



Assemblymember  
**Robert C. Carroll**  
Assembly District 44

**Greetings:**

**MTA Advocacy & Survey Results:**

As I have said over and over again, the Governor, the Mayor, and the Legislature must work together so that New Yorkers get the quality MTA they deserve. In order to do that, we need a better funded MTA.

[New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli released a report this week about the financial outlook of the MTA, and in it, he very clearly sounds the alarm about the need for new funding for MTA improvements. If you're interested in reading the full report, click here.](#)

For the past month, I have been surveying my constituents both online at my website and at a subway stop near you to figure out the right avenue to pursue as a means of closing the MTA's budget gap. The survey lists a menu of funding ideas and asks constituents which options they like or don't like and which idea they think is best. So far, we've gathered almost 1000 different responses, thank you all for taking the time to participate. [If you haven't had a chance to take the survey already, you can do so here.](#)

Here are the ideas included on the survey:

**Millionaires Tax**

A millionaires tax would increase the city's highest income tax rate from 3.9 percent to 4.4 percent for married couples with incomes above \$1 million and individuals who make more than \$500,000. This would help pay for subway and bus upgrades and for reduced fares for low-income riders.

**Floating a Bond**

The Assembly can pass a bill so that voters of the State of New York can approve a general obligation bond to be floated by the State of New York for \$4.5 billion dollars. The state would then infuse the MTA Capital Budget with much needed funds so that the MTA can modernize signals and switches and modernize equipment. The bond would then become a debt of the State of New York and not the MTA and would have to be paid back by the tax payers. The idea is that the financial impact of a better transit system would help pay the bond back over time.

**Taxi/Ride Sharing Surcharge**

Currently, the state levies a 50 cent MTA surcharge on each yellow and green taxi ride. The surcharge can be increased to one dollar and this surcharge can be applied to black cars, Uber and other ride sharing applications. This would raise \$225 million - \$300 million in funding for the MTA. Extending the surcharge to e-hail services would be a first for the city.

**Congestion Pricing**

Congestion Pricing is a plan to raise hundreds of millions of dollars to support the transit infrastructure by charging drivers to enter the most congested parts of Manhattan during peak business hours by tolling the East River bridges and charging drivers to cross 60th Street in Manhattan. The plan would also include lowering tolls on bridges that do not enter the central business district. The idea is to use this funding to support the public transit that everyone uses, while also trying to discourage unnecessary car traffic in an already overcrowded part of the city.

**Efficiency Task Force**

The MTA is the most expensive transit system in the world. Peer cities like London and Paris have systems which are both old and dense, but keep operating costs lower. The Governor can convene a task force to find out why it costs so much to operate and root out waste and inefficiencies. This group can convene and be composed of experts who can independently make recommendations that can be acted on by the state government.

**Personal Income Tax**

The state can dedicate a small percentage of state personal income tax from counties served by the MTA towards the MTA's capital expenses.

**Vehicle-Miles-Traveled (VMT) Tax**

A VMT fee charges motorists based on their road usage measured in mileage. New technology may

combine GPS and E-ZPass-like hardware to record and transmit miles for periodic billing and payment. This is a new and more experimental idea being discussed in government so that those who use the roads will be asked to contribute more than those who do not.

### **Survey Results Snapshot:**

The results demonstrate a wide variety of opinions and I especially appreciated the thoughts that many of you shared in the comments section. The survey is structured on a scale from 1 to 5 for each option, with 5 being the most popular.

- 41% of surveys picked the Millionaires Tax as their favorite option.
- 22% selected the Efficiency Task Force as their favorite, followed by Congestion Pricing at 18%.
- 58% of respondents gave the Millionaires Tax a 5.
- 42% of respondents gave the Efficiency Task Force a 5.
- The least popular reform was the VMT, which only 3% marked as their favorite, and only 12% gave it a 5 out of 5.

My work in Albany will focus on the ideas that resonated the most with my constituents, [so please make your voice heard by filling out the survey.](#) Together we must create a mass transit system that is reflective of the great state and city that we live in.

### **Relief for the victims of Hurricane Maria:**

Thanks to the generosity of so many residents of the 44<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, I was able to deliver a large shipment of emergency supplies to my Assembly colleague, Felix Ortiz's office this week.



Assemblymember Ortiz has been a great leader in the relief effort for his native Puerto Rico, having sent multiple shipping containers over the past month. We are still collecting baby wipes, diapers, water, batteries, and feminine hygiene products at my office (416 7th Avenue) so please stop by between 9:30am-4:30pm Monday –Friday if you wish to donate.

[If you would like to make a monetary contribution to the relief effort - United for Puerto Rico is a great organization and you can donate here.](#)

### **Free Mammograms Today**

I joined with the American Italian Cancer Foundation, the New York State Department of Health Cancer Services Program, Multi-Diagnostic Services, and Heights & Hills to sponsor two mobile care clinics so that 40 women were able to get a no cost digital mammogram today at my office and at the Park Slope Center for Successful Aging.



Early detection of breast cancer saves lives, so I am very happy to offer this service to my constituents.

**Upcoming Services offered at my District Office:**

# FREE Flu Vaccine Event



*Sponsored by*  
Assemblymember  
**Robert Carroll**

**Saturday, November 18**  
**10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

**Assemblymember Carroll's District Office**  
416 7<sup>th</sup> Ave., Brooklyn, NY  
(between 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Streets in Park Slope)

We are working in partnership with SUNY Downstate Medical Center to administer FREE flu vaccines to constituents.



UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL SUNY  
**DOWNSTATE**  
CENTRAL BROOKLYN • BAY RIDGE

Quantities are limited so please call my District Office for an appointment **(718) 788-7221**.



For more information on this event or any other local or state issue, please contact **Assemblymember Robert Carroll (718) 788-7221**.

# MetroCard VAN



**Wednesday, November 29**

**9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

**Assemblymember Robert Carroll's District Office**

**416 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Brooklyn, New York**



**Appointments:** Walk-in

**Services:** Take care of all MetroCard business at the MetroCard Van. Apply for or refill a Reduced-Fare MetroCard, Regular MetroCard, or Unlimited MetroCard. Buy Pay-Per-Ride cards. Check the balance on expired MetroCards. And ask MetroCard-related questions. You will get prompt, attentive service, right in your own neighborhood.

**Seniors:** If you are 65 years of age or older, you can bring your application to the MetroCard Van with two valid IDs (*Driver's License, Medicare Card, or Birth Certificate, one of which must have a photograph of you*). Free photography services will be available.



For additional information on this event or any other local or state issue, please call Assemblymember Robert Carroll's District Office at **718-788-7221**.



## Upcoming Community Meetings & Events 11/18-11/25:

### **FREE Flu Vaccine Clinic Hosted by Assemblymember Robert Carroll**

44<sup>th</sup> Assembly District Office 416 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Saturday, November 18th

10am to 1pm

See attached flyer for additional information. Call 718-788-7221 for an appointment.

### **Park Slope Windsor Terrace Artists Open Studio Weekend**

Artist Studios throughout Park Slope and Windsor Terrace (a map can be downloaded and printed out [here](#).)

**Selected by the the [NY Times](#), as a Sunday to-do event!**

Saturday & Sunday, November 18th & 19th

Noon to 5pm

### **#GetOrganizedBK Community Forum W/Kings County District Attorney Eric Gonzalez**

Congregation Beth Elohim

274 Garfield Pl, Brooklyn, New York 11215

Monday, November 20th

6:30: Doors open

7:00: Q&A with DA Eric Gonzalez

8:00: Working group meetings

More information on the working groups can be found here: [getorganizedbk.org](http://getorganizedbk.org)

These meetings are free and open to the public.

### **CAMBA Community Advisory Board**

Park Slope Armory

1402 8th Avenue

Tuesday, November 21

6:30pm

RSVP to Rasheedah Boyd at 718 369 7226 x.90236

See you around the neighborhood,

Bobby

**P.S.** On Thanksgiving morning I will be participating in the Prospect Park Track Club's annual 5 mile Turkey Trot in Prospect Park! Wish me luck and say hello if you're running as well! I hope you have a Happy Thanksgiving and that you get some time to enjoy family and friends.

**Assemblymember Robert Carroll**

**416 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue**

**Brooklyn, NY 11215**

**(718) 788-7221**