



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Kristen Gonzalez

# **Senator Kristen Gonzalez Secures Enhanced Empire Child Tax Credit, Funding for Affordable Housing, MTA modernization, and Public Schools in 2025-26 State Budget for Brooklyn**

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**ALBANY, NY** – With the passage of the 2025 Enacted New York State Budget Senator Kristen Gonzalez lauded the inclusion of several budget investments that will benefit residents of Brooklyn.

Senator Gonzalez advocated for and voted to secure an increased Empire State Child Tax Credit, which will benefit families with children under 4 (\$1,000 per child), \$50 million for the Housing Access Voucher Program to provide stable housing, and full funding for the \$68 billion dollar MTA Capital Plan, which will result in Midtown tunnel upgrades and Communications-Based Train Control (CBTC) modernization. Gonzalez also advocated for and voted in favor of increased funding for the City University of New York, New York City Public schools, and an increase of \$400 million for childcare access and \$110 million to build or renovate child care centers. The Governor also committed to working on a pathway to universal childcare.

The three county representative (Queens, Manhattan and Brooklyn) also advocated for investments in climate resilience and green energy including \$1 billion for the Sustain Futures program which will provide \$50 million for clean green schools, \$50 million for Empower Plus, and \$200 million for renewable energy projects. The funding will help the state transition to less expensive clean energy and advance the state's climate goals.

Additionally, Senator Gonzalez was able to secure \$2 million for a pilot program for a green affordable pre-electrification pilot (GAP) program. The "GAP Fund" will assist

owners and tenants in residential properties in curing structural and building code defects which render the properties ineligible for climate change adaptation and resiliency project grants.

The budget agreement also includes inflation refund checks, which will put \$2 billion back in the pockets of over 8 million New York taxpayers. Later this year, New York State will send direct payments to everyday New Yorkers. Joint tax filers with income up to \$150,000 will receive a \$400 check, and joint filers with income over \$150,000 but no greater than \$300,000 will receive a \$300 check. Single tax filers with income up to \$75,000 will receive a \$200 check, and single filers with incomes over \$75,000 but no greater than \$150,000 will receive a \$150 check.

**Senator Kristen Gonzalez, (D- Queens, Manhattan, Brooklyn) said,** “I’m proud to share that in many ways we were successful in doing that and that our NYC public schools will receive record funding, we are expanding child care access, and low-income New Yorkers will be eligible for inflation rebate checks. Our working class and immigrant families deserve a state budget that prioritizes their needs and provides relief to their wallets. This budget made some bold investments to address cost of living expenses and I will keep advocating for greater investments in future budgets to meet this political moment.”