



# Information from Catherine Nolan

*Helping our Community*

Dear Neighbor,

The 2014 Legislative Session was a great success for Western Queens. It marked the state's 4th consecutive on time state budget that boosts our economy, lowered taxes on working families and made key investments in education. As Chair of the Assembly Education Committee, I was instrumental in securing over \$300 million for Pre-K programs in New York City, increasing education aid by over \$1.12 billion (including \$435 million to NYC) and taking steps to reduce overcrowding in our city schools.

For college students, we increased the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) for the first time in 14 years. This will not only help incoming college students but will greatly assist working families as they help put their children through college. The New York State Assembly took a great step forward in helping working families by passing a collection of bills on child care. My bill, A.1793-A which passed the NYS Assembly, would provide paid family leave to all workers in New York State. I look forward to working on this issue in the upcoming legislative session.

It is also important to take care of our seniors. During this session, we expanded the eligibility for both the SCRIE program and the EPIC prescription drug program. These changes will continue to help seniors gain access to affordable health care as they remain active in the later years of their lives. Please read further into my newsletter to find out additional information about SCRIE. It is important for all individuals who qualify to take advantage of this great housing program designed specifically for seniors.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to either of my district offices in Ridgewood and Sunnyside.

Have a great summer!

Sincerely,

Catherine Nolan  
Member of Assembly

## UPDATES FROM ALBANY

**Fighting every day for Queens Families – during the 2014 Legislative session, I worked to help improve the quality of life in our state and Queens. Some of the highlights of this legislative session include:**

### Putting more Money in your pocket:

- Provided much needed tax relief to homeowners, condo and co-op owners and renters by factoring in household income
- Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) changes

**On July 1, 2014 the household income for the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) Program will rise from \$29,000 to \$50,000.**

### To qualify on or after July 1, 2014 you must:

- Be at least 62 years old
- Rent an apartment that is rent controlled, rent stabilized or hotel stabilized
- Have a combined household income that is \$50,000 or less
- Rent an apartment that costs more than one-third of your household income

For more information, please contact my district office at 718-784-3194 for assistance.

- Expanded access to quality, affordable child care to help parents balance work and family

### Giving our children a brighter future:

- Increased state aid to NYC schools by more than \$435 million
- Secured \$600 million over 2 years to create full day Universal Pre-K so that all children start out on the right path
- Helped pass the Smart School Initiative, a \$2 billion bond act that would help construct new pre-k classroom space and replace classroom trailers with permanent space
- Working to reduce overcrowding in schools so that our students can get the top-notch education they deserve

### Combating opioid and prescription drug abuse

- Increased access to treatment programs to combat heroin, opioid and prescription drug addiction.
- Improved accessibility to naloxone anti-overdose kits to save lives
- Increased penalties to prevent the distribution of illegal drugs

## Nolan Legislation:

**This session, I was successful in passing the following bills in both houses. These bills will be sent to the Governor for his signature.**

**A.151-A** - Restricts the sale, lease, transfer and certain uses of existing outdoor school playgrounds.

**A.6715-B** - Establishes procedures for the orderly closure of a special act school district.

**A.8845A** - Directs the commissioner of education to establish an online learning committee to make recommendations for establishment of a statewide online and blended learning.

**A.9062-A** - Provides for the professional development to educators.

**A.9334-B** - Relates to health services in schools; pupils afflicted with allergies, diabetes, asthma or another respiratory disease.

**A.9718** - Extends certain provisions relating to certain contracts of the New York City school construction authority.

**A.10168** - Relates to temporary provisions for the implementation of common core learning standards.

### I also worked to get the following bills passed in the Assembly.

**A.121** - Relates to meetings and absences of the board of regents.

**A.1793** - Provides benefits for injury, sickness, pregnancy or family leave.

**A.3733B** - Reforms aspects of local government and school accountability.

**A.7873** - This bill continues the policy of not charging a fee for a new exam or any other exams that will lead to a high school equivalency diploma.

**A.8929** - Relates to the use of common core assessments, teacher and principal training and the release of personally identifiable student data.

**A.10101** - requires that school districts that receive state funds for pre-kindergarten programs must maintain kindergarten instruction as well.

I will continue to push these and many other important issues in the next Legislative Session.

# AROUND THE DISTRICT

## Memorial Day Parades

I was honored to march alongside the many Veterans in both the Ridgewood/Glendale and Maspeth Memorial Day Parades. It is important that we continue to honor the contributions that our Veterans have made in defending our country. As a member of the Assembly Veterans committee, I have worked on many issues including helping Veterans access their benefits, obtain affordable housing and most importantly get the medical care they need.



### Maspeth Parade

Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan; David Agliodoro, Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan's office; State Senator Joseph Addabbo; and Councilwoman Elizabeth Crowley.



### Ridgewood/Glendale Parade

David Agliodoro; Assemblyman Michael Miller; Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan; and the Master of Ceremonies to the Ridgewood Glendale Parade.

## Women's Event

The celebration of Women's History Month, Dr. Gail O. Mellow, President of LaGuardia Community College and I honored women in media and business that have made a tremendous impact in their communities.

This year's honorees included Sherilyn Sabba, editor of the Woodside Herald; Victoria Schneps, publisher and chief executive officer of Schneps Communication; Carmen Villavicencio, managing director of El Diario La Prensa; Maureen Walthers, publisher and editor of the Times Newsweekly; and Sandra Wilken, founder and president of Bradford Companies.



Jose Orengo; Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager, Queens Community Board 2; Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer; Gail Mellow, President, LaGuardia Community College; Victoria Schneps, Publisher & CEO of Schneps Communication; Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan; Maureen Walthers, Publisher & Editor, Times Newsweekly; Sherilyn Sabba, Editor, Woodside Herald; Sandra Wilkin, Founder and President of Bradford Companies; and Joseph Conley, Chairman, Queens Community Board 2.



## Community Church of Astoria

I attended Reverend Corwin Mason's 5th Pastoral Anniversary at the Community Church of Astoria.

Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan pictured with several members from the Community Church of Astoria

## Friends of Ridgewood Library Fun Day

The Friends of Ridgewood Library had their annual Fun Day event. Guests also got a chance to sign up for a library card and receive 10 free books.



Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan with Mary Ellen Borello, President, Friends of the Ridgewood Library and Nubia Holzherr, former Nolan staffer.

## Queensbridge Tenant Association

I attended the May meeting of the Queensbridge Tenant Association to give an update on the Legislative session in Albany. I spoke on many issues including education funding, and housing issues.



Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan with TA President April Simpson and tenants from Queensbridge Houses.

## LIC Springs! Block Party—Sponsored by LIC Partnership

The first ever Long Island City Springs Block Party was a wonderful community event.



Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan with the Long Island City Brownies.



Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan with members from the Long Island City YMCA.

## Jacob Riis Settlement House Fun Day

The Jacob A. Riis Neighborhood Settlement House had their annual Community and Creativity fair. The fair provided face painting for children, art exhibits and performances with live music.



Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan with Marion Jeffries, President LIC/Astoria NAACP; Christopher Hanway, Executive Director, Jacob Riis; and several employees from Jacob Riis.



*Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan with several members of the New York State Nurses Association.*



Assemblywoman  
**Catherine  
NOLAN**  
*Helping our  
Community*

## **Knockdown Center gets rejected for Liquor License**

In last year's newsletter, I informed of you about an establishment known as the 'Knockdown Center' located at 52-19 Flushing Avenue in Maspeth that was applying for a liquor license. I am happy to report that on May 6th, the State Liquor Authority (SLA) rejected the applica-

tion citing widespread community opposition. This is a great victory for our community and the many Maspeth Residents who expressed serious concerns about this establishment. I will continue to closely monitor this issue and will keep you informed.