



ASSEMBLYWOMAN **Latrice Monique Walker**

Reports to the People • Spring 2022

Greetings to the 55th Assembly District Family. New York State passed a \$220 billion budget for '22-'23. Here are the numbers at a glance.



HOUSING:

The budget provides \$800 million for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP). The allocation is on top of the \$146 million the state recently got from the federal government.



EDUCATION:

- The state will provide \$375 million over the next three years for pre-K.
- NYC public schools will receive \$12 billion from the state budget, representing a 4% increase per student next school year.
- New York will provide \$100 million in state matching funds over the next two years for mental health treatment and academic recovery tied to the COVID-19 pandemic. That means the state will match funds spent by school districts to address the COVID-related mental health crisis among young people.
- The state budget boosts spending for the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) to help 75,000 more part-time students pay for college.

CHILD CARE:

The budget provides \$7 billion in early child care funding over the next four years. The eligibility requirements were expanded, meaning more families will have access to the subsidies. The expenditure does not include undocumented children.



GAS:

Lawmakers agreed to remove 16 cents per gallon in state gas taxes from June 1 through Dec. 31, creating an estimated \$585 million in total savings. New Yorkers would save \$2 for every 12-gallon fill-up.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

The budget will provide \$110 million in gun violence prevention, pretrial services, discovery reform and alternatives to incarceration.



HOME HEALTH CARE:

The state will give \$3/hr. in raises over two years to home health care workers. This falls woefully short of Assembly and Senate proposals that would have increased their minimum pay to \$22.50 an hour. Many of the workers – most are women of color from immigrant communities – struggle to make ends meet.



OTHER:

- Mayoral control was not part of the budget.
- Restaurants for the next three years will be allowed to sell wine and alcoholic drinks via takeout and delivery -- along with a food purchase.
- The state will spend \$600 million for a new Buffalo Bills stadium.



BAIL REFORM:

The budget includes rollbacks to bail reform. A person who is rearrested for theft can now be subject to cash bail, potentially lingering in jail pretrial because they can't afford bail. This move criminalizes poverty and will result in more Black and brown bodies held in dangerous jails like Rikers Island – possibly over turnstile jumping or stealing diapers.



The State of the District Address will be at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 26, 2022.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. It's at the Weeksville Heritage Center, 158 Buffalo Ave., Brooklyn, NY.

Seating is limited. Please RSVP by calling the district office at 718-342-1256.

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