

# Assemblymember Harvey Epstein

Assembly District 74



## ALBANY OFFICE

Room 427 LOB, Albany, NY 12248  
Phone: (518) 455-5506  
EpsteinH@nyassembly.gov

## DISTRICT OFFICE

250 Broadway  
22nd Floor - Suite 2234  
New York, New York 10007  
Phone: (212) 979-9696

---

Dear Neighbor,

I hope you enjoyed the holidays and are ready for an exciting 2019. I am looking forward to working with my colleagues in the Senate and Assembly to pass critical legislation this year to make New York a truly progressive beacon.

Please reach out to me or my staff with any questions or concerns you might have in our community and around the state.

See you around the district,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harvey Epstein", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Harvey

---

### **Protecting Affordable Housing and Strengthening Rent Laws**

We must pass a strong package of tenant protections, including the package of housing bills I introduced last session, to close loopholes that have been used to weaken affordable housing across the State. I also would like to specifically address Major Capital Improvements. Owners of rent controlled and rent stabilized buildings may seek approval from Homes and Community Renewal (HCR) to make temporary and permanent increases to tenants' rents to cover the costs of building-wide improvements such as windows, boilers, roofs, and other items through a Major Capital Improvement (MCI) application. A rent stabilized tenant's rent can go up by 6% in any one year due to an MCI. Rent-controlled tenants could have their rents raised by up to 15% in the same time period. MCI increases can be in addition to any other rent increases, such as yearly increases set by a rent guidelines board. We must eliminate this abusive system.

### **Voting Reform**

The priority of cannabis legalization must be to deliver social justice to the communities that have historically been harmed by the racist and classist war on drugs. In Albany, I will be working alongside my colleagues to pass a bill that addresses past injustices through the funding of community development programs with revenue from a cannabis tax, the expungement of old cannabis-related convictions, and by designating a significant share of licenses to operate a cannabis business to Black and Latino entrepreneurs harmed by the criminal justice system. We must work to accomplish legalization that strongly protects the health of New Yorkers—especially our children. I look forward to hosting a forum on the legalization of marijuana so we can talk more about how to ensure our efforts are equitable and work to rectify past injustices. (A03506-C)

- Eliminate Cash Bail

Many individuals who are arrested are only allowed to be set free if they pay bail. Millions of low income New Yorkers have been forced to remain incarcerated because they are unable to pay to be released. The cash bail system is predatory and seeks to capitalize on low income New Yorkers - I look forward to eliminating cash bail throughout the state.

- End Solitary Confinement

For far too long we've allowed individual's mental health to deteriorate as a form of punishment. As we enter into a new session, I am committed to ending the inhumane practice of solitary confinement.

## **Education**

Mayoral Control is up this year. Although it is done throughout the country in different cities, New York's problem is unique as we have the largest public school system in the country. We need to be sure we review the plan thoroughly and come up with a solution that most benefits students throughout New York. We must return control to communities and parent leaders who have a deep knowledge of many of the problems as well as the needed solutions.

## **NYCHA Funding**

The Federal State and City government has underfunded NYCHA for decades and tenants have suffered. We must reverse that trend. Every New Yorker, no matter their income, has a right to a clean and safe place to call home. I am deeply committed to ensuring that the state start providing substantial resources for public housing.

## **L Train**

Earlier this month, Governor Cuomo announced the L Train will not be entirely shutdown. We need more information to be able to know what is the best decision for all those who ride or live along the L Train. In the long term, we must substantially fund the MTA by seriously considering a Millionaires Tax and as well as a modified congestion pricing plan.

If you would like to unsubscribe and stop receiving emails from this Assemblymember [click here](#) .