



Assemblymember Tony Simone
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Dear Neighbor,

Happy Labor Day! Our labor force is the backbone of New York City. NYC is a union town—labor helped build our great city and will continue to create a city for everyone. We must ensure we pay them a living wage & support our working class every day of the year.

As the summer comes to a close, my team and I have been hard at work introducing legislation, handling constituent casework, and meeting up with all of you across our district. Simultaneously, I am working hard to oppose Donald Trump's attacks on our democracy and safeguard essential freedoms for New Yorkers.

Read my statement on Donald Trump's Attacks on Children Seeking Gender Affirming Care [here](#).

UNMASKING ICE | The MELT Act ([A8908/S8462](#))

I introduced the Mandating End of Lawless Tactics (MELT) Act in response to the dangerous tactics being used by ICE and other law enforcement entities. The MELT Act will ensure greater transparency and accountability in law enforcement by prohibiting officers and agents at all levels from covering their faces while carrying out operations in New York. It also requires that officers be clearly identifiable on their uniforms—through a name, badge number, or other visible marker. As the Trump Administration escalates the use of secretive, unmarked, uncountable forces, the MELT Act protects public safety by rebuilding trust between communities and law enforcement. I am proud to share that the bill has well over a dozen cosponsors and is carried in the Senate by Senator Pat Fahy.



Assemblymember Simone joined by NYC Comptroller Brad Lander, Borough President Mark Levine, and Assemblymembers Jo Anne Simon and Grace Lee outside federal immigration court at 26 Federal Plaza.

Protecting the Separation of Church and State | [Non-Partisan Pulpit Act](#)

I introduced the Nonpartisan Pulpit Act with Senator James Skoufis to safeguard the longstanding separation of church and state by ensuring that tax-exempt nonprofits—including churches, charities, and cultural institutions—remain free from partisan politics. This legislation codifies and strengthens the federal Johnson Amendment here in New York by prohibiting 501(c)(3) organizations from endorsing or opposing political candidates, while still allowing robust advocacy, lobbying, and nonpartisan voter education. By creating a clear state-level certification process, the bill ensures that our communities can continue to rely on nonprofits as trusted, nonpartisan spaces—no matter what happens at the federal level.

State of Yes

Housing affordability isn't just a kitchen table issue, it's a democracy issue. Families are leaving New York not because of taxes, but because housing costs are pushing them out. If we don't act, the state could lose three congressional seats after 2030, weakening our voice in Washington and our ability to fight for progressive values. Minneapolis showed what's possible by reforming zoning and building more homes, lowering rents and reducing homelessness. New York City's "City of Yes" plan is a good start, but we need a State of Yes so families can stay, thrive, and keep New York strong. Watch my recent video on the topic by clicking [here](#).

Shred Truck Event: Penn South, West 26th Street Between 8th and 9th Ave

Monday, September 22nd, 2025, | 9AM-12PM

Come to our shredding event! Bring old documents you're looking to get rid of and clear out your space. We can securely destroy sensitive documents, offering a free and convenient way to dispose of confidential papers while contributing to sustainability at the same time!

SHRED TRUCK

BROUGHT TO YOU BY

ASSEMBLYMEMBER TONY SIMONE

AND



Bring your old documents to be shredded
& clear out your space!

NEW DATE!

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22ND

9AM-NOON

PENN SOUTH

WEST 26TH STREET

BETWEEN 8TH AND 9TH AVE

QUESTIONS? CONTACT US!

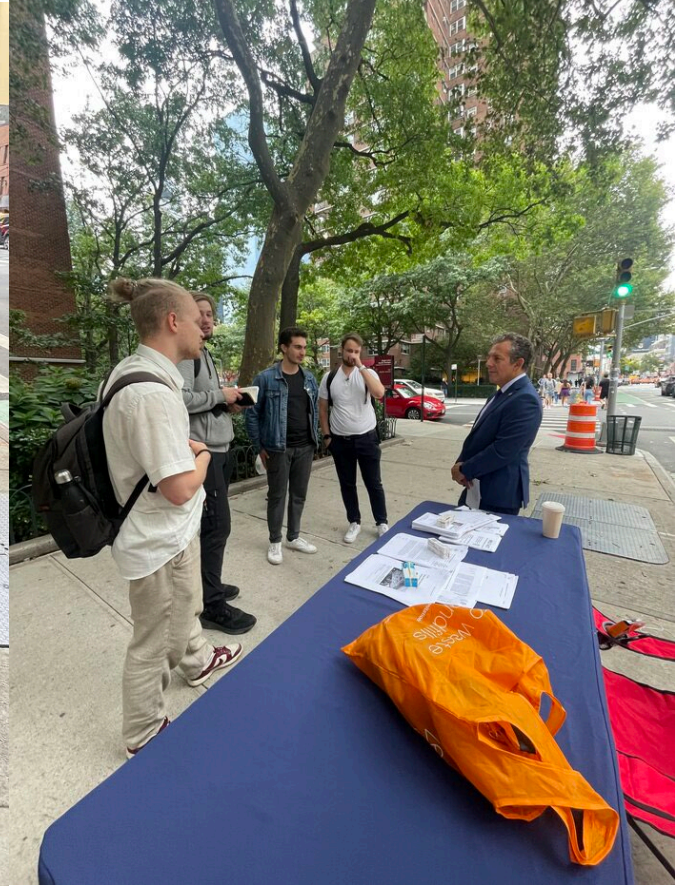
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Around the West Side

This summer, my team and I have been out in the community connecting directly with neighbors at outreach events across the district. From tabling at Penn South and Manhattan Plaza, to joining residents at the West Side Neighborhood Alliance/Housing Conservation Coordinators summer potluck, we've been listening to your concerns, sharing resources, and working together to keep our neighborhoods strong, safe, and affordable. These conversations guide my work in Albany, and I look forward to continuing them at future events.







Shakespeare in the Park

My team and I attended an incredible Shakespeare in the Park performance of Twelfth Night this month. The show boasted a star-studded cast including Lupita Nyong'o, Peter Dinklage, Sandra Oh, Jesse Tyler Ferguson and more. I was thrilled to experience theater exactly how it should be appreciated, with our community. I have fought hard to secure \$45,000 in funding to further the Public Theater's mission of bringing theater to everyone!



You Don't Say: Podcast Episode Available Now

I recently joined former State Senator Tom Duane on his podcast, You Don't Say: Conversations with The Loquacious Mr. Duane to talk about why I ran for office, college crushes, and my two pending bills, the MELT Act & Non-Partisan Pulpit Act. You can listen now by [clicking here!](#)



Shine the Light

I joined neighbors at the Shine the Light protest, part of The Beacon initiative founded earlier this year by Rabbi Sharon Kleinbaum. Each Thursday evening, New Yorkers gather in their communities to stand together, share their concerns, and show support for the values of democracy and inclusion. What began as small neighborhood gatherings has steadily grown

across the city, building connections among neighbors and creating regular opportunities for civic engagement.



Roundabout Theater

Earlier this month, I was proud to join Roundabout Theatre Company at the groundbreaking for the next chapter of the Todd Haimes Theatre. Since 1965, Roundabout has been a cornerstone of New York's cultural life—spotlighting classics, nurturing new works, and investing in future theatre professionals. I was honored to help secure \$250,000 in state funding to support the renovation of the theatre's 6th floor as part of its Comprehensive Betterment Project. This new space will provide a more accessible, modernized home for meetings, hybrid events, and educational programming, while continuing to welcome the 150,000 theatregoers who visit annually. My thanks to Roundabout's leadership, staff, board, and our colleagues at the state and city level for their vision and dedication to ensuring the arts remain a vibrant, inclusive part of New York's future.



Photos: Marcus Middleton

Save Colbert

I grew up watching David Letterman. The Late Show is a New York institution! We are living in an autocracy, and our institutions are crumbling. The show was canceled just three days after Colbert called out CBS's parent company, Paramount, for its \$16M settlement with Trump. Stephen Colbert has been a fighter against Trump and his authoritarianism. CBS and Paramount should not be folding to Trump, and silencing fighters like Stephen Colbert. That's why I joined the solidarity rally, hosted by Progressive Change Campaign Committee, calling on CBS and Paramount to reverse the cancellation of The Late Show with Stephen Colbert. We delivered 200,000 petitions to the CBS/Paramount Headquarters. You can watch my remarks by clicking here for [Part I](#) and here for [Part II](#).



The Next Generation

I had the honor of returning to my alma mater Columbia SIPA. We discussed the housing crisis and the key supply side obstacles we must overcome. We discussed the skills I learned at Columbia, management experience, tactics, and the organizing necessary to make change with a positive social impact.



I had the opportunity to speak at the closing ceremony for the second annual Lawyers in Training program with NYC for Youth. Over the course of five weeks, thirty students had the chance to explore the Constitution, learn how to prepare cases, examine both criminal and civil law, and practice advocacy in front of some of New York's most respected jurists. These students will carry these skills with them into their careers and I will be proud to one day work alongside them! Thank you to Justice Kathleen Waterman-Marshall, Sean Farrow, Chief Judge Rowan Wilson, Justices Rosado, Michael, Adams, Perry-Bond, Tingling, Surrogate

Mella, Judges Rosenthal & Villasenor, and attorneys Canales, Frankola-Crawford & Fitzgerald!



As we head into the school year, my team and I pitched in to help students across the city start off strong at the Madison Square Garden back to school drive. We distributed hundreds of backpacks, hats, t-shirts, socks, pens and pencils to students to help them thrive in the classroom this fall. My team also collected and distributed around 100 backpacks full of

supplies to ensure our friends at Covenant House start the school year prepared to learn and grow.

For Your Awareness

1. LESS SCROLLING, MORE LEARNING. Starting this school year, all K-12 public schools across New York State are going distraction-free! Governor Hochul's new policy makes New York the largest state in the nation with a bell-to-bell restriction on cell phone use, and it's going to help our kids focus on the most important parts of school: getting a great education and making in-person connections with their peers. Schools have spent months preparing for the change, gathering feedback from teachers, students, parents, and experts to create policies that work for their communities. Learn more and find your district's plan by clicking [here](#).

2. Attention Adult Learners: I'm proud that our district is home to two exciting opportunities for adult learners, [CUNY Reconnect](#) and [SUNY Reconnect](#), that are expanding access to education in fields with high job demand. Through CUNY Reconnect, New Yorkers aged 25–55 who never finished college can return to their studies with tuition, fees, and books covered at CUNY community colleges, along with one-on-one support from a Navigator. Similarly, SUNY Reconnect makes it possible for eligible New Yorkers in the same age range to earn a tuition-free associate degree at SUNY community colleges in fields like nursing, cybersecurity, and engineering, with books and supplies included. I was proud to support funding for these programs in the State Budget, and I'm even prouder to know that students in our district, at places like FIT and SUNY Optometry, will directly benefit from these opportunities.

3. Complete the District Satisfaction Survey from the 34th Street Partnership! This survey helps gauge satisfaction with services and programs and will influence upcoming plans for programming. All respondents will be entered into a drawing to win \$100 gift cards for various district businesses. Click [here](#) to fill it out.

4. Apply for a West Side Community Fund Grant! Applications are open from August 20th to September 19th, 2025. The WSCF focus areas include food security, education, economic empowerment, community improvement, arts, and health and wellness. Learn more and apply by clicking [here](#).

Thank You!

Thank you so much for reading our Community Update! I hope you were able to learn something of value about our work in Albany and found some helpful information about happenings in our district. As always, my office and I are here to serve you so if you need any assistance with a state agency, unemployment benefits, tenant issues, or have an idea for new legislation, please email us at simonet@nyassembly.gov or call us at 212-807-7900.

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

In service,

Thank you!

Tony