

CONGRESSMAN



# COMMUNITY BOARD 6

SEPTEMBER 2023

**Welcome back everyone! As summer winds down and school starts back up, I would like to extend you a warm welcome back. During the summertime, my team and I have been hard at work serving NY-10's residents. From demanding more funding for NYCHA, to advocating for common sense gun violence prevention measures, I am committed to fighting for everyone in New York's 10th District. I hope all of you had a refreshing summer and are ready for a productive fall, and I hope to see you in the district at any of the events that my office hosts.**



Sincerely,  
Dan Goldman

## DISTRICT UPDATE

### Dan Fights to Eradicate AIDS Worldwide

Dan joined Congresswoman Abigail Spanberger, along with a bipartisan group of colleagues, in sending a letter to the U.S. Department of State in support of reauthorizing the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), a program that has been instrumental in combating the AIDS epidemic. PEPFAR has saved 25 million lives and prevented over five million childhood infections over the last 20 years. The letter draws attention to the ongoing challenges of HIV transmission among pregnant women and the high transmission rates of HIV from mother to child.

### Dan Renews Call from Former Prosecutors, Law Enforcement Officials, and Judges for Supreme Court to Establish Ethics Counsel and Independent Investigative Body

Dan led 14 members of Congress in responding to Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts' refusal to commit to establishing an ethics counsel and independent investigative body within the Supreme Court – as requested on June 27, 2023, by Dan and 17 of his Congressional colleagues. Chief Justice Roberts confirmed receipt of Dan's original request but refused to commit to these necessary reforms.

The members' renewed call addresses the Judicial Conference of the United States in the hopes that Chief Justice Roberts will coordinate with that body to adopt appropriate ethics standards for the Highest Court that apply to all other federal judges.

### Dan Fights to Raise Minimum Wage

Dan joined Congressman Robert C. "Bobby" Scott in introducing the 'Raise the Wage Act' This legislation would gradually raise the minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$17 per hour by 2028. The Raise the Wage Act would also index the federal minimum wage to match the growth of the national median wage starting in 2029. The federal minimum wage has not been increased since 2009, the longest stretch in U.S. history. Roughly one in eight U.S. workers were paid wages that left them in poverty in 2022, even when working full-time and year-round. There is currently no place in America where a full-time worker making the \$7.25 federal minimum wage can earn enough money to cover rent for a modest two-bedroom apartment.

## **Dan Fights to End Jim Crow Era Laws Denying Voting Rights to Millions of Americans**

Dan joined Congresswoman Jasmine Crockett, Congressman Jamie Raskin, Congressman Troy Carter, and Congresswoman Valerie Foushee in introducing the Democracy Restoration Act. This historic legislation would end the permanent denial of voting rights nationwide for individuals with criminal convictions who have been released from incarceration and have completed their custodial sentence. As of October 2022, an estimated 4.6 million Americans are disenfranchised due to a felony conviction.

Approximately 1 in 19 African Americans of voting age are disenfranchised, a rate 3.5 times that of non-African Americans. Among the adult African American population, 5.3 percent is disenfranchised compared to 1.5 percent of the adult non-African American population.

## **Dan and U.S. Senator Gillibrand Advocate for Mayoral Support for the African Burial Ground Museum at 22 Reade Street**

Dan and U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand led six members of the New York delegation in a letter to New York City Mayor Eric Adams urging his continued support for the establishment of a world-class museum and education center dedicated to the African American experience at 22 Reade Street in Manhattan, next to the site of the African Burial Ground. The letter was also signed by Congressmembers Jerrold Nadler, Gregory Meeks, Yvette Clarke, Adriano Espaillat, Nydia Velázquez, and Grace Meng. Mayor Adams has been a productive partner in ensuring that the African Burial Ground Museum becomes a reality, working in coordination with the City's Congressional delegation to advance this project.

The African Burial Ground Museum and education center would be managed by the National Park Service in consultation with the African Burial Ground Advisory Council, which would be established by the legislation. The museum and education center will also serve as a sister site to the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C. The museum would host complementary exhibits and foster collaboration with the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C as well as other museums, historically Black colleges and universities, historical societies and educational institutions, creating a stronger network of groups focused on strengthening our understanding of slavery and its lasting impact on our history.

## **Dan Works to Combat Antisemitism on College Campuses**

Dan joined Congresswoman Kathy Manning and a bipartisan coalition of 85 Members of Congress in writing a letter to U.S. Department of Education Secretary Miguel Cardona requesting information on how the Department plans to combat the increasing rate of antisemitic incidents on college campuses. According to the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), antisemitic incidents on college campuses increased by 41 percent from 2021 to 2022. A 2021 ADL-Hillel Campus Antisemitism Survey also found that nearly 33 percent of Jewish students have personally experienced antisemitism on their campus or from a member of their college community. In 2022 alone, the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) received over 19,000 complaints and cases of antisemitic incidents, up from 10,000 cases in 2019.

## **Dan Fights to Close Loophole that Allows Potentially Dangerous Individuals to Evade Gun Laws by Crossing State Lines**

Dan joined Congressman Jason Crow in introducing the 'Closing the Loophole on Interstate Firearms Sales Act.' The bill would extend the regulations on out-of-state firearm sales to rifles and shotguns, ensuring that all gun sales are purchased in accordance with the purchaser's home-states' laws and background check requirements. Without the Closing the Loophole on Interstate Firearms Sales Act, potentially dangerous individuals are often able to evade gun safety laws by crossing state lines to a jurisdiction with more lax legislation.

## **Dan Fights for Bill to Keep Firearms Out of the Hands of Violent Criminals**

Dan joined Congressman Joe Neguse in introducing the 'End Gun Violence Act.' This legislation would prohibit individuals convicted of a violent misdemeanor from purchasing handguns or ammunition for five years after conviction. Currently, 22 states and the District of Columbia ban handgun purchases by people convicted of certain misdemeanor crimes. However, without implementing a federal ban, individuals convicted of a violent misdemeanor crime can still purchase handguns in states without bans.

## Dan Pushes for Gun Violence to be Declared a Public Health Crisis

Dan joined Congressman Adriano Espaillat to introduce a resolution declaring gun violence a public health crisis. The resolution comes in the wake of historic gun violence levels in the United States, impacting communities in schools, places of worship, and other public places. Gun violence is now the leading cause of death for children and teens in the U.S.

The resolution:

- Urges a whole-of-government effort to address the gun violence public health crisis and ensure the safety of all children;
- Urges the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to continue its work utilizing the 4-step public health approach to violence prevention and collaborate with other Federal Government agencies to resolve the gun violence public health crisis;
- Urges the Surgeon General to issue a report on firearm injuries and violence prevention;
- Supports the resolutions drafted, introduced, and adopted by cities, localities, and States across the Nation declaring gun violence a public health crisis or emergency; and
- Commits the House of Representatives to ending the gun violence public health crisis so that all people can enjoy life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

## Dan Calls on Speaker McCarthy to Bring Common Sense Gun Violence Prevention Legislation to the House Floor

Dan joined Congressman Mike Thompson and fellow members of the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force in sending a letter to Speaker Kevin McCarthy urging him to schedule votes on vital, common-sense gun violence prevention legislation in the House of Representatives. Despite recently surpassing 400 mass shootings in the U.S. this year alone, Speaker McCarthy and House Republicans have refused to vote on legislation that would stem the tide of gun violence terrorizing our communities.

## Dan is Announced as Chair of Congressional Dad's Caucus Gun Violence Prevention Working Group

As chair of the new Dads Caucus Gun Violence Prevention Working Group, Dan will bring his experience as a father and former federal prosecutor in fighting for common sense solutions to the gun violence epidemic, like an assault weapons ban, universal background checks, improved red flag laws to get guns off our streets, elevate the importance of gun violence interrupter programs, and tackle the root causes of violence in our communities. Dan co-founded the Dads Caucus earlier this year to advocate for policies that help and protect working families including comprehensive paid family leave, affordable childcare, and expanding early childhood education.

## Passport Backlog

The U.S. 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 Winter 2023 or Spring 2024, 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. 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.

## Dan Fights for NYCHA Funding by Calling on HUD to Comply with Cost Saving Law

Dan and Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer led 11 members of the New York City Congressional Delegation in a letter to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) urging them to comply with federal law and reverse course on regulations that shortchange Public Housing Authorities (PHAs), like the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA), by preventing them from receiving the full financial benefit of their negotiated savings from utility companies. The members are requesting an update on HUD's plan to comply by September 8, 2023.

By aggressively negotiating rates with utility companies, NYCHA saves tens of millions of dollars. However, current HUD regulations and policies shortchange PHAs like NYCHA by only allowing them to retain half of their negotiated utility savings. These regulations are in direct conflict with the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998 and cost NYCHA \$50 million per year that could be used to address desperately needed capital repair backlogs.