



April 5, 2024

Greetings –

Negotiations between the Governor and the Legislature continued this week on the State’s Budget. Several very significant issues remain to be resolved. While the budget is the overriding focus of the Assembly’s work in Albany right now, I continue to work on other legislative priorities, some of which are highlighted below.

State Budget Issues

Housing

I believe we must take steps to incentivize housing production throughout the State, but this should not mean compromising on tenant protections or living wages in the construction industry. I was proud to co-sponsor and vote for the landmark Housing Stability and Tenant Protection Act of 2019 and strongly oppose any weakening of the provisions of this law such as allowing greater increases to rents related to individual apartment improvements.

I favor robust state investment in housing production combined with tenant protections that extend beyond the current rent stabilized stock, which is why I am a co-sponsor of the Social Housing for New Yorkers Act ([A.9088](#)), the Good Cause Eviction Act ([A.4454](#)), and the Housing Access Voucher Program ([A.4021](#)).

Education

I oppose the Governor’s proposal to rework the Foundation Aid formula, which could result in some schools losing funding. The State needs to dedicate more money to education to compensate for the expiration of Federal covid funds. Any change to the Foundation Aid formula should be done in a deliberate manner and not through the budget process.

I am hopeful that the budget will include elements of my Right to Read Bill ([A.2897](#)), which would reform how the State teaches reading in our schools by adopting evidence-

based practices grounded in the science of reading, but I still believe a more comprehensive approach is needed as embodied in the full bill.

Healthcare

I strongly oppose cuts to Medicaid proposed by the Governor. We need to ensure there is sufficient funding to pay nurses, home health care workers and others fairly. I also strongly support additional capital support to SUNY Downstate to maintain its future as a vital safety net provider.

Environment

I strongly support the inclusion of the full Heat Act ([A.4592](#)), which I am a cosponsor of. This legislation would align natural gas utility regulation and planning with the State's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act by removing subsidies for gas system expansion and instead require a statewide gas service transition plan that decreases our reliance on gas. This would both significantly reduce state emissions and lower household energy bills, with a proposed energy bill cap for working families at a maximum of 6% of household income. I also am a cosponsor of the Climate Change Superfund Act ([A.3351](#)), which would establish a climate change adaptation cost recovery program to require companies that have contributed significantly to the buildup of climate-warming greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere to pay for a share of the infrastructure investments needed to adapt to the climate change effects we are facing because of their past actions. I support inclusion of this legislation in the budget as well.

Support for the Arts

I believe the State should be far more supportive of the arts than it has been to date. The Budget should increase funding for grantmaking by the New York State Council on the Arts by \$59.4 million over the Executive Budget for a total of \$100 million and should restore \$1 million to the New York State Summer School for the Arts program for a total of \$2.5 million. I also have been working with my Brooklyn delegation colleagues in calling for significant capital funding for the Brooklyn Museum.

Street Safety

I strongly support the inclusion of Sammy's Law ([A.7266](#)), which I co-sponsor, in the budget. This bill would save lives by giving New York City the authority to reduce the current citywide speed limit from 25 mph to 20 mph and on some streets from 15 mph to 10 mph.

Reversing Tax Breaks for the Very Wealthy

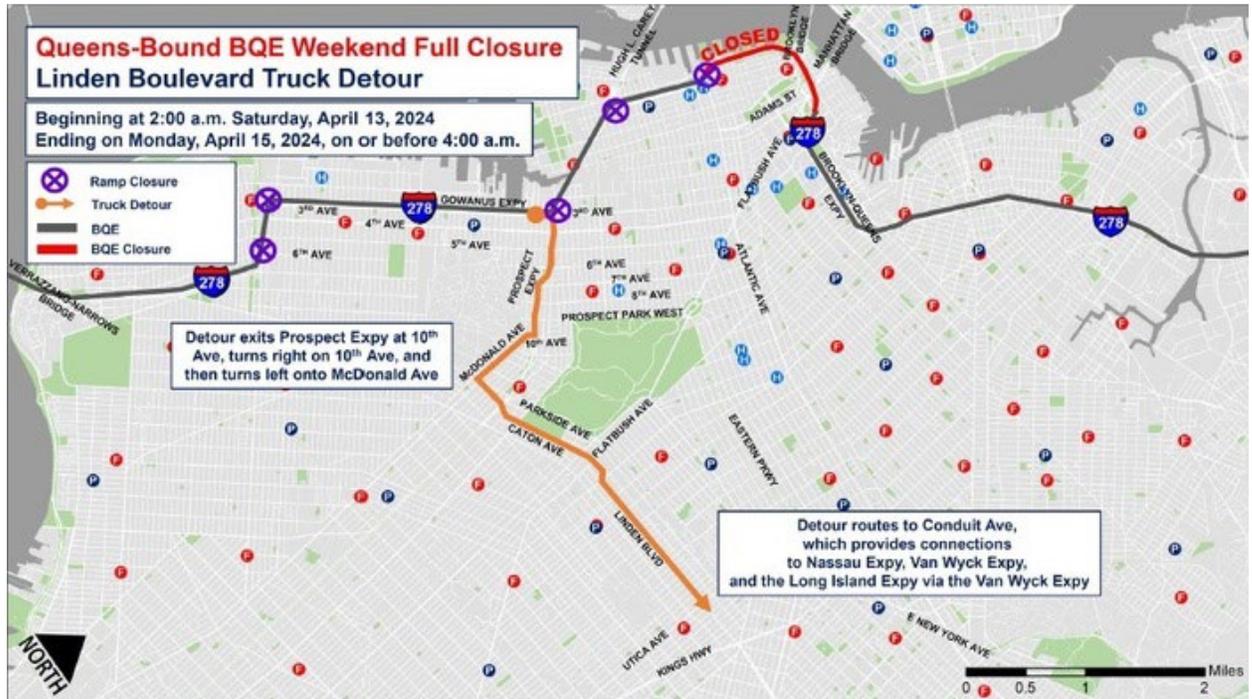
My bills that would repeal tax breaks for the purchase of private planes and yachts ([A.1523](#) and [A.1464](#)) received coverage in the Gothamist this week. Currently private planes are completely exempt from sales tax while yachts are exempt after the first \$230K. So someone who buys a small fishing boat would incur full sales taxes, but someone who buys a \$3 million yacht gets an approximately \$200K break. Fairness demands that we avoid such giveaways to the very wealthy.

My E-Bike Bill Advances

My bill ([A.275](#)), which would require the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) to establish a rebate program for e-bikes and scooters modeled on New York's Drive Clean program for cars, recently was voted out of the Assembly Committee on Energy. The bill calls for a rebate to purchasers of e-bikes and e-scooters of 50% up to a maximum of \$1,100. This legislation would make a sustainable form of transportation affordable to a wide range of New Yorkers and help ensure that e-bikes and scooters purchased for work or leisure meet appropriate safety standards and I will continue to work for its adoption.

Update on BQE closures during the weekend of April 13-15

The ongoing repair work on the BQE will require the full closure of the BQE between Atlantic Avenue and Sands Street between 2:00 AM Saturday, April 13 until 4:00 AM Monday, April 15. This DOT closure will divert some Queens bound passenger cars and all Queens bound trucks onto the Prospect Expressway to Caton Ave via McDonald Ave. This will be the same detour route as the October closure.



My office will be in contact with the 72nd Precinct to ensure that traffic safety will be properly enforced throughout this time.

Spring Clean and Green 2024

I am hosting my annual Spring Clean and Green event on April 21st at Machate (aka Park) Circle in Prospect Park! We'll have electronic recycling, textile recycling, kid's stop n' swap, and more. There are also giveaways, special services, information, and demonstrations to help you have a greener and cleaner Spring 2024. [RSVP for E-Waste here.](#)



**ROBERT
CARROLL**

ASSEMBLYMEMBER // 44TH DISTRICT



Spring Clean & Green



Sunday, April 21

10 am - 2 pm (rain or shine)

At Park Circle in Prospect Park

(entrance to Prospect Park on Prospect Park Southwest & Parkside Avenue, across from TD Bank)



sanitation

E-Cycling by NYC Department of Sanitation: computers, monitors, printers/scanners, keyboards, mice, cables, TVs, VCRs and DVD players, phones, audio/visual equipment, cell phones. **(No Paper Shredding! No batteries or media such as disks, DVDs, VHS tapes, cassette tapes, etc. or hazardous materials.)** **RSVP using this QR Code:**



GROW^{NYC}

Stop 'N' Swap by GrowNYC: bring your clean, reusable, portable items such as clothing, housewares, electronics, books for all ages, plus kids clothing, toys and gear including car seats and strollers ALL that you no longer need and take something you do need home for free! www.grownyc.org/swap



**wearable
collections**
Clothing & Shoes Reuse

Textile Recycling by Wearable Collections: Bring used, freshly laundered clothing as well as shoes, sneakers, accessories, hats, belts and handbags plus household linens such as sheets, curtains and towels. **(No rugs, bath mats, comforters, pillows, large luggage, or insulation materials)**

NOTE: Due to City budget cuts, this year's event WILL NOT feature paper shredding. Instead, I will host paper shredding at my District Office on May 31st along with the MTA Metro Card Van.

Registration is open for the 2024 New York Restoration Project tree giveaway!

The giveaway kicks off on Saturday, April 13th and will continue on Saturdays and Sundays through Sunday, May 12. You must register in advance to get a tree, search to

find the tree giveaway locations. The closest distribution location to my Assembly district is Green-Wood Cemetery on April 28th.

If you have any concerns about any legislative or community issue, please email me at carrollr@nyassembly.gov or call (718) 788-7221.

-Bobby

P.S. We have COVID tests at my District Office at 416 7th Avenue. If you need some, please stop by the office Monday - Friday from 9:30am - 4:30pm.

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