



Dear Neighbor,

I often allude to “my time in Albany” but I don’t often update you on exactly how this time is spent. During session, which is January to June of each year, the majority of my time in the first 3 months is spent working on the State budget. While legislation is always on the agenda, that work intensifies after the budget is enacted. And while that keeps me very busy on its own, I also have several additional responsibilities including committees and work groups.

Committee on Higher Education Chair

The committee hears bills regarding higher education and professional licensing. We oversee all private and public institutions of Higher Education in New York. As Chair, I also sit on the panel for interviewing and recommending candidates for vacancies on the Board of Regents. I am also a board member of the Higher Education Facilities Capital Matching Grants Program, which provides public funds to independent colleges and universities throughout the State.

Intern Committee Chair

Every January, a cohort of around 150 students from colleges and universities across New York State join the Albany offices of Assemblymembers, as well as being part of an academic program. As the Chair of the Intern Committee, I work to ensure that students are welcomed to educational environments that allow them to develop and grow as students and individuals.

Anti-Poverty Work Group Member

Almost 1.4 million people in New York are living in extreme poverty. This includes a disproportionately high numbers of children, women, elderly and minorities. The newly created work group will undertake an evaluation of the drastic increase of New Yorkers living in poverty and identify solutions to combat it. It is our belief that a comprehensive approach is the only way to assist people to move out of poverty. I look forward to formally working with my colleagues toward eradicating poverty throughout New York.

Process and Procedures Work Group Member

Last year, Speaker Heastie created a work group to examine and make recommendations regarding the ongoing efforts to improve and strengthen the Assembly’s rules, operations, and legislative processes. I look forward to continuing to work towards increasing transparency in Albany.

I am honored that the Speaker has chosen me to help lead the discourse on many important issues. I look forward to another year of advocating on behalf of New Yorkers.

Sincerely,

Deborah J. Glick
Deborah



Joined Barbara Bowen, President of PSC, Henry Garrido, Executive Director of DC 37, Frederick E. Kowal, President of UUP, Andrew Pallotta, Executive Vice President NYSUT, in calling for a full Maintenance of Effort for CUNY and SUNY state support.



Apply to be an Assembly Intern

If you are a college student, or know one, who might be interested in spending a semester as an Assembly intern in Albany, visit: <http://assembly.state.ny.us/internship/> for more information. The program is open to Juniors, Seniors and Graduate students. During the semester, students are assigned to a Member’s office where they participate in meetings, policy and legislative discussions and research. There is a strong academic component which includes attending a class, a research project and the semester culminates in a mock session on the floor of the Assembly. Students receive college credit from their schools and receive a stipend.



Enjoying a Women’s Caucus reception with Chancellor Nancy Zimpher, Senate Minority Conference Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, SUNY Trustee Eunice Lewin, and Assemblymember Crystal Peoples-Stokes.

Cultural Programing for Children with Disabilities

The district is fortunate to have local arts and cultural institutions on nearly every corner. Individuals can access a wide range of theaters, galleries, museums and music venues, each offering a unique experience. Despite this saturation, programming that is appropriate for children, or for people with disabilities, is not always easy to find.

The Children's Museum of the Arts,

located at **103 Charlton Street**, offers several programs tailored specifically for children with disabilities.

Art for All • This program provides any child with a disability and their caregiver (i.e. parent, respite support, therapist, teacher) free admission to the museum during general public hours. The initiative is aimed at making the Museum accessible for all children including those with special needs by providing professional development to its staff and collaborating with key partners, which include parent focus groups, community-based organizations, and experts in accessibility.

Inclusive Saturdays • These 75-minute structured workshops are specifically designed to help children with autism develop social interaction and communication skills, manual dexterity, and the ability to express themselves through art. The program's supportive environment also helps strengthen family ties and builds a sense of community for families affected by autism.

Inclusive Sundays • This program provides a free opportunity for children with physical disabilities, and their family and friends. CMA Teaching Artists are supported by Evaluators licensed in Occupational Therapy. This program is based on a class-like model in which the teaching artists and specialists work to facilitate the group experience, with a keen eye towards the special needs of the participants. At the heart of all of these inclusive programs is socialization, benefiting all participants. To find out more about these programs, or sign up to participate, please visit: <http://cmany.org/schoolsandcommunity/access-programs/> or call 212-274-0986.

The Whitney Museum of Art,

located at **99 Gansevoort Street**, also offers programming designed for people with disabilities. All programming is offered free of charge and requires advance registration. Visit whitney.org/access to learn more, or email Accessfeedback@whitney.org or call 212-671-1823. Relay calls welcome.

Family Fun: For Families with Kids on the Autism Spectrum • Families with kids 6-12 years old on the autism spectrum are invited for a sensory-friendly guided gallery tour offered before the Museum opens to the general public. Families will then create their own works of art in a hands-on studio activity.

Verbal Description and Touch Tours • These tours provide an opportunity for visitors who are blind or have low vision to experience the richness and diversity American art. Visitors can explore the Whitney's collection or special exhibitions with a highly skilled museum educator trained to provide vivid, detailed verbal description of the works on display, while experiencing a selection of objects through touch. Manual wheelchairs, stools, and assistive listening devices are available. These free, 90-minute tours take place when the galleries are closed to the general public. Tours are held monthly as well as by request with three weeks advance notice.

Whitney Signs • Whitney Signs tours enable visitors to experience the Whitney's world-renowned collection of modern and contemporary American art in American Sign Language. On Whitney Signs tours, an expert Deaf educator leads a gallery tour in ASL, accompanied by a voice interpreter. Whitney Signs tours take place on the first Saturday afternoon of each month, and are always preceded by a free wine and cheese reception in the Laurie M. Tisch Education Center. A limited number of spaces are available for ASL students to observe.

Free Tax Preparation Services

Tax season is just around the corner, but it doesn't have to be stressful. This year, taxes must be post-marked by April 18th. There are several agencies and organizations offering free tax preparation services, based on income. IRS certified volunteer tax preparers will be located at sites throughout the City to help answer questions and provide assistance with tax filing. New York State offers free filing through local organizations, such as those listed below.

For the majority of services, families earning up to \$54,000 or individuals making up to \$30,000 without children dependents are eligible. If filing online, families earning up to \$62,000 per year are eligible for free filing and assistance. Contact the individual organization for additional information:

- The New York City Department of Consumer Affairs
For more information, visit: nyc.gov/taxprep or call 311
- New York Food Bank
www.FoodBankNYC.org/Taxhelp
- IRS
www.irs.gov/Individuals/Free-Tax-Return-Preparation-for-You-by-Volunteers

Curb your Dog

As the winter months begin to warm and the seasons change into spring, New Yorkers will spend more time outside enjoying the pleasant weather. Please remember to be considerate of your neighbors and clean up after your beloved pets.

Remember that "curbing" your dog is the best way to ensure that our streets remain clean and that our plants and trees don't suffer. While it is tempting to let your dog step into a tree pit, dog urine kills plants, trees, and grass. It is important to remember that we all share the sidewalks with neighbors, pedestrians, and animals.

Support for Small Businesses

If you own a small business, trying to do it all can be challenging. Owners often focus strictly on getting through each week, and don't have time to commit to long term planning or business development. In an ever changing economy, consulting with experts can help businesses ensure they can achieve their goals. Fortunately, there are many great, free resources to provide support to small businesses.

The Small Business Development Center at Pace University's Lubin School of Business (Pace SBDC) offers free business counseling to entrepreneurs and small business owners. Among Pace SBDC's key services are helping small businesses access financing, developing business plans and financial projections, and identifying government procurement opportunities and strategies for increasing sales (in particular for minority and women-owned businesses). Pace SBDC advisors can also guide entrepreneurs through the process of forming their legal struc-

ture, as well as provide invaluable demographic, economic and other key market research. They consult with businesses that have been around for 20 years, or ones that are still in the planning phase. To set up a free appointment with a small business advisor, call 212-618-6655. You can also get more information at: <http://www.nysbdc.org/>

The New York City Department of Small Business Services also provides support to small businesses, including supports on working with City agencies, accessing financing and maintaining compliance with new or changing regulations, such as paid sick leave. For more information on the variety of services provide, visit: www.nyc.gov/html/sbs/

As a consumer, remember that your support of local businesses is essential. Online shopping or going to a big box store often feels easier, but frequenting local establishments helps keep our neighborhoods full of the diverse shops that we all love.

Student Debt: Relief May be On the Way

As soon as college students in 2015 took off their caps and gowns, the majority already had debt due to student loans. Some studies indicate that the graduating class of 2015 will graduate with around \$35,000 in student loan debt. This has negative consequences and impedes flexibility in job pursuit as the debt remains. I have long supported affordable, public education and increases to financial aid, especially for working families. Even with these programs, students, or their families, still accrue a substantial debt. There are various opportunities to have your loans forgiven, and a number of programs to assist in paying off student debt.

Teachers Loan Forgiveness

If you are a teacher in a high needs area, and a resident of New York State, you may be eligible for loan forgiveness. In order to qualify for this program, you have to have received your undergraduate degree in, or after, 2014-2015 and lived in New York State for 12 months. For more information, visit: <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/repay-loans/forgiveness-cancellation/teacher>

Licensed Social Worker Loan Forgiveness Program

This program is offered to licensed social workers working in critical human service areas, including but not limited to the following fields: home care, health, mental health, substance abuse, aging, HIV/AIDS and child welfare or communities with multilingual needs. For more information, visit: www.hesc.ny.gov and search for "Social Worker Loan Forgiveness" in the search bar.

Public Service Loan Forgiveness

This program forgives the remaining balance on your Direct Loans after you have made 120 qualifying monthly payments under a qualifying repayment plan while working full-time for a qualifying employer, including government, non-profit and others. For more information about this program, visit: <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/repay-loans/forgiveness-cancellation/public-service>

For a comprehensive list of loan forgiveness programs and criteria, visit the New York State Higher Education Services Corporation website at <https://www.hesc.ny.gov/repay-your-loans/repayment-options-assistance/loan-forgiveness-cancellation-and-discharge.html> You should also check with your alma mater or professional organization to see if there are loan forgiveness programs for which you might qualify.



I was honored to join Councilmember Daniel Gardonick, Borough President Gale Brewer and former Councilmember Robert Jackson in a discussion on ethics reform which was co-moderated by Susan Learner of Common Cause NY and Sharon Nelson of the Women's Political Caucus.

Assembly Passes Paid Family Leave

The Assembly passed key legislation that would provide paid family leave benefits to all New Yorkers. Assembly Bill A3870-A expands the current federal law which provides 12 weeks unpaid leave for some workers without the threat of being fired. Under the Assembly's bill, private employers would be required to provide a 12 week paid family leave benefit up to a rate of two-thirds of the worker's salary while guaranteeing job security during the absence. This is done using the existing disability insurance fund, which limits the cost to employees.

New Yorkers and working families are often put in a difficult position when faced with the birth of a child, or the prospect of caring for an ailing family member such as an elderly parent or sick sibling. As a result, employees are often unable to fully devote the necessary time to family needs and ensure their own physical and mental health. Similarly, employers suffer when employees are distracted, or forced to take unpaid time off, causing them to be unproductive.

This is fundamental to New York State to ensure that employees will not face the burden of caring for family members without job security or significant lost wages. I hope that the Senate will acknowledge the importance of this issue and vote on this measure.

Properly Disposing of Electronic Waste

This is the age of technology. We all use smart phones, computers and/or TVs on a daily basis. But with all this technology, comes mounds of unwanted broken or out of date electronic equipment. Although it is tempting to toss it all in the trash, State and City laws require that you properly dispose of electronic waste (e-waste) in a safe way so it doesn't end-up in landfills, contaminating our environment.

Most electronics cannot be discarded through regular curb-side disposal. This includes computers, cell phones, batteries and TVs. Microwaves, however, can be recycled in glass, metal or plastic bin. To look up proper disposal of items, visit the main Department of Sanitation website and search.

Below is a list of organizations that will assist in the disposal of those items which cannot be put in with curb-side trash.

The Lower East Ecology Center

The Lower East Ecology Center's Gowanus e-waste warehouse is a free e-waste drop-off center. There are two ways in which to recycle electronic goods. You can visit the Gowanus e-waste warehouse, or attend their rotating monthly recycling events.

For more information on monthly events, or to find out how you can drop-off your unwanted items at the warehouse please visit: <http://www.leecologycenter.org/programs/ewaste/> You can also call 212-477-4022, or 718-858-8777. The center is closed on Monday and Sunday.

New York City Department of Sanitation

If you are a building owner and have an apartment building with more than 10 units, you may be eligible to sign up for free recycling collection service through the Department of Sanitation's e-cycle NYC program. For more information on how to enroll, please call 212-437-4647.

The Salvation Army

You can also drop-off your unwanted items at participating Salvation Army Stores. The Salvation Army Store at 536 West 46th Street, allows walk-in drop offs, as well as scheduled pick-ups. The store is open from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. For more information please call 212-757-2311.

Electronic Stores

Many manufacturers offer drop off or mail-back options. To find a list of manufacturers registered in the New York State, please visit the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation at <http://www.dec.ny.gov>. Call the local store before dropping something off. If a manufacturer on the list refuses to accept your electronics, please notify the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation by calling 1-800-847-7332.

We are all tempted to upgrade our technology the minute something new comes along, but remember each of these products comes at a cost of disposing of the old equipment. If the item is still working, consider selling it or donating it to an organization which can use it.

Upcoming E-Waste Recycling Events

I am proud to support an upcoming e-waste recycling event in the district. The event will be held

Friday, March 18th
from 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

It will be on the south side of 14 Street just west of 8th Avenue and will be held rain or shine.

Additionally, just outside of the district, there will be an event on

Sunday, March 20th
from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

at Tompkin's Square Park on Avenue A between 9th and 10th Streets.

For more information on either event please contact lesecologycenter.org or 212-477-4022.

Save a Life: Become an Organ Donor

There are an estimated 10,000 people in New York alone on waiting list for organ or tissue donations, such as kidneys, lungs and hearts. A person dies every 13 hours while waiting for an organ. And yet, it is thought that one donor can often save the lives of eight people.

To help save the lives of those on the waiting list, you can register to be an organ donor by enrolling in the Donate Life Registry. To find out more information please visit the New York State Department of Health website: <https://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/patients/donation/organ/> or contact the **New York State Department of Health at 866-693-9997**. You can also sign up to become a registered organ or tissue donor through the Board of Elections or Department of Motor Vehicles.

Adoptable Pets

Animals bring tremendous comfort and joy to a person's life. There are many animals waiting for a forever home, and you might just be the owner for whom they are looking. Animal Care Centers of NYC have many pets available from which to choose. The organization is in its 17th year of finding loving homes for pets in need, and has an online adoption search for your convenience. The Manhattan Animal Care Center is located at 326 East 110th Street (between 1st and 2nd Aves.) It's open Monday-Friday from 12:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. For more information visit: <http://www.nycacc.org/Adopt.htm>

Unclaimed Funds in New York

The New York State Comptroller's Office reports that nearly \$14 billion in unclaimed money is lost to New York residents who have yet to claim these funds. These funds are usually the result of superfluous fees or overpayment of a bill which have to be reported to the State. Nearly \$1 million a day is returned to residents who file claims for funds. Manhattan has the largest number of unclaimed funds in the New York Metropolitan area with just over 1.5 million potential cases totaling \$1.48 billion in money yet to be claimed by residents. To search the comptroller's database and verify if you have any unclaimed funds visit: <http://www.osc.state.ny.us/ouf/> or call 1-800-221-9311 for more information.

Deborah Glick's



NEIGHBORHOOD UPDATE

ASSEMBLYMEMBER
66TH DISTRICT
NEW YORK CITY

HOW TO REACH US:
Call 212-674-5153 or
email glickd@assembly.state.ny.us



Happy to have joined Senator Hoylman and Commissioner Cecile Noel, of the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence, at a forum on non-consensual pornography.



Standing with the Alliance for Quality Education demanding an increase in State funding for public education.