

Dear Neighbor,

Serving as your State Senator for the past five months has been an incredible honor. In this first enewsletter, I look forward to sharing more information about the work I've been doing up in Albany, what my team and I have been doing in the community, and events that may be of interest to you.

My favorite part of this role has been the chance to talk to you and your families about the issues that you're facing in your lives, or to get emails and phone calls from you about ideas you have for our neighborhood. In response to these conversations, I've introduced and passed legislation to expand the city's school zone speed camera program, strengthen pedestrian safety, expand job opportunities for veterans, and protect senior citizens' rights. I am especially proud to report that the school zone speed camera legislation became law in May.

I also launched 3 For Community, a community service initiative that encourages everyone to contribute three acts of kindness each week in order to make a positive impact within our neighborhoods.

We have only a few weeks left until the end of the legislation session, and I can only do my job well if I hear from you! So please continue to reach out to me and my staff, whether by stopping into our office or mobile offices, attending one of the many events I host each month, or of course, emailing me directly at gounardes@nysenate.gov.

Thank you for the honor to serve our community and represent you in Albany.

See you in the neighborhood,

Andrew

Past Successful Events



Serving milk and dates to local community leaders - a Muslim tradition to break the fast during Ramadan.

Photo by Despina Costalas

First Community Iftar Dinner Hosted by Elected Officials in District 22

On May 11th, I hosted a community Iftar dinner at Owl's Head Park with Council Member Justin Brannan and Representative Max Rose. This month marked the celebration of Ramadan, a time when the Muslim community comes together and participates in fasting from sunrise to sunset. We served dinner donated by local restaurants to all who came to celebrate the breaking of the fast. This is the first community-driven Iftar event organized by an elected official within this district. I am very excited to begin this tradition within our neighborhood!



Three For Community Kickoff

Our office launched our Three for Community initiative on April 6th in Marine Park. I had a great time cleaning up the park with constituents and listening to all of their thoughts and stories about their community service. If one of us contributes three acts of service a week, whether they be large or small, it would create such a lasting impact on the rest of our neighbors. Be sure to check out 3forcommunity.org for more info on how to join us for upcoming events!

Legislative Victories for Our District:

I am committed to passing legislation that will help everyone in our community thrive. Here are just a few of my bills that the State Senate has passed within the past few months:



Governor Cuomo signing my Speed Camera Expansion Bill Into Law

Governor Cuomo Signed My Speed Camera Expansion Bill into Law:

The State Senate passed legislation to dramatically expand the number of speed cameras in New York City school speed zones, from 140 to 750, to increase pedestrian safety. This program has been proven to work and its expansion WILL save lives.

Verrazzano Toll Discount for Brooklyn Motorists:

For far too long, Brooklynites have been paying too much money just to get to work. As of Thursday, May 30th, my bill has passed in the Senate! We are now one step closer to giving Brooklyn commuters the discount they deserve. At \$19, the Verrazzano-Narrows Bridge toll makes it the most expensive toll bridge in the country. My bill allows Brooklyn residents to keep more of their hard earned wages by reducing the toll for crossing the Verrazzano-Narrows bridge. This bill will provide a rebate for Brooklyn residents who, in one month, make at least 10 trips across the Verrazzano-Narrows Bridge using an EZ-Pass account - the same discount currently extended to Staten Island residents.

Keeping Seniors in Their Homes:
Reverse mortgages are oftentimes complex and confusing, with hidden long-term costs. Issues
surrounding reverse mortgages often disproportionately affect seniors. I prioritized the passage
of legislation to protect seniors and provide them with because seniors with clearer information
on predatory lenders.

Prioritizing Pedestrian Safety:

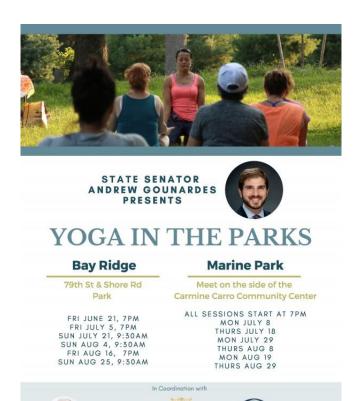
This common-sense legislation requires instruction in pedestrian and bicyclist safety as part of the drivers pre-licensing course. This bill aims to create a thoughtful road culture for drivers, pedestrians and cyclists alike so that all can feel safe in their travels.

Historic Veteran Benefits Legislation:

This bill allows anyone who served in the armed forces to receive credits for civil service appointments and promotions. Currently, the state only provides additional credits for veterans who served during wartime, but my bill will provide uniformity among all armed forces veterans.

Upcoming Events

Please join us at one of the many great community events we have coming up.



Please Come Join Us!

YOGA

Councilman

Alan Maisel

Councilman

Justin Brannan

79th & Shore Road in Bay Ridge

Fri. Jun. 21st @ 7 PM Fri. Jul. 5th @ 7 PM

Sun. Jul. 21st @ 9:30AM

Fri. Aug. 16th @ 7 PM Sun. Aug. 25th @9:30AM

Carmine Carro Community Center

Marine Park - All Start @ 7 PM

Mon. Jul 8th Mon. Jul 29th
Thurs. Jul 18th Thurs. Aug 8th
Mon. Aug 19th Thurs. Aug 29th



Upcoming Bills:



Speaking at the Fix the Subway Rally in Albany

I want to highlight a few bills that I have introduced and have been strongly advocating for within the State Senate:

Pushing for a Momentous Subway Accessibility Bill:

The MTA has been long criticized for its historic negligence towards making New York City's subway system accessible to those with disabilities and other mobility limitations. With support from disability rights advocates, I have introduced a bill that establishes clear targets for the MTA to improve its compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Fewer than 25% of the 472 subway stations in the NYCT have elevator, ramps or other disability-related accommodations. This bill will prioritize accessibility construction with each subway station included in the MTA's Fast Forward "Next 50" Project.

Increasing Access to Language Interpreters for Voters at Poll Sites:

Historically, the Board of Elections have offered limited access to a variety of languages at poll sites. With my bill, each New York City poll site with at least 50 voting-age residents with limited English proficiency, will be required to provide an interpreter for them. The passage of this bill will ensure that each eligible voter will be given access to the information they need to properly understand the voting process.



Distributing Transit Surveys at the x27 Express Bus in Bay Ridge

Transit Survey

Throughout May, I have been visiting subway stations and bus stops across the district to talk to riders about their commutes. The feedback that I have collected will play a crucial role in presenting the MTA with data about the shortcomings of Southern Brooklyn subway and bus service. Share your stories and tell me about your commute using my transit survey at www.nysenate.gov/transitsurvey



Celebrating Mother's Day with District 20 Pre-K Students

Parent Survey









Visit our website at: www.nysenate.gov/senators/andrew-gounardes

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THE NEW YORK STATE SENATE