

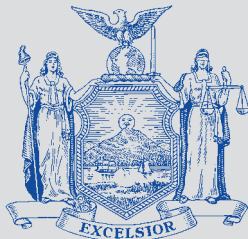


Assemblymember

Dan QUART

Reports to the
People

Spring 2012



2012 Budget

I was pleased to vote for an on-time budget that increases fiscal discipline in the state while maintaining the essential services that New Yorkers across the state count on. This budget continues last year's promise to increase spending on education and Medicaid by 4%, while not relying on one-shot gimmicks or borrowing to ensure a balanced budget.

Significantly, the budget includes \$770 million for the MTA's 5 year capital plan, ensuring the continuation of the construction of the Second Avenue Subway, a critical piece of transportation infrastructure for the East Side.

In addition, legislation passed as part of the budget established the New York Works Task Force, which will coordinate capital plans and spending across the multiple state agencies and authorities that currently share responsibility for large-scale projects. This focus on coordination will ensure that state funds are spent strategically, reducing inefficiencies while allocating funding for job creation that is critical to the state's economic growth.

All New Yorkers deserve a budget that balances the need for a strong social safety net with economic policies that encourage investment in business and job creation. I was proud to support a budget that accomplishes both of these goals, and will continue to fight in the State Assembly for common-sense legislation that improves the lives of my constituents.

Fighting to Protect Our Air Quality

The Upper East Side has the worst air quality in Manhattan, which is exacerbated by the construction of the Second Avenue Subway, currently the largest transportation construction project in the country. At the community's request, the MTA hired an independent firm to conduct a short-term air monitoring study between East 69th and East 89th streets. The study, conducted from September 12th to October 10th, 2011, concluded that there was no evidence of harmful levels of air particulates in and around the construction zone, and that the Second Avenue Subway project was not creating a danger to the public health.

However, several of the samples taken during different days of the study showed particulate levels beyond federal and state standards. The study could not conclude whether the elevated levels were a result of the construction project or the general poor air quality caused by the multitude of residential buildings with boilers burning #6 fuel. Clearly, whatever the source of the problem, our neighborhood has poor air quality that must be remedied.

Currently, there is no state regulatory requirement for monitoring air quality at the site of construction projects, including the Second Avenue Subway construction. This is a serious omission in state law that must be addressed. I have introduced legislation which requires the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to provide regular monitoring of air quality at and around the site of major mass transportation construction projects. This

Fighting to Protect Our Air Quality (continued on page 3)



Assemblymember Quart visits the NYU dental van he sponsored at PS 198.

Women's Health

Breast cancer annually takes the lives of 1,260 women in New York City, and yet, according to the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, nearly a quarter of women over the age of 40 have not had a recent mammogram. Screening mammography is an important preventive measure to identify potential cancers at the earliest stage and has been proven to increase life expectancy. To improve access to life-saving clinical breast exams for every woman throughout the city, I partnered with the American Italian Cancer Foundation's No-Cost Breast Cancer Screening Program mobile van. The mobile mammogram van travels throughout the five boroughs to conduct free examinations and spread breast cancer awareness.

The No-Cost Breast Cancer Screening Program provided free mammogram screenings to women on the East Side. We were able to offer no-charge mammograms and important educational information about breast self-examination. As your Assemblymember, I will continue partnering with health care organizations to provide preventive health care services to my constituents.



Assemblymember Quart speaks at a press conference commemorating the 39th anniversary of the pivotal Supreme Court decision, Roe v. Wade.

Supporting Reproductive Freedom

The 39th anniversary of the seminal Supreme Court decision, *Roe v. Wade*, is a milestone for women's rights. In New York State, a woman's right to choose is protected only by this federal decision; there is no legislation that affirmatively guarantees access to this critical component of women's health care. In a time of unprecedented assaults on women's freedom, I was proud to have marked this milestone at City Hall. Standing alongside Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney, a true leader in the expansion and preservation of women's rights, I confirmed my dedication to reproductive justice. I was honored to be joined by like-minded legislative leaders and strong advocates such as State Senator Thomas K. Duane; Assembly Member Aravella Simotas; City Council Member Jessica Lappin; Donna Lieberman, Executive Director of the New York Civil Liberties Union; and Fabiola Carrión, Director of Government Relations for Planned Parenthood of New York City. Together we spoke about our shared commitment to expanding women's rights and maintaining reproductive freedom.

I am disturbed by the national debate and the actions taken by many state legislatures limiting access to birth control and reproductive health care. It is my firm belief that reproductive health must be protected as a matter of human dignity and equality. In an effort to ensure that my constituents have the most up-to-date information about the status of reproductive health policy in New York State, I hosted a reproductive rights policy panel in April. Three panelists, Melissa Goodman from the New York Civil Liberties Union, Caitlin Borgmann from CUNY Law School and Dr. Mary Beth Morrissey from the Women's Bar Association discussed the current state of reproductive rights in New York, particularly the importance of passing the Reproductive Health Act. This legislation would move regulation of reproductive health policy into the public health law and out of the criminal code, protecting doctors from possible prosecution. I have co-sponsored this legislation and will fight in Albany to pass the Reproductive Health Act to ensure that the women of New York State have a guaranteed right to personal privacy and comprehensive health care.



Assemblymember Quart chats with seniors at Stanley Isaacs Neighborhood Center.

Fighting to Protect Our Air Quality (continued from page 1)

legislation would require that air quality samples be taken within the surrounding area of the Second Avenue Subway project and of similar large-scale projects in New York City. Additionally, the bill would require that the community be provided with accurate and timely information about the air quality within the construction zone. Poor air quality leads to a multitude of undesirable health outcomes that are unacceptable and I will continue to sponsor legislation that will improve both the environment of the district and the health of my constituents.

Cultural History at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and Park Avenue Armory

The Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Park Avenue Armory are cultural treasures of the Upper East Side.

The Met's extensive art collection, with pieces from every time period and region sets the museum apart as an unparalleled chronicler of art and history. I had the privilege of attending the opening of the New American Wing Galleries for Paintings, Sculpture, and Decorative Arts and saw firsthand how the community

could benefit from continued capital construction grants to the museum. Every year, millions of people from all over the world visit the Met and infuse much-needed money into our neighborhoods. For decades, the Met has represented a true economic engine for New York City.

In contrast, the Park Avenue Armory, which opened in 2007, focuses on the newest and most innovative contemporary art, curating lectures

and festivals, and providing artists with the resources they need to reach new, wider audiences. The Armory's building has been described by the New York City Landmarks Commission as "the single most important collection of 19th Century interiors to survive intact in one building," and the building's long history serves as a uniquely unconventional venue for large-scale art and media projects unlike any other in New York.

Children's Health

I recently partnered with New York University College of Dentistry's Smiling Faces, Going Places mobile dental van program. This program provides much-needed dental care to underserved children across the city. By making dental care easily accessible to the insured and free for the uninsured, the program champions the dental needs of children throughout New York City. In 2011, the mobile dental van treated over 2,500 patients at 55 different schools, day cares and community centers across the city. Each year, the van and the dental clinics treat over 333,000 patients, providing \$16 million in uncompensated care.

With the help of NYU's Dental School I was able to bring this very effective program to the students at P.S. 198 on 3rd Avenue between 95th and 96th Streets and the surrounding community. Every Wednesday the dental van was parked outside the school while students were screened for dental problems and received free cleanings. Students who needed to returned to the van for follow-up procedures including x-rays and simple extractions. During the evening, the van was open to the community at large, providing the same screenings and cleanings.

Dental care is a critical part of maintaining overall health. Smiling Faces Going Places ensures that every child has complete access to these preventive services and proactively deters common oral ailments like cavities and plaque. I am committed to ensuring that every child in my district enjoys access to this critical component of health care.



Assemblymember Quart in discussion with panelists (left to right) Dr. Mary Beth Morrissey, Caitlin Borgmann and Melissa Goodman.

Reading at Any Age

The Senior Center at the Stanley M. Isaacs Neighborhood Center is a home away from home to many seniors on the East Side. The Center hosts a lively weekly book club for seniors in the neighborhood. Unfortunately, many of the books in their library are unusable for many of the seniors because the print is too small.

Working with the New York Public Library, we were able to secure several Sony e-Reader Tablets for the book club. The e-Reader program provides greater access to many more titles, with font type that can be enlarged to a variety of sizes. Working with the New York Public Library, we hope to use this model as a pilot program for other senior centers throughout the city. The e-Reader program is critical in ensuring that age does not become an obstacle to reading.