



# NEWS From ASSEMBLYWOMAN Alicia L. Hyndman



Dear Neighbor,

The year 2024 has been filled with fantastic community events. This is the perfect time to be outside with friends and family, enjoying the weather, eating great food, and creating lasting memories. Continue to have a safe, joy-filled summer.

As we approach the second half of 2024, it is important to take a moment to reflect on the achievements and progress we have made during the legislative session. The year has been filled with challenges, but it has also been a remarkably productive year for our community. Throughout this period, my colleagues and I have been working tirelessly to advocate for necessary changes in housing and education, and improved health outcomes.

All of which are critical to the well-being and prosperity of South East Queens.

In the housing realm, we have focused on addressing many of our residents' pressing issues. We have pushed for affordable housing initiatives, thus working to ensure that everyone has access to safe and affordable homes. In addition, we have also fought against predatory landlords and advocated for stronger tenant protections. We aim to create a community where all individuals and families have a place to call home without the burden of excessive rent or housing insecurity.

Education is another area in which we have dedicated ourselves to creating positive change. We have advocated for increased funding for our local schools to provide our children with the best possible education and resources. We have also worked to address disparities in educational opportunities and support systems, striving for equity and equality for all South East Queens students. Additionally, we have advocated staying vigilant against violence on our streets by engaging our children in summer camps, public libraries, Eastern Queens Alliance Programs, and our local parks.

Furthermore, we have focused on improving the health and well-being of our community. We have supported initiatives to expand access to affordable healthcare and ensure that essential services are available to all residents. Likewise, mental health has been a priority to address as well. We do recognize the importance of providing resources and support for those who face mental health challenges.

I urge you all to remain engaged and involved in our community. Together, we can continue to make a difference and address the needs and concerns of our neighbors. By staying informed about the resources and assistance available to you, you can positively impact the lives of others by sharing that information. Let us create a stronger, more vibrant South East Queens.

Please read this newsletter and explore its opportunities and services. By empowering ourselves with knowledge, we can empower our community and uplift those who may need assistance. Your involvement and engagement are vital, and I thank you for your ongoing support and dedication to the 29th Assembly District.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at [hyndmana@nyassembly.gov](mailto:hyndmana@nyassembly.gov) or (718) 723-5412 with your questions and/or concerns.

## Legislative Update

This year, I championed the following legislation:

Bill No.	
<b>A2549</b>	Establishes the new American homebuyer assistance program within the state of New York mortgage agency
<b>A2608</b>	New York City shall conduct a detailed analysis of stormwater and groundwater issues in South-east Queens
<b>A2661A</b>	To amend the public health law, to establish the "Syd O. Sotillo Sickle Cell Treatment Act"
<b>A5004</b>	Requires information about fentanyl test strips and their uses in information cards or sheets
<b>A5033</b>	Provides for the creation of a prescription drug guide for seniors regarding the drugs commonly used by people over 62 years of age
<b>A5300</b>	Increases the enhanced STAR property tax deduction for tax for final assessment rolls to be completed after two thousand twenty-four and eliminates school taxes for certain persons eighty and older
<b>A5412A</b>	Enacts the "Nurse of Tomorrow Act of 2024" to provide grants to certain hospitals, schools, and other entities for nurse recruitment, education, and retention
<b>A5833</b>	Permits tuition assistance program awards to be made to part-time students enrolled in certain degree-granting institutions chartered or authorized by the New York State Board of Regents
<b>A7716A</b>	Relates to the provision of applications for registration to licensees by the state education department
<b>A9967</b>	To amend Education Law 2-D to enable students to receive information from colleges and universities without disclosing their personally identifiable information
<b>A10128</b>	To commission a disparity study to determine the level of participation of women and minority businesses in state contracting and require the establishment of programs and goals based on the results of such a study

Furthermore, my colleagues and I worked tirelessly during the 2024 state legislative session to pass essential laws and allocate resources to support our families, communities, and small businesses.

Here are some of the highlights of priority initiatives I supported in the 2024 budget:

- The New York State 2024 enacted budget provided **\$36 billion** in total for school aid, including **\$24.9 billion** in Foundation Aid
- Provides **\$40 million** in the Homeowner Protection Program (HOPP) to help New Yorkers at risk of foreclosure stay in their homes
- Secured funding for a **\$500 million** capital fund to develop up to 15,000 units of housing on state-owned sites across New York
- **\$347 million** to continue New York's efforts to reduce and prevent gun violence
- Provides **\$350 million** to ease the tax burdens on families through the Supplemental Empire State Child Credit.

## Grants and Community Funding

This year, I was privileged to help secure state funding for various organizations in our community that have proven to be vital to providing essential services to us all:

Organization	Program/Service	Amount
KICKERS YOUTH SPORTS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST QUEENS, INC.	SPORTS AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES	<b>\$25,000</b>
NEW YORK CITY HEALTH AND HOSPITALS CORPORATION - QUEENS	BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS NEWBORN SERVICES	<b>\$130,000</b>
BLACK SPECTRUM THEATRE COMPANY, INC.	SAINT ALBANS JAZZ FESTIVAL	<b>\$10,000</b>
COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL 29Q	DISTRICT-WIDE HISTORY FAIR	<b>\$10,000</b>
NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING SERVICES OF JAMAICA, INC.	HOMEOWNER STABILIZATION	<b>\$25,000</b>
QUEENS BOROUGH PUBLIC LIBRARY	PROGRAMMING AND SERVICE SUPPORT	<b>\$10,000</b>
QUEENS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION	SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE	<b>\$50,000</b>

## Entrepreneurial Program

I am proud to have helped provide \$10,000 in funding for this pilot program, which will serve up to 35 students in the first cohort, empowering residents and fostering upward mobility. This program is about creating opportunities, fostering innovation, and empowering our community members. I look forward to seeing its positive impact and the future business leaders it will produce. Thank you for your support and for joining us on this exciting journey toward economic growth.

**SUNY EOC**

**\$10,000**

In 2022, the Queens EOC collaborated with the Small Business Development Center at York College to develop an entrepreneurial training program for Southeast Queens. With downtown Jamaica's growth and new residents creating consumer demands, this program aims to support community members in meeting these needs by offering training in QuickBooks, business plan development, financial literacy, leadership skills, and access to the U.S. Entrepreneurship Certification Examination. To further enhance the program, the Queens EOC is participating in the 2024-25 Coalition on Adult Basic Education Online Entrepreneurship Institute, integrating entrepreneurship into adult education programs.

### Big Wins

- Assemblywoman Hyndman helped secure \$830,000 in the 2024 FY Budget, \$330,000 more than last year, for sickle cell support. New York State Sickle Cell Advocacy Network Inc., a Queens-based, nonprofit community organization dedicated to servicing those in the community with sickle cell disease, thalassemia, and other chronic conditions, will be one of the recipients of funding.
- To combat the housing crisis, the state authorized New York City to establish a five-year pilot program to legalize basement and cellar apartments. As noted by many constituents and community boards, Southeast Queens can not handle more overcrowding in our neighborhoods. Assemblywoman Hyndman and other Queens Members were able to keep the Basement Pilot Program out of Queens; limiting this pilot program to the Bronx, Brooklyn, and some parts of Manhattan.
- Deed theft has been a problem for homeowners in our community and nearby areas. This year's budget defines deed theft as a crime and limits how predatory investors can take over inherited properties or pressure homeowners to sell. These new rules will help enforce the law and keep New Yorkers in their homes. Additionally, the Governor has introduced a Transfer on Death Deed, allowing homeowners to ensure their homes are protected after they pass away without needing a formal will.
- Earlier this year, Gov. Kathy Hochul pledged to address the ongoing issues of the illegal smoke shops that have been sprouting up around the State. In this year's budget, we have authorized OCM and local authorities to shut down illicit storefronts that are selling illicit cannabis. Additionally, businesses caught selling or possessing illicit cannabis risk losing their tobacco, liquor, or gaming licenses. On Merrick Boulevard alone, the number of smoke shops is overwhelming, and Assemblywoman Hyndman is pleased she and her colleagues are taking the proper steps to fix the problem and protect the community.
- The Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) will provide an additional \$55.7 million to increase the TAP income limit threshold in this year's 2024 enacted budget. The plan will also raise the minimum TAP award from \$500 to \$1,000 and expand part-time TAP to proprietary college students.

## Asylum Seekers

If you are a newly arrived asylum seeker, you can get free and confidential help accessing services and resources that will help you integrate into New York City. Walk-ins are now accepted Monday through Thursday on a first come first serve basis at the American Red Cross located at 520 West 49th Street, New York, NY 10019. At the appointment, you will have a fully confidential interview in your native language of preference with a trained case manager. The case manager will help identify your needs and connect you to the services, and resources available.

Information and service referrals include but are not limited to:

- Healthcare services and referrals
- Health insurance enrollment
- Mental health counseling
- School enrollment
- Fair Fare enrollment
- Immigration legal services
- IDNYC (Municipal Identification) enrollment

For more information, please visit <https://www.nyc.gov/site/asylumseekers/resources/resources-for-asylum-seekers.page>

You can schedule an appointment through the following channels:

Department of Homeless Services Shelters	<b>Prevention and Temporary Housing (PATH)</b> Open 24 hours, 7 days a week Located in the Bronx at 151 East 151st Street (917) 521-3900
Department of Education Schools	<b>Sutphin Family Welcome Center</b> Monday - Thursday 8 am to 5 pm and Friday 8 am to 3 pm Located at 90-27 Sutphin Boulevard 1st Floor, Jamaica, NY 11435 (718) 557-2786
Asylum Seeker Resource Navigation * Appointment only	<b>Queens Community Outreach Center</b> Tuesday and Friday 9 am to 4 pm Located at 91-14 Merrick Boulevard 6th Floor, Jamaica, NY 11432 (718) 722-6001
Health+Hospital Queens Site	<b>NYC Health+Hospitals/Gotham Health, South Queens</b> Open Monday - Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Located at 114-02 Guy R Brewer Boulevard, Queens, NY 11434 (844) 692-4692
Community-based Partner Queens Offices	<b>New Immigrant Community Empowerment (NICE)</b> Open Monday - Friday 9 am to 5 pm Located at 71-29 Roosevelt Ave 2nd Floor, Queens, NY 11372 (718) 205-1687

Para obtener más información, llame a la línea directa de AskMOIA al 212-788-7654 o envíe un correo electrónico a [askmoia@cityhall.nyc.gov](mailto:askmoia@cityhall.nyc.gov).

## Second Annual Civics Day

- On Wednesday, March 20th, I along with Senator Comrie were delighted to host our second annual Civics Day in Albany, New York. This special event welcomed student government representatives ages 7-17 from School District 29, to explore the New York State Capital and engage with members of the Senate and the Assembly. We were honored to have the Speaker of the Assembly Carl E. Heastie and Lieutenant Governor Antonio Delgado join us, imparting invaluable words of wisdom and encouragement for the students' futures. During their visit, the students eagerly posed thought-provoking questions to lawmakers, ranging from inquiries about their inspirations for entering politics to how their decisions shape the future of New York State and its citizens' lives.



- They had the opportunity to attend sessions in both the Assembly and Senate chambers. I was honored to be granted floor privileges, where I acknowledged the students, chaperones, and Superintendent Dr. Bonds during the Assembly session, while Senator Comrie did the same in the Senate. It was a privilege to host these bright young minds and witness the meaningful work they are doing in their schools. I look forward to welcoming them back next year!



# Juneteenth Celebration

In 2020, I was honored to be the sponsor of legislation to make Juneteenth a state holiday in New York. For the first time in 2021, in conjunction with my colleagues in government, we celebrated our Juneteenth event “Juneteenth in Queens”. On June 17, 2021, President Joe Biden signed a bill into law that officially designated Juneteenth, observed on June 19th, as a federal holiday in the United States.

2024 marks the fourth year for Juneteenth in Queens! I want to thank Tunisa Morrison and Elmcour Youth and Adult Activities, Inc. for the continued support and always making sure this event is a success. The lead-up to the celebration of Juneteenth starts with a week-long virtual Educational Series to engage the community with topics covering Education, Environmental Justice, Housing, Policing Culture, and Generational Equity. The Juneteenth in Queens event was held in our South East Queens jewel, Roy Wilkins Park and catered to upholding black entrepreneurs and excellence. I was pleased to be joined by local elected officials such as Councilwoman Nantasha Williams, Councilwoman Selvena Brooks-Powers, Speaker of the New York City Council Adrienne Adams, New York City Comptroller Brad Landar, Queens Borough President Donovan Richards, Assemblymember Weprin, Assemblymember Anderson, Senator Leroy Comrie, Senator James Sanders, and Governor Kathy Hochul.



## AD 29 HIGHLIGHTS



Street Co-Naming held by Councilwoman Selvena-Powers to honor Justice Patricia P. Satterfield.



Assemblywoman Hyndman on the floor introducing her resolution to declare May 7th 2024 as Queens Day in the State of New York.



Monthly community organization meeting where the Assemblywoman addressed the district's complaints and issues.



The New York Branch of the NAACP celebrated their Freedom Fund Dinner. Congratulations to the nominees Zina Burton Myrick, Jessica Timo, J. Philippe Abraham, and Jumaane Williams; as well as Anthony Harmon, on his 10th year as President of the branch.



Assemblywoman Hyndman took time to speak to students from PS 38Q after their Student Government Swearing-in Ceremony.



Annual Delta Day in Albany hosted by Assemblymember Hyndman, Assemblymember Bichotte Hermelyn, and Senator Webb.



Laurelton Memorial Day Parade with the Women of DST Queens Alumni Chapter.



Assemblymember Hyndman attended a community organization's Annual Dinner and Meet and Greet, where she was honored.



Street Co-Naming Ceremony honoring Reverend Robert Ross Johnson hosted by Councilwoman Williams in partnership with St. Albans Congregational Church UCC.





Parents and Staff at PS 195Q's graduation ceremony.



Annual Queens Night in Albany. Showcasing businesses in Queens.

## Helpful Tools and Links

### New York Police Department Scam Awareness and Fraud Protection

- Scams and fraud have been on the rise. Scammers are finding innovative ways to deceive and manipulate the community. To protect against financial loss, here are some tips to stay aware:
- If you receive a phone call, email, or text message to purchase a prepaid gift card, cryptocurrency, bank wire transfer, or money to pay a public or private agency - this is a scam! You can hang up and block the number from contacting you.
- Check washing is a process in which scammers use common household products to alter checks they have stolen to make the check payable to themselves or other parties. To prevent check washing, use permanent ink, as it is harder to alter, shred voided and incorrect checks, and check your bank account frequently to ensure checks were cleared by the establishment they were written for.
- Vehicles are frequently stolen for parts, insurance fraud, retagging, exporting, and joyriding. To prevent theft and damage to your vehicle: always lock and secure your vehicle, never leave your keys and property unattended in public view, and always park in high-traffic, well-lit areas.

### Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (MWBE) Certification Campaign

- The Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Certification Campaign encourages minority and women business owners to certify with the State. Take advantage of current and upcoming State procurement opportunities using the link below.

Visit [esd.ny.gov/doing-business-ny/mwbe](https://esd.ny.gov/doing-business-ny/mwbe) to learn more about MWBE Certification.

### The NYCDOE Public School 2023 - 2024 Year Calendar for 3K - 12th Grade <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/calendar/2024-2025-school-year-calendar>

On days when the school buildings are closed due to inclement weather or other emergencies, all students and families should plan on participating in remote learning. Elementary schools are defined as programs that service kindergarten through grade 8, including schools with 3-K and Pre-K programs, as well as those that end in grade 5. Middle schools are defined as programs that serve grades 6 -8. High schools are defined as programs that serve grades 9-12.

New York State Assembly • Albany, New York 12248



ASSEMBLYWOMAN

**Alicia L. Hyndman**

*Reports to the People*

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## IT OUGHT TO BE A BILL

*The 2025 legislative session is right around the corner and I need your input as I continue fighting for the issues that matter most to our community.*

*I want to hear from you. What priorities should I focus on in the 2024 legislative session? Fill out an online survey on: [tinyurl.com/AMALH-Survey](https://tinyurl.com/AMALH-Survey)*



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