News from State Senator

Liz Krueger

New York State Senate | 28th District



Community Bulletin

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Message from Liz...

Before I share some thoughts on this year's legislative session, I must address the mass shootings that occurred this past weekend in El Paso, Texas, and Dayton, Ohio. These terrible events, along with the shooting last week at a festival in Gilroy, California and countless others suffered across our nation in recent years, are acts of domestic terrorism. They should be treated with the same seriousness by our government as we have treated international terrorism since 9/11. In New York State we have strong gun laws, though more can still be done (I discuss some progress on this front below). But it is still possible to purchase banned guns in other states and bring them into New York, as was the case with the shooter in California, who purchased his weapon in Nevada. Although we must do all we can at the state level, in the end this national crisis requires a national solution. Today I continue

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to stand with the millions of Americans, including the majority of gun owners, who are calling for common sense national gun protections, including a ban on assault-style weapons.

Last month I discussed some of the important legislation we passed this year, and how pleased I was at how many long-ignored critical issues finally got addressed. But, the new Senate Democratic majority did more than pass bills, we have begun to make structural changes to the way we do business in Albany.

When I first got to Albany one of the things that struck me was the lack of public hearings on bills that were coming before the Senate. That has begun to change. The new Senate Majority held 36 issue-based hearings in our first 6 months, in contrast to the former GOP Senate Majority, which only held 7 issue-based hearings over the same period last session. The hearings held by the Democratic Conference this year have improved government transparency and provided New Yorkers with the opportunity to discuss important issues directly with their elected officials.

Those 36 hearings took place throughout New York State, in places like Buffalo, Syracuse, Long Island, Newburgh, Morrisville, Loch Sheldrake, and Albany. The previous Majority only held hearings in Albany during the 2018 legislative session. This year's hearings covered a wide range of specific legislation in areas including transportation, infrastructure, affordable housing, climate change, health care coverage, farmworkers rights, limousine safety, sports betting and education funding. We also held the first joint Legislative hearings on sexual harassment in nearly 30 years. All these hearings were in addition to the standard 13 budget hearings that I held as Chair of the Senate Finance Committee.

Among the topics that we heard from the public on at these hearing were:

- The New York State Budget
- Environmental Conservation and Climate Change
- Divesting from Fossil Fuels
- Sexual Harassment In The Workplace
- Transportation and Transit Systems
- Limo and Bus Safety
- E-bikes/E-scooters
- Student Loan Consumer Assistance Program
- For-Profit Schools
- Mayoral Control of NYC Schools
- Funding Public Education
- Public Campaign Financing
- Farmworkers Bill of Rights
- Rent Regulation And Tenant Protection
- Building Code Enforcement
- New York Health Act (Universal Health Care)
- Paid Surrogacy
- Suicide and Suicide Prevention
- Automatic Voter Registration
- Online Privacy
- Sports Betting
- Racehorses

I firmly believe that one of the reasons we passed so many important bills this year was because we have started to improve the process. By giving the people an opportunity to be heard, we become better legislators. We have just wrapped up by far the most productive legislative session of my tenure in the Senate, and that was only possible because of the Senate Democratic Majority and the many hearings we held on important issues.

POLICY SPOTLIGHT

Gun Safety

I am happy to report that late last month Governor Cuomo signed three important gun safety bills that passed the legislature this year, including legislation I sponsored to strengthen New York's safe storage laws in locations where children live, visit or have anticipated access (S.2450-A/A.2686-A).

In addition to my bill, the Governor also signed legislation criminalizing the manufacture, sale, transport, and possession of firearms and major components of such weapons that are undetectable by metal detectors, including 3D printed guns (S.1414-A/A.0763-A). The Governor also signed legislation preventing K-12 schools from authorizing anyone other than a security officer, school resource officer, or law enforcement officer to carry a firearm on school grounds (S101A/A1715).

My safe storage legislation will establish penalties for anyone who has a child under 16 in their home and who doesn't properly store any firearm or render it incapable of being fired by using an appropriate gun-locking device. Our primary responsibility as legislators is to keep New York families safe. It's simply common sense that young children should not have unsupervised access to dangerous weapons, and no responsible gun owner would disagree. Too many times, we have seen the tragic results when kids get their hands on guns; even toddlers have killed themselves or others by finding and playing with loaded guns. These tragedies are preventable, and this new law is an important step that will save lives and keep families whole.

S.1414-A/A.0763-A addresses recent technological developments, such as 3-dimensional printers and laser cutting machines, that allow for the fabrication of fully operational firearms using materials that are undetectable by metal detectors. These weapons pose a serious threat to public safety and risk the health and well-being of all New Yorkers. This measure helps protect New Yorkers by making it illegal for any person to knowingly possess, manufacture, sell or transport such weapons in New York State.

These new laws build on a series of common sense bills passed by the legislature and signed by the Governor earlier this year. I am pleased that after years of ignoring the senseless deaths caused by guns, the legislature is now taking important action to protect the lives of New Yorkers.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Forum on the New Rent Laws September 10th:

On Tuesday September 10th I am hosting a forum on the new rent laws. In June 2019, New York State enacted landmark legislation establishing the strongest new protections for rent regulated and market rate tenants in at least a generation. Learn about the new laws, how they will be implemented, and get answers to your questions. Speakers include Delsenia Glover, Executive Director, Tenants & Neighbors, Ellen Davidson, Staff Attorney, Legal Aid Society, and Ruth Anne Visnauskas, Commissioner, NYS Homes & Community Renewal. The forum will take place from 6 to 8:30pm at The Graduate Center, CUNY, Proshansky Auditorium, 365 Fifth Avenue, between 34th and 35th Streets. RSVP required. RSVP online at tinyurl.com/RentLawForum or by calling 212-490-9535.

Senator Krueger's 13th Annual Senior Resource Fair October 24th:

My 12th Annual Senior Resource Fair will take place on Thursday, October 24th from 2:00 to 5:00 pm at Temple Emanu-El, 1 East 65th Street. Last year's fair was attended by more than 500 people and this year we expect around 100 non-profit senior service providers and advocacy groups to participate and provide information about a range of issues including healthcare, housing, the arts and volunteer opportunities. No RSVP necessary.

Co-op and Condo Forum October 29th:

On Tuesday October 29th I am hosting a Forum on Co-ops and Condos. Speakers will include Lucas Ferrara of the firm Newman & Ferrara and Kevin McConnell of the firm Himmelstein, McConnell. This will be an opportunity to learn the role of the board, the role of management and your rights as a shareholder or owner. The event will take place from 6-8 pm at Hunter College. RSVP required. RSVP online at tinyurl.com/coopCondoForum2019 or by calling 212-490-9535.

Roundtable for Boomers and Seniors Starts November 7th:

The Roundtable for Boomers & Seniors provides an opportunity for constituents to come together to explore life issues that are relevant across the age span. At each session, attendees hear from and engage with professionals who are knowledgeable on topics that are of most concern to the growing population of older adults in New York City. Over the course of five sessions, the Roundtable looks at a specific issue from different perspectives each month.

This year's series will focus on Living Well and Aging Well in Your Community. The first roundtable will take place Thursday, November 7th from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. at Lenox Hill Neighborhood House, 331 East 70th Street, and the topic will be NYC's Older Adults: What We Need to Live in the City. At this session, Christian Gonzalez Rivera, Senior Analyst with Center for An Urban Future, will present his yearlong study of the growing and increasingly diverse needs of older adults in New York City. Other sessions in this year's series will take place on December 6th, March 14th 2020, April 4th 2020 and May 9th 2020.

RSVP online at tinyurl.com/SeniorRoundtable11-7-19, call (212) 490-9535 or email lkrueger@nysenate.gov.

Housing Court Answers Summer Workshops:

Housing Court Answers and Trinity Church are hosting a series of Thursday workshops addressing tenant issues. All workshops take place from 3-5 pm at Trinity Church Parish Center, 56 Trinity Place. Upcoming dates and topics are:

August 8 Holdover Cases

August 15 Rights of Rent Stabilized Tenants

August 22 NYCHA Termination Hearings

August 29 Getting Repairs

If you have questions: contact Jessica at HCA at jessicah@hcanswers.org or Mandy at Trinity Church at mculbreath@trinitywallstreet.org.

Senior Portrait Day at DOROT October 6th:

Brooklyn based photographer Julie Markes will be on-site at DOROT photographing older adults (65+) in a studio style portrait. Each individual will spend a few minutes with the photographer and take a headshot style photo. In 4 to 6 weeks one 4X6 photo will be mailed to each person at no cost to them and digital copies can be emailed to one email address. The event will take place at DOROT, 171 West 85th Street, from 10am to 4pm.

This is a free but timed and ticketed event. Registration is required by Tuesday, October 1, 2019 - Space is limited, please register early.

Pre-Register on-line at: www.dorotusa.org/seniorportraitday or by calling to register at 917-441-3745 or email dorotprograms@dorotusa.org.

Sundays at JASA Fall 2019:

Sundays at JASA is a one-of-a-kind, college-level continuing education program for adults 50+. Join us this fall at John Jay College for courses in politics, current events, acting, drawing, creative writing, crossword puzzle construction, exercise, film, opera appreciation and much more! Sundays at JASA Lunchtime Lecture Series will include journalist Craig Unger and bestselling author Charles Kaiser, among others. Open house on Sunday, September 15th from 10am-2pm at John Jay College. Classes begin on Sunday, September 22nd. RSVP requested for open house. Registration information, location details, and a full description of courses available at http://www.jasa.org/events/sundays-at-jasa-fall-2019.

Contact Alexandra Collier at 212-273-5304 or sundays@jasa.org for program information or to RSVP for open house.

Apply for Census Jobs:

Census jobs provide an opportunity to earn extra income while helping ensure your community is accurately counted. The results of the 2020 census determine representation in Congress as well as the distribution of federal funding for schools, hospitals, roads and more. Census positions in New York City pay \$20-25 an hour or more depending on the position. If you are interested in applying, visit 2020census.gov/jobs or call 1-855-562-2020.

Summer Meals for Kids and Teens:

Kids and teens can get healthy, no-cost meals and snacks in many communities across the state through USDA's Summer Food Service Program. Visit SummerMealsNY.org to find summer meal sites and access resources to help spread the word, including the USDA Summer Meal Site Finder Map. Use the interactive mapper on SummerMealsNY.org to find and refer to sites in your area. Check back often, as sites are added as they are approved. Site information is also available by phone at 3-1-1 or by texting "Food" or "Comida" to 877-87.

New York Blood Center – Blood Donors Needed:

Nearly 2,000 donations are needed each day in the New York area. Donated blood has a limited shelf life and must be continually replenished to maintain a seven-day inventory, but blood donations typically drop over the summer months, with schools out on break and families heading out of town on vacation. New York Blood Center provides blood and services to hospitals across the five boroughs, and we encourage everyone who can to donate and help shore up the blood supply for patients in need. It only takes one hour to donate blood. Call 1-800-933-2566 or visit www.nybc.org for more information.

Families for Safe Streets offers Support to Families of Crash Victims:

Families for Safe Streets is a support and advocacy group made up of members who have been personally impacted by traffic crashes. They have transformed their grief into action to prevent this senseless suffering and change the culture of reckless driving in our city. I was proud to stand with victims of traffic crashes from Families for Safe Streets and support a bill to expand NYC's speed camera program. With this new legislation, we will save lives and prevent the senseless injuries irrevocably harming so many New Yorkers.

Even though the number of people killed in traffic crashes has declined significantly in recent years, someone is still killed in a car crash every 40 hours in NYC. Over 150 people are injured each day and thousands suffer life-altering injuries.

In addition to their advocacy they also provide an array of support services, from matching new members to a peer mentor, to monthly support meetings, to inspiring talks to help crash victims move forward and a detailed online resource guide with practically everything you need to know after a crash.

The life altering trauma of losing a family member or facing serious physical challenges after a sudden, violent encounter with a vehicle on our streets, is an experience that no one should face alone. Even years or decades later, their members report residual thoughts, feelings and memories that present an everyday challenge. This event is a blow to an entire family and community and most people have no idea how to confront the decisions and fallout that lies ahead. Moreover, the logistical challenges can be enormous.

I encourage everyone who has been the victim of traffic violence to reach out to Families for Safe Streets for support, guidance and/or the opportunity to turn grief into action. To speak to someone from Families for Safe Streets, to register for a meeting or request a peer mentor, please call (844) FSS-PEER, email or visit familiesforsafestreets.org. All support services are offered at no charge.

NY ABLE Helps People with Disabilities and Their Families Cover Costs:

The NY ABLE (Achieving a Better Life Experience) program is a tax-advantaged savings plan administered by the Office of the New York State Comptroller and is designed to help individuals with disabilities maintain their health, independence and quality of life without risking their Supplemental Security Income, Medicaid and other means-based benefits. If you know someone who is living with a disability or is caring for a loved one with a disability, please encourage them to visit www.mynyable.org or call 1-855-5NY-ABLE to learn more about opening an account.

Make Suggestions for Locations of Electric Vehicle Charging Stations:

The NYC Department of Transportation is working in partnership with Con Edison to install 120 level 2 electric vehicle charging ports at curbside locations across the five boroughs, in collaboration with community stakeholders. These level 2 chargers provide a full charge in 4 to 8 hours. The chargers will be in place for four years as part of a demonstration project, which will include an evaluation. They have a public portal for people to find out further info on these two pilot initiatives and to suggest locations for EV chargers: nycdotprojects.info/project-updates/where-would-you-see-curbside-ev-chargers-show-us.

Grand Central Library Offers Single Stop Access to Benefits:

The Grand Central Library Single Stop Program can offer you free confidential assistance with identifying and applying for benefits programs as well as referrals to services. They can help you determine if you are eligible for a number of programs, including Food Stamps, Unemployment, health insurance, lifeline free cell phone, free eye glasses, Senior Citizens Rent Increase Exemption / Disability Rent Increase Exemption, New York City School Tax Credit, Medicare Savings Program, and many more. They can also assist with immigration applications and make referrals for assistance obtaining Reduced Fare Metrocard, housing, legal assistance, free tax preparation, haircuts, job training, emergency food and financial counseling. The Single Stop programs is located at 135 East 46th Street, 2nd Floor. Hours are Monday to Friday from 10am-6pm. Drop-ins are welcome or you can call 212-576-0024 or email singlestop@nypl.org to make an appointment.

Legal Advocacy Clinics At Lenox Hill Neighborhood House:

The Lenox Hill Neighborhood House Legal Advocacy Center Offers assistance on a number of different issues. Here is a list of their ongoing programs and clinics:

- SNAP (formerly Food Stamps) Clinics:
- Wednesdays from 10am to 1pm at Lenox Hill Neighborhood House, 331 East 70th Street. Arrive by Noon.

First come, first served. Bring proof of identity, income information, utility bill, proof of housing costs, information on any dependents, proof of immigration status for non-citizens, and if you are 60 or over or on SSI/SSD, information on medical costs. For more information, call <u>212-218-0503</u>, option <u>2</u>.

- SCRIE Clinics: Walk-in Clinic. The next clinics will take place September 10 from 10:00 a.m to 1:00 p.m at Lenox Hill Neighborhood House, 331 East 70th Street. You must arrive before Noon to ensure you can be seen. If you are 62 years or older, live in a rent regulated apartment and have an annual household income of \$50,000 or less you may be eligible for the Rent Freeze Program. Find out if you are eligible and get assistance applying or recertifying for SCRIE.
- DRIE Clinics: The next clinic will take place October 17 from 2:00 p.m to 4:00 p.m at Lenox Hill Neighborhood House, 331 East 70th Street.If you are receiving disability benefits, live in a rent-regulated apartment and have an annual household income of \$50,000 or less you may be eligible for the Rent Freeze Program. Find out if you are eligible and get assistance applying or recertifying for DRIE. For more information, please email DRIE@lenoxhill.org or call 212-218-1503, option 0.
- Health Care Access Project: call <u>212-218-0503</u>. Assistance with Medicaid, Medicare Savings Program Medicare Part D, Epic and health insurance through the New York State of Health Marketplace.

VOLS Legal Clinics for Seniors:

The VOLS Elderly Project will be at one location in my district this month. The Elderly Project staff and pro bono attorneys provide free legal advice, information, document drafting, and other brief services to low-income Manhattan residents aged 60 and over, and to the social workers and advocates who assist them. Their schedule includes

Friday August 9th - 2:00 pm, Legal Clinic, Burden Center for the Aging, 415 East 73rd Street (b/t 1st and York)

Friday, August 16th - 10:00 am, Legal Clinic, Stanley M. Isaacs Neighborhood Center, 415 East 93rd Street

Monday July 26th - 10:00 am, Legal Clinic, Encore Community Services Center, 239 West 49th Street (b/t Broadway and 8th Ave.)

Affordable Housing Opportunities in Manhattan:

Essex Crossing Site 8 Senior Housing is now accepting applications for 84 affordable studio apartments newly constructed at 140 Essex Street on the Lower East Side in Manhattan. Rents for these apartments range from \$331 to \$761 depending on income. To be eligible, at least one member of the household must be 62 or older. Applicants must have incomes between \$13,303 and \$51,240 depending on unit and family size. Asset limits also apply. In addition 8 units are reserved for Section 8 eligible individuals making less than \$22,410 or couples making less than \$25,620. Rents for these units will be 30% of income. Preference will be given to residents of Community Board 3 for 50% of units, mobility-impaired persons for 5% of units, visual- and/or hearing-impaired persons for 2% of units, and municipal employees for 5% of units. A full description of the building and application process is available at

https://a806-housingconnect.nyc.gov/nyclottery/AdvertisementPdf/785.pdf.

Households may elect to submit an application by one of two methods: EITHER online OR by mail. To submit your application online now, please visit NYC Housing Connect at www.nyc.gov/housingconnect and select "Apply for Housing." To request an application by mail, mail a self-addressed envelope to: Essex Crossing Site 8 Senior Housing / Triborough Finance New Station, PO Box 2010, New York, NY 10035.

Applications must be submitted online or postmarked by August 20, 2019. Applicants who submit more than one application may be disqualified.

301 East 177th Street Apartments is now accepting applications for 4 affordable 1- and 2- bedroom apartments newly constructed at 301 East 117th Street in East Harlem in Manhattan. Rents for these apartments range from \$2,150 to \$2,550 depending on unit size. Applicants must have incomes between \$73,715 and \$138,710 depending on unit and family size. Asset limits also apply. Preference will be given to mobility-impaired persons for 5% of units and visual- and/or hearing-impaired persons for 2% of units. A full description of the building and application process is available at

https://a806-housingconnect.nyc.gov/nyclottery/AdvertisementPdf/823.pdf.

Households may elect to submit an application by one of two methods: EITHER online OR by mail. To submit your application online now, please visit NYC Housing Connect at www.nyc.gov/housingconnect and select "Apply for Housing." To request an application by mail, mail a self-addressed envelope to MGNY Consulting,c/o 301 East 117th Street Apartments,18 Bridge St,Suite 2D, Brooklyn, NY 11201.

Applications must be submitted online or postmarked by August 21, 2019. Applicants who submit more than one application may be disqualified.

211 West 29th Street Apartments is now accepting applications for 17 affordable studio and 1-, 2- and 3 bedroom apartments newly constructed at 211 West 29th street in the Chelsea neighborhood in Manhattan. Rents for these apartments range from \$1,169 to \$3,051 depending on income and unit size. Applicants must have incomes between \$40,080 and \$138,710 depending on unit and family size. Asset limits also apply. Preference will be given to residents of Community Board 5 for 50% of units, mobility-impaired persons for 5% of units, visual- and/or hearing-impaired persons for 2% of units, and municipal employees for 5% of units. A full description of the building and application process is available at

https://a806-housingconnect.nyc.gov/nyclottery/AdvertisementPdf/824.pdf.

Households may elect to submit an application by one of two methods: EITHER online OR by mail. To submit your application online now, please visit NYC Housing Connect at www.nyc.gov/housingconnect and select "Apply for Housing." To request an application by mail, mail a self-addressed envelope to: 211 West 29th Street Apartments c/o Housing Partnership Development Corporation, 253 West 35 Street, 3rd Floor, NY, NY 10001.

Applications must be submitted online or postmarked by August 22, 2019. Applicants who submit more than one application may be disqualified.

The Frederick is now accepting applications for 59 affordable studio and 1-, 2- and 3 bedroom apartments newly constructed 2395 Frederick Douglass Boulevard in the Central Harlem neighborhood in Manhattan. Rents for these apartments range from \$562 to 2,158 depending on income and unit size. Applicants must have incomes between \$21,223 and \$136,180 depending on unit and family size. Asset limits also apply. Preference will be given to residents of Community Board 10 for 50% of units, mobility-impaired persons for 5% of units, visual- and/or hearing-impaired persons for 2% of units, and municipal employees for 5% of units. A full description of the building and application process is available at https://a806-housingconnect.nyc.gov/nyclottery/AdvertisementPdf/801.pdf.

Households may elect to submit an application by one of two methods: EITHER online OR by mail. To submit your application online now, please visit NYC Housing Connect at www.nyc.gov/housingconnect and select "Apply for Housing." To request an application by mail, mail a self-addressed envelope to: The Frederickc/o Wavecrest Consulting LLC, 87-14 116th Street, Richmond Hill, NY 11418.

Applications must be submitted online or postmarked by September 6, 2019. Applicants who submit more than one application may be disqualified.

Metrocard Bus and Van Schedule:

The MTA offers MetroCard-related services throughout New York City through mobile buses and vans. Buses provide a full range of services, including applying for or refilling a Reduced-Fare MetroCard, buying or refilling a regular MetroCard, or getting answers to a MetroCard-related question. Vans sell Unlimited Ride MetroCards and Pay-Per-Ride MetroCards, and they refill MetroCards and Reduced-Fare MetroCards. Buses and vans will be in my district on the following dates and locations:

August 13, 9 - 10:30 am, 92 Street & Lexington Avenue - Bus

August 13, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm., 86 Street & Lexington Avenue - Bus

August 13, 1:30 - 2:30 pm, 68 Street & Lexington Avenue - Bus

August 15, 8:00 - 10:30 am, 47 Street & 2 Avenue - Van

August 15, 11:30 am - 2:00 pm, 28 Street & 2 Avenue - Van

August 21, 9 – 10:30 am, 79 Street & Third Avenue - Bus

August 21, 11 am - 1 pm, 79 Street & York Avenue – Bus

August 21, 1:30 - 2:30 pm, 72 Street & York Avenue - Bus

August 27, 9 - 10:30 am, 92 Street & Lexington Avenue - Bus

August 27, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm., 86 Street & Lexington Avenue - Bus

August 27, 1:30 - 2:30 pm, 68 Street & Lexington Avenue - Bus

September 4, 9 - 10:30 am, 79 Street & Third Avenue – Bus

September 4, 11 am - 1 pm, 79 Street & York Avenue - Bus

September 4, 1:30 - 2:30 pm, 72 Street & York Avenue – Bus

September 5, 7 – 9 am, 90 Street and York Avenue - Van

September 5, 8:30 - 10:30 am, 47 Street & 2 Avenue – Van

September 5, 1:30 - 3:30 pm, 28 Street & 2 Avenue – Van

September 6, 9 - 10 am, 57 Street and 1 Avenue - Van

September 6, 10:30 - 11:30 am, 57 Street and 3 Avenue - Van

September 6, 12:30 - 2:00 pm, 68 Street and 1 Avenue – Van