



Assemblymember Robert Carroll



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January 2023

Happy Holidays and Best Wishes for the New Year! I hope that 2022 ended on a positive note for all of you. For me, 2022 was a particularly special year. At the end of September, my wife Ginna and I welcomed our first child – Teddy Carroll – into the world, and I am feeling optimistic and ready for 2023.

For some of you living in Borough Park, Midwood, and Kensington, the 2022 redistricting means that you no longer live in the 44th Assembly District and this is the last newsletter you will be receiving from me. It has been my privilege to represent you in Albany, and I will continue to work hard to promote policies that work for all our neighborhoods.



Assemblymember Carroll with his wife, Ginna, and their newborn son, Teddy on Election Day.

Legislative Accomplishments in 2022

I was the prime sponsor of five pieces of legislation that passed both the Assembly and the State Senate.

Dyslexia Task Force legislation

My bill, A.2185-B, mandates the Commissioner of the State Education Department to create a task force of educators, doctors, researchers, parents, and advocates to examine and recommend the appropriate and evidence-based screening methods, curriculum changes and teacher training that should be implemented for all students in kindergarten through 5th grade with dyslexia and dysgraphia. Unfortunately, this bill was vetoed by the Governor on November 23, 2022. I plan to redouble my efforts and fight to pass this bill and more in the coming legislative session.

Flood Disclosure - “Right to Know”

My bill, A.7876-A, requires residential leases to include notice of the flood risk and flood history of a leased premises, as well as a notice to tenants of flood insurance available to renters. In the last ten years, there have been flood disaster declarations in every county in New York State and flooding events are also the most common climate-related hazard in New York. This commonsense legislation will help provide renters the information they need to make good decisions regarding flood risk to protect their property and families.

Voter Registration - “10 Day Deadline”

My bill, A.8858-A, will reduce the time required for boards of election to receive voter registration applications by mail from twenty-five days to ten days before an election consistent with the New York State Constitution. Voter registration applications received in person by boards of election ten days before an election will also be accepted.

“Wrong Church” legislation protecting voters from disenfranchisement

My bill, A.642-C, prevents voters from having their ballots invalidated simply because they mistakenly appeared at the wrong polling place, but in the correct county and correct Assembly District. In the 2020 General Election, 13,800 ballots, including 9,481 in New York City, were disqualified statewide simply because those affidavit ballots were cast at a poll site not assigned to the voter. The Governor signed this bill into law on December 6, 2022.

EPIC pharmaceutical benefits for seniors

My bill, A.928-A, ensures that seniors who receive benefits helping to cover the cost of prescription drugs through the State’s EPIC program, won’t lose these benefits because their income exceeds the eligibility threshold as a result of cost of living adjustments to their social security or public or private pensions.

Legislative Priorities for 2023

In 2022, I was proud to pass significant legislation protecting reproductive rights and promoting gun safety. As well as these accomplishments, in the 2022-23 State Budget approved in April, we authorized significant additional funding above prior year levels for education, childcare, emergency rental assistance, and home health care. We also authorized the \$4.2 billion Environmental Bond Act, which was approved by voters in the November election; this will allow for funding for climate mitigation, flood control, water quality improvements, and much needed habitat restoration and conservation. In the upcoming 2023-24 budget, we must once again ensure that our schools, parks, and hospitals are fully funded.

There is also much unfinished business when it comes to legislation. I am a co-sponsor of several bills that will be re-introduced this session. Legislation that will make our state fairer, stronger, and more resilient includes the Good Cause Eviction Act (A.5573) that will prevent tenants from being forced from their apartments when there are no lease violations, the One Fair Wage Act (A.10203) that will require tipped workers to be paid the standard minimum wage as their base wage with tips on top of that, the Fair Pay For Home Care Act (A.6329) will establish a minimum wage for those who care for our elderly at 150% of the regional minimum wage, and the New York Health Act (A.6058) which would create a single payer health system for New York State. I also believe that we need to revisit our current minimum wage law and see that it is indexed to inflation.

In terms of the environment, New York Renews – a coalition of over 300 organizations – is advocating a package of eight bills that will accelerate the State’s adaptation from fossil fuels to renewable energy while addressing issues around environmental justice and workforce transition. I am pleased that The Build Public Renewables Act (A.1466) for which I am the lead sponsor is one of the bills included.

Many of you have contacted me regarding the unacceptable level of traffic violations and crashes in the district. When it comes to street safety, I strongly support and am a co-sponsor of the Crash Victim Rights and Safety Act, a package of eight bills that will save lives by expanding safe street design initiatives, empower cities to reduce speed limits, improve driver education, and help ensure those injured in car crashes have access to police reports and the ability to file a victim impact statement.

In the area of criminal justice reform, we also have a long way to go. The cost to individuals, families, communities, and our society as whole of an unnecessarily punitive and racially discriminatory criminal justice system is well documented. The Eliminate Mandatory Minimums Act (A.9166) will put an end to mandatory minimum sentences, allowing judges to consider the individual factors in a case. The Second Look Act (A.8894) will authorize judges to review and reconsider excessive sentences, allowing incarcerated people to apply for a re-sentencing hearing after they have served 10 years or half of their sentence. The Earned Time Act (A.8462) will strengthen and expand “good time” and “merit time” laws to encourage rehabilitation and reduce recidivism. The Clean Slate Act (A.6399) would automatically seal the conviction records of individuals who have served their time, are not on probation or parole, and do not have other pending charges, giving them a better chance to obtain employment and turn their lives around. The Elder Parole bill (A.8855) provides that 55 year old inmates who have served at least 15 years of their sentence would have a chance to appeal for parole every two years. Fair and Timely Parole (A.4231) would require parole to be offered to incarcerated people who are eligible unless they pose a risk that cannot be handled by parole supervision.

There are several pieces of legislation for which I am the prime sponsor that I will be working to see passed in 2023. The Build Public Renewables Act (A.1466) remains of highest priority. As those of you following the bill know, it will put the force of State government more fully behind the fight against climate change by empowering the New York Power Authority to build, own, and operate renewable energy projects, and mandates all state-owned buildings to be powered by renewables by 2030 and municipally owned buildings by 2035. The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) passed this August by Congress helps strengthen the argument for the BPROA by including provisions for subsidies for renewable energy projects undertaken by government or non-profit entities. Previously, such subsidies were only available in the form of tax credits that went to private entities with tax liability, but the IRA levels the playing field.



Assemblymember Carroll with Bobbie Sackman, a member of the Fair Pay for Home Care coalition, at an event in Prospect Park.



Assemblymember Carroll speaking in support of his Dyslexia Task Force legislation on the day that it passed the Assembly.

Prime Sponsor Legislation: Highlights

My office is also working with advocates, experts, and members of the public on a range of new bills relating to literacy education, climate change, election reform, and criminal justice reform as well as a host of other topics. I look forward to sharing information on these as we move forward.

A few current bills that I am the prime sponsor of and will be re-introducing in 2023 that I would like to highlight include:

A.8356 requires the State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services to provide contingency management services, including financial incentives, for persons with addiction disorders. Research has demonstrated that such services are effective in helping people overcome drug addiction.

A.10533 calls on the State Department of Environmental Conservation to undertake a study on wildlife crossings on highways and thruways and the State DOT to study implementation costs and feasibility. This study is a necessary step to unlock federal funds that have been authorized for such crossings, which are an important element in preserving healthy ecosystems, preventing wildlife deaths, and reducing costly human-wildlife vehicular accidents.

A.934 would de-politicize and professionalize our courts by replacing the current practice of electing judges with a system of merit selection of judges for the State's major trial courts as well as surrogate's court, the New York city civil court, the New York city criminal court and the district court. In a similar vein, A.919 would eliminate Borough Public Administrators to the surrogate's court in New York City and replace them with a division within the NYC Corporation Counsel's office.

A.611 would initiate the process for a constitutional amendment to lower New York State's voting age to 16 and A.634 would amend the law to conform with this amendment as well as mandating civics education for high school students and making it easier for them to register. Sixteen and seventeen-year olds face many of the same issues and concerns as their slightly older peers with regards to the environment, healthcare, employment, education, and public safety and deserve the right to have a voice in our democratic institutions of government.

Please note that the bill numbers associated with legislation highlighted above will change when the bills are re-introduced in January.



Assemblymember Carroll at his BQE town hall with members of DOT, Community Board members, Councilmember Hanif and Councilmember Joseph.

BQE Traffic Detour Town Hall

In September, I hosted a town hall meeting at PS 130 in Kensington with NYC DOT to hear their presentation on the proposed BQE traffic detours in 2023. The conversation was informative and productive. To view the meeting in its entirety, please visit the Brooklyn Community Board 14 YouTube page.

It is clear from the meeting that the volume of traffic that DOT anticipates from this detour is inappropriate for East 5th Street and the already overburdened Caton Avenue. Community members and I acknowledge that these repairs on the BQE are essential and must happen quickly, but we have specifically asked DOT to look at multiple alternate routes to fairly distribute this traffic burden, as well as to provide traffic agents at East 5th Street, 20th Street, Caton Avenue, and any other area in Windsor Terrace, Kensington or Prospect Park South that will be impacted by these detours.

Community Events



Assemblymember Carroll and Councilmember Hanif at the street co-naming celebration for Little Bangladesh at Church and McDonald Avenues.



Assemblymember Carroll honoring the Newkirk Community Garden with a proclamation recognizing them as the greenest block in Brooklyn.

Community Events



Assemblymember Carroll getting his flu shot at his annual flu shot event with New York Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital in November.



Assemblymember Carroll with Councilmember Hanif and the Principal of PS 179, Bernel Connelly, cutting the ribbon on the school's new playground.



Assemblymember Carroll volunteering with the woodland restoration project with the Prospect Park Alliance.



Assemblymember Carroll at his annual mammogram screening event with the American-Italian Cancer Society.

New York State Assembly, Albany, New York 12248



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Legislative Session
in Review
January 2023

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Community Events



Assemblymember Carroll with family and friends of Aidan Seeger at the co-naming of a portion of Prospect Avenue in his honor. Aidan was a little boy who passed away much too young due to Adrenoleukodystrophy (ALD). His parents, Elissa and Bobby Seeger, through their advocacy have helped change the law in New York and across the country to ensure hospitals test for ALD.