

Around the Community



Assemblyman Braunstein delivered donations from his annual Veterans' Gift Drive to the NYS Veterans Home at St. Albans. Assemblyman Braunstein is pictured with veterans, as well as his staff and students and faculty from Benjamin N. Cardozo High School.



Congratulations to the winners of Assemblyman Braunstein's Halloween Essay and Drawing Contest. Assemblyman Braunstein is pictured (L-R) with Sabrina Xu of PS 203, Jessica Zhang of PS 115, Elicia Chau of PS 94, and Madelyn Brosi of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament School.



Assemblyman Braunstein attended the ribbon-cutting at Oakland Lake following its reconstruction.



Assemblyman Braunstein was the guest speaker at a Holocaust Survivors - Queens Chapter meeting. Assemblyman Braunstein is pictured with Whitestone resident Jehuda Evron.

Assemblyman Edward C. Braunstein

DISTRICT OFFICE: 213-33 39th Avenue, Suite 238 • Bayside, NY 11361 • 718-357-3588 • Fax: 718-357-5947
ALBANY OFFICE: Room 557 Legislative Office Building • Albany, NY 12248 • 518-455-5425 • Fax: 518-455-4648

EMAIL: braunsteine@assembly.state.ny.us

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Assemblyman Braunstein helps pass state budget that puts families first

“Governor Cuomo called the 2016-2017 budget ‘the best we have produced in decades,’ and I wholeheartedly agree,” said Assemblyman Braunstein. “The budget provides a historic increase in education funding, cuts middle-class taxes, raises the minimum wage, and provides paid family leave.”

“The budget is a bold step forward for the families of our state and paves the way for a brighter future for all New Yorkers,” said Assemblyman Braunstein. “Landmark accomplishments like paid family leave and a robust increase in the minimum wage will have a significant impact on families trying to make ends meet. This fair and fiscally responsible plan is what our state needs to move forward.”

Putting families first with paid family leave

“No New Yorker should have to choose between collecting a paycheck and taking care of a loved one,” said Assemblyman Braunstein. “Paid family leave will ensure that workers can take time off to care for a newborn or sick relative without having to sacrifice their financial security.”

The budget includes a paid family leave provision that, when

fully phased in, will afford employees 12 weeks of paid leave per year to care for a new child or family member in need. The policy will be implemented at a gradual rate, starting in 2018 with 8 weeks of paid leave, 10 weeks in 2019, and in 2021, employees will be able to take 12 weeks of paid leave at the full two-thirds of weekly pay. Workers will be eligible for the program after six months of employment.

Giving New Yorkers a raise

“Every New Yorker who puts in an honest day’s work deserves a livable wage,” said Assemblyman Braunstein. “The state budget recognizes this and increases the minimum wage to help lift working families out of poverty and give them a pathway to the middle class.”

In New York City, the minimum wage will increase to \$11 in 2017, followed by \$2 increases each year after, reaching \$15 an hour in 2019. For New York City businesses with 10 or fewer employees, the minimum wage will increase to \$10.50 in 2017, followed by \$1.50 increases each of the following years and reach \$15 in 2020.

Investing in our schools and our children

The budget increases education aid by \$1.47 billion for a total of \$24.7 billion, representing the largest investment in education in New York history and highlighting the Assembly’s commitment to helping all children achieve their full potential.

“We owe it to our children to provide a high-quality, comprehensive education that challenges and empowers them so that each and every student has the skills they need to succeed in college and build a secure life for themselves,” Assemblyman Braunstein said. “Putting our kids on the path to success starts in our schools. So this isn’t just an investment in education, it’s an investment in our communities, our economy and our future.”

The budget also tripled the funding for security grants to independent and religious schools and increased the reimbursement to these schools for costs incurred as a result of state mandated programs.

budget also provides an increase of \$18 million in operating funds for SUNY and \$12 million for CUNY.

Cutting taxes for middle-class families

In order to provide additional assistance to up to 6 million working and middle-income New Yorkers, the budget will cut personal income taxes by \$270 million in 2018 compared to 2017 tax rates. These tax savings will increase to approximately \$3 billion by 2025 when the middle-class tax rate reductions are fully phased in. The cuts would incrementally reduce the middle-class tax rates for single filers earning between \$13,000 and \$200,000, heads of households earning between \$19,500 and \$250,000, and married couples earning between \$26,000 and \$300,000.

Helping seniors

“Seniors have built their lives in our neighborhoods and played an integral role in helping them grow vibrant,” said Assemblyman Braunstein. “This year’s budget helps more elderly New Yorkers remain in their homes and continue to be a part of our communities and ensures they receive the best possible care.”

The budget restores \$951,000 for Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORCs) and provides an additional \$700,000. NORCs are communities with a large percentage of senior citizens who have aged in place. “Underfunding NORC programs would put some of our most vulnerable residents at risk. NORC assistance programs, such as the Samuel Field Y’s Clearview Assistance Program in Whitestone, Deepdale CARES in Little Neck, and NORC WOW in Glen Oaks, help seniors stay in their homes by providing vital support services, including health monitoring, case management and social activities.”

Assemblyman Braunstein’s Legislative Update

In 2015, Governor Cuomo signed four of Assemblyman Braunstein’s bills into law. Among these bills was legislation that regulates unsightly clothing bins. This law prohibits the placement of collection bins on public property, imposes maintenance requirements, and strengthens the disclosures that must be placed on bins on private property, including whether or not a bin is operated by a non-profit organization or a for-profit business.

“Fake charities are benefiting from the generous nature of our community by misleading people into believing that their donations are going to help those in need of assistance,” said Assemblyman Braunstein. “These bins are frequently placed on sidewalks and other public places, damaging the quality of life of our neighborhoods. This law will ensure that fake charities no longer benefit from their deceptive actions.”

Another bill signed into law banned the dangerous synthetic drug known as “N-Bomb.” N-Bomb first surfaced in 2013, accompanied by reports of overdoses throughout the country. This law bans key ingredients contained in the drug that mimic the hallucinogenic



effects of LSD. Some harrowing side effects of N-Bomb include seizures, psychotic episodes, loss of consciousness, and bleeding from the brain.

“Just as my 2011 legislation banning bath salts helped to prevent an epidemic in New York, this law permanently bans these dangerous chemicals before the problem becomes widespread in our State,” said Assemblyman Braunstein. “These dangerous substances are being marketed throughout

the country, and the result is the same as bath salts – damaging effects to the user and potentially dangerous consequences for our communities.”



Assemblyman Braunstein attended the Key Luck Club’s 4th Annual Chinese American Heritage Celebration at Bayside Senior Center, where he honored members for their lifetime achievements and contributions to the community.



Assemblyman Braunstein threw out the first pitch during Bayside Little League’s Opening Day ceremonies.



Assemblyman Braunstein collected generous donations for his Toy Drive and Veterans’ Gift Drive from PS 811 in Little Neck.

Strengthening NY’s higher education system & freezing tuition to help students

“A college degree should not be a luxury – it’s something every student in this state should have access to,” said Assemblyman Braunstein. “We strongly invested in our higher education system to ensure all New Yorkers have the chance to earn a college degree and the success that can come with it.”

The budget ensures that tuition at CUNY & SUNY schools will not be raised during the coming academic year because every New Yorker has the right to receive an affordable college education. The



Assemblyman Braunstein marched in the 35th Annual Korean Day Parade.



Assemblyman Braunstein delivered donations from our community’s 20th Annual Valentines for Vets Gift Drive to St. Albans VA Community Living Center. Assemblyman Braunstein is pictured with hospitalized veterans, as well as his staff and Benjamin N. Cardozo High School students and faculty.

Assemblyman Braunstein Provides Benefits Assistance for Seniors

Assemblyman Braunstein, in partnership with Services Now for Adult Persons, Inc., is offering benefits and entitlements counseling to persons 60 years of age and older, including help with EPIC, Food Stamps, HEAP, Medicaid, Medicare Part D, SCHE, and SCRIE.

Please call Assemblyman Braunstein’s office at 718-357-3588 if you would like to schedule an appointment with a case worker.

Dear Neighbor:

This newsletter highlights the actions I have been taking in our district and in Albany on behalf of our community. If you would like to sign up for my email list to receive more frequent updates, please email me at braunsteine@assembly.state.ny.us

As always, my office is available to assist you. If you are having trouble with state or local government issues, please do not hesitate to contact us. My staff and I are always here to help you obtain benefits, provide information on government programs, and develop legislative solutions to community problems.



*Edward C. Braunstein
Member of Assembly, 26th District*



Assemblyman
**Edward C.
Braunstein**
Reports to the People

SPRING 2016



128 donors participated in Assemblyman Braunstein's 3rd Annual Summer Blood Drive at the Bay Terrace Shopping Center.



Assemblyman Braunstein was honored with the Rose Kryzak Legislative Award at the Queens Interagency Council on Aging's (QICA) 45th Anniversary Celebration. Assemblyman Braunstein is pictured with QICA President Maria Cuadrado, and QICA Executive Director Bruce Cunningham.