



New York State Senator
ANDREW GOUNARDES
(D) 22ND SENATE DISTRICT



Dear Neighbor,

Serving as your State Senator for the past five months has been an incredible honor. In this first e-newsletter, 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andrew Gounardes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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!

3 Good Deeds is All it Takes

Volunteering and consciousness acts of kindness bring communities together, foster compassion and make meaningful change in our neighborhoods. Even the simplest acts - bringing up your neighbor's mail, giving up your seat on the subway - create healthy, connected communities. Join me in strengthening that connection by taking the 3 for Community pledge.

www.3forcommunity.org



**Take the 3 for
Community
pledge with
me today**

3forcommunity.org/pledge

Take the 3 for
Community pledge with
me today. By committing
to 3 acts of service or
kindness each week,
together we'll build
stronger communities.

community@senatorgounardes.nyc

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.



STATE SENATOR
ANDREW GOUNARDES
PRESENTS



YOGA IN THE PARKS

Bay Ridge

79th St & Shore Rd
Park

FRI JUNE 21, 7PM
FRI JULY 5, 7PM
SUN JULY 21, 9:30AM
SUN AUG 4, 9:30AM
FRI AUG 16, 7PM
SUN AUG 25, 9:30AM

Marine Park

Meet on the side of the
Carmine Carro Community Center

ALL SESSIONS START AT 7PM
MON JULY 8
THURS JULY 18
MON JULY 29
THURS AUG 8
MON AUG 19
THURS AUG 29

In Coordination with



Councilman
Justin Brannan



Councilman
Alan Maisel

Please Come Join Us!

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

Bay Ridge

Tuesdays at 79th St & Shore Rd Park

July 23
Head over Heels
(Classic Rock & Dance)

July 30
Radio Daze
(Classic 70s & 80s Hits)

August 13
The Fuzzy Lemons
(Fun Rock & Roll for Kids)

August 20
The Canny Brother's Band
"Irish Night"

August 27
Frankie Marra & His Band
(Classic Rock Hits)

212-475-4751
In Coordination with



Councilman
Justin Brannan



State Senator
Andrew Gounardes
Presents

Bay Ridge | Marine Park

2019 Summer Concerts in the Parks

All concerts start at 7 p.m.
Please bring your own chairs.



Marine Park

Wednesdays at Marine Park
near the bocce court

July 24
The Fuzzy Lemons
(Fun Rock & Roll for Kids)

July 31
Head over Heels
(Classic Rock & Dance)

August 7
Regina Opera Company
(Opera & Broadway Tunes)

August 14
A Sound Affairs
(50s to Today Hits)

August 21
Alive N' Kickin
(Hit Record Tighter & Tighter)

212-475-4751
In Coordination with



Councilman
Alan Maisel

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

I'm working in Albany to make sure every family in our district has the resources they need to provide their children with the best opportunities possible. This survey will help me set priorities and advocate on behalf of our neighborhoods' families. Let me know what issues you are facing so I can best serve you at

nysenate.gov/parentsurvey.

@agounardes



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

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THE NEW YORK STATE SENATE

To ensure delivery of emails to your inbox, please add gounardes@nysenate.gov to your email address book.