

Assemblymember  
**Harvey Epstein**

Assembly District 74



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Dear Neighbor,

I am pleased that many of the priorities for which I advocated are addressed in the proposal, though I believe some items should have received greater appropriations, including funding for students with disabilities and funding for our city's public housing, which is in a state of crisis. There is still work left to do and I hope in the upcoming negotiations I can work with you to advance our priorities.

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

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### **One House Budget**

I want to highlight that the Assembly's budget:

- Provides \$2 million to fund services for post-secondary students with disabilities in our state. Our proposed increase is the first in decades for these students
- Increases foundation aid funding by \$823 million over the Executive proposal for a total of \$1.16 billion for SY 2019-20
- Closes the Tuition Assistance Program gap with \$30 million for CUNY and SUNY
- Establishes higher tax rates on millionaires and billionaires to ensure our state has the revenue needed to fully fund the social programs on which millions of New Yorkers rely. In addition, the proposal creates a pied-a-terre tax for multi-millionaires who purchase second and third homes worth more than \$5 million

- Provides \$1.3 million to SUNY and \$1.2 million for CUNY for Child Care Centers
- Restores \$2.5 million in funding for the CUNY Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (ASAP)
- Provides an additional \$6 million over the executive proposal for Educational Opportunity Centers (EOCs), for a total of \$61 million, and provides \$30 million in capital funding
- Restores \$1 million to Advanced Technology Training Information Networking (ATTAIN) labs for a total of \$5.5 million
- Provides critical funding to community based organizations that prevent the foreclosure of New Yorkers' homes
- Provides \$400 million towards the state's public housing, including \$300 million for NYCHA capital repairs to help offset the disinvestment from Trump's Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Provides \$40 million for census outreach to ensure all residents of New York are counted so our state receives the correct amount of essential federal aid
- Includes a plan for congestion pricing that takes the issues of Lower Manhattan residents into consideration so we can fix the subway and make it accessible for people with disabilities
- Supports creating electronic poll-books and supports a low-donor matching system to get big money out of politics and streamline the voting process

As we enter into negotiations between both houses of the legislature and the Executive to reach a final budget, I will be working with my colleagues to push for agreements on important policies including:

- The adoption of a system for the regulation and sale of adult use recreational marijuana that delivers justice to low income and Black and Latinx New Yorkers harmed by prohibition by creating a community reinvestment grants program as proposed in The Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act
- The implementation of a fair system of congestion pricing that does not act as form of regressive taxation, and creates a dedicated funding stream for our ailing public transit system without unduly burdening New Yorkers who are forced to drive into the congestion zone for reasons of physical ability, to visit a doctor, or for other reasons out of their control
- A system of Mayoral Governance of the city's public schools that empowers parents and community leaders

I will work with community members to advance these priorities.

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