

Dear Neighbors,

The legislative session is over! This year, we spent nearly all of session negotiating the budget, so we only had one week to pass legislation. It was frustrating. I've been talking to the media about the incredibly undemocratic budget process that led to the two-month budget delay (listen to [this interview](#) to learn more). In a nutshell, the problem stems from how the system is designed to give the Governor more negotiating power than the legislature.

This budget included both losses and wins. First, the losses: the Governor succeeded in rolling back aspects of our landmark climate law, the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA). Devastatingly, we failed to maintain healthcare coverage for nearly half a million New Yorkers on the Essential Plan after brutal federal budget cuts. For this to happen while NY's richest are receiving \$12 billion in annual tax cuts is unjust and unacceptable. We know taxing the rich could have prevented this, but the Governor was completely resistant. The fight continues.

Still, we secured important wins: My **Stop Super Speeders Act** (A2299) was included in the budget as an NYC-based pilot. It will require the most reckless and dangerous speeders to install an intelligent speed assistance device limiting their vehicle to only 5mph over the speed limit. You can read more about the details [here](#).

Alongside my socialist in office colleague Assemblymember Shrestha, we also **secured funding for New York's first Green Social Housing pilot in Ulster County**. This takes us one step closer to bringing beautiful, affordable, and high-quality social housing to all of New York State. You'll find more details about this exciting project below.

In addition to the budget, we passed some important bills, including the SUNNY Act and No Toxic Tents. More on those below.

Keep reading to learn about what else I've been up to this legislative session! As always, it's an honor to fight for a healthier, safer, more affordable, and more democratic New York. See you around District 50!

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emily Gallagher". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line drawn underneath the name.

Emily

More Wins from the Legislative Session

The **SUNNY Act** ([A9111-C/S8512-C](#)) legalizes plug-in solar panels by removing outdated regulatory barriers, expanding access to affordable clean energy for New Yorkers who have been

shut out of the rooftop solar market because they are renters, apartment-dwellers, or otherwise can't afford the upfront costs. These devices can be plugged right into normal household outlets and immediately go right towards offsetting your utility bill!

The **No Toxic Tents Act** ([A7875/S9704](#)) removes the requirement in NYS statute that tents include dangerously toxic fire retardant chemicals. I introduced this bill because New York was the only state that still required these outdated chemicals, which are known to cause a host of health complications. This bill's passing brings NYS into alignment with the rest of the country so manufacturers for the US market can finally shift away from using these dangerous chemicals.

The **Substance Use Disorder Bill of Rights** ([A2300-A/S5969-A](#)) requires all substance use treatment facilities to clearly communicate patients' rights, protecting them from abuse.

Newtown Creek Tributary, which runs north of Greenpoint between Brooklyn and Queens, will become a **Blue Highway** after our passage of [A10883/S9683](#)! **Blue Highways**, an NYC Economic Development Corporation program, shifts the transportation of goods from roadways to waterways, improving air quality and quality of life by reducing pollution and congestion. It was exciting to work with NYC-EDC and local stakeholders to bring one of the city's very first Blue Highway projects to District 50.



Social Housing Statewide Tour

I'm working hard to bolster support for my Social Housing bill ([A6265/S5674](#)) through statewide Visioning Sessions that directly engage tenants and local stakeholders. This bill would bring permanently affordable, beautifully designed social housing to New York. Passing a bill of this size and scope in Albany isn't easy, but travelling around our state and meeting with New Yorkers has been so inspiring and rewarding. Our latest stop was SUNY Purchase, where we heard from students and senior citizens about what they want from social housing. Community, access to transit, and walkability were big themes! Stay tuned for more Visioning Sessions to come.

Of course, imagining a better future is only half the battle, so I'm excited to share that we've also won financial support for our vision. With my colleague Assemblymember Shrestha, we've secured funding in the state budget for New York's first Green Social Housing pilot. The project will convert an existing building into thoughtfully designed, sustainable, and permanently affordable homes with rent capped at 25% of income. Residents will be able to put down real roots, with supportive services for low income households and democratic control over key decisions through an elected resident council. We are so excited, and this is just the start of 21st-century social housing in New York State. You can read more details [here](#).



District Happenings

Women of Distinction Awards

We recently celebrated our annual Women of Distinction Awards! This year, we proudly honored Paige Lipari, Suzanne Rogaleski, Perri Salka, and Emelyn Stuart for their exceptional contributions to our North Brooklyn community.



Transportation Updates

Last month, the DOT broke ground on the long-overdue McGuinness Boulevard redesign! The project is estimated to be complete within three months.

You may also have noticed that Driggs and Monitor across from PS 110 is now known as Matthew Jensen Way. Matt was a beloved teacher at PS110 tragically killed in a hit-and-run on McGuinness Boulevard in 2021. We are proud to memorialize his legacy of kindness and selflessness with this renaming.



Resources

Free Tenant Legal Support

We team up with Communities Resist to offer free tenant legal assistance in our office on Wednesdays twice a month! You can call (718-383-7474) or email (district50@nyassembly.gov) for an appointment.

Struggling with Student Loans?

The Education Debt Consumer Assistance Program (EDCAP) offers free, confidential counseling to help you manage repayment, reduce monthly costs, escape [default](#), stop collections, and explore forgiveness or other relief options. Get expert guidance. Services are always free and unbiased.

Learn more: edcapny.org | Call: 888-614-5004 | [Book an Appointment](#)

Concerned about health insurance coverage?

Community Health Advocates (CHA) is here for you!

On July 1, 450,000 New Yorkers will lose their health insurance coverage due to HR1 legislation. CHA answers their toll-free Helpline live (888-614-5400, option 3) Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Our office can also help you get in touch with them via email.

CHA can counsel consumers losing Essential Plan coverage about:

- Insurance eligibility and options
- Where to find low-cost care
- Resolving medical debt, and
- Their rights for seeking treatment in emergency situations