



Assemblyman CHARLES D. FALL



Legislative and Community Report - 61st Assembly District - Spring 2022



Dear Neighbors,

It continues to be my pleasure to serve as your New York State Assemblyman. Throughout the year, I have connected with thousands of North Shore residents, attended dozens of community organized events and civic meetings and visited a number of local public schools.

As an elected official I am committed to making our community a better place to live and work. I believe that public servants, community/faith-based leaders and residents can collaboratively contribute to the economic vitality of our borough, city, state and country.

As we concluded the FY23 State Budget and approach the end of the 2022 Session, my goals continue to be improving the quality of public transit; ensuring our public schools are safe and equipped with resources to thrive; continuing to advocate for programs and services for our youth and seniors; and supporting early intervention and treatment initiatives for community members affected by mental health and substance use disorders.

I look forward to another year of working with you on the North Shore and advocating for you in Albany.

Charles D. Fall
Member of Assembly
61st Assembly District

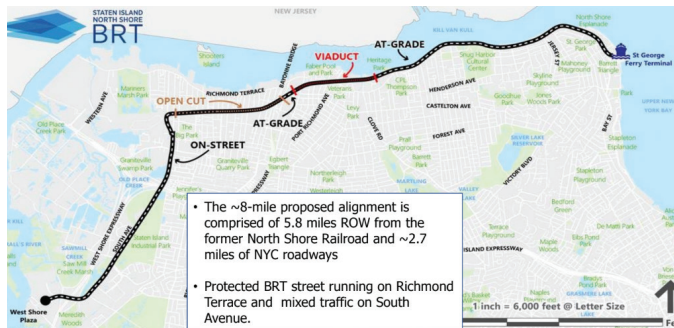
Legislative Priorities

Paid Leave (A.9513): The legislation was recently passed in the Assembly and the Senate companion bill is set to pass this week. It is anticipated that the Governor will sign my 9th piece of legislation. It will extend provisions of a law that I passed last year (A.3354-B/Chap.77) that will continue to grant public employees four hours of excused leave to receive the coronavirus vaccine until December 31, 2023.

Verrazzano-Narrows Bridge Discount: The 2022-23 budget once again maintained the Verrazzano Narrows Bridge Resident Discount, keeping it at \$5.50, \$2.75 each way.

E-ZPass Legislation: I recently had legislation drafted that would eliminate E-ZPass administrative fees associated with tolls and eliminate minimum amount requirement to replenish E-ZPass accounts. These fees are strictly designed to burden residents and pique corporate profits.

Toll Exemption Act (A.9075): Staten Island is the only borough that burdens its residents with tolls to access other boroughs and the State of New Jersey. Only the 23-mile Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel in Virginia, a chain of six crossings that costs \$15 each way, comes close. Tolls put our businesses at a competitive disadvantage, impact our ability to visit family, burden families that wish to access faith-based meetings and impose a heavy financial burden on commuters, especially those that wish to visit Staten Island. With the implementation of federal infrastructure funding and congestion pricing, the residents of Staten Island should benefit by being allowed an exemption on at least one of its more prominent access points, the Verrazzano-Narrows Bridge.



North Shore Bus Rapid Transit

According to the MTA, the Environmental Impact Study will conclude at the end of the year. After discussing with Governor Hochul, she indicated the state will prioritize this project.

Assemblyman Fall secures \$1 million for Staten Island's Eden II Programs.

Assemblyman Charles D. Fall is a long-time advocate for the autism community in Staten Island. Upon learning about the growing needs of adults and seniors with autism, Fall met with the executive team from Eden II to see how he could help address the alarming situation.

The proposed plan will allow for Eden II Programs to create a new site for the necessary adult program expansion. The increased square footage will also create new vocational training opportunities, establish a senior program for older adults that accommodates their changing needs, and inspire community partnerships with other non-profit organizations.

“I am proud to partner with Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie to bring the necessary funds to our friends at Eden II Programs to expand their services. The aging autism population have specific needs that are not being adequately addressed. I know that by securing the additional funds and working with Eden II Programs, our community will be able to provide invaluable resources to those with the most needs within the Staten Island autism community.”



MLK Jr Day of Service

It was an honor to partner with Senator Savino and Councilmember Rose to share fire safety protocols during Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service. I would like to thank all our wonderful volunteers for joining us.

Community Engagement



Assemblyman Charles D. Fall and Senator Robert Jackson host an Iftar in collaboration with Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic and Asian Caucus Weekend.

On Friday, April 8th Assemblyman Fall and Senator Jackson hosted an Iftar to break Ramadan Fast. The event was attended by local dignitaries, including State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli, State Attorney General Tish James and Public Advocate Jumanne Williams. A special thanks must be shared with Dr. Debbie Almontaser, Senior Advisor to Emgage NY Metro, Mohammad Razvi, CEO of COPO and Youssef Mubarez, President of YAMA for donating the food and prayer rugs for the event. Finally, a special gratitude must be shared with the co-host of the Iftar, Senator Robert Jackson and Imam Yaki for saying the prayer to break the fast.

With the beginning of the Holy Month of Ramadan, Assemblyman Charles D. Fall invited Imam Tahir Kukaj, Clergy Leader of the Albanian Islamic Cultural Center, to conduct the opening invocation for the opening of Assembly Session.



Rapid Self-Test Kits



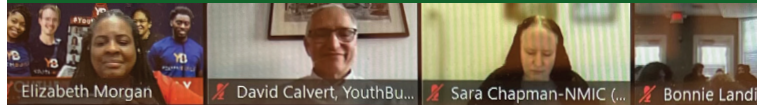
My office distributed over 5,000 Covid Rapid Self Test Kits to the community the last several months. If you need any test kits, please call our district office.

P.S. 21 Visit



In January, I visited the students and administration of PS 21. It is so good to see students in a physical classroom where they can be intellectually engaged.

Assemblyman Charles D. Fall met with statewide YouthBuild and YouthBuild IMPACT/Staten Island during their 2022 Civic Engagement Day.



- Secured \$10 million in statewide budget funding for YouthBuild programming.
- The Enacted Budget appropriated \$2.5 million for services and expenses.
- \$10 million for YouthBuild statewide workforce.

"I want to give a special thanks to Julia Wanamaker and Liz Morgan for inviting me to speak during their advocacy day. I stand committed to making sure proper funding is provided for organizations that deliver leadership skills, occupational training and educational advancement to our young adults."

Community Resources

SYEP

Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) is the nation's largest youth employment program, connecting NYC youth between the ages of 14 and 24 with career exploration opportunities and paid work experiences each summer. Participants receive the opportunity to explore their interests and career pathways, develop workplace skills and engage in learning experiences that help to develop their social, civic and leadership skills. To be eligible, you must be a resident of one of the five NYC boroughs, legally allowed to work in the US, and you must be between the ages of 14 and 24. For more information on the program or for instructions on how to apply, go to application.nycsyep.com or call (800) 246-4646.

Workforce Information

Staten Island Workforce 1 is a NYC Department of Small Business Services resource that prepares and connects qualified candidates to job opportunities in NYC. Workforce 1 prepares and helps New Yorkers to find jobs by:

- Developing job search skills through resume and interviewing workshops
- Training residents to acquire skills in growing fields
- Connecting jobseekers to employers with open positions
- The Staten Island Chamber of Commerce (www.sichamber.com) and the Staten Island Business Outreach Center (www.siboc.org) also support local employers and job seekers. Visit their sites to find support.

New York State Labor Law helps to protect employees in the workplace. Know your rights as a worker:

- **Workers' Compensation:** If you are injured on the job, you can receive workers' compensation regardless of your immigration status. Contact the Advocate for Injured Workers for help at 800-580-6665.
- **Fair Wages:** Minimum wage and overtime laws apply to all workers, even if you are undocumented or paid hourly, daily, or weekly, and if you are paid in cash, by check, or off the books.
- Call 888-469-7365 to ask about filing a claim if you believe you are not paid the minimum wage, or you do not receive additional money for the extra time worked.

Financial Counseling

The NYC Financial Empowerment Center is a free one-on-one financial counseling service provided by NYC Consumer Affairs to support you in reaching your financial goals. Counselors can help individuals develop a strategy to minimize debt, access federal, state, and local resources, receive student loan debt tips, and more. During COVID-19, all sessions are conducted over the phone. Visit www.nyc.gov/dca to schedule an appointment.

Safety and Support

Domestic Violence Support: Survivors of domestic violence may receive temporary housing, emergency shelter, and supportive services for themselves and their children. If you or someone you know is in need of supportive services please call the Staten Island Family Justice Center mainline at 718-697-4300 and leave a message, call Safe Horizon's 24-hour hotline (llamenos para ayudarle) 800-621-HOPE (4673) or text confidentially with an advocate with the NYS Domestic and Sexual Violence Hotline at 844-997-2121 for help today.

Brightpoint Health Center provides comprehensive medical and behavioral health care, including substance use disorder services and addiction treatment. Call 855-681-8700 to request an appointment.

Legal Assistance

Staten Island Legal Aid Society provides quality legal representation to low-income New Yorkers. If you need assistance from their Criminal Defense Practice or Juvenile Rights Practice, call 212-577-3300. If you need assistance with a civil suit call 347-422-5333 and call 888-663-6680 to reach their Access to Benefits Helpline.

Staten Island Legal Services wants to help you. If you need free legal help during the COVID-19 crisis, for matters of immigration, foreclosure, small business advice, and more, go to legalservicesnyc.org or call them (Monday-Friday, 10:00am-4:00pm) at 718-233-6480.

LawHelpNY.org is an online, legal-information website that provides referrals to free legal services for low-income and vulnerable people

throughout the State of New York, self-help resources about legal rights on essential issues such as eviction, domestic violence, consumer debt, and many other critical concerns, links to social services and government agencies and information about the court system. LawHelpNY provides online real-time one-on-one chat assistance that can lead you to the legal information you most need. For more information, visit <https://www.lawhelpny.org/> To contact by mail or email: LawHelpNY, c/o Pro Bono Net, 151 West 30th Street, New York, NY 10001, info@nylawhelp.org

Veteran Services

Staten Island Veterans Center is here to support United States veterans in need. If you need to talk with someone confidentially, call 718-816-4499 Monday-Friday from 9:00am-5:00pm.

Unclaimed Funds

New York State has over \$13 billion in lost money. Every day we return \$1 million to those who file a claim. Lost or unclaimed money gets turned over by organizations required to report dormant accounts to the New York State Office of the State Comptroller. This money includes things like forgotten savings accounts, lost paychecks, and stocks or bonds. For more information visit <https://www.osc.state.ny.us/unclaimed-funds>.

Identity Theft

Identity theft is the unlawful use of an individual's personal identification information. Identity thieves steal information such as your name, social security number, driver's license information, or bank and credit card accounts and use the information to establish credit, make purchases, apply for loans, or even seek employment. Victims of identity theft should obtain an Identity Theft Victim Kit, an all-in-one resource that provides victims with specific instructions for filing a police report and beginning to clear their names, by clicking here: <http://www.consumer.ftc.gov/features/feature-0016-protect-your-identity-event-kit>

NYS Homeowner Assistance Fund

You may be eligible for up to \$50,000 in financial assistance, apply now if you are:

- Behind or in forbearance on your mortgage
- In default on a reverse mortgage
- Behind on property taxes, water, or sewage bills
- Behind on your monthly maintenance charges of your co-op or condo
- Behind on your chattel loans, retail installment contracts, or other types of home purchase loans and/or lot rent
- If these apply to you, visit nyhomeownerfund.org or call 1-844-776-9423

SNAP (Food Stamp Assistance)

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) can help you afford food in your time of need, check www.myhealthbenefits.ny.gov to check your eligibility. The SNAP enroller is on-site at MetroPlus Health Staten Island Community Office on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, at 238A Port Richmond Ave. Walk in when the SNAP enroller is in, or call 929-270-2181 between 9:00am and 4:30pm to set up an appointment.

Mobile Food Pantry

The BJ House of Community and Richmond Senior Services are partnering to run a Mobile Food Pantry. Every first Wednesday 12pm while supplies last. There is a walk-up, bring-your-own-bag pantry at 192 Corson Ave. To register for the mobile delivery, call 718-442-0923, or email baituljamaat@gmail.com.

Help Your Neighborhood Schools

Interested in subbing for the NYC DOE? Gain teaching experience and get paid \$199.27 a day as a substitute teacher. Requirements include eligibility to work within the US, a bachelor's degree, and an interest and commitment to helping kids and a school. For more information, go to <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/careers/substitute-teaching>, or email llam@schools.nyc.gov to be nominated to work as a substitute or for answers to any additional questions.



Assemblyman Charles D. Fall meets with Representatives from 1199 SEIU.

Assemblyman Fall continues to be an advocate for health care workers in New York. As part of his advocacy efforts, the Assemblyman has fought for:

Fair Pay for Home Care

- 1199 attendees emphasized their message “home care workers have not been recognized for many years. We need for them to know us and to recognize us. We are not invisible. We need respect and recognition. Home care workers deserve fair wages.”
- The 2022-23 budget secured \$7.4 billion to increase a \$3-an-hour boost to the wages of home health care workers. Health care workers will receive a \$2-per-hour raise this October, and an additional \$1-per-hour raise next year.

Funding for Safety Nets

- Safety net hospitals provide services to underserved communities and were at the forefront providing services during the pandemic.

“Although we put forth a modest increase for home care workers in this year’s budget, we need to keep vigilant on making these wage increases, permanent for home care workers who directly care for our most vulnerable. With there not being any public hospitals on Staten Island we have to take every opportunity to assist our alternative health care system and workers.”

New York State Assembly, Albany, New York 12248



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Town Halls



I was granted the honor of joining the CFLC 17th Annual Black History Month Town Hall. It was inspiring to see so many people be recognized for putting so much effort into our community, and it is my distinct pleasure to work with so many of the honorees to continue to improve our neighborhoods.

SIDDC Advocacy Day in Albany



Assemblyman Fall had the honor of meeting with Donna Long and Kathleen Nowak from the Staten Island Developmental Disabilities Council (SIDDC) during their advocacy day here in Albany. They were able to discuss topics including adequate funding for I/DD residential housing and day programs, workforce shortages and fair wage for caregivers and service providers relating to I/DD.



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nyassembly.gov/mem/Charles-D-Fall/enews/

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