



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Daniel L. Squadron

Email Update: Good, Bad, (Big) Ugly Albany

[Daniel L. Squadron](#)

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Dear Friend,

Budget season in Albany just wrapped up, and this year highlighted the impact that community members getting involved and speaking out can have.

The budget brought some **good**, some **bad**, and, unfortunately, a **(big) ugly**:

The Good:

- Together, **we stopped \$17 + million in proposed senior center funding cuts** with the help of nearly [900 community members](#), and we prevented funding gaps that could have forced some **Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORCs)** to close.
- New York now joins 48 other states with criminal justice systems that treat 16 and 17 year-olds more fairly, with big progress on **Raise the Age**.
- Funding for schools and social services is on the way, including: **hundreds of millions for NYC public education, funding for evidence-based maternal home visiting [Nurse Family Partnership](#)**(which pairs first-time moms with nurse home visitors), and **funding for Settlement Houses**, which provide crucial cradle to old-age services in our communities.

The Bad:

- My bill [Kalief's Law](#), which would fix New York's speedy trial crisis and restore **New Yorkers' right to a speedy trial, was blocked**. The push continues to fix parts of the system that breed injustice far too often.
- The budget **failed to allow design-build for the BQE** reconstruction, a failure that could add years to this difficult project.
- A **flawed 421a tax abatement for luxury housing**, with a provision that makes it easier to build [out-of-scale development at the LICH site](#) with tax abatements.

The (Big) Ugly:

- [Ethics, ethics, ethics](#)! Again, the Senate Majority **blocked real ethics reforms**, including my bill to close the **LLC Loophole**, which allows nearly unlimited, virtually anonymous corporate dollars to drown out the voice of everyday New Yorkers. Year after year, indictment after indictment, conviction after conviction, [the Senate Majority has refused to take action](#).
- The budget was again negotiated **without** appropriate **transparency** or opportunity for public **engagement** -- [a wacky, dysfunctional process all around](#), leaving seemingly billions of questions about the budget's billions.

Whether you're happy with what you're seeing coming out of Albany (and Washington), or, like many of us, concerned, I hope you'll join my annual [Community Convention](#) on Sunday, April 23rd to **make the state (and national) fight local**.

Don't forget to [RSVP](#), and please feel free to contact my office anytime at [212-298-5565](#), [718-875-1517](#), or squadron@nysenate.gov.

Best,

Daniel