelter, and transportation. Increased funding for the SSP would transform the ability of states and local governments to welcome and support incoming asylum seekers. Created following a historic year of asylum seeker arrivals to the United States, the Shelter and Services Program was established to give communities direct assistance through grants, rather than subjecting them to a lengthy reimbursement process. This would allow asylum seekers to receive vital services and resources quickly and provide much needed funding to their new communities. Through direct grant assistance, state agencies and nonprofits will be able to better plan for securing and maintaining shelter space, providing orientation services, and arranging transportation – creating a vastly superior alternative to having them submit reimbursement requests and waiting for funds.

Rental Assistance in FY 24 Budget

Dan joined Congresswoman Maxine Waters (CA-43) and Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley (MA-07) in leading a group of 90 members of Congress to call for funding that would provide crucial rental assistance to help ensure affordable housing for low-income households. With the end of the Emergency Rental Assistance Program, renters continue to face barriers to housing stability in the face of rising rental costs, inflation, and the end of COVID federal and local eviction protections. Goldman, Waters, and Pressley led their colleagues in requesting full funding for Public Housing, Section 8, Section 202, and Section 811 rental assistance programs, including housing choice vouchers and the Public Housing Operating Fund. The members have also requested an additional \$1 billion in funding to create and support new affordable housing units.

Join the NY10 Art Competition!

This month is the kickoff for the Congressional Art Competition! The winning piece from each district will hang in the Capitol complex for a year. The winning students from each district are also invited to Washington D.C. to meet each other and their representative as well as to view their art on display. The competition is for high school students who either live or attend school in New York's 10th Congressional District. Students can submit their applications on our website at <https://goldman.house.gov/services/art-competition> starting on March 15. The competition will run through May 1, 2023, and the winners will be announced shortly after.