



Assemblymember Robert Carroll

Legislative Update



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Winter
2025/2026

Legislative and Budget Priorities

Preserving our safety net in the face of federal cuts.

The tax and spending bill (H.R.1) passed by Congress this July slashed funding for healthcare and food stamps putting millions of New Yorkers at risk and straining healthcare services. The legislature and Governor Hochul will need to find ways through the State's budget to mitigate the harm caused by federal cuts to safety net programs. This will require identifying additional broad-based revenue sources while strategically drawing on New York State's budget reserves to fill short-term budget gaps.



Assemblymember Carroll speaking at a rally with elected colleagues Senator Andrew Gounardes and Senator Jabari Brisport and advocates in support of fully funding SNAP benefits during the government shutdown.

Immigration

The legislature must also act to protect New York residents from the federal government's overreach using the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Agency to carry out a deportation agenda in an immoral and unconstitutional manner. The following three bills that I co-sponsor should be passed immediately:

The New York For All Act (A.3506/S.2235) would prohibit New York state and local government agencies, including police and sheriffs, from cooperating with ICE, disclosing sensitive information, and diverting personnel or other resources to further federal immigration enforcement.

The Dignity Not Detention Act (A.4181/S.316) would bar local jails from renting out cell space to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) for profit.

The Access to Representation Act (A.270/S.141) would establish a universal right to counsel for low-income New Yorkers who are subject to removal proceedings under federal immigration law.

Other Important Legislation

Below are some of the bills of which I am the author and prime sponsor:

Regulates Sports Betting (A.7962) seeks to reduce the harm caused by problem gambling on individuals and families by placing restrictions on sports betting and sports betting advertising.



Assemblymember Carroll with Aaron Eisenberg, UAW Region 9a Political Director on a picket line fighting for workers rights.

Free Speech Protection Act (Bill Number Pending)

prohibits state and local law enforcement agencies from providing information to the federal government about constitutionally protected activities such as peaceful protests and demonstrations. It will provide a check on warrantless and untargeted surveillance.

Green Infrastructure Tax Abatement (A.806) is intended to help home and apartment building owners with costs associated with projects they undertake on their property to reduce flooding. It would provide a partial property tax break in NYC for residential projects that reduce stormwater flows to the sewer system or surface such as rain gardens, planter boxes, and permeable pavement.

Solar Credit for Affordable Housing and Non-Profits (A.5959) builds on my previous legislation, which extended and strengthened tax incentive programs to encourage the installation of solar electric generating systems and energy storage systems in New York City. It would allow not-for-profit owned properties such as houses of worship and various affordable housing properties in New York City that already pay no or reduced property taxes to benefit from a direct-pay credit structured in accordance with the property-tax abatement available to other properties.

Regulating AI in Schools (A.9190) would prohibit the use of artificial intelligence in K-8 classrooms, except for diagnostic purposes or explicit instruction interventions. Schools should not only impart strong foundational skills but also foster critical thinking and social skills.

Safe Food Deliveries Act (A.70): This bill requires food delivery companies like Grubhub and Uber to carry no-fault

Legislative and Budget Priorities (continued)

insurance covering drivers who work for them; this will incentivize the companies to promote safe driving practices among those who work for them to keep insurance premiums down instead of prioritizing speed and volume of deliveries.

Electronics Repair Scores (A.3058) would help consumers make informed choices regarding the purchase of electronic products while also being an important step with regards to reducing electronic waste. It requires the State to develop a methodology for establishing a repairability scoring criteria from



Assemblymember Carroll with Linda Johnson, President and CEO of BPL reading “Dogs at Work” to a group of 1st Graders from P.S. 321 at the Park Slope Library. Assemblymember Carroll helped secure \$180,000 in the budget to purchase decodable readers for every public library in Brooklyn.

one to ten that manufacturers would use to rate their digital electronic products such as smart phones and appliances.

The New York City Arts Space Act (A.50) provides property tax incentives for the development of affordable arts space in New York City in buildings being converted from commercial to residential space under the Affordable Housing from Commercial Conversions tax incentive benefits program (the “AHCC Program”). Such space would be used by arts organizations for studio, rehearsal, performance space, or arts and cultural programming.

Right to Read Act (A.78) takes a comprehensive approach towards reforming early childhood literacy policy in the State. It would establish statewide standards for teaching literacy based on the science of reading / evidence-based curricula. The FY 24-25 Enacted Budget included Article VII language drawing on this bill but fell short of establishing the mandate to ensure best practices are implemented with fidelity.

New York Individuals with Dyslexia Education Act (NYIDEA) - (A.37) would overhaul how the State addresses the needs of children with dyslexia by creating statewide standards for dyslexia screening and interventions for K-5 students. It would ensure that the recommendations of the Dyslexia and Dysgraphia Task Force are implemented with fidelity.

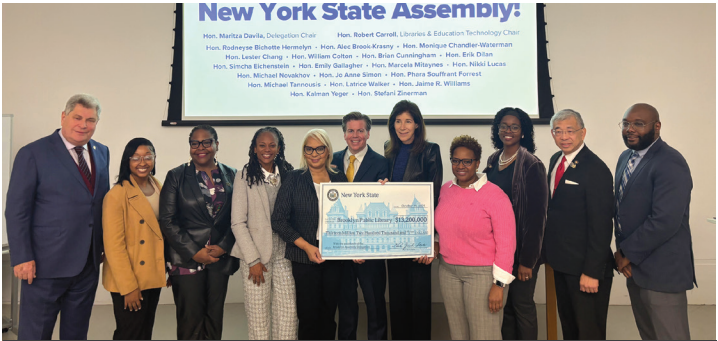
Medicaid Coverage for Dyslexia Diagnosis (A.2721) builds on my legislation that required private insurance to include neuropsychological exams by extending this coverage under Medicaid.

Working to Support our Libraries

In my first year as Chair of the Assembly’s Committee on Libraries and Education Technology, I am proud that the State provided a record \$106.3 million in operating aid and \$44 million in capital construction aid. I am particularly proud to have worked with my colleagues in the Brooklyn Delegation to secure an additional \$13.2 million for the Brooklyn Public Library for repairs and upgrades to branch libraries throughout the borough and \$180,000 for the Brooklyn Public Library to purchase decodable readers for every library in Brooklyn. Decodable readers are books that help new readers practice phonics. They use mostly words that match the letter-sound patterns students have already learned, so children can sound out the text, read successfully, and build confidence and fluency.

In October, I Chaired a public hearing of the Committee on the subject of “The Future of Libraries and Their Integration of Electronic Materials.” The Committee heard testimony from the New York State Librarian, the New York Association of Libraries, and representatives of library systems from across the state who delved into both the challenges and opportunities

facing libraries especially with regards to digital materials. I will continue to use my platform as Chair of the Committee to advocate for robust support for libraries in the State’s budget, but will also be working to develop legislation that will enable libraries to make their dollars go further.



Assemblymember Carroll with colleagues presenting a ceremonial check to the Brooklyn Public Library to fund capital improvements at branches across Brooklyn.



Assemblymember Carroll Chairing a public hearing of the Committee on Libraries and Education Technology in October.

Ongoing Work on Dyslexia and Literacy

In June of this year my legislation, A.2687, to establish the “Center for Dyslexia and Dysgraphia” – passed both the Assembly and Senate and was signed into law by the Governor in December. The new Center creates a framework for New York’s first statewide standards for screening, interventions, and teacher training to support the roughly one in five children estimated to struggle with dyslexia.

In addition to working to advance legislation related to literacy and dyslexia, I continue to advocate more broadly for the adoption of evidence-based practices in our schools that will ensure that all children have the opportunity to become fluent readers and successful students. This has included speaking at conferences and forums, writing op-eds, and releasing a video series, which you can watch by scanning the QR code on this page.



Watch the video series here



Assemblymember Carroll on a panel in Albany with SUNY New Paltz Visiting Senior Fellow, Kymyona Burk and former NFL player Deon Butler advocating for literacy education.

Supporting the Brooklyn Museum

I am incredibly proud to have led the push in the Assembly to secure \$10 million in the 2024-2025 State budget for the Brooklyn Museum. With the Trump administration cutting funding for arts and culture, these dollars are needed more than ever. The improvements funded through the State budget will not only enhance visitor experience but also help the Museum secure loans of artwork and donations of collections. I look forward to the Museum continuing to be a vital and dynamic place for Brooklynites from all walks of life for years to come. The current Monet and Venice exhibit is really incredible, and I encourage all to visit the museum and check it out!



Assemblymember Carroll with Assemblymember Zinerman and Senator Myrie presenting a \$10 million check from the State to the Brooklyn Museum’s Anne Pasternak to support the museum’s capital improvements. Photo by Matthew Carasella

Opposing ICE’s Lawless Behavior in New York City



Assemblymember Carroll speaking at a rally with advocates and colleagues about redistricting and calling on the Governor to cut off the power at 26 Federal Plaza.

In New York City, ICE has concentrated their activity around federal courthouses in Lower Manhattan targeting immigrants simply attempting to follow the legal process to resolve their cases. Apprehending and detaining people without judicial warrants or just cause is abduction by another name. At 26 Federal Plaza ICE has held people for extended periods of time in office space not meant for this purpose and a federal judge ordered the Trump Administration to remedy the conditions of people being detained there.

In August, I called on Governor Hochul to act within her authority pertaining to emergencies to shut down buildings where ICE’s illegal actions pose a threat to public health and safety. I am confident this can be done in a way that does not endanger anyone working at these buildings and that immigration hearings can simply proceed virtually.

In September, when myself and ten other elected officials asked to observe the conditions on the 10th floor of 26 Federal Plaza we were denied entry and when we refused to leave we were arrested. As I said to the New York Times, “If there is nothing to hide, why wouldn’t you let us observe?”

I believe elected officials like myself have the responsibility to oppose and seek to counteract the authoritarian behavior of the Trump Administration and will continue to do so through the range of actions available to me.

Assemblymember Carroll with colleagues and advocates at 26 Federal Plaza in the process of being arrested for civil disobedience opposes ICE's actions. Photo by Ken Schles



Celebrating Smiling Pizzeria



I had the pleasure and honor of celebrating Smiling Pizzeria’s 50th year in business by inducting them into the New York State Historic Business Preservation Registry. Three generations of the Zito family, who have been operating Smiling since 1975, were there to celebrate, along with neighbors and longtime customers. Park Slope is fortunate to have the Zitos and their Pizzeria.

Assemblymember Carroll with the owners of Smiling Pizzeria in Park Slope celebrating their 50th year anniversary.

New York State Assembly, Albany, New York 12248



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The MTA Mobile Sales Bus Is Coming!

Thursday, January 29th
10 am – 2 pm | 416 7th Avenue
(between 13th and 14th Streets)

Services offered:

- Apply for Reduced-Fare or get help with an application
- Get more information about OMNY and sign up
 - Transfer value from MetroCard (full-fare or Reduced-Fare) to an OMNY card
- Report a lost/stolen Reduced-Fare MetroCard
- Ask our team about any OMNY-related issues
 - Add money to your OMNY card