



ASSEMBLYWOMAN

Latrice Monique Walker

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DEAR NEIGHBOR,

I can't believe it's been SIX MONTHS! As your State Assembly Member, my job is not just in Albany, my district office staff and I work on community issues and help people in the district on a wide range of problems.

At my new office located at 400 Rockaway Avenue, we are here and ready to serve YOU. If you have a problem with your landlord, a government agency, utility company, if your block association or other groups are in need of my help or would like to invite me to a meeting, or if there is any way we can be of assistance, please contact us at 718-498-8681.

I work for you full-time and year-round. I look forward to your comments and suggestions on legislative and community issues.

Sincerely,

Latrice Monique Walker
Assemblywoman 55th AD



Assemblywoman Walker on the chamber floor with colleagues.

END OF LEGISLATIVE YEAR NEWS ON EDUCATION AND HOUSING

Passing education reforms and funding for nonpublic schools

With the end of the legislative session now behind us, I am ready to get back to work in the district. In Albany, we were able to pass some really crucial legislation while having to negotiate on others with Gov. Cuomo and my colleagues in the senate. Some of the legislation passed addresses concerns of parents and teachers over testing and evaluations, and also increases funding to nonpublic schools (I invite you to my assembly website at <http://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/Latrice-Walker> for more details related to A.8323).

Under this compromise, parents and teachers were heard loud and clear. It's time to get the focus back on learning rather than testing. We had to make changes to our education system that will help our kids get the most out of their time in the classroom.

The legislation passed by the Assembly will help teachers better prepare students for certain standardized exams. The State Education Department will now be able to release significantly more past test questions and answers.

Improving teacher evaluations and student assessments

The Assembly's legislation would also improve teacher evaluations and student assessments by: creating a content review com-



Assemblywoman Walker supporting children at anti-bullying assembly.

mittee to review standardized tests for grades 3 through 8 in English language arts and math to ensure these tests are fair, accurate and appropriate; and taking into account factors such as poverty, English as a second language status, students with disabilities and prior academic history when measuring student growth under the new teacher evaluation system.

Investing in nonpublic schools and addressing the charter school cap

Education is a top priority, and we're always listening to those who are on the front lines – our parents and teachers – in an effort

to make improvements and do what's best for all students. The Assembly's legislation includes a significant investment in non-public schools. \$250 million will be used to reimburse private and parochial schools for the costs of performing mandated services.

In my district, all schools – public, private and charter schools – play a role in expanding educational choices for our families. We need to do all we can to make sure schools have the support they need to help our children get an outstanding education. The Assembly's legislation also adjusts the cap on charter schools, allowing both the State Education Department and State University of New York to issue 130 charters outside New York City and a total of 50 in New York City.

Rent regulations expired and what's next

Rent regulations expired June 15th. The State Assembly proposed really aggressive rent regulations that were not approved by the senate or governor. As it stands, we adopted a package of bills that include the extension of two key programs—rent regulations and the 421-a tax abatement program for developers—that affect the availability of affordable housing. Rent regulations were extended for four years and 421-a was extended provisionally for six months.

Rent Act of 2015:

- All rent control and rent stabilization laws are renewed for 4 years, until June 15, 2019.
- Vacancy decontrol limits will be increased by \$200, from \$2,500 to \$2,700.
- Penalties for landlord harassment of tenants have been increased by approximately \$1000 to better prevent renters from being pressured to leave their homes.
- This legislation also includes limits on vacancy bonuses to better preserve affordable housing units from deregulation when tenants move out.

New York City 421-A Program:

- This legislation extends the existing 421-a Program through December 31, 2015.
- This initiative gives labor and the real estate industry 6 months to reach an agreement on prevailing wage, and if not, the revised 421-a will not go into effect, and the program will be suspended.

Brooklyn Receives \$700 Million for a New Hospital!

I was proud to advocate for and vote on the Governor's budget to help secure \$700 million for a new hospital facility in Brooklyn. We amended the Public Health Law by adding a new section that will facilitate a health care transformation program specifically for Brooklyn. Under the amendment known as §2825-a, a program has been implemented that will provide capital funding in support of a project to replace an inefficient and outdated health care facility.

When applying for this funding, applicants should service communities whose residents are experiencing significant levels of health care disparities and health care needs as evidenced by: (I) a high number of Medicaid enrollees and uninsured individuals; (II) elevated blood lead level rates among children, high rates of diabetes, high blood pressure, asthma, obesity, infant death or premature birth, heart failure, behavioral health conditions, substance abuse; and (III) low levels of income, high rates of unemployment, distressed housing conditions, and poor nutritional status.

As a strong supporter and advocate for Brookdale Hospital and Medical Care Center, I believe this funding is designed just for Brookdale and will help provide a much needed upgrade to Brookdale's campus and medical equipment for transforming it into a comprehensive state of the art medical institution. Our community and this hospital deserve our support and this upgrade is long overdue.

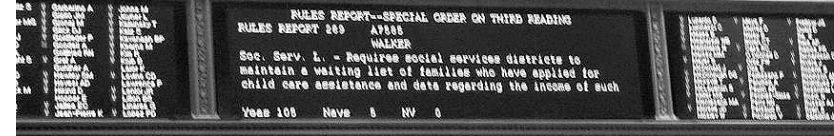
It is my mission to aggressively fight for you in the 55th Assembly District and I look to you for support and input in this endeavor.



Assemblywoman Walker at Brookdale Family Center Ribbon Cutting.



Assemblywoman Walker's bill passage.



You Sent Me to Albany to Legislate: Here Are Some Key Bills I've Sponsored

I am proud to have passed several pieces of very important legislation within my first six months!

- Bill A0945 I am so proud to say this bill passed the Assembly (130/0 Votes) which relates to the duties of the district attorney in cases in which the final disposition includes convictions of certain felonies.
- Bill A06948A directly relates to Brookdale Hospital and provides credits for certain New York City water charges related to water which evaporates in cooling towers and therefore has no impact on New York City's sewage system.
- Bill A07585 The purpose of this bill is to create mandatory waiting lists for subsidized child day care and establish reporting of income levels for families applying for child care subsidies.

Bringing Home \$1.6 Million Dollars in Just Six Months!

I was able to allocate \$1.6 Million Dollars towards Capital Improvement Projects as well as Priority Projects throughout the 55th Assembly District. We have an opportunity to allocate another \$1.5 Million in the months to come. I look to you for your input and suggestions. Please reach out to my office with your funding proposals.

Here's a quick list of where those dollars have been prioritized:

- \$500,000 to Expand Pediatric Dental Unit at BMS
- \$250,000 to Install Smart Boards at P.S./I.S. 178
- \$250,000 to Build a Media Library at P.S./M.S. 155
- \$175,000 to Install HVAC System at the Trey Whitfield School
- \$175,000 to Help Expand BedStuy Campaign Against Hunger's Food Pantry
- \$150,000 to Install Fire Safety and Security System at Brownsville Public Library



Residents from NYCHA's Van Dyke Houses visiting Albany for the weekend.

Your Voices Were Heard Loud and Clear With My Committee Assignments in Albany

I currently serve on the Assembly's Energy Committee, and was appointed by Assembly Speaker Carl E. Heastie to Chair the Assembly Subcommittee on Renewable Energy and will help lead efforts to address the growing renewable energy concerns and a strategy for the state. With increased housing development and home utility bills on the rise, we need to rethink New York's need for energy consumption. I am honored to have been chosen to lead the effort to work towards a sensible renewable energy strategy for New York.

With your help and advocacy, the Speaker appointed me to the Assembly's Child Care Workgroup. In keeping with the Assembly's long history of supporting affordable child care this Workgroup has made a commitment to address the child care crisis facing New York's working families, particularly working mothers. The members of the Workgroup address pressing issues facing constituents today like obstacles to finding and keeping meaningful employment due to the lack of consistent and affordable child care options.

Here's a list of my other Committee Assignments:

Housing: Responsible for legislation concerning housing development and preservation. Its purview includes rent regulation, as well as legislation that amends volumes of the New York Consolidated Laws such as; Multiple Dwelling Law; Multiple Residence Law; Private Housing Finance Law (which governs State programs like Mitchell-Lama); and Public Housing Law.

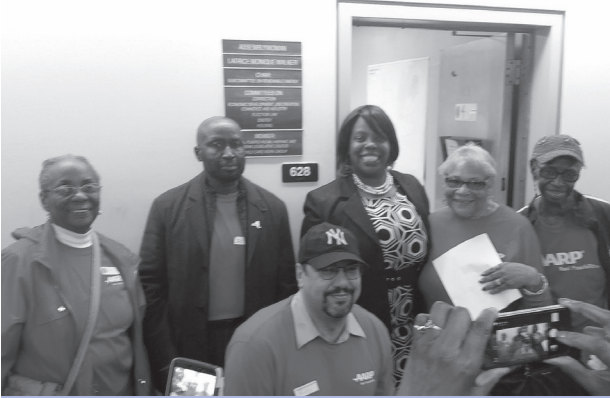
Energy: Jurisdiction over legislation relating to energy availability and sources, policy and planning, conservation, and electric, gas and steam rate-making in New York State.

Economic Development, Job Creation, Commerce and Industry: Responsible for legislation that affects economic development and business regulation throughout the State. Oversight of the State's various economic development agencies, authorities, and programs that play an important role in determining the State's overall economy. It's also responsible for the controlled sale of alcoholic beverages and the licensing, registration, and regulation of a broad spectrum of industries associated with its production, distribution, and sale.

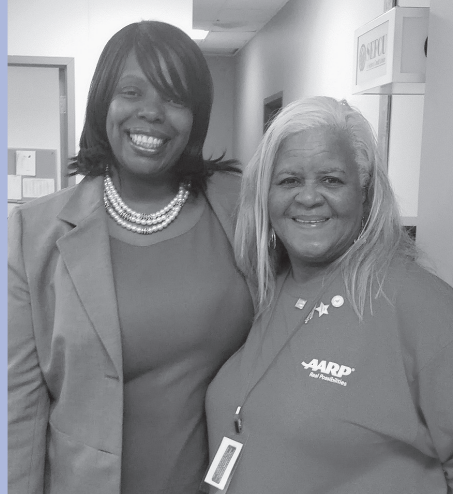
Election Law: Jurisdiction over all legislation that affects elections such as ballot access, voter registration and enrollment, voter education and outreach, campaign financing and related administrative procedures.

Correction: Jurisdiction over legislation affecting all aspects of the operations of both state and local correctional facilities, with 54 state correctional facilities and 62 local correctional systems, including all local jails and police lockups operated by municipalities across New York State. New York has approximately 53,000 inmates in state facilities and 27,370 inmates in local facilities.

We are Making Sure Seniors Stay Connected and Remain a Top Priority!



Brooklyn Members of AARP advocating on behalf of seniors in Albany.



While in Albany, the fight continued to make sure seniors received the funding and resources they deserve. Our seniors built the community and it's my job to help them get what is needed. I was proud to allocate funding resources for senior centers and Meals on Wheels, while working to expand the STAR tax credit so seniors can afford to stay in their homes. We were able to deliver and there is much more to come!

New York State Assembly • Albany, New York 12248

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*Reports to the
People*

SUMMER 2015

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