



Assembly Member **HARVEY EPSTEIN**



74TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT • REPORTS TO THE PEOPLE • FALL 2024

Dear Neighbor,

As we wrap up a fantastic summer spent in the district, I am overwhelmed with gratitude. When I got elected to the Assembly in 2018, it was my goal to make our community a better place to live for everyone, regardless of background. I wanted to improve housing, better our schools, and fight for those who are far too often overlooked when decisions are being made.

While we have not solved these problems, we have made substantial progress in expanding permanent affordable housing, developing employment opportunities for people with disabilities, mitigating the existential threat of climate change, strengthening the public education system, and fighting for a fair justice system.

My team has worked hard to serve you in the halls of Albany and on the streets of our beloved neighborhoods.

Although much work is left to be done, we want to share some of our victories with you. Rest assured, we are just getting started.

See you around the neighborhood,

Harvey

Celebrating Our Work!

LEGISLATION

Passed 50+ bills and co-sponsored hundreds of others to improve housing, the environment, education, disability justice, the criminal justice system, protect immigrants, and expand access to reproductive healthcare.

HOUSING

- Two of my bills to protect tenants and expand affordable housing options were included in the larger Housing Stability and Tenant Protection Act of 2019 (A07737 and A7743 of 2019)
- Fought for and won Mitchell Lama reforms to maintain affordability
- Won a pilot program to begin legalizing basement apartments and bring them up to code, protecting thousands of tenants (Ch. 56 of 2024)
- Achieved the best available deal on good cause eviction to protect market-rate tenants and increase the overall supply of affordable housing across New York (Ch. 56 of 2024)

ENVIRONMENT

- Helped pass the landmark Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act to reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions by eighty-five percent by 2050 (Ch. 106 of 2019)
- Passed my bill to ban environmentally harmful styrofoam coolers (A04943A)
- Banned plastic bags in most stores across New York (Ch. 58 of 2019)

EDUCATION

- Passed my bill to end transcript withholding as a debt collection tool, which harms students (Ch. 180 of 2022)
- Passed my bill to streamline and increase teachers' and public servants' participation in the federal Public Service Loan Forgiveness program (Ch. 562 of 2022)
- Advocated for the largest investment in funding that Albany provided for public schools, as well as institutions of higher education, in decades.



REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

- Co-sponsored the Equal Rights Amendment to protect all New Yorkers — for example, pregnant New Yorkers, women, LGBTQIA+ people, those with disabilities, older adults, and people from different countries and cultures which will create a constitutional right to reproductive care (A1283)
- Passed my bill to create access to medication abortion for students attending public colleges and universities in New York State (Ch. 129 of 2023)
- Passed the Reproductive Health Act to create a statutory right to care (Ch. 1 of 2019)

DISABILITY JUSTICE

- Passed my bill to require that a person with a disability sit on the MTA board (Ch. 672 of 2023)
- Passed my bill to require vendors doing business with the state to provide data on the number of people with disabilities they employ to help increase their participation in the workforce (A5815 of 2024)
- Fought to increase the cap on income to 600 percent of federal poverty while retaining access to benefits

LGBTQIA+ RIGHTS

- Co-sponsored and passed legislation to protect patients and doctors performing gender-affirming care (Ch 143 of 2023)
- Co-sponsored and passed legislation protecting gender identity and expression in the human rights law (Ch. 8 of 2019)

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

- Passed my bill to incentivize incarcerated New Yorkers to earn a college degree and receive early release time (Ch. 242 of 2021)
- Co-sponsored and helped pass the Clean Slate Act to give formerly incarcerated New Yorkers a second chance by sealing certain records that prevented them from obtaining housing, benefits, and employment (Ch. 631 of 2023)
- Co-sponsored the bill to repeal 50-a and increase transparency around police misconduct (Ch. 96 of 2020)



FIGHTING FOR NYCHA RESIDENTS

- Won over a billion dollars in capital investment for NYCHA since 2019
- Opened Tenant Association rooms at LES II and Straus Houses
- Extended Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) qualifications to include NYCHA tenants after years of exclusion
- Steered millions of capital dollars toward our local public housing developments



SUPPORTING COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS & LEADERS

- Attended dozens of ribbon cuttings and groundbreaking ceremonies including the grand opening of the Girls Club Center for Wellbeing and Happiness, the Lower East Side Health Center, and renovations at the National Arts Club, Grand Street Settlement, the Tompkins Square Park Basketball Court, Solar One and more!
- Celebrated 100s of community leaders and organizations by presenting them with proclamations and citations honoring their work

- Brought back millions of dollars in state capital and operating funds to District 74 (Budgets for fiscal years 21 through 25)

SERVING CONSTITUENTS

- Provided critical aid during the COVID-19 pandemic & asylum seeker crisis to support our most vulnerable neighbors
- Started an annual Thanksgiving food giveaway and helped provide over 5,000 Thanksgiving meals to community members in partnership with Loisaída Inc.
- Assisted thousands of constituents with concerns related to housing, food insecurity, mental health, unemployment benefits, education, health care, and so much more

COMMUNITY EVENTS

- Hosted and co-hosted over 100 community events including Hang with Harveys, town halls, resource fairs, mobile mammogram clinics, animal adoption days, and more!
- Helped approximately 5,000 constituents with shredding their sensitive documents through our shredding truck event series and helped divert tens of thousands of e-waste items otherwise headed to the landfill



Upcoming Events

Hang with Harvey!

Talk to Harvey about legislative and community concerns.

- **Monday, September 9th, 4 PM - 6 PM**
Stuyvesant Square Park at Flagpole West (Rutherford Place, West of 2nd Ave on 16th St.)
- **Tuesday, October 8th, 10 AM-Noon**
Baruch Plaza (151 Bernard Baruch Way, 25th St. between 3rd Ave and Lexington Ave)

Shredding Events

No electronics or batteries, paper only.
One standard-size file box (15" x 12" x 10") per person

- **Thursday, September 12th, 9 AM-Noon**
Tompkins Square Park (Ave A & E 9th St.)
Co-sponsored by the Department of Sanitation
- **Wednesday, October 23rd, 9 AM-Noon**
Stuyvesant Square Park (E 16th St. & Rutherford Pl. West of 2nd Ave)
Co-Sponsored by Senator Kristen Gonzalez

Movies in Tompkins '24 Finale

Everything Everywhere All At Once (Rated R)
September 25th, 2024

Tompkins Square Park Skate/Playground
Doors open at 6:30
Movie at dusk

Featuring pre-show entertainment by Nuyorican Poets Cafe, an Eden Martinez Short Film, & a Loisaída Inc. Center Short Film
This event is free and open to the public

Recycle Your E-Waste

Sunday, October 20th, 10 AM - 2 PM

Bellevue Park

(Mt. Carmel Pl between
1st and 2nd Ave & E 27th St.)

Co-Sponsored by the LES Ecology Center

**Halloween with Team Harvey
Candy Giveaway**

107 Ave B, Thursday, October 31st from 3:00 PM - 5:30 PM

Bring your family by to see our amazing costume this year & get some candy!



MetroCard Campaign Update

Since its founding, our Youth Council has been dedicated to the expansion of student MetroCards across our city. Many of our students travel far for school and activities and need to access public transit to get to where they're going. However, for far too many students, the transportation cost makes this unfeasible. In 2020, we ended half fare for over 130,000 students in NYC, making student MetroCards free. In July 2022 we got the Department of Education to issue a MetroCard rights pamphlet to every New York City high school student. We continued to fight for extended hours past 8:30 PM and weekend swipes. In July 2024 we joined the MTA in announcing the expansion of student MetroCards to 4 swipes per day for 7 days per week, 24/7 for over hundreds of thousands of NYC students. This was a huge victory for our Youth Council. I want to thank them for all their leadership over the years.



Submit a Capital Project for Funding

Our Youth Council is deciding how hundreds of thousands of dollars could be used to better our neighborhood. There will be 4 recipients. If you know of projects that could be completed with capital funds ranging from \$125,000 to \$250,000 please propose a project here by September 15th: tinyurl.com/harveyccapital



Join our Youth Council

Do you know a high schooler looking to gain community service and leadership experience? Scan this QR code for an application to the District 74 Youth Council! (or follow the link) The Youth Council gives members an opportunity to organize around issues they care about and get more involved in their community. Applications are due September 15th. Apply at: tinyurl.com/ycapply24



2024 Legislative Update

In June, we adjourned the 2024 legislative session. I was disappointed to see that the NY Heat Act (A4592-B) and the Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act (A05322D) did not make it past the finish line. Furthermore, we did not pass a new Bottle Bill (A06353A) or the Medical Aid in Dying Bill (A995A). I am hopeful these crucial pieces of legislation will be passed next session or if we are called back for a special session this year.

Nevertheless, I am encouraged by what we were able to accomplish this year. In the final hours of the session, we passed the Climate Change Superfund Act (A03351B), a landmark piece of legislation to make polluters pay for climate mitigation efforts. In the budget, we passed measures to begin the process of legalizing basement apartments, expanded good cause eviction to include some market-rate tenants, passed Sammy's Law to make our streets safer, and so much more!

We also passed many of my bills in the Assembly. Check out some highlights below:

CLIMATE JUSTICE

- A04943 prohibits the sale or distribution of expanded polystyrene containers that are designed or intended to be used for cold storage.
- A5909A establishes an Office of Sustainability.

EDUCATION

- A8029A co-names the 23rd Street subway station to

23rd Street- Baruch College.

- A08913 ensures that we have oversight of private student debt arising from loans extended by schools as well as expenses that go unpaid such as tuition or parking fees.

DISABILITY RIGHTS

- A1200 creates a commission ensuring that the approximately 3 million New Yorkers with disabilities can utilize programs and services in an accessible manner.
- A5815B provides the much-needed data on how many of our state agencies have hired people with disabilities and what titles they hold so we can understand where expansion and resources are needed.



2024 Legislative Update Continued

HOUSING

- A4750 prohibits landlords from charging exorbitant fees on dishonored rent checks. Unfortunately, this did not pass the Senate and will need to be re-introduced next session.

HEALTHCARE

- A3703 strengthens oversight over nursing homes by creating a transparent process when nursing homes seek to close.

ACCESS TO VOTING

- A3250A allows pre-registered voters to request an absentee ballot or vote early by mail as long as they'll be 18 by the time of the election.

OTHER

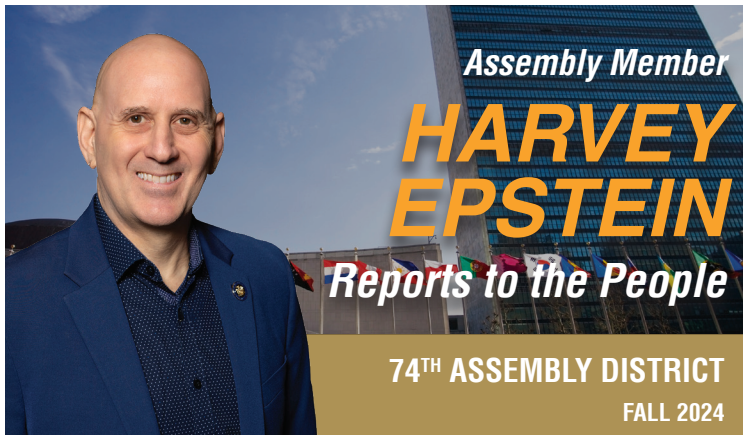
- A494B mandates that individuals appointed to county committees are notified of the appointment and can decline the position.
- A8427A establishes new restrictions on the issuance of temporary retail permits.
- A9755 authorizes a liquor license for a local establishment.



EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

In the upcoming general election on November 5 (early voting starts October 26 and runs through November 3), you'll be voting for federal offices (President and congress), as well as state offices (Assembly and Senate). You'll also have the opportunity to vote on a constitutional amendment (proposal number one or the "Equal Rights Amendment") that would add anti-discrimination provisions to the state constitution. In order for constitutional amendments to be included on the ballot for voters to approve, they first need to be voted on by the legislature in two consecutive sessions. I voted both times to include the Equal Rights Amendment on the ballot.

New York State Assembly, Albany, New York 12248



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Keep Up with Team Harvey!

Subscribe to our weekly e-blast list to see upcoming community events, important neighborhood updates, the pet of the week, and so much more!

<https://nyassembly.gov/mem/Harvey-Epstein/enews/>

