



**April 25, 2025**

**Greetings –**

Negotiations between the Governor, the Assembly, and the State Senate on the State’s Fiscal 2025-26 budget are ongoing. The Legislature has passed multiple budget extenders to keep State government operations funded and I am hopeful that the budget will be enacted by the end of next week.

One of the principal reasons for the delay in passing the State’s budget has been Governor Hochul’s insistence in including non-budget related legislation in the budget. While some of her proposals I support, such as a statewide policy restricting cell-phone use by students in schools, this approach is highly problematic. Good public policy is best achieved through a transparent and deliberative process that includes, among other elements, public hearings where stakeholders have a chance to testify. As it stands, the public does not even have a chance to see legislation included in the budget prior to passage.

I especially object to the Governor’s attempt to include legislation in the budget that would criminalize mask wearing. I share the concerns of many constituents who have contacted my office regarding how “mask ban” enforcement could be discriminatory, potentially be used to suppress political speech and civil liberties and pose threats to public health. The current political environment only amplifies these concerns and Governor Hochul should desist from this misguided effort.

Despite this, I am hopeful that we can accomplish much good in the budget. I will continue to strongly advocate for fair funding for New York City Schools through the Foundation Aid Formula, increased childcare funding, full funding for the MTA’s \$68.4 billion 2025-29 Capital Plan, robust funding for libraries, and the inclusion of and significant funding for a statewide rental subsidy program for low-income families and individuals who are facing eviction and the homeless (known as the Housing Access Voucher Program).

Once the budget is passed, we will be facing a compressed time frame to pass other legislation. Among the many bills I will be prioritizing, below are four recently introduced bills of mine.

**Protecting Libraries Against Censorship**

Over the last four years the American Library Association and the organization PEN America have documented a surge nationwide in attempts to censor and/or ban books and materials in public, school, and academic libraries. There has also been the proliferation of state level bills nationwide that would expose librarians to criminal liability for their role in providing materials that certain individuals or groups find objectionable. Such bills even when unsuccessful can have a chilling effect, compromising the independence of libraries and librarians.

The Trump Administration's actions to limit free speech and attack political speech that they object to, make it all the more important that New York State take measures to protect libraries from ideologically motivated interference. To this end, I have introduced two bills – [A.7353](#), which would allow librarians to perform their work according to widely accepted professional standards without fear of frivolous lawsuits and [A.7568](#), which would ensure school libraries have guidance regarding best practices for standards for the selection and curation of library material and criteria for the removal of existing school library material to help libraries combat censorship initiatives.

### **Limiting the Harm Caused by Sports Betting**

Since sports betting in New York was legalized and gambling apps launched in January 2022, the industry has taken \$65.4 billion in wagers.

The mental health and economic costs to individuals and families of gambling are well documented. The National Council on Sports Gambling reports 2.5 million adults in the U.S. meet the criteria of having a severe gambling problem while another 5 million to 8 million people are considered to have mild or moderate gambling problems. The American Psychiatric Association reports that 1 in 5 individuals with a gambling addiction will attempt suicide, the highest of any mental health disorder. A study from the University of California found that in the thirty-eight states with legal online sports betting, the odds of bankruptcy filing in those states increases by as much as 25-30% since legalization.

To limit the harm caused by problem gambling related to sports betting in New York, I have introduced [A.7962](#), which places caps on wagers and deposits, restricts advertising practices, and bans the use of credit cards for sports betting. This legislation draws on the Safe Bet Act introduced in Congress by Senator Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut and Representative Paul Tonko (NY-20), puts in place guardrails intended to reduce the harm caused by problem gambling.

**[You can read more about this legislation here.](#)**

### **State Center on Dyslexia and Dysgraphia**

In 2023 the Legislature passed my bill the Dyslexia and Dysgraphia Task Force Act, which was then signed into law by Governor Hochul in December of that year. The Task Force, which convened last year, was comprised of teachers, school leaders, education experts, and individuals with or family members of people with dyslexia or dysgraphia and held three public hearings taking testimony from over one hundred members of the public. The Final Report of the Task Force includes fourteen recommendations to better support students with dyslexia and dysgraphia, including the creation of a state level Center for Dyslexia and Dysgraphia. Enshrining this Center in law will ensure the State maintains best practices over time. To that end I have introduced [A.2687](#), which would accomplish this.

### **Annual Spring Clean and Green- Sunday, May 4th**

My annual Spring Clean and Green event in Prospect Park is scheduled for Sunday, May 4th from 10am-2pm. There will be E-waste collection, Shredding, Textile Recycling, seed giveaways from Brooklyn Botanic Garden, DMV Mobile Unit, and information from city agencies and local institutions. If you plan to bring Electronic Waste, please [RSVP here or by clicking on the flyer below:](#)



**ROBERT  
CARROLL**

ASSEMBLYMEMBER // 44<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT



# Spring Clean & Green

**Sunday, May 4th**

**10 am - 2 pm** (rain or shine)

**Prospect Park At Park Circle**

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



## E-Cycling

**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 batteries, paint, light bulbs or media such as tapes, discs or cassettes.**

## DMV Mobile Unit

**DMV Mobile Unit:** New Yorkers who have a valid Driver License, Permit, or Non-Driver ID can upgrade to a REAL ID or Enhanced ID without visiting their local DMV office. **Limited capacity. First come first served.** To help ease the process, the DMV has created a document guide here: <https://tinyurl.com/3xh2fr3w> and an application pre-screening process to help New Yorkers prepare before the visit: <https://digital.dmv.ny.gov/login>



**wearable  
collections**  
Clothing & Shoes Reuse

**Textile Recycling by Wearable Collections:** Bring used, freshly laundered clothing, household linens including sheets, draperies and towels, also sneakers, shoes, accessories, belts, hats and handbags. **No rugs, comforters, pillows, large luggage, or insulated materials.**



**AARP Paper Shredding:** Stay ahead of ID thieves and shred your documents. **No magazines, cardboard, metal or plastic.**



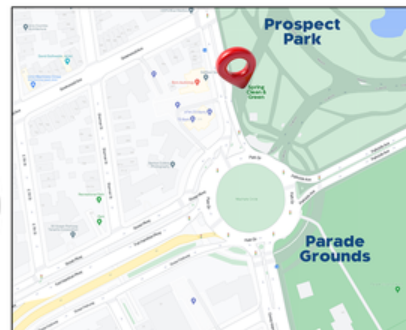
**THE  
CITY  
SPONGE**



For more details call  
my office:  
718-788-7221  
or email:  
[carrollr@nyassembly.gov](mailto:carrollr@nyassembly.gov)



Or RSVP right here:



## **Earth Day Round Up**

There are a number of events taking place around the district over the weekend centered around Earth Day and the environment. Read below for more information.

**Prospect Park:** Join **Prospect Park Alliance on Earth Day weekend** for tree planting, bird watching, a nature walk, children's nature exploration, and more.

**Park Slope:** Join in the **Spring Civic Sweep with the Park Slope Civic Council** on Saturday, April 26th for the annual Earth Day event in front of the Old Stone House on 5th Avenue between 3rd and 4th Streets. The event includes a neighborhood cleanup, litter pick-up, and tree bed care information. The event includes e-waste recycling with the Lower East Side Ecology Center. This all-ages event will include live music and a kids' art project from 10am-12pm. Join the community effort to make Park Slope cleaner & greener! The Civic Council is also collecting donations for Camp Friendship, which distributes food each week to over 500 households in need, including food deliveries to homebound seniors.

**Green-Wood:** Join Green Adventure for Families on Sunday, April 27th, 10am for a free, fun-filled event for the whole family! Help collect data on local birds, insects, fungi, and plants at the Cemetery for the **City Nature Challenge**. Explore interactive science with **Genspace**, participate in crafts, listen to stories, sing songs, and much more!

**Windsor Terrace:** **Earth Day at Prospect Farm is rescheduled to May 3** and will include arts and crafts, garden tours, plant swap and sale, bake sale, compost demonstration, compost giveaway, and live music!

## **5th Avenue BID Earth Day "Park Slope 5th Ave Streetscape Survey"**

[Complete a survey](#) to help the 5th Avenue BID gather insights from community members about Park Slope's 5th Avenue which spans from 18th Street to Dean Street. Your feedback will inform the development of an overall vision for the corridor to improve the overall experience of using, moving through, and enjoying the avenue—whether as a shopper, resident, business owner, or visitor.

## **Open Streets: Car-Free Earth Day**

[Celebrate Car-Free Earth Day](#) on Saturday, April 26 from 10am to 4pm. Car-Free Earth Day is an annual car-free event hosted by NYC DOT. City-wide with local events at Polhemus Place from Garfield Place to Carroll Street plus Underhill Avenue from Pacific Street to Atlantic Avenue.

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

-Bobby

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