

A Message From ASSEMBLYMEMBER HARVEY EPSTEIN



ASSEMBLY MEMBER HARVEY EPSTEIN COMMUNITY BOARD 6 REPORT, MAY 2023

Friend,

We hope you have been enjoying the May weather! We're back in Albany this week, and the work continues to ensure we finish the legislative season off with improvements in housing affordability, criminal justice reform and fair wage reforms.

In this 10-bill budget package, we passed some important environmental legislation, continuing our mission to have the strongest climate laws in the country and invested in our CUNY and SUNY students with disabilities. Below is a breakdown of some of the key features of this year's budget, both positive and negative aspects of the bill. We still have more work to be done to ensure New York is inclusive, equitable and accessible to all New Yorkers. Here is what we achieved in this year's budget:

Environment

- **The All-Electric New Buildings Act:** Passed a first in the nation law to end the over-reliance on fossil fuels by requiring new buildings to be all-electric. Starting in December of 2025 with buildings 7 stories or less, buildings will be prohibited from installing fossil-fuel equipment and building systems. There are some exemptions for certain buildings such as hospitals and restaurants and will not limit the use of gas stoves in existing buildings but it will begin to shift investment away from fossil fuel equipment and systems and into more sustainable equipment.
- **Environmental Protection Fund:** In this budget, New York allocated 400 million dollars for capital projects that focus on environmental conservation and sustainability. These projects can include funding for municipal parks, land acquisition, and environmental justice initiatives.
- **Build Public Renewables Act:** A huge victory, the final budget expands the New York Power Authority's ability to create more renewable energy which will enable the authority to

redistribute energy efforts away from fossil fuel plants and into more renewable energy production.

Criminal Justice

- **Bail Reform:** While we fought to protect bail reform, which studies show was working to keep people not convicted of crimes out of pre-trial detention without leading to an increase in crime, Governor Hochul held up many of the budget negotiations on bail reform. While we were able to defend against the more extreme version of the Governor's proposals, language was removed so that judges are no longer required to impose the least restrictive pretrial conditions.
- **More Funding for Public Defenders and District Attorneys:** The budget included 160 million dollars to public defenders and district attorneys, to ensure they can meaningfully comply with these discovery reform laws

Education

- **Foundation Aid:** NY State is fully funding foundation aid for public schools, at \$34 billion which is said to be the largest education investment in New York's history.
- **Charter Schools:** We were able to beat back some of the worst aspects of the charter expansions by dramatically slashing the number of charter schools the Governor wanted to bring back online.
- **CUNY/SUNY Funding:** We were able to stop in-state tuition increases as well as increase operating funding for SUNY and CUNY schools. We were able to allocate 103\$ million for SUNY schools and 53\$ million for CUNY schools.
- **Free School Meal Expansions:** There will be an additional \$134 million in funding to ensure more low income students have access to free school meals and that the schools that are eligible are able to provide for this program for their students.

Housing

- **Emergency Rental Assistance Program:** A key feature of the budget, the state allocated \$391 million for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program for public housing residents, including NYCHA and section 8 tenants.
- **NYCHA:** Along with the important ERAP funding to assist with rental arrears , the budget includes \$135 million dollars for NYCHA to invest in capital improvements. With NYCHA struggling to deal with the many repairs that are needed across their buildings, this funding should help NYCHA to make the necessary repairs for tenants.

Healthcare

- **Reproductive Access:** New York is allocating \$100.7 million dollars to fund abortion providers, another important victory for all New Yorkers in ensuring that New York remains a safe haven for reproductive rights.

- **Mental Health:** The budget includes \$1 billion to expand care services such as increasing inpatient psychiatrist treatment capacity and expanding outpatient services so that New Yorkers have access to the quality mental healthcare they need, when they need it.

People with Disabilities

- **Expanded employment opportunities:** After our report detailed the barriers to employment access for people with disabilities, including in the government, the budget raised the caps on set asides for civil service positions for people with disabilities.
- **Higher Education Disability Support Funding:** We were able to double the amount of funding for students with disabilities to ensure that schools are able to provide the necessary accommodations to succeed while at school. Investing in our students with disabilities is vital to creating an inclusive education system and a more representative New York.

We also included a new MTA bus pilot program, where one bus route would be completely free in each borough. The budget also includes the result of a tough battle over the minimum wage, where we did win an increase of \$17/hr that will be phased over the next couple of years. While we are glad to see an increase in the minimum wage, we will continue to fight for a higher wage. The work continues and we look forward to updating you throughout the rest of the legislation season!

See you around the district,

Harvey

The Governor signed our bill to Expand Reproductive Healthcare Access!



Last week, Governor Hochul signed our bill, A1395C/ S1213B which expands access to reproductive healthcare for students on CUNY & SUNY campuses by requiring schools to provide medication abortion on campus or a referral to a nearby provider, including telehealth providers. I was proud to stand with our bill co-sponsor State Senator Cordell Cleare, New York State Attorney Letitia James and incredible advocates such as Reproductive Justice Collective who helped make this bill a reality.

Minority and Women Business Owned Enterprise Rally

It was an honor to stand alongside State Senator James Sanders Jr., Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte Hermelyn and Assemblymember Amanda Septimo to discuss the state's Minority and Women Business Development program and how we must continue to invest and support MWBE businesses and entrepreneurs. Only 9% of state contracts currently go to MWBE businesses, so New York has much more to do to ensure we provide MWBE communities with good contracts and good jobs.



The Need for a New York Public Bank

Currently, New York state's taxpayer dollars sit in private banks on Wall Street where the funds are invested in destructive industries like fossil fuel companies and private prisons. On top of this, some of these banks are unstable, like Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank and put New York's future investments at risk. A public bank gives New Yorkers the voice they deserve, placing the money where it is publicly accountable and utilized for investment in New York priorities like affordable housing, clean energy initiatives, a just transition and fair banking services. This has the potential to transform our banking system by making it more equitable, accountable and profitable for New York. We don't have time to waste in protecting New Yorkers. I was proud to stand with the New Economy Project and Public Bank NYC to push for a Public Bank in New York state.



Clean Slate NY

At a rally on Tuesday, I stood alongside incredible advocates to continue pushing for legislation that makes our criminal legal system more justice. Alongside the [Clean Slate NY](#) coalition of advocates, we are fighting to limit the barriers for New Yorkers with a conviction record. One in seven New Yorkers, or around 2.5 million, would be positively impacted by this legislation, which automatically clears a conviction record when someone becomes eligible. After someone has served their sentence and becomes



eligible, this bill would ensure that they would face less barriers to reentering the workforce, practicing trades and re-joining their communities. This bill will also positively impact our BIPOC communities, who are the victims of over-policing and over-prosecution and therefore are more likely to be plagued by permanent criminal records that impact their ability to re-enter the workforce. This bill ensures our criminal legal system is more just and doesn't continue punishing people long after they have done their time.



Meeting with the Asian American Judges Association

On Tuesday, I joined the Asian American Judges Association of New York to discuss the low rates of Asian American judges in New York's judicial system and how we can work to improve diversity. Asian American judges account for 4.6% of the judicial system compared to 13% of the total New York Asian American

population. We need more representation in our judicial system.

Donations for Asylum Seekers and Migrants



District 1

Carry Chan, Superintendent

COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT 1

166 Essex Street, Suite 126

New York, NY 10002

Phone: (212)353-2948

<p>Nathan Strauss (PS 140) 123 Ridge street NY NY 10002 (212) 677-4680</p>	<p>Parent Coordinator: Yesenia Feliciano Yfeliciano6@schools.com</p>
<p>The Island School (PS/MS 188) 442 East Houston NY NY 10002 (212) 677-5710</p>	<p>Parent Coordinator: Janilda Duarte Jduart6e@schools.nyc.gov</p>
<p>Anna Silver (PS 20) 166 Essex Street NY ny 10002 (212)254-9577</p>	<p>Parent Coordinator: Tina (Yue Teng) Mo ymo2@schools.nyc.gov</p>
<p>Global Leaders 145 Stanton Street NY NY 10002 (212) 260-5375</p>	<p>Parent Coordinator: Daisy Rios Drios5@schools.nyc.gov</p>
<p>Roberto Clemente (PS 15) 333 East 4th Street NY NY 10009 (212)228-8730</p>	<p>Parent Coordinator: La'Nette Murphy LMurphy22@schools.nyc.gov</p>
<p>University neighborhood Middle School 220 Henry Street NY NY 10002 (212) 267-5701</p>	<p>Parent Coordinator: Kanny Alvarez kalvarez12@schools.nyc.gov</p>
<p>Star Academy (PS 63) 121 East 3rd Street NY NY 10009 (212) 674-3180</p>	<p>Parent Coordinator: Shilynn Jackson Sjackson70@schools.nyc.gov</p>
<p>Robert Simon (PS 64) 600 East 6 Street NY NY 10009 (212) 673-6510</p>	<p>Parent Coordinator: Maru Bosque Mbosque@schools.nyc.gov</p>
<p>Amalia Castro (142) 100 Attorney Street NY NY 10002 (212) 598-3800</p>	<p>Parent Coordinator: Jackie Munoz jmunoz8@schools.nyc.gov</p>
<p>Franklin D Roosevelt (PS/Ms 34) 730 East 12 TSreet NY NY 10009 (212) 228-4433</p>	<p>Parent Coordinator: Damaris Bailey DBailey21@sschools.nyc.gov</p>

Welcome newcomers to our city and schools! Donations of new and lightly used children's clothing, backpacks, and more are needed. Contact the school coordinators above to make donations. Your support is greatly appreciated. To learn more about how you can help, you can also volunteer or donate to [Team TLC NYC](#), an all-volunteer organization proudly committed to providing basic needs and support to asylum seekers and migrants.

To volunteer at Team TLC NYC's Little Shop of Kindness, you can sign up [HERE](#). Their Little Shop of Kindness is located inside the Seventh-Day Adventist Center at 12 West 40th Street, between 5th and 6th Avenues (near Bryant Park and the New York Public Library). They are open Mondays 2-6PM and Tuesdays-Fridays from 9 am to 3 pm. They are in need of personal shoppers and sorters for those hours, as well as set-up and clean-up shifts before and after store hours.

Spanish and French speakers are particularly in demand, but all volunteers are welcome.

Field Trip Grant Program for Students in The District

The Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation offers New York State school children the opportunity to visit state parks, nature centers, forests, fish hatcheries and historic sites through the Connect-Kids-to Parks Field Trip Grant Program.

The successful grant program funds transportation and program costs to connect students throughout the state to nature and history.

- Eligible organizations include public schools; county, city, town or village youth bureaus; schools for the deaf and blind; and BOCES programs. Select not-for-profits providing after-school, extracurricular, and summer youth programs may also be eligible;
- Public and Private schools that are eligible for Title 1 funding can also apply;
- Non-school field trip applicants may be asked to submit additional trip information prior to approval;
- All not-for-profits must be pre-qualified in the [Grants Gateway](#).

Since the debut of the reimbursement program in 2016, Connect Kids has reimbursed over \$3.8 million. More than 4,700 grants have been awarded, providing over 300,000 school students with a direct connection to the environment and history through school field trips, outdoor recreation programs, and overnight summer camps.

In 2022, the Connect Kids grant awarded over \$1 million in reimbursements. Organizations including the Fresh Air Fund, the Madison Square Boys and Girls Club, The Felix Organization, Hope 7 Community Center, Greater Ridgewood Youth Council, and Saratoga Performing Arts Center have used the Connect Kids program for summer camp programs. A total of 320 organizations and school districts received reimbursement from the Connect Kids program in the past year.

For further information, [CLICK HERE](#) to be directed to the Connect Kids webpage.

Reminder: Waste Setout Times have Changed!

As of April 1, 2023, NYC Department of Sanitation has implemented a new rule to reduce the time that trash, recycling, and curbside composting will sit on sidewalks. **There will be a one-month grace period—businesses and residents will receive written warnings until May 1, 2023.** Written warnings will be tracked, and warning recipients will be among the first places inspected for compliance in May. You can learn more [here](#) but here are some details below:

For Residents

- Residential buildings of any size (single-family and multi-unit) have two options:
 - Place waste out after 6:00 PM in a container of 55 gallons or less with a secure lid, or
 - Place waste out after 8:00 PM, if putting bags directly on the curb
- To ensure collection, all waste must be set out by midnight.

Businesses

- Businesses that place waste at the curb* for collection have two options:
 - If using a container with a secure lid, place waste at the curb 1 hour before closing, or
 - If putting bags directly on the curb, place waste out after 8:00 PM
- Remember, containers must be removed from the curb by the time your business reopens.
- * This does not apply to businesses that have waste collected from a loading dock.

Community Food Funders Champions Award

The Community Food Funders Champions Award recognizes organizations working towards the transition of our food system to one that pursues a true triple bottom line: a system that honors and values people, the environment, and sustainable economic models. The awardee will receive a \$10,000 grant to support their work and other exciting support. The deadline to submit a nomination, whether self-nominated or nominated by someone else, is **May 12th, 2023**. Eligibility is limited to nonprofit organizations located and operating in New York, New Jersey, or Connecticut. Learn more about the award, including eligibility criteria and submission details [HERE](#).

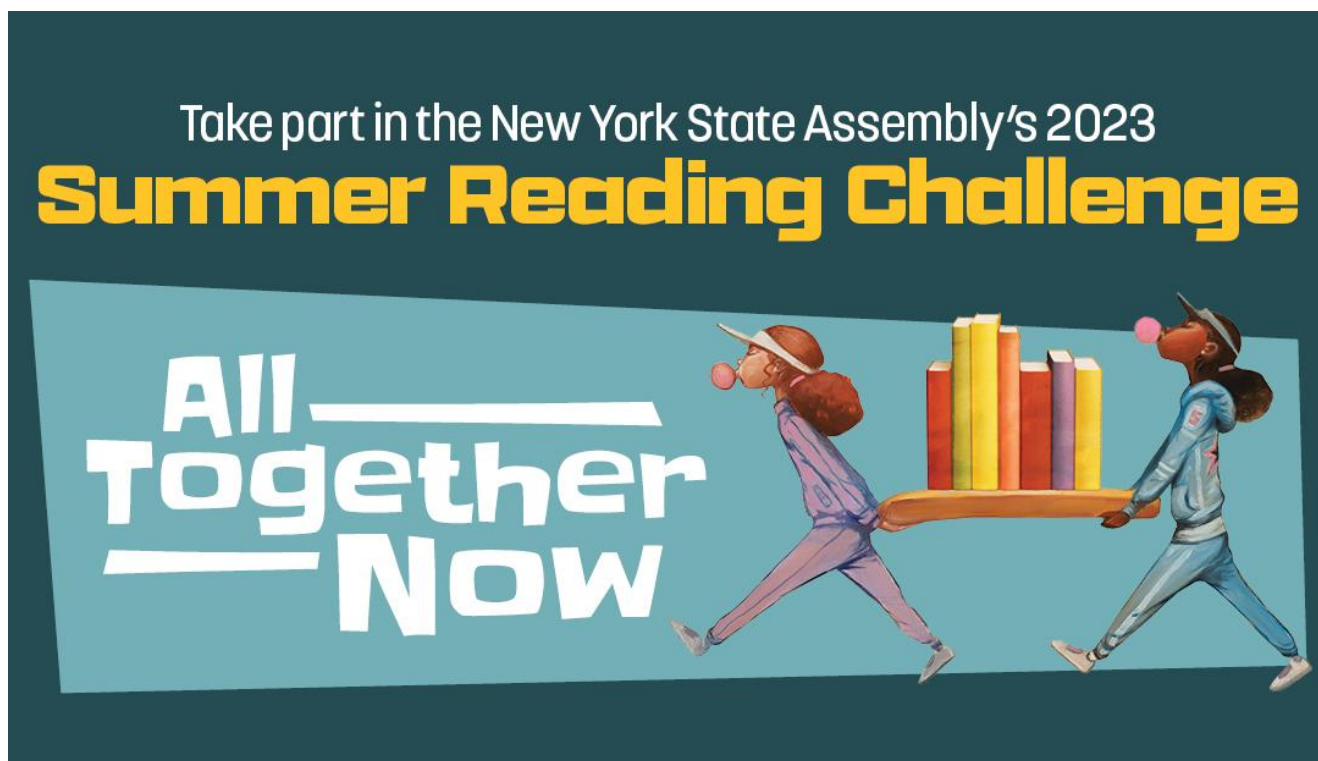
Morgan Stanley Community Development Graduate Fellowship

The ANHD/Morgan Stanley Community Development Graduate Fellowship supports the training and development of emerging community development leaders, while also building the capacity of community development organizations. Every year, the Fellowship pairs 9 graduate students with 9

neighborhood-based community development corporations and ANHD members (the Host Organizations) in NYC. The Fellowship provides an immersive experience where Fellows can gain hands-on experience and skill-building in various sectors of the community development field, including affordable housing, economic development, and community planning.

This Fellowship seeks to cultivate and empower emerging practitioners from historically marginalized communities most impacted by the issues and work of housing, economic, and racial justice in NYC. **2023-2024 Applications Are Now Open until May 15th.** Learn more [here](#).

Our 2023 Summer Reading Challenge



We invite our young constituents to participate in the New York State Assembly's Annual Summer Reading Challenge, held in partnership with New York State Libraries. The theme for this year's challenge is "All Together Now" to celebrate kindness and friendship. Those who complete the challenge will be awarded a state Assembly Excellence in Reading certificate to celebrate their achievement.

The Summer Reading Challenge asks children to read for at least 15 minutes a day for at least 40 days during the months of July and August. Children can read by themselves or with a partner or caretaker and then mark the days on the calendar provided. After marking 40 days or more, they can submit the calendar to Assemblymember's office to receive their certificate in the mail. New Yorkers are also encouraged to visit their local library for summer reading recommendations and a host of

other programs and services. ***To make sure no child goes hungry this summer, Local Area Library also offers free meals.***

You can find a library near you at the New York State Libraries website, nysl.nysed.gov. For more information about the Summer Reading Challenge, please visit summerreadingnys.org, email district74@nyassembly.gov.

High Road Kitchens BIPOC Restaurant Funding

The 2023 NYC High Road Kitchens Program, led by One Fair Wage and supported by funding from Capital One, will provide over \$150K in grants, along with free training and technical assistance, to Black and Brown-owned full service restaurants in NYC that commit to paying a full minimum wage with tips on top. You can apply [HERE](#).

The program will distribute grants to restaurant establishments that agree to transition to the 'One Fair Wage' model – a full minimum wage plus tips on top - in response to the current staffing crisis facing the City's restaurant industry. With the Great Resignation, New York has lost more workers than any other state in the US, and over 500 New York restaurants have voluntarily raised wages to recruit staff. **Applications are due May 10!**

May Highlights from NY State Attorney General Letitia James

News from New York State Attorney General Letitia James

May Highlights: Protecting Personal Data

Attorney General Letitia James released a Data Security Guide to help businesses better protect consumers' personal data. Last year, the Office of the New York State Attorney General (OAG) received 4,000 data breach notifications, in which it was informed that consumers' personal information may have been compromised. The OAG opened dozens of investigations and penalized companies millions of dollars for their failure to adopt reasonable safeguards to protect customer information or properly inform customers of the incident.

A common target for cybercriminals is social security numbers, and there were 1,876 data breach incidents reported to the OAG last year involving social security numbers. These reported incidents affected over 3.2 million New Yorkers. With social security numbers, a cybercriminal can open financial accounts in the victim's name and collect federal and state benefits.

The Attorney General's Guide discusses some of the data security failures found in recent data security investigations and recommends practices businesses should adopt to better secure their systems, fortify their networks, and strengthen data security measures. Some of the tips from the guide include:

- » Maintain controls for secure authentication procedures, such as multi-factor authentication;
- » Encrypt sensitive customer information, such as social security numbers;
- » Know where consumer information is kept - maintain an asset inventory that tracks where customer information is stored; and
- » Notify consumers quickly and accurately of a data breach so that they can take steps to protect themselves.

In a related action, Attorney General James is working with the State Legislature to regulate health data tracking by various on-line companies and apps.



To read a copy of the Data Security Guide ("Protecting Consumers' Personal Information") visit ag.ny.gov/protecting-data

EVENTS

Sixth Street Community Center Free Food Distribution through June



TIME'S UP!, NYC's Direct Action Environment Organization May Events

TIME'S UP! is a grassroots environmental group that uses educational outreach and direct action to promote a more sustainable, less toxic city. For 30 years, TIME'S UP! has worked to educate people about the environmental impacts of everyday decisions, from the food we buy to the means of transportation we use. They have a new space located on **626 E 14th St between Avenue B & C.**

They are hosting a variety of free and engaging events and activities in the East Village and throughout the city.

ACC Mobile Adoption Event - Saturday, 5/13 12:00PM to 4:00PM

The Animal Care Centers of NYC is hosting a mobile adoption event Saturday, May 13th from 12PM to 4PM on **W 54th St. between 9th & 10th Ave NY, 10019**. If you can't make it, not to worry, they will be hosting another one on Saturday, May 20 from 12pm - 4pm at Birch Coffee located on 134 ½ E 62nd St, NY, 10065. You can also learn more about the mobile adoption events [HERE](#).

ECOLOGICAL CITY - Procession for Climate Solutions - Saturday, May 13th from 11:00AM to 5:00PM

ECOLOGICAL CITY is an urban ecological pilgrimage featuring a spectacular procession of visual art, giant puppets and costumes with 21 site performances of music, dance, theater and poetry celebrating local climate solution initiatives throughout the community gardens neighborhood and waterfront on the Lower East Side of New York City. To learn more you can visit their website: <https://earthcelebrations.com/ecological-city-project/>

**AAPI For Change Brunch for NYC AAPI Artist Winner Announcement - Sunday, May 21st
from 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM**

AAPI for CHANGE

Join us for
Brunch
Hosted by
AAPI FOR CHANGE

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE
WINNER OF NYC AAPI ARTIST**

PLACE.
Fish Village, 2007,
127th St., 3rd FL
College Point,
NY 11356

DATE.
Sunday, 5/21/2023

TIME.
12 PM - 3 PM

\$88/Person

RSVP!

bit.ly/AAPIBrunch

The Fish Village
was traumatized
by teens
causing \$20,000
in damages.
FishVillageOnline.com

AAPIforChange.org
Hello@AAPIforChange.org

FOLLOW US! @AAPIForChange

AAPI For Change mission is to bring different racial and ethnic backgrounds together to stand firm against hatred and discrimination through civic engagement and open discussions

AAPI For Change's is hosting a brunch in honor of the NYC AAPI artist winner. The top honoree will receive an award of \$1000/month for 12 months. There is an \$88 registration fee to attend the brunch that will benefit AAPI for Change.