

Senator Persaud SPRING 2018 Newsletter



Dear Neighbor:

I am happy to report that after much lengthy negotiations the State Senate, Assembly and Governor reached a budget agreement in the amount of \$168.3 billion. Prior to the negotiations, I submitted a request for special funding for schools, senior centers, housing facilities and community programs/providers in District 19. Only one of my requests was honored. As your Senate representative in Albany, I will continue to fight for funding and better opportunities for residents and businesses in our community. The following contains brief highlights on some of the outstanding issues that affect our communities in the 2018 – 2019 Executive Budget.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roxanne".

New York State Senator
Roxanne J. Persaud
19th Senatorial District

Albany Office:
504 Legislative Office Bldg.
Albany, NY 12247
Phone: (518) 455-2788
Fax: (518) 426-6806

District Office:
1222 East 96th St.
Brooklyn, NY 11236
Phone: (718) 649-7653
Fax: (718) 649-7661

E-Mail: persaud@nysenate.gov • Website: persaud.nysenate.gov

SENIORS (Office of the Aging)

Allocations:

- \$2 million in Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORC) and Neighborhood NORC. This will allow NORC to provide services to aid participants, comprising of healthcare management planning, case support, benefit application assistance, linking residents with in-home and prevention services, healthcare screenings and other services.
- \$31.2 million for the Community Services for the Elderly program that supports personal care, home delivered meals, transportation, senior centers and other important services.
- \$100,000 for the Statewide Senior Action Council Patients' Rights Hotline.
- \$86,000 for the Foundation for Senior Citizens Home Sharing and Respite Program.
- \$250,000 for the Older Adult Technology Center.
- \$20 million in capital funding to aid in the establishment of 1,000 new assisted living program beds in underserved regions.
- \$7.8 million to keep the right of spousal refusal
- Secure Choice Savings Plan, The program, administered by a seven-member program board and chaired by the Commissioner of Taxation and Finance, will help New Yorkers to better organize and save for retirement. Proposed Secure Choice Savings Plan allows private-sector employers who do not extend workers a retirement plan, independent contractors and freelancer's payroll deductions up to the annual contribution limits for Roth IRAs. Employers "opt in" to the voluntary program - their employees are automatically registered unless they independently opt out. The program will give more New Yorkers a way to save for retirement.



PROTECTION FROM FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION

The Budget contains plans that assist in the prevention of elder exploitation - this incorporates an Elder Abuse Certification Program for Banks in New York State and authorizing Elder Abuse Certified Banks to place holds on bank accounts where deceptive activity is taking place.

HUMAN SERVICES

Rape Kit Storage Extension

- Extend the length of time sexual offense evidence collection kits are preserved from 30 days to 20 years, bringing justice to survivors. This extends the period ensuring that if a victim later would like to press charges they have the evidence to seek justice.

Combating Sexual Harassment

The Budget contains nation-leading, multifaceted legislation to battle sexual harassment in the workplace including:

- Requiring all state contractors to present a verification that they have a sexual harassment policy and that they have educated all of their employees.
- Prohibiting employers from using a mandatory adjudication stipulation in an employment contract relative to sexual harassment.

Opioid and Heroin Crisis

- \$2 million allocation to fund the Substance Abuse Prevention and Intervention Specialist (SAPIS) program in New York City through the Department of Education
- Opioid Stewardship Fund: The total opioid stewardship payment is \$100 million - Each manufacturer and distributor that sells or distributes opioids in New York will pay a portion of the total opioid payment amount based on the amount of opioids they sell into the New York Market. The money will be used to support a variety of opioid-related programs.
- \$1.5 million was allocated to institute a behavioral health ombudsman program to assist insured enrollees with coverage issues associated to mental health or substance use disorders.
- \$1.5 million was apportioned for diverse programs linked to substance use disorder treatment, prevention and recovery.

Liberty Defense Project

- The Liberty Defense Project is a State-led, public-private legal defense fund designed to safeguard all immigrants by offering access to high quality legal counsel regardless of their status. In collaboration with leading nonprofit legal service providers, the project provides free legal consultations and screenings, direct representation to immigrants in deportation proceedings as well as other cases, and help with filing immigration applications for naturalization, employment authorization, permanent residency, etc.

Homelessness

- A \$15 million homelessness pilot program was introduced to provide a rent supplement for New York City (residents) individuals and families on public assistance who are homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless. This program would provide shelter supplements up to 100 percent of federal fair market rent for four years
- The Budget included the launching of a Comprehensive Plan to Attack Homelessness – An increase was provided for Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Services for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness.

YOUTH

Expanding Employment Opportunities for Youth. Since

2012, the Urban Youth Jobs program has incentivized the employment of 45,000 young adults at nearly 1,700 businesses in areas of New York with high youth unemployment. This highly successful program, which connects youth with stable, well-paying jobs, was expanded in FY 2016, providing \$30 million for the original 13 targeted areas – including Albany, Brookhaven, Buffalo, Hempstead, Mount Vernon, New Rochelle, New York City, Rochester, Schenectady, Syracuse, Utica, White Plains, and Yonkers – and an additional \$20 million for young people across the State who live outside of those areas. The FY 2018 Budget extends this program with a \$50 million annual allocation over the next five years, through 2022, and formally changes the name to the New York Youth Jobs Program, recognizing the availability of this opportunity throughout the State.

EDUCATION

- Education Aid was increased by approximately \$1 billion (3.9 percent), to a record total of \$26.7 billion for the 2018-19 school year.
- \$25 million investment to increase prekindergarten and after school programs.
- \$118 million was authorized to maintain the successful Excelsior Scholarship.
- \$1.2 billion allocation for strategic programs to make college more affordable and encourage the best and brightest students to build their future in New York.
- School districts will be required to provide information on how they distribute funding to schools – This initiative will help increase transparency.
- No Student Goes Hungry Program receives additional funding to launch a comprehensive No Student Goes Hungry program with extensive proposals to offer students of all ages, backgrounds and financial situations, opportunity to acquire healthy, locally sourced meals to tackle child hunger. This program will enable the State to provide students in need with locally grown, quality meals, thereby helping increase the learning experience for children of all ages.
- Breakfast will available for students after the school day has begun.

HIGHER EDUCATION

The budget commits \$7.6 billion in state support for higher education including a \$23.8 million restoration for opportunity programs, an increase in base aid at SUNY and CUNY and \$1.2 billion for strategic programs to help students and families reach their higher education goals.

There is a restoration of \$200 million of critical maintenance for SUNY and a range of investments to support opportunity programs in both the SUNY and CUNY systems.

The final budget provides a community college base aid rate, which reflects a \$100 per student increase. CUNY's Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (ASAP) receives a \$2.5 million restoration and in an effort to support parents who are continuing their education and restores funding for childcare centers at SUNY and CUNY.

For SFY 2018-19 the Foster Youth College Success Initiative will receive \$6 million in state support as well as a new authorization for SUNY to provide supplemental housing and meals to those foster students who are not enrolled in an opportunity program.

The enacted budget includes \$60.04 million for the Educational Opportunity Centers (EOC); \$35 million for Bundy Aid; \$250,000 for the CUNY Pipeline at the Graduate

Center; and \$6.5 million for Advanced Technology Training and Information Networking (ATTAIN) Labs within SUNY. Other budget actions include funding for Graduate Diversity Fellowships; for Small Business Development Centers; for tele-counseling and mental health services at SUNY; and extending STEM to private and proprietary colleges.

In new initiatives, the enacted budget establishes the New York State Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program and commits \$1 million in support to provide an award of \$5,000 per year to certified teachers who meet required criteria in high needs school districts. A new directive would prohibit the state from refusing to approve a new professional license application or suspending an existing license, certificate or registration of individuals behind or in default of their student loans.

For the 2019 Academic year, the Excelsior Scholarship income eligibility threshold will increase to include New Yorkers with household incomes up to \$110,000 and will support an estimated 27,000 students.

PUBLIC HOUSING

New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA)

- New York City will receive a new \$250 million investment to NYCHA to deliver quality living conditions to tenants and implements new oversight measures by statute and executive order.
- NYCHA is authorized to use Design/Build legislation to speed up the construction time and reduce the costs of the expected retrofit and infrastructure improvements to NYCHA.

TAX & WORKFORCE TRAINING CREDIT

Enhancement of the Child and Dependent Care Credit

Families earning between \$60,000 and \$150,000 will receive assistance by offsetting the costs of child and dependent care. The Budget supplements the current New York State Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit and more than doubles the assistance for these families. This credit offers qualified households for the Federal Child and Dependent Care Credit the ability to obtain a percentage of the Federal credit on their State income taxes. The Budget expands the allowance by an average of 123 percent for tax filers with New York adjusted gross income (AGI) between \$50,000 and \$150,000. For a family with an income of \$70,000 and childcare costs of \$3,000, the expansion of this credit will lower out of pocket childcare expenses by \$240.

Expansion of the Workforce Training Credit

The current Employee Training Incentive Program (ETIP) credit was expanded to promote employer investment in the State's labor force. Under the latest initiative, incumbent Performance Profile Lower Tax Rates for Every New Yorker.

ENACTING THE MIDDLE-CLASS RECOVERY ACT

Reducing Taxes to Record Lows for Middle-Class New Yorkers

The Budget continues to lower Personal Income Tax rates for middle-class New Yorkers. With the middle-class tax cuts of 2012, rates were lowered from 6.85 percent to 6.45 percent for taxpayers in the \$40,000-\$150,000 income bracket, and to 6.65 percent in the \$150,000-\$300,000 income bracket. Under these new reforms, the rate will be lowered even further this year and will reach 5.5 percent and 6 percent respectively; when the cuts are fully phased in.

These new lower tax rates will save middle-class New Yorkers nearly \$6.6 billion in just the first four years, with annual savings reaching \$4.2 billion by 2025. As the new rates phase in, they will be the state's lowest middle-class tax rates

in more than 70 years. When the tax cuts begin, they will benefit 4.4 million filers, growing to 6 million filers when entirely phased in.

Brooklyn Queens Expressway

Design/Build Authorization

- Provides legislation allowing Design/Build to speed up the timeframe of the project and reduce costs.

PARKS:

There is a new State Park coming to Senate District 19.

I am happy to report that, included in the Budget was an initiative to transform the former Pennsylvania and Fountain Avenues landfills in Senate District 19, into a 407 – acre State Park. Once constructed the park will offer amenities and activities that include comfort stations, shade structures, environmental education, fishing, kayaking, hiking and biking.

QUALITY OF LIFE ISSUES

Soon the days of summer will bring us the opportunity to spend more time and have fun with family and friends. While we experience the wonderful amenities the warm weather brings, it is equally important that we pay attention to the quality of life issues in our communities. We should always be mindful and take care to ensure that our actions do not disturb, nor infringe on the daily lives of others. Let us work together to make this summer and District 19 wonderful for everyone by paying attention to these important factors:

- Sidewalks are for pedestrians only. Bicycles, scooters and other riding devices are not allowed on sidewalks.
- Do not block driveways or park in front of fire hydrants.
- Keep sidewalks clear from personal items, garbage, planters or grills
- Limit pet noises so they do not disturb your neighbors
- Keep televisions, stereos, musical instruments at a reasonable volume especially at night and in the early morning.
- Clean up after your dog
- Dogs in public must be on a leash no more than 6 feet long

To obtain more information from NYC DOT Bicycle **Safety Initiatives** please visit <http://www.nyc.gov/html/dot/html/bicyclists/biketips.shtml>

LEGISLATION HIGHLIGHT

Each year thousands of bills are introduced in the Senate to ensure that the needs of the constituents are met and that the laws keep up with the changing times. The following is a brief outline of one of the thirty bills I introduced during the 2017-2018 Legislative Session.

Bill Number S6929 - Cities with a population of million or more continue to experience rapid population growth, which has led to an affordable housing crisis in these metropolitan areas. As the value of real property (and accompanying taxes) has risen, senior homeowners (sixty-five years of age or older) have become very vulnerable to shifts in the housing market, especially with fixed incomes that are unable to absorb tax increases. In order to protect seniors from an increase in real property taxes, I introduced legislation in the State Senate that will defer the annual increase. The state would receive the difference in the annual increase, without interest until such time the home is sold or when the senior resident passes away.

Around the District and at the State Capitol



New York State Senate
Albany, NY 12247



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Roxanne J. Persaud SPRING 2018 Newsletter

PRSR1-STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
New York Senate

19th Senate District

District Office

1222 East 96th St.
Brooklyn, NY 11236
Phone: (718) 649-7653

Albany Office

504 Legislative Office Bldg.
Albany, NY 12247
Phone: (518) 455-2788

E-mail: Persaud@nysenate.gov

Web: Persaud.nysenate.gov

SENATE DISTRICT 19

EVENTS AT-A-GLANCE

JUNE

June 19th
Mobile Office
@ Brownsville Library
11:00 am – 2:00 pm
Agencies on site: NYCHA
& NYS Comptroller's Office

JULY

July 31st New York Legal
Assistance Group's
Mobile Legal Help Center
@ District Office.
Appointment only.

AUGUST

Aug. 9th SD-19 Fun Day
@ Canarise Park
11:00 am – 4:00 pm

August 22nd
New York Legal
Assistance Group's
Mobile Legal
Help Center
@ District Office.
Appointment only

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 6th
Senior Resource Day
@ District Office
11:00 am – 2:00 pm
Sept. 20th
Mobile Office
@ Arts East New York
11:00 am – 2:00 pm

Sept. 25th
New York Legal
Assistance Group's
Mobile Legal Help Center
@ District Office.
Appointment only

OCTOBER

To Be Announced
Harvest Festival
2:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Oct. 18th Free Mammograms
at Brookdale Hospital
& Med Ctr
9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Oct. 20th Free Mammograms
at Brookdale Hospital & Med Ctr
9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Oct. 23rd Mobile Office
Sheepshead Bay Library
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Oct. 25th Domestic
Violence Workshop
9:00 am – 11:30 am

Oct. 27th Halloween
Movie Day
12:00 pm – 2:30 pm

NOVEMBER

Nov. 15th Mobile Office
@ Brigham Park Co-Op
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

for an up to date list of events visit www.Persaud.NYSenate.gov