



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

ASSEMBLY MEMBER

DANIEL O'DONNELL

Upper West Side • Morningside Heights • Manhattan Valley

WINTER 2019



DEAR NEIGHBOR,

In my 16 years representing you, I've only experienced a total 6 months with both houses aligned on policy. This year, thanks to you, that has all changed. It's just two weeks in and we've already passed landmark legislation drastically reforming our elections, civil rights, and more.

I entered this legislative session ready to continue fighting for equal rights for all. That's why the first bills I've introduced include: The Bail Elimination Act; Office of the Correctional Ombudsman; Repeal of Section 50a of the Civil Rights Law; Release of Grand Jury Charges to the Public; Millionaires Tax for the MTA; Elimination of Gay Panic Defense; Gender Neutral Single Stall Restrooms; Mandatory Capital Improvements Reforms; Sanctuary State for Immigrants; and Elimination of Commercial Tax Breaks on Vacant Storefronts.

Very truly yours,

FIGHTING FOR TRANSPARENCY

I've heard from many of you who are concerned regarding Amazon creating a headquarters in New York, and the deal that the Governor and our Mayor have made with them. Last year, when a letter circulated urging Amazon to come to New York, I did not sign — not because I don't want economic development for New York, but because the letter contained promises of giveaways to Amazon, such as affordable housing, instead of asking for investment in our city. Now that the details have come out, it's clear that this is a bad deal for New York.

The truth is, many of the jobs Amazon is claiming they will create are already being created without billions of dollars in taxpayer subsidies. Comptroller Tom DiNapoli released a report last year showing that "The City is currently undergoing the strongest job expansion on record, and the tech sector has contributed to this growth. It added 46,900 jobs between 2010 and 2016 to reach 128,600 jobs." Tech giants already exist here such as Google, which has hired 10,000 people in New York without massive subsidies. Amazon will likely result in lateral movement between these companies by poaching employees with salaries that we are bankrolling.

We are used to hearing of 3 men in a room deciding things for New Yorkers. Now we have 2 men who have made a backroom deal with a trillion dollar company — a deal that purposely circumvents any public input.

This deal includes no investment into our subways, no new affordable housing, no infrastructure repairs to NYCHA developments in Long Island City, and no entry level jobs for those that need them the most.

I oppose this plan, and am looking into ways to put New Yorkers first — such as mandating that such projects go through public review. I promise that I will lead the battle to make sure that we get the transparency and community benefits we deserve, because Amazon would be lucky to come here — not the other way around.

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LEGISLATIVE VICTORIES SO FAR

CIVIL RIGHTS

PASSED: The Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act

PASSED: Banning the use of Gay Conversion Therapy

PASSING THIS WEEK: The Reproductive Health Act

VOTING REFORMS

PASSED: Early Voting

PASSED: No-Excuse Absentee

PASSED: Consolidating Primary Elections

PASSED: Same Day Registration

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ASSEMBLY MEMBER

**DANIEL
O'DONNELL'S**

**Legislative Session
Update**

Daniel O'Donnell, Assembly Member, 69th District
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A wide-angle photograph of a city skyline at sunset or sunrise, with the sun low on the horizon. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue. In the center of the image, the official seal of the New York State Assembly is superimposed. The seal features two figures, one holding a scale and the other a sword, with the text 'ASSEMBLY STATE OF NEW YORK' around the perimeter.

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