



A MESSAGE FROM Senator **Brian Kavanaugh**



Dear Friends and Constituents:

I want to give you an update on some of the key issues I have been working on over the past several months.

The State budget we enacted in April reflects our priorities as New Yorkers. It includes big investments to address the housing affordability crisis, to take action on climate change, protect the environment, and ensure that other basic needs like education, childcare, and healthcare are well-funded and more affordable.

By the time the session wrapped up in June, we passed over 1000 bills, including legislation to prevent gun violence and keep our communities safe, promote housing stability and affordability, and protect reproductive rights.

With many New Yorkers experiencing growing concerns about crime and public safety, the continuing effects of COVID-19, and rising costs of just about everything, I know we have a lot more work to do. My staff and I will continue to do everything we can to serve the communities we represent and make New York a safe, affordable, fair, and livable place.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of assistance or if you have suggestions on ways that I, as your voice in Albany, can better represent you!

Senator Brian Kavanaugh



PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITIES FROM GUN VIOLENCE

Throughout my years in the legislature, I have made gun violence prevention a top priority. I led efforts to enact the **Secure Ammunition and Firearm Enforcement Act** in 2013, instituting **background checks on all gun sales, restricting assault weapons, requiring safe storage to keep guns from those prohibited from having them, and enhancing school security.** That legislation was the beginning of an ongoing push to make New York's laws among the strongest in the country - a process that has helped ensure that we have one of the lowest rates of gun deaths. We've since added other critical provisions like **our "red flag" law, which I wrote and passed in 2019 with Assemblymember Jo Anne Simon, to keep guns away from people who are a danger to themselves or to public safety.**

The recent mass shootings in Buffalo, Uvalde, and Highland Park and the news of day-to-day gun violence in so many of our communities remind us that our country has not done nearly enough to stop gun violence. Complicating our efforts here in New York, on June 23, the U.S. Supreme Court, in a case called *Bruen*, struck down part of

our gun permit law. Notwithstanding these challenges, we know that effective action against gun violence at the state and local level saves lives. **I worked with Governor Kathy Hochul and my colleagues in both houses of the legislature. I proudly led the Senate debate and successfully enacted our response to the Bruen decision on July 1, just 8 days after the ruling.** I'll continue to do everything I can to protect New Yorkers by enacting the strongest possible laws and working with law enforcement and our communities to implement them. We also must continue to demand that the gun industry and its allies in Congress stop blocking action at the national level.

Here's what we did this session to keep New Yorkers safe:

- In response to the Supreme Court's *Bruen* ruling, we enacted new training and background check requirements, and banned guns from sensitive places, and from private property without the owner's consent. (S51001)
- Added provisions based on a bill I introduced to authorize State Police to conduct background checks on gun and ammunition sales, augmenting less thorough federal checks. (S51001)
- Required a permit to buy a semi-automatic rifle, limited to those over 21. (S9458)
- Enacted my bill to create new rules for gun dealers to prevent guns from being sold illegally, lost, or stolen and required microstamping on new guns to help solve violent crimes. (S4970A, S4116)
- Cracked down on shooting threats against schools, places of worship, businesses, and public buildings; and required social media sites to address threats of violence. (S0089B, S4511A)
- Passed my bill to ban the sale of body armor, which has become more common in mass shootings in recent years, including recently in Buffalo, except for law enforcement, security jobs, or other positions that require it. (S9407B, S51001)



PROTECTING REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS AND EQUALITY

In response to the Supreme Court's decision to eliminate the right to an abortion under the U.S. Constitution, we advanced the first passage of an amendment to our State Constitution that will guarantee reproductive rights in New York. The amendment will also update the existing Equal Rights Amendment to extend current protections to several new classes, including prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex, disability, national origin, ethnicity, and age. For the constitutional amendment to take effect, the process requires second passage of the resolution next term,



and approval by the voters of the state. We also passed legislation to protect those who may travel to New York seeking safe and legal reproductive care from states that have taken away their reproductive rights and new protections for abortion providers. These measures continue the Senate Majority's work to expand New Yorkers' reproductive rights, including the Reproductive Health Act and the Comprehensive Contraception Coverage Act, both enacted in the last legislative term.



ADDRESSING THE HOUSING AFFORDABILITY CRISIS

Housing shortage and affordability are top concerns for New Yorkers. As the Chair of the Senate Housing Committee, I worked hard to ensure that for the second year in a row, we included enormous new housing investments in the State budget, to mitigate the hardships New Yorkers endured during the COVID-19 pandemic, and to move our state toward ensuring that no New Yorker is denied the right to a secure, stable, affordable home. We allocated a total

of \$8 billion, including \$5.5 billion in capital investments and \$2.5 billion in other expenditures for housing and related services, to benefit renters, homeowners, and homeless New Yorkers. These direct investments will be supplemented by State and Federal tax credits that also subsidize affordable housing.

Here are some highlights of the \$8 billion housing budget:

- \$1.5 billion capital and operating subsidies for the development and preservation of supportive housing;
- \$1.3 billion for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program and related programs to cover rent and utility arrears New Yorkers were unable to pay due to COVID-19 hardships, adding to the \$2.9 billion provided last year;
- \$350 million for New York City Housing Authority capital repairs and renovation;
- \$300 million for the development and rehabilitation of affordable senior rental housing;
- \$120 million in capital subsidies for Mitchell-Lama preservation;
- \$35 million for the Homeowner Protection Program to prevent homeowners from losing their homes through foreclosure, including increased funding to respond to heightened demand for these services due to COVID-19;
- \$2 million to support investigations of housing discrimination and improve education and outreach efforts on fair housing, a priority of the Senate since the investigation and report the Housing Committee issued last year.

Other housing initiatives include:

Providing Front-Line Housing Services in Chinatown, the Lower East Side, Carroll Gardens, Columbia Waterfront, Greenpoint, and Williamsburg: The Neighborhood Preservation Program supports great local organizations that work to ensure everyone has access to safe, healthy, and affordable housing, including Asian Americans for Equality, Carroll Gardens Association, Cooper Square Committee, Good Old Lower East Side, Lower East Side Coalition Housing Development, Mobilization for Justice, North Brooklyn Development Corp, Southside United / Los Sures, St. Nicks Alliance, and United Jewish Council of the East Side.



Protecting Housing Stability in SoHo and NoHo: In partnership with Assemblymember Deborah Glick, I passed legislation to extend housing stability to residents of Joint Live Work Quarters for Artists, a special type of housing that permits the residential use of commercial and manufacturing loft spaces in SoHo and NoHo. As of this writing, the bill is on the Governor's desk and I expect that she will sign it.

Freezing Rents for Lower-Income Renters in Former Mitchell-Lama Buildings: I also worked closely with Assemblymember Glick to pass legislation to expand the "SCRIE" and "DRIE" programs that freeze the rents of lower-income seniors and those with disabilities to include residents of former Mitchell-Lama buildings like Independence Plaza North in Lower Manhattan. Eligible renters would have their rent frozen at the amount they were paying in May 2022.



Promoting Affordability and a Strong Voice for Residents in Battery Park City: I authored and passed legislation that will allow residents of Battery Park City to benefit from programs that provide rent freezes (SCRIE and DRIE) and discounts in property taxes ("SCHE" and "DHE") that are already available to lower-income seniors and disabled New Yorkers in other parts of the city. In addition, to help promote the long-term stability of the community, the bill would extend the "master lease" between the Battery Park City Authority and the City for 50 additional years, to the year 2119. A separate bill I also authored would require a majority of the Authority's board to be primary residents of Battery Park City. These bills passed both houses of the legislature and now await the Governor's review.



Converting Hotels to Permanent Housing: I wrote legislation that we enacted in June to make it easier, cheaper, and faster for the State and the City to convert underutilized hotels into affordable permanent housing. We also included \$200 million in the State budget to help pay for conversions, which will be an important new source of permanent housing and represents a better choice than using more and more hotels for temporary shelter.

SUPPORTING LOCAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

I successfully advocated for direct funding for the following local organizations, which provide important services for our communities, to be included in the State budget: Arab American Family Support Center, Asian Americans for Equality, BioBus, Chinatown YMCA, City Growers, CPC Open Door Senior Center, Dancing Classrooms, Educational Alliance, Girl Be Heard Institute, Good Old Lower East Side, Grand Street Settlement, Greenpoint YMCA, Greenwich House Independence Plaza Senior Center, Hamilton-Madison House, Henry Street Settlement, Legal Aid Society of NYC, Lower East Side Girls Club, New York Legal Assistance Group, New Yorkers Against Gun Violence, Southbridge Senior Center, St. Nick's Alliance, UA3, University Settlement, and Vision Urbana.

PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT AND ACTING TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE

We took steps this year to deliver on the promise of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, the best-in-the-nation legislation I was proud to co-sponsor in 2019 to dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In addition to substantial funding included in the State budget, we passed the Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act. If the Bond Act is approved by the voters on Election Day this November, it will provide \$4.2 billion to invest in safe and reliable water infrastructure, restore critical habitats, reduce flood risks, preserve outdoor spaces, invest in climate change mitigation and adaptation to reduce air pollution, lower carbon emissions, and make our communities more resilient to the threat of severe weather events and flooding. We also increased the Environmental Protection Fund by a third, to \$400 million, to support climate change resilience and advance conservation efforts throughout the state.

Protecting Schools and Residents from Environmental Exposures and Construction Impacts at 250 Water Street: In January, I convened a working group on the environmental cleanup and construction proposed for 250 Water Street in Manhattan, along with my colleagues in Federal, State and City office and Community Board 1. The Working Group meets regularly to ensure environmental safety and minimize negative impacts on the quality of life in the area, and to promote public awareness, community input, and transparency. It includes the State Environmental Conservation and Health Departments, Howard Hughes Corp and its consultants, environmental monitoring experts working for the community, Peck Slip School, the Blue School, Southbridge Towers, Save Our Seaport, Children First, Friends of the South Street Seaport, and the Seaport Museum. Meetings are recorded and posted at www.nysenate.gov/issues/250-water-street.



FUNDING OUR SCHOOLS AT RECORD LEVELS

This year's State budget demonstrated our strong commitment to education by providing increased funding for our schools to ensure they have the resources to meet the students' needs. We provided \$31.5 billion in annual school aid, the highest level ever and a 7% increase compared to last year.

We also provided \$2.2 billion in capital investments to improve and upgrade SUNY and CUNY campuses, \$500 million in new funding to support operations of our public colleges, and \$16 million to establish childcare centers on SUNY and CUNY campuses to ensure parents and caregivers can access higher education.



REVITALIZING CHINATOWN

I was proud to join Governor Kathy Hochul late last year to announce that Chinatown will receive a Downtown Revitalization Initiative grant of \$20 million funded through the State budget, to make key investments to revitalize the neighborhood by improving the quality of life for residents and visitors and promoting small businesses and jobs. A local planning committee has been holding public meetings and accepting numerous proposals, and will soon be making recommendations regarding which projects to support.

VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★



Mimi Wang. My 2022 Selection for Veterans Hall of Fame. For a profile of Mimi Wang, please visit: www.nysenate.gov/profiles/2022/brian-kanvanagh/mimi-wang



250 Broadway, Ste. 2011
New York, NY 10007

PSRT-STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
NEW YORK SENATE



New York State Senator **BRIAN KAVANAGH** SUMMER NEWSLETTER

MANHATTAN OFFICE:

250 Broadway, Suite 2011
New York, NY 10007
212-298-5565

WEBSITE:

kavanagh.nysenate.gov

E-MAIL:

kavanagh@nysenate.gov

BROOKLYN OFFICE:

209 Joralemon Street, Suite 300
Brooklyn Borough Hall
Brooklyn, NY 11201
718-875-1517



BrianKavanaghNY



@BrianKavanaghNY

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

- **Need assistance accessing State programs or resources?**
- **Have questions on legislation we've been working on?**
- **Ideas for what we should do next?**
- **Community issues we should address?**

Please visit kavanagh.nysenate.gov and click the "Contact" page, call us at **212-298-5565** or **718-875-1517**, or email kavanagh@nysenate.gov.

For updates on the work we're doing and other news, please visit kavanagh.nysenate.gov/newsroom.

I hope you're having a great summer, and I hope to see you around the district or at some of the many community events we'll be attending and participating in.



BrianKavanaghNY



@BrianKavanaghNY

