



Assemblyman Clyde Vanel

Reports to the Community

Spring 2017



Dear Neighbor,

I would like to thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving as your representative in the New York State Assembly for what promises to be a productive and fruitful two years in the district and in Albany.

We recently passed the state budget in April. Throughout the budget process, I and my colleagues stood strong to make sure our state's families and communities were the top priority.

There is a lot of buzz in the community and in the news about proposed legislation and issues that we may face going forward. I have gotten phone calls and emails from you about issues from the Affordable Care Act to Raising the Age of criminal liability to voting rights. As always, I encourage you to continue reaching out to me with your thoughts and opinions. I have also attached a few questions in this newsletter so that I may be better informed of your wishes on topics that may be up for discussion in the upcoming months.

I also encourage you to join my mailing list for my electronic newsletter and follow me on social media for up-to-date information. Please join me around the 33rd district at my community meetings so that I can hear directly from you about what is working and what needs fixing in our community and in Albany. Together, we can continue to push forward on government reform and other critical issues to benefit all of us.

Sincerely

Clyde Vanel
Member of Assembly



WE WILL PROTECT HEALTH CARE IN NEW YORK

The United States House of Representatives voted to strip our nation's most vulnerable citizens of the basic protections that they have come to depend on under the Affordable Care Act. Their plan would raise premium costs for the elderly, allow discrimination against individuals with pre-existing conditions, and threaten the accessibility of the essential reproductive healthcare that millions of women, particularly low-income women depend on.

While many lawmakers in Washington try to fool Americans into believing this bill will offer millions of dollars in savings, the sad fact is that those savings will only be for millionaires. Their narrow victory represents a tremendous loss for New Yorkers and Americans alike, and we must continue to be outspoken advocates for our healthcare. We must now all call upon the United States Senate to do what is right for Americans and worry less about insurance companies and millionaires. Regardless of the outcome of this atrocious bill in the Senate, the New York State Assembly will continue to fight to protect the care that New Yorkers so desperately need and deserve.



Clyde with Senator Chuck Schumer at Clyde's inauguration ceremony.

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INVESTING IN OUR SCHOOLS AND OUR CHILDREN

The 2017-18 state budget increases education aid by \$1 billion for a total of \$25.7 billion, a 4.1 percent increase from last year's budget, reaffirming the Assembly Majority's unrelenting commitment to putting every student on their path to success. The budget also increases Foundation Aid by \$700 million for a total of \$17.2 billion.

The budget includes a \$50 million increase in Community Schools Aid for a total of \$150 million. This funding allows schools that deliver valuable services to both students and families, including offering critical support to at-risk children, strengthening neighborhoods, and preventing schools from being taken over by the state.

Additionally, the budget provides:

- \$817 million in total funding for prekindergarten programs;
- \$35 million for after-school programs;
- \$5 million to expand half-day and full-day prekindergarten for 3- and 4-year-olds in high-need districts.



Clyde with Haitian American Assembly members pass a resolution to memorialize victims of 2010 earthquake.

FREE COLLEGE TUITION

The opportunity to obtain a college degree will become reality for many low- and middle-income New Yorkers. Our state budget provides funding to establish the Excelsior Scholarship, a groundbreaking, first-of-its-kind initiative to make SUNY and CUNY schools tuition-free for New Yorkers who earn less than \$125,000 annually. Students who attend private colleges in New York and earn less than \$125,000 annually would also be eligible for a scholarship award of up to \$6,000.

The budget also includes \$100 million for SUNY and \$60 million for CUNY in capital funding for maintenance and expansion purposes. Further, the state budget allocates \$450 million for SUNY and \$225 million for CUNY for critical maintenance. To help students and their families meet the rising, non-tuition costs of college, the budget includes \$8 million to help SUNY and CUNY develop online educational resources to alleviate the high cost of textbooks.



CLYDE IS THE CHAIR OF INFRASTRUCTURE



Carl Heastie, the Speaker of the New York State Assembly, appointed me as the Chair of the Subcommittee on Infrastructure under the Corporations and Authorities Committee. We will focus on infrastructure matters across the state and in our community. Currently, we are reviewing broadband access and airport system capacity.

I also serve on the following committees: Banking, Children and Families, Corporations and Authorities, Election Law, and Small Business.



Clyde with constituents at his district office open house.



Clyde with Queens Assembly members.

RAISE THE AGE

Momentously, New York State has accomplished Raise the Age measures. In New York, young people that encounter the criminal justice system will be treated fairly and given a better chance to turn their lives around. New York will no longer be one of the only two states to prosecute 16- and 17-year-old nonviolent defendants as adults in criminal court.

VOTING RIGHTS

We are working on election and voting reform in New York State. We must ensure fair elections and we must make it easier for New Yorkers to register, vote and to vote early. I introduced the Bill A.7623 to provide "No Excuse" Absentee Ballot Voting. New Yorkers should have the right to vote by absentee ballot as of right.



ASSEMBLYMAN CLYDE VANEL'S COMMUNITY QUESTIONNAIRE

Please fill out and return to my district office. If you prefer to respond electronically, go to the "Important Links" tab on my Assembly web page at <http://nyassembly.gov/mem/Clyde-Vanel>

1. **How would you rate your local roads and bridges?**
(1-highest to 4-lowest) (Select one)

1 2 3 4

2. **Do you support Vanel's fight for early voting in New York?** (Select one)

Yes No

3. **Do you support increasing taxes on millionaires to pay for investments in education and infrastructure?** (Select one)

Yes No

4. **This November's ballot will ask whether we should convene a state constitutional convention. Do you...**
(Select one)

Support Oppose Unsure

5. **If you have any other comments/thoughts/suggestions, please add them here:**

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New York State Assembly • Albany, New York 12248



Assemblyman
**Clyde
Vanel**

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- We Will Protect Health Care in New York
- Investing in Our Schools and Our Children
- Free College Tuition
- Raise the Age
- Voting Rights
- Assemblyman Clyde Vanel's Community Questionnaire

