

Recent Supreme Court Decisions

This year, the Supreme Court issued a series of decisions in cases that will impact the lives of millions of Americans. The court revoked the temporary protected status of 360,000 Americans who fled their war-torn, unstable countries of origin for a better life in America. These refugees contributed significantly to the cultural and economic fabric of our country, and I hope that Congress takes corrective action. The court also ruled against transgender youth by deciding that children's right to play sports is not protected by the Constitution. In a broader framing, they ruled that ensuring all children feel they belong is not a priority for our country. In an action that undercut our democratic ideals, they ruled that national political parties can coordinate with political campaigns while spending money on those elections. This further takes our elections out of the hands of the people and into the hands of special interest groups.

Penn Station Rebuild

The Penn Station of tomorrow is no longer in New Yorkers' hands. Last year, the Trump administration took over the project and installed global transit leader Andy "Train Daddy" Byford to lead the charge.

While I have the utmost respect for Mr. Byford, I am skeptical that he will be given the freedom to successfully redevelop Penn Station based on the past transit policies of the Trump Administration. But while the federal government takes over the station itself, New York must retain control of the surrounding neighborhood to focus on delivering the housing, investment, and improvements the long-ignored Penn area needs. I will continue to advocate for true through-running at Penn to bring our regional rail infrastructure into modern times and against any attempt by the federal government to seize land like block 780 south of the station.

As Governor Hochul emphasized, New York will now save over \$1 billion in state taxpayer funds that can instead be invested to build a thriving neighborhood that supports thousands of mixed-income housing units, green space, a new park, and 24/7 safety. This rare opportunity for lasting change cannot be wasted.

Legislation Passed in 2026

Combating ICE – MELT Act Passes!

One year ago, I introduced the Mandating End of Lawless Tactics (MELT) Act in response to the dangerous tactics being used by ICE and am proud that it is now law in New York State. The MELT Act (A8908/S8462) ensures greater transparency and accountability in law enforcement by prohibiting officers and agents at all levels from covering their faces, and officers must be clearly identifiable from their uniforms—through a name, badge number, or other visible marker while carrying out operations in New York.

After over a year of the Trump Administration escalating the use of secretive, unmarked, increasingly unaccountable forces, I wrote the MELT Act in coordination with law enforcement professionals and legal scholars to increase transparency and to stand up to constitutional muster.

Recently, the Trump Administration sued New York in an attempt to block the MELT Act, and we responded with a countersuit. Let me be clear: I wrote the MELT Act in coordination with law enforcement professionals and legal scholars to stand up to constitutional muster. We will win, and this case will set new precedent across the nation.

I applaud Governor Hochul and Attorney General James for standing up to the Trump Administration's attempt to undermine New York's authority to protect its residents. No one is above transparency, and no law enforcement officer, local, state, or federal, should be permitted to operate in the shadows while carrying out public duties.



Photo of Assemblymember Tony Simone being detained by federal officers while demanding to inspect ICE facilities, alongside other elected officials at 26 Federal Plaza



Photo of Assemblymember Simone, then Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine, then Comptroller Brad Lander, and Assemblymembers Jo Anne Simon and Grace Lee speaking at a press conference unveiling the MELT Act.

Legislation Passed in 2026

Expanding Access to Mental Health Care – History Made with Passage of PSYPACT

Since taking office, I have made reforming our mental health care system one of my top priorities. One major gap many people currently experience is that they cannot talk to their therapist when leaving the state. This affects students going to out of state colleges, those who travel for work, athletes, and seniors retiring to other states. These gaps in or loss of therapy have had tragic results.

A few years ago, I was introduced to the solution, PSYPACT, or the Psychological Interjurisdictional Compact. PSYPACT is an agreement between states to recognize psychological licenses across state lines. New York would be the 44th state to join PSYPACT. The problem was that New York has never entered an interstate compact regarding medical licenses in its history, and passing these bills has been viewed as impossible.

Thanks to my incredible legislative partner, State Senator James Skoufis, and powerful advocacy by the New York State Psychological Association, the Jake Collective, and even Super Bowl Champion AJ Brown, we passed PSYPACT (A6744/S7136) in both houses! The bill now awaits Governor Hochul’s signature, and if signed, will be a significant benefit to New Yorkers’ mental health and will save lives.



Prepared New York for the World Cup

I introduced the HOST (Hospitality and Open Space Transformation) Act (A10339/S9405) with State Senator James Skoufis to give cities, towns and small businesses all across the state the tools they needed to take advantage of the huge economic opportunity of the World Cup. While the bill did not come to a vote this year, the message we sent alongside local restaurant and bar owners was heard loud and clear by the state.

Governor Hochul unveiled a plan in April to support small businesses by establishing a World Cup One-Day Permit. This permit utilized existing State Liquor Authority processes to achieve the intent of the HOST Act, allowing license holders to establish contiguous outdoor space to host events during the World Cup. The World Cup One-Day Permit allowed service to be extended into contiguous unlicensed outdoor areas and bars and for TVs to be set up throughout the duration of the World Cup.



Freedom to Read Passes!

I introduced a bill (A9537/S8630) with State Senator Rachel May that will protect students’ intellectual freedom and ensure that small groups of extremists can not decide what everyone’s kids can or cannot read. While a similar version of our bill was vetoed by Governor Hochul last year, thanks to the strong support of teachers, librarians, LGBT and civil liberties advocates, we passed the bill in both houses in a bipartisan vote with wider margins than last year, and this time I am confident the Governor will sign the bill into law!



Legislation Passed in 2026

Improving Voter Education – Online Sample Ballots Passed!

A strong democracy requires an informed electorate. Too often, voters go to the polls and are confronted by choices they did not expect or fully research, such as ballot questions or judicial elections. This is why I, along with State Senator James Skoufis, passed legislation (A6741/S6253) that will require state and county boards of elections to post sample ballots online at least twelve days before the start of early voting. This will ensure that all voters have easy access to view the ballot in advance of voting and can make educated, thoughtful decisions.

Protecting Marine Ecosystems – Octopus Farming Ban Passes!

Last year, I was made aware of foreign companies planning to begin mass farming octopus through factory farms in our oceans. The practice of farming octopuses is highly inhumane due to their intelligence and importance to the ecosystem. Intensive factory farming would raise significant environmental concerns, lead to genetic pollution and lead to the decline of the wild octopus population. I am proud to have sponsored New York’s ban. The bill (A8043/S7421) passed both houses thanks to my fellow sponsor, State Senator Monica Martinez, and now awaits the Governor’s signature.

Community Update

Pride March

This June I celebrated Pride with DJ Vito Fun at the New York City Pride March. I want to give a huge thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate with us and made it such a great time.



Community Update



EASTER EGG HUNT

March 28th marked my second annual Easter egg hunt! Thank you to all who attended. Besides multiple egg hunts, we had a great time with other Easter-themed activities and a visit from the Easter bunny. If you missed our annual hunt, stay tuned for a bigger and better hunt next Easter! Thank you again to NYC Parks for allowing us to use Chelsea Green Park.



Assemblymember
Tony Simone

Community Office
214 West 29th Street, Suite 1401, New York, NY 10001
212-807-7900
SimoneT@nyassembly.gov

Legislative & Community Update
Summer 2026

214 West 29th Street, Suite 1401
New York, New York 10001

PRSRT STD.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ALBANY, NEW YORK
PERMIT NO. 75

Dear Neighbor,

I am happy to report that a significant amount of my priority legislation has passed both the Assembly and the State Senate in 2026. From ballot transparency to tackling the mental health crisis to protecting our trans youth and combatting ICE, these bills reflect the priorities I so often hear from my constituents. In this newsletter, you will find descriptions of these bills.

With ICE and the federal government's continued assault on our immigrant neighbors, you will read about landmark legislation I have passed to protect our freedoms and dignity, along with other initiatives I have been involved with to that effect.

My community office at 214 West 29th Street, Suite 1401, (212-807-7900, Simonet@nyassembly.gov) is here to help you in any way we can. Please contact us if you're having a problem with a government agency, your landlord, a utility, or if you have concerns about the neighborhood. If your block association or another group needs my assistance or would like me to come to a meeting, please contact my office. Finally, to help me legislate most effectively, it's important for me to hear from you, so never hesitate to voice your opinion on legislation.

Thank you! In service,

