



April 2011

# State Senator José M. Serrano

## *Reports to the People*

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The Capitol  
Albany, NY

### OFFICE HOURS

#### DISTRICT OFFICE HOURS

- OFFICE HOURS ARE FROM 9AM-5 PM, MONDAY-FRIDAY.

#### ROOSEVELT ISLAND OFFICE HOURS

- CONSTITUENT SERVICES/ OFFICE HOURS ARE THE 1ST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT THE RI OC OFFICES, 591 MAIN STREET. 4PM-7PM

#### BRONX OFFICE HOURS

- THE NEXT CONSTITUENT SERVICES/OFFICE HOURS WILL TAKE PLACE WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20TH AT THE SEDGWICK LIBRARY, 1701 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR BLVD (UNIVERSITY AVE) BRONX, NY 10453 2:30PM,-5:30PM

## Senator Serrano Speaks Out Against Gun Violence

April 12, 2011

State Senator José M. Serrano joined New Yorkers Against Gun Violence, advocates, and nearly 150 high school students to rally for stronger gun laws to help protect our community.

This event, held at the Well in the Legislative Office Building, highlighted the importance of preventing violence in schools and called on the legislature to pass reformatory bills that keep illegal guns off our streets.

"Gun violence is a disease that continues to plague our community," said Senator Serrano. "Our students should not have



Senator Serrano Speaks Out Against Violence

to live in fear of guns in their schools or on their streets.

"I commend all the students that came today for educating their peers and building awareness throughout their schools."

As an outspoken advocate against violence, Senator

Serrano organized a March to End Violence in 2010. Local elected officials and community advocates marched in protest of the rise in violence occurring in the neighborhood of East Harlem, and stood together to honor those whose lives have been lost.

Senator Serrano is an avid supporter of legislation that strengthens our gun laws and ensures that weapons are kept out of the wrong hands. Among the bills co-sponsored by Senator Serrano are S675, which requires all handgun ammunition to be microstamped; and S1915, which prohibits guns from being sold without child proof features.

## Senate Passes Earth Hour Resolution

March 23, 2011

A Resolution introduced by Senator José M. Serrano (D-Manhattan/Bronx) to commemorate Earth Hour passed the New York State Senate unanimously. The resolution requests that Governor Andrew Cuomo adopt 8:30 PM, Saturday, March 26, 2011 as Earth Hour in a show of solidarity to encourage environmental and energy conservation.

The first Earth Hour took place in 2007, and since then hundreds of millions of people and landmarks have taken part in this environmentally friendly tradition. Earth Hour 2010 was the most successful to date,

with a record 128 countries and territories joining this global display of climate action.



The Empire State Building

"Earth Hour is a great way to raise awareness of sustainabil-

ity issues, and although we do this for one hour each year, it is a symbol of a greater commitment to helping diminish the environmental issues that plague our communities year round," said Senator Serrano.

"My district has some of the highest asthma rates in the country, which will only worsen as temperatures rise and lead to increased smog in urban areas.

This year, the Empire State Building, in addition to various other landmarks will go dark for an hour, and I encourage all New Yorkers to do their part to, once again, make Earth Hour a success!"

## Legislative Update!



### Serrano Fights for Rent Reform

Rent regulation laws that protect over 1 million units of affordable housing in New York City and its surrounding counties are dangerously close to expiring on June 15th. Senator Serrano is sponsoring a bill, S2744, that would extend the period during which provisions of various laws that regulate rental housing will remain in place, and ensures that many of the laws that protect tenants in rent controlled housing are continued beyond June.

Another Serrano bill, S2341, would expand tenant protections by reducing the percentage by which rent may be increased upon vacancy. This will help keep units in the rent regulation system and thus preserve these units in the affordable housing stock.

Senator Serrano is also the co-sponsor of S. 2783, which was introduced by Senator Adriano Espaillat. This bill would repeal vacancy destabilization and re-regulate most of the apartments that have been lost through this loophole in the last two decades.

## Constituent Hours!

The 28th District consists of Yorkville, East Harlem, Roosevelt Island and parts of the South and West Bronx. Regardless of where in the district you reside, Senator Serrano's office is at your service to answer questions, address your concerns, and - most importantly - listen to your ideas on how we can continue to improve education, immigrant rights, environment, health, and housing issues in our district.

**District Office:** Our District Office staff is available for all of our constituents Monday-Friday from 9am-5pm.  
157 EAST 104TH STREET

**Bronx Constituent Hours:** If you reside in the Bronx, and are unable to travel to the District Office in East Harlem, Senator Serrano's office provides monthly Constituent Services in the Bronx in roving locations. (Be sure to check our website and Community Board Reports for dates and locations!)

**Roosevelt Island Constituent Hours:** Senator Serrano's Office holds Office Hours on Roosevelt Island every 1st Wednesday of each month from 4pm-7pm  
RIOC OFFICES, 591 MAIN STREET.

## Serrano Legislative Highlights:

### S1681

- Reforms process for the distribution of **member items**.
- Provides that all legislators receive equal funding regardless of political party or geographical district.
- Empowers state agencies to oversee the spending of the allocated funds, and to publicly report on the usage of member items.

### S1912

- Establishes an economic grant program for the businesses affected by the **Second Avenue Subway** construction area.
- Creates a Second Avenue Subway construction economic development grant program for the purpose of providing financial and technical assistance to small businesses located within the construction area.

### S2743

- Requires medical professionals to take courses on **cultural competency**. Doctors, nurses, etc. would be required to enroll in cultural training
- Disparities in access to quality health care are one major component of the discrepancies in general health. This bill seeks to close the gap by ensuring that medical professionals that serve minority populations are able to provide culturally sensitive care.

For more information on these or other bills sponsored by Senator Serrano, please visit  
**[www.Open.NYSenate.gov](http://www.Open.NYSenate.gov)**