



Sam Berger



ASSEMBLYMAN, DISTRICT 27

2026

Dear Neighbor,

It is an honor to serve as your representative in the New York State Assembly. This year, I was proud to fight for legislation that strengthens our communities while securing critical state funding for local schools, nonprofits, public safety initiatives, and community organizations that make a difference every day.

Inside this mailer, you'll find highlights of our legislative accomplishments, budget victories, and the work my office continues to do on behalf of our community. As always, my team and I are here to assist you with any state-related questions or concerns.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

Sincerely,

Assemblyman Sam Berger
New York State Assembly, District 27

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中文



한국어

Prime Sponsored Bills

This session, I was proud to pass legislation that improves access to mental health care, modernizes government services, supports our schools, and strengthens consumer protections.

✓ Strengthening Mental Health Care

Passed a package of bills that aim to modernize New York's mental health workforce by clarifying diagnostic authority (A5894A), updating supervision requirements for licensed professionals (A9321), extending social work permits to help address workforce shortages (A9566A), and expanding the role of certified school psychologists in serving individuals with developmental disabilities (A8514).

✓ Expanding Language Access

Would require EBT websites and mobile apps to be available in the 12 most commonly spoken non-English languages, making essential benefits easier to access for New Yorkers (A2332B).

✓ Supporting Homeowners

Aims to improve school tax relief notifications so eligible homeowners receive clearer information about available exemptions (A9240A).

✓ Protecting Consumers

Would require e-scooter rental apps to provide riders with clearer safety information and important legal disclosures before they ride (A11284).

✓ Modernizing Family Law

Aims to update New York's matrimonial laws regarding certain legal expenses to improve fairness during divorce proceedings (A8305).

Co-Sponsored Bills

Health Care & Insurance

- A949 - Would expand access to telemedicine for injured workers seeking mental and behavioral health treatment.
- A6744 - Would allow New York to join the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact to improve access to psychological care.
- A10030B - Would require insurance coverage for speech therapy for individuals who stutter.
- A6465 - Would protect disability recipients from certain insurance benefit reductions tied to Social Security Disability.
- A6652B - Would provide greater flexibility for licensed insurance professionals by allowing limited continuing education credit carryover.

Families, Children & Seniors

- A509B - Would allow trained summer camp staff to administer medications and certain treatments when needed.
- A7603B - Would expand support for children with complex needs receiving state services.
- A10055 - Would enhance transportation programs to help older adults remain active and independent.

Public Safety & First Responders

- A1838C - Would modernize New York’s laws governing self-defense spray devices.
- A9528 - Would establish staffing standards for New York City’s 911 emergency medical services workforce.
- A6790A - Would create tax credits for volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance members.
- A7833A - Would strengthen workplace safety protections for social services employees.

Communities & Consumer Protection

- A9195A - Would protect the display of religious items on private homes.
- A9570C - Would expand the property tax exemption available to qualifying clergy.
- A3733A - Would preserve medical records more than 50 years after a patient’s death for historical research.
- A10679B - Would improve fairness and transparency in real estate listings.

Environmental Stewardship

- A8515A - Would establish the Whale Awareness Act to promote education and protection of New York’s marine wildlife.

2026-2027 New York State Budget Wins

Supporting Queens

- \$1.2 million in direct community investments
- \$50,000 for the College Point Poppenhusen Institute
- \$500,000 for Commonpoint Queens
- \$10 million for Queens Botanical Garden
- \$250,000 to Ohel Children's Home & Family Services for a brand new facility to support constituents with intellectual or developmental disabilities
- \$18 million for Queens Mitchell-Lama housing developments capital needs
- \$850,000 in direct grants to public schools throughout our district

Affordable Auto Insurance

The State Budget takes steps to address New York’s high auto insurance costs by cracking down on fraud and staged crashes, limiting excessive lawsuits, holding reckless drivers accountable, and strengthening oversight of insurance companies and rate increases. The goal is to reduce unnecessary costs and help make auto insurance more affordable for families in our communities.

Buffer Zones

New York State’s newly enacted budget creates a misdemeanor for conduct that places another person in reasonable fear of harm within 50 feet of a house of worship, religious school, or community center.

New Protections for Kids on Online Platforms

Privacy by Default: Kids will be set to the highest privacy settings on covered platforms by default, meaning non-connections above the age of 18 cannot privately communicate with kids, view their full profile, or tag them in content. Location settings will also be turned off by default, and children under 13 must receive parental approval for new connections.

Disabling AI Chatbot Features: Disabling certain AI chatbot features on online platforms for kids.

Parental Controls: Parents must be able to set limits on children’s financial transactions on online gaming platforms and view their child’s transaction history.

Renewing the J-51 Property Tax Abatement Program

As property owners continue to face rising expenses and new building requirements, this year’s State Budget renewed and modernized New York City’s J-51 Property Tax Abatement Program. The program helps offset the cost of major repairs and improvements, including roofs, elevators, and energy efficiency upgrades. By easing the financial burden of maintaining aging buildings, J-51 helps preserve housing, protect residents, and keep neighborhoods strong.

Supporting State Troopers After Critical Incidents

I was proud to work with the New York State Troopers PBA to help establish a new Critical Incident Leave Policy in this year’s State Budget. State Troopers are often forced to make impossible decisions in the most dangerous moments imaginable, and those experiences don’t end when the incident is over. This policy ensures officers have the time and support they need before returning to duty.

Expanding SCRIE & DRIE Eligibility

As the cost of housing continues to rise, this year’s State Budget expands the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) and Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE) programs by increasing the maximum income eligibility from \$50,000 to \$75,000. This change will allow thousands more seniors and New Yorkers with disabilities to qualify for rent relief, helping them remain in their homes and communities without being priced out by rising housing costs.

Supporting Nonpublic Schools

This year’s State Budget supports nonpublic schools by investing in programs that help students learn in safe, high-quality educational environments.

Highlights include:

- \$90 million for health and safety capital projects, including critical building repairs and facility maintenance, a \$20 million increase from last year.
- Continued funding of \$85.5 million to support science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) instruction.



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Sam Berger

ASSEMBLYMAN, DISTRICT 27

**Legislative and Budget Wins
2026**



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