



# Assemblymember Robert Carroll

## Legislative Update



District Office: 416 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11215 • 718-788-7221 • [carrollr@nyassembly.gov](mailto:carrollr@nyassembly.gov)  
Albany Office: Room 557 LOB, Albany, NY 12248 • 518-455-5377 • <https://nyassembly.gov/mem/Robert-C-Carroll/>

**Spring/Summer  
2025**

## My New Role as Chair of the Assembly Committee on Libraries and Education Technology

In January I was appointed the Chair of the New York State Assembly Standing Committee on Libraries and Education Technology. Libraries are among our most vital and democratic civic institutions and the 44th Assembly District is served by five wonderful Brooklyn Public Library branches and the magnificent Central Library at Grand Army Plaza. I am deeply committed to working with all stakeholders to ensure libraries throughout the State continue to thrive and especially excited to work with the library community in strengthening libraries' role in literacy education for children and adults and championing lifelong learning.



## Success in securing funding for Libraries in the Fiscal 2025-26 Enacted Budget

At a time when the federal government is cutting funds for libraries and cultural organizations, I am proud that New York State increased funding in the State's Enacted Fiscal 2025-26 Budget. Especially noteworthy is \$13.2 million for the Brooklyn Public Library for repairs and upgrades to branch libraries including roof repairs, enhancing patron experience through HVAC upgrades for elevators and accessibility upgrades. I also advocated strongly for and secured \$100,000 in operating funds for BPL's Center for Brooklyn History (formerly the Brooklyn Historical Society). In terms of Statewide funding for libraries the Enacted Budget includes \$44 million for Library Construction Costs and \$106 million for operating costs.



Assemblymember Carroll with State elected colleagues at the Brooklyn Public Library's legislative breakfast in January.

## TOUR OF THE NEW YORK STATE ARCHIVES

In May I organized a tour of the New York State Archives for members of the Assembly Committee on Libraries and Education. Guided by State Librarian Lauren Moore, we were taken through the state's extensive collection of natural specimens, shown some of New York's 20-million-piece archive, and the talking book and braille library. The current threat to our federal archives are a poignant reminder of the importance of protecting and supporting our State collections.



Dr. Robert Feranec, director of research and collections, showing Assemblymembers Carroll and Lunsford a lynx specimen from the State collection.



**CONTINUING MY WORK ON  
DYSLEXIA AND LITERACY**

I am pleased to announce that \$250,000 was included in this year’s State budget to jump-start a Center for Dyslexia and Dysgraphia within the State Education Department. The Center was a recommendation of the State Task Force on Dyslexia and Dysgraphia, and my bill A.2687, now in the Education Committee, would enshrine this Center in law.

The Library Literacy Education Guidance Act (A.5835) directs the State Librarian to provide guidance to public libraries throughout the State regarding evidence-based practices for teaching literacy. It builds on my work regarding the adoption of best practices for teaching literacy in schools. The FY 24-25 Enacted Budget incorporated elements of my Right to Read Bill (A.78) requiring the State Education Department (SED) to establish statewide standards for evidence-based and scientifically based instructional practices for the teaching of childhood literacy. A.5835 is intended to complement this initiative by promoting the awareness and use of evidence-based literacy practices and programming for both children



Assemblymember Carroll, with Assemblymember Simon, speaking at the 10th Annual Dyslexia advocacy day in Albany in May.

and adults in libraries throughout the State. This bill has passed the Assembly Committee on Libraries and Education Technology and I will continue to be pushing for it to move forward.

**PROTECTING LIBRARIES AGAINST CENSORSHIP**

Over the last four years the American Library Association and the organization PEN America have documented a surge nationwide in attempts to censor and/or ban books and materials in public, school, and academic libraries. There has also been the proliferation of state level bills nationwide that would expose librarians to criminal liability for their role in providing materials that certain individuals or groups find objectionable. Such bills even when unsuccessful can have a chilling effect, compromising the independence of libraries and librarians.

The Trump Administration’s actions to limit free speech, make it all the more important that New York State take measures to protect libraries from ideologically motivated interference. To this end, I have introduced two bills – A.7353, which is intended to allow librarians to perform their work according to widely accepted professional standards without fear of frivolous lawsuits and A.7568, to ensure school libraries have guidance regarding best practices for standards for the selection and curation of library material and criteria for the removal of existing school library material to help libraries combat censorship initiatives. This bill has passed the Assembly Committee on Libraries and Education Technology and I will continue to be pushing for it to move forward.

**EXPANDING MY LITERACY  
GRANTS TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
ACROSS DISTRICT 44**

In May I joined the principals and parent leadership teams from P.S.10, P.S. 39, and P.S. 130 to announce \$120,000 in state funding for structured literacy professional development. The funding was divided evenly between the three schools and will be used to provide Orton-Gillingham and other literacy training to teachers at these wonderful schools. This grant is an expansion upon my previous literacy grant allocation of \$140,000 to P.S. 107, P.S. 295, and P.S. 154.

Using evidence-based practices will help ensure that all our children can become fluent readers and successful students.

If you would like your child’s school to apply for a future literacy grant from my office, please reach out to your child’s principal and parent organization to see if they are interested.



Assemblymember Carroll presenting a ceremonial check to the principals and parent leadership teams from P.S. 10, P.S.39, and P.S. 130 to support the literacy curriculum at each school.



# Other State Budget Highlights

In early May, the Legislature approved the State’s \$254.3 billion budget for the 2025-26 Fiscal Year. The Enacted Budget contains critical investments that touch on every aspect of New Yorker’s lives.

**Housing:** The budget includes \$50 million to launch the Housing Access Voucher Program, rental assistance for individuals and families at risk of homelessness – a good start, although much more is needed.

**Childcare:** Robust funding of \$2.2 billion was allocated for childcare subsidies, including \$400 million to ensure that localities have the resources to keep childcare subsidy enrollment open and enhancement of the Empire Child Tax Credit by increasing the maximum credit to \$1,000 for children under four years old.



Assemblymember Carroll rallying with colleagues in Albany to fund childcare vouchers for low income families.

**Mental Health:** The budget includes critical mental health provisions, including \$8 million for Daniel’s Law inspired pilot programs, so communities can develop and implement behavioral health crisis response systems to respond to individuals in crisis.

**Protecting Medicaid, Medicare and SNAP from Federal Cuts:** The federal “reconciliation bill” promoted by the Trump Administration that passed the House of Representatives in mid-May, poses serious threats to New York’s safety net.

Over 7 million New Yorkers receive their health insurance through the federal Medicaid program, which is jointly funded by the Federal Government, New York State and New York City. In the recently Enacted State Fiscal 2025-26 Budget which totaled \$254.3 billion, \$104 billion was dedicated to Medicaid and Medicare, of which federal aid totals close to \$70 billion of that share.

According to the Governor’s Office the State stands to lose \$13.5 billion in federal funding and as many as 1.5 million New

Yorkers could lose their health insurance coverage, including both those on Medicaid and those receiving benefits through the Medicaid expansion provided by the Affordable Care Act (New York’s Essential Plan). I am also very concerned by the onerous work requirements this legislation would impose on Medicaid recipients; this will likely result in people who are fulfilling such requirements being denied Medicaid due to bureaucratic reasons rather than being ineligible.

The reconciliation bill also threatens the Supplemental Nutrition Application Program (SNAP), which three million New Yorkers rely on to buy food for themselves and their families.

In the months ahead, I will be working closely with my colleagues in government to protect New Yorkers from harm, should these and other misguided provisions make it into the final legislation passed by both the House and the Senate.

**Education:** The budget includes record funding of \$37.6 billion for schools statewide including \$26.4 billion in Foundation Aid, a \$1.4 billion increase from last year with at least a 2% increase for every school district. While New York City schools will see an increase in funding compared to last year, I am very concerned that changes in the Foundation Aid formula put New York City’s school children at a disadvantage compared to their upstate peers. With federal funding for education on the chopping block, New York must re-evaluate how to best meet the needs of our schools and reconsideration of the Foundation Aid formula may need to be part of this. The budget also includes the allocation of \$340 million for universal free breakfast and lunch for students statewide.

The budget also includes a “bell to bell” restriction of smartphones or other internet-enabled personal devices in K-12 schools across the state. This total restriction ensures schools are distraction-free zones where students can focus on learning and socializing with their classmates during class, lunch and study periods. Additionally, the budget includes \$13.5 million to support the purchase of storage devices to help implement the policies.

**Environmental Sustainability:** The budget includes \$1 billion for the Sustainable Futures Program to fund emissions reduction and other climate change mitigation projects across the state. The budget also continues the allocation of \$500 million to support New York’s clean water infrastructure programs under the Clean Water Infrastructure Act. Additionally, the budget includes \$425 million for the Environmental Protection Fund for environmental preservation and open space projects, an increase of \$25 million over the Governor’s proposal.

## Around the Community



Assemblymember Carroll presenting a Proclamation to the Windsor Terrace Food Coop, celebrating their 10-year anniversary!

Assemblymember Carroll with Bazah Roohi from the American Council of Minority Women and Kashif Hussain from the Public Advocate’s office marking the end of Ramadan on Coney Island Avenue.



Assemblymember Carroll at the opening of the P.S. 107 chicken coop with Principal Joanna Cohen, Kathy Park Price, and Ms. Allie, who built the coop and raised all five of their chickens from eggs.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

Sponsored by Assemblymember Carroll

## KIDS BOOK GIVEAWAY

Cortelyou Library at  
1305 Cortelyou Road



**TUESDAY, JUNE 17<sup>TH</sup>**  
**2:30PM - 4:30PM**

Jump-start your children’s summer reading with our kids book giveaway, sponsored by Assemblymember Robert Carroll. Cortelyou Library is partnering with the Brooklyn Book Bodega to provide free gently used children's books for all ages.

Drop off gently used children’s books at my **District Office at 416 7th Avenue from 9:30am-4:30pm**, Monday through Friday, from now until June 16th. Please only bring books you would want in your own home, so no torn books, books with scribbles, outdated books, or adult books.

## MTA MetroCard Van




**Thursday, July 31<sup>st</sup>**  
**from**  
**10am to 2pm**

416 7th Avenue between  
13th and 14th Streets

- *Get help with a Reduced-Fare application*
- *Add funds or Transfer MetroCard balances (Full fare and Reduced fare)*
- *Exchange a damaged Reduced-Fare MetroCard for a temporary replacement*
- *Report a lost/stolen Reduced-Fare MetroCard*
- *Ask the MTA about any MetroCard-related issues*
- *Ask about the OMNY Program*

New York State Assembly, Albany, New York 12248



Assemblymember  
**Robert  
Carroll**  
*Legislative Update*  
**Spring/Summer 2025**

PRSRT STD.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Albany, New York  
Permit No. 75

## Spring Clean and Green Recap

On Sunday May 4th, my office held our annual Spring Clean and Green event with great success. 250 people dropped off e-waste, we collected a mountain of textiles for recycling, and hundreds of people shredded paperwork with help from fabulous AARP volunteers. On top of that, 60 constituents upgraded to Real and Enhanced IDs at the DMV mobile unit. This event has become a spring tradition to connect constituents with City and State resources and help with spring cleaning. We’re grateful to Prospect Park, Brooklyn Book Bodega, City Sponge, AARP, DMV, DSNY and DEP for making this event possible.



Assemblymember Carroll with AARP volunteers at his Spring Clean and Green event. AARP provided the shredding services at the event allowing for hundreds of constituents to protect themselves against identity theft.