



A Special Report to Residents of the 41st Assembly District

Fall 2020

Assemblywoman Helene E. Weinstein

Making a Difference in Brooklyn and Albany

Dear Friend,

COVID-19 continues to have an impact on the lives of each and every New Yorker, but one thing has not changed: my office has been and will continue to be here to help. I write with the good news that **my office is now open for limited appointment-only visits**; the understanding being that although most issues and concerns required no more than a phone call or email, some issues might necessitate an in-person visit.

Since Day 1 of the pandemic we have helped hundreds of constituents resolve unemployment insurance problems, address issues with their federal stimulus payments, distribute thousands of disposable masks and hand sanitizers to community organizations and houses of worship, and, for those hit hardest financially by this pandemic, sign up for vital services and obtain emergency food packages.

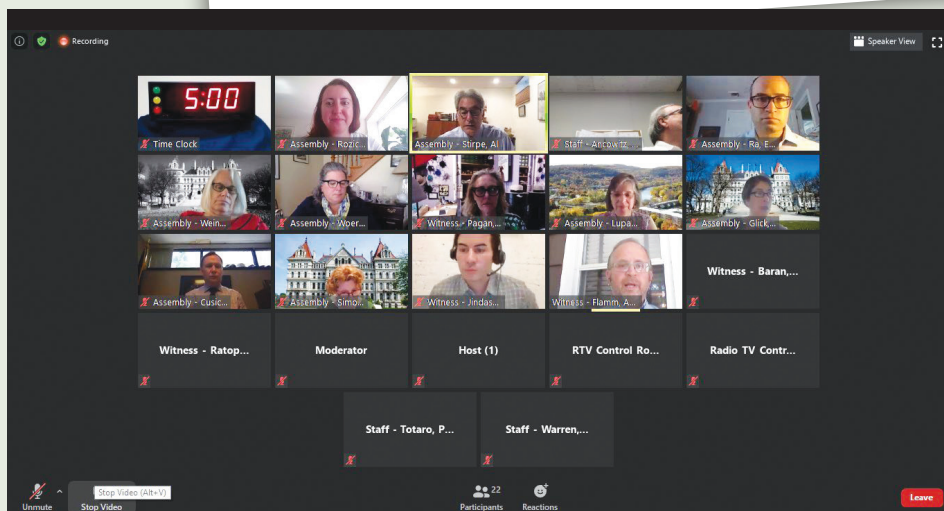
You can now **sign up for e-newsletters** that provide essential information, important phone numbers, resources and websites, neighborhood activities, community capital projects and legislation that closely affects you, your family, and our community.

We will also update constituents on the eventual resumption of our regularly scheduled district programs, such as flu shots, our popular free shredding program, and the MTA reduced fare MetroCard visits. To subscribe you can email weinsth@nyassembly.gov or call (718) 648-4700.

In the meantime, we are still here for YOU; please reach out to me if you need help of any kind.

Sincerely,

twitter.com/HeleneWeinstein



Session During COVID

COVID-19 doesn't stop the work of the people. The Assembly has remotely worked on and passed many pieces of landmark legislation during special sessions and held hearings on the impact of COVID-19 on small businesses, nursing home residents, veterans, hospitals, workforce development, and elections.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN WEINSTEIN'S COMMUNITY OFFICE
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OFFICE VISITS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

ASSEMBLYWOMAN WEINSTEIN IS HERE FOR YOU!



Haitian-Americans United for Progress

Assemblywoman Weinstein was recognized by Haitian Americans United for Progress for her leadership and support in securing a crucial \$150K grant for immigration legal services at a community briefing and brunch.



Police Appreciation Luncheon

At the Be Proud Foundation's 14th Annual Police Appreciation Luncheon Assemblywoman Weinstein presented NYS Assembly Certificates of Merit to Community Affairs Officer Damir Cirikovic, representatives from the East Academy of Science and Technology, and the Big Apple Academy as community partners in our fight against drugs in the community.



STEM In Our Schools

Assemblywoman Weinstein met with parents, teachers and young women from Yeshiva of Flatbush Elementary School to discuss the 2020 budget, the Assemblywoman's role in Albany, their Yeshiva's emphasis on - and unique approach to - STEM education.

Protecting Our First Amendment Rights

Assemblywoman Weinstein has authored legislation that will allow defendants to seek dismissal of frivolous legal action known as SLAPP lawsuits.

SLAPP suits, or Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation, are usually unwinnable lawsuits that allow the wealthy to silence critics by dragging them through protracted legal battles without any merit. More importantly, these suits usually also serve to quiet other critics with the fear of lawsuits and the expenses they pose.

The new law, co-authored by Senator Brad Hoylman will not only allow a judge to weigh the merit of any case that involves the First Amendment right to free speech, it will also place the defendants legal cost on the plaintiff if the defendant wins.

Protecting All New Yorkers

During a legislative session in June, I advocated for the passage of a package of bills, now law, seeking to increase law enforcement accountability, transparency and protections for all New Yorkers.

The cornerstone of this bill package, which I am particularly proud to sponsor, repeals of Civil Rights Law Sec. 50A (A.10611), which will immediately allow for the public disclosure of police disciplinary records and personnel history. Other sections of this important package prohibit the use of chokeholds by law enforcement - declaring it aggravated strangulation, hold officers liable for failure to secure proper medical attention, and allow those not in custody or under arrest to film police activities and maintain custody of their recording equipment. Additional measures establish a Law Enforcement Misconduct Investigative Office to investigate complaints of corruption and other abuses by law enforcement, and require courts to maintain records and report concerns involving low-level offenders, including demographic information and who was charged.

These laws will undoubtedly lead to an increase in safety for all New Yorkers. I will continue to fight for improvement to our policing and justice systems.

Combating COVID-19 and Protecting New Yorkers

The Legislature has passed a major legislative package to help support New Yorkers during the current COVID-19 pandemic, and help the state be prepared for future emergencies. The legislation focuses on protecting New Yorkers' rights, helping them stay in their homes, providing economic relief for struggling workers and businesses, strengthening the health care system and maintaining critical services.

The laws protect and preserve New Yorker's rights, help struggling homeowners and renters, provide more support to our struggling small businesses, prioritize protecting New Yorkers' health during this crisis and help New York prepare for future pandemics, all while maintaining quality of life and vital support services for vulnerable New Yorkers.

For more information visit: <https://nyassembly.gov/Press/files/20200529.php>

Census 2020: Your Response Matters!

The New York State response rate to the US Census is currently 57.9%; nearly 4 points below the 62.3% National Rate.

Even more alarming is our district's average response rate: 51.6% - with some areas as devastatingly low as 35% - 10 points lower than the national average. The US Census is how our government decides where vital funding and programming are needed the most.

The 2020 US Census deadline has been extended through September 30th, 2020, giving you and your family ample time to submit your data!

Start by visiting: <https://2020census.gov/en.html> today!



Free Personal Protection Equipment

There was a superb turnout at distributions of free disposable masks and hand sanitizer arranged with the residents of the Philip Howard Building and the Flatlands Flatbush Civic Group. Both events were sponsored by Assemblywoman Weinstein and NYC Councilwoman Farah Louis.



Education During COVID

Assemblywoman Weinstein participated in a call with NYC Department of Education Brooklyn North and South Executive Superintendents Karen Watts and Barbara Freeman to discuss the evolving needs of NYC School Children during the COVID-19 pandemic.



9/11 Memorial

Assemblywoman Weinstein joined the 9/11 Families Group to pre-tape a message at the 9/11 Memorial in Asser Levy Park. The clip will be shown to attendees at the organization's annual Memorial Event.

Thanking Our Essential Workers

Assemblywoman Weinstein and State Senator Andrew Gounardes joined residents of the Marine Park Community in a march to thank our Front-Line and Essential Workers, who have been putting their lives on the line since day one of this pandemic to care for, and ensure the safety of all.



Protecting Vulnerable Seniors

Reverse Mortgages allow seniors 65 and older who are house rich and cash poor to borrow money against the equity of the home they've worked a lifetime to own. But, in some cases unscrupulous lenders haven't advised seniors of their obligations, and many are under the impression that since they don't owe a monthly payment as with typical mortgages, they cannot default. But there are indeed many ways to default, and in recent years there has been an uptick in defaults on reverse mortgages.

A bill authored by Assemblywoman Weinstein, which is awaiting Governor Cuomo's signature, builds on her previous years' efforts to protect seniors who have reverse mortgages, and will require Reverse Mortgage Lenders to:

Inform the Department of Financial Services of any imminent defaults, allowing DFS to provide uninformed seniors with tips and tools that would allow them to keep their homes.

Provide DFS with proof that the Department of Housing and Urban Development has approved the acceleration of the loan, proof of the default and proof that they've properly noticed the borrower.

Refrain from making any large advanced payments towards anticipated mortgage and tax liabilities; a practice usually targeted to saddle seniors with even more massive financial liability in the event of a default.

Assemblywoman Helene E. Weinstein

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Improving Power of Attorney

New York's archaic process of obtaining Power of Attorney (POA) has long been a complicated affair begging for change. The form used to apply for POA is confusing, long, and once granted, POA imposes severe limitations in the scope of its use.

A bill authored and sponsored by Assemblywoman Weinstein will bring long awaited improvements, with a newly designed and shorter POA form, and expansion of the gift-giving parameters from the current \$500 limit to a larger \$5,000 one. Additionally, the bill would allow some leeway in the language one must use to meet the requirements of the State statute. This would allow many to craft their own, legally binding form.