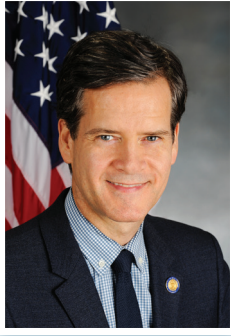


Senator Brad Hoylman

2017

FALL NEWSLETTER



Dear Neighbor:

In my newsletter this month, you'll find an update on my legislative work and some important issues, including information about how to protect your personal data in the wake of the Equifax data breach and an overview of the state constitutional convention, which will be up for a vote this Election Day, Tuesday, November 7th and will appear on the back of your ballot.

Many polling places changed this year, and I strongly encourage you to verify the location of your poll site prior to Election Day by visiting www.nyc.pollsitelocator.com, or by calling the Board of Elections at 212-886-2100. If you have any problems voting in this year's election, I'd be interested to know.

Contact me at **212-633-8052** or hoylman@nysenate.gov on this or any other concerns or ideas you want to share. Keep in mind that I can assist you with matters such as housing, healthcare, and benefits/entitlements, as well as help you resolve problems with government agencies. I'm here to help!

I look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,

Brad Hoylman
State Senator
27th District

The Constitutional Convention Question

The New York State Constitution requires that a "yes" or "no" question be placed on the general election ballot every 20 years asking voters whether New York should hold a constitutional convention. This November 7th, you'll have the opportunity to vote on this question. The last time New Yorkers voted to hold a convention was in 1967. In the most recent referendum in 1997, the convention was rejected by nearly 2 to 1.

How a Convention Works

The referendum will be listed on the back of your ballot this November 7th as New York Proposal 1, the Constitutional Convention Question, to which you may vote "yes" or "no." (Blank votes will not be counted.) If the vote fails, the referendum will likely not be held again until 2037.

If approved, voters in each State Senate district will choose three delegates to the convention starting in 2018. In addition, 15 at-large statewide delegates would be elected. The delegates would convene in Albany in April 2019. The public would then have the opportunity to vote whether or not to adopt each proposed amendment or a new constitution. There is no set end date to the convention, but the convention must be adjourned for at least six weeks before voters can vote on any proposals.

Pros

- **Fosters democratic input.** Outside of the constitutional convention, amendments to the New York State Constitution must be passed individually by both houses of the State Legislature in two successive legislative sessions before appearing on a ballot for public ratification. (In fact, this November you'll have the opportunity to ratify an amendment passed this way that would strip pensions from corrupt public officials, a measure I strongly support.) A constitutional convention gives members of the public multiple opportunities to more directly shape the direction of changes to the Constitution: from deciding whether to hold a convention, to the opportunity to select delegates (or run for a delegate position), to voting directly

on proposed amendments.

- **Opportunity to enshrine ethics reforms and progressive rights.** Supporters think that this could be an opportunity to adopt comprehensive ethics and campaign finance reforms, codify a woman's right to choose, expand rent stabilization laws, ensure equitable funding for public schools, and achieve other progressive priorities.

Supporters of holding a constitutional convention include Citizens Union, New York State Bar Association, and Committee for a Constitutional Convention, which includes prominent New Yorkers from business, law and academia.

Cons

- **The role of insiders and special interests.** Opponents say a convention is likely to be dominated by political insiders since delegates are chosen from Senate districts. Another concern is that deep-pocketed business interests could back delegate candidates who will do their bidding by proposing amendments to the Constitution to weaken employees' rights, environmental laws, tenant protections or public schools. In either scenario, the convention would not live up to its promise as a citizen-driven democratic process.
- **Risk to existing protections.** The New York State Constitution already contains a number of important provisions that could be dismantled by a constitutional convention, such as an employee's right to organize and bargain collectively, guarantees for public pensions and environmental protections.
- **Cost.** Delegates would receive compensation equivalent to the full annual salary of an Assembly Member, currently \$79,500, no matter how long a convention lasts. The total cost for a convention is estimated from \$47 million to \$300 million, with no guarantee that any changes to the constitution will even be adopted.

Opponents include the New York State AFL-CIO, the New York Farm Bureau, major



Joining UFT President Randi Weingarten for Governor Cuomo's announcement of Hurricane Maria assistance for Puerto Rico. You can donate at NY.Gov/PuertoRico

environmental advocacy organizations, and the New Yorkers Against Corruption Coalition, whose members include Citizen Action New York, the LGBT Network, Planned Parenthood Empire State Acts and the New York Immigration Coalition.

My Position

There are strong arguments to be made both in favor and against holding a constitutional convention. However, I've decided to oppose a constitutional convention because legislators, who are most likely to be the delegates to a convention, already have the power to reform our state government through this process. We don't need to spend millions of dollars to get the same result.

As you decide between now and November 7th how you'll vote on the constitutional convention referendum, don't hesitate to reach out to me at 212-633-8052 with any questions you have about the process or my position.



I took part in the Riders Respond Transit Tour this summer with City Comptroller Scott Stringer to hear from straphangers on the dire condition of the NYC subway system.



Senator Brad Hoylman Presents:

Protect Yourself from the



The credit reporting agency Equifax reported an unprecedented data breach this summer. Hackers accessed sensitive client data, including names, Social Security numbers and credit card numbers of 143 million Americans and over 8 million New Yorkers.

In response, I'm supporting legislation to allow consumers to "freeze" their credit report information with Equifax and other credit reporting agencies at any time, for any reason, at no charge. A credit freeze prevents unauthorized companies or individuals from accessing your credit report or opening a new credit account in your name.

Here are steps you can take now to reduce the chance that your information will be compromised:

Safe Data Checklist

- ✓ **Check to see if your data was exposed.** Check online at www.equifaxsecurity2017.com/potential-impact/ or call 1-866-447-7559 from 7 a.m. - 1 a.m. for basic questions about the breach.
- ✓ **Enroll in identity theft protection and credit file monitoring services.** Equifax is offering this service complimentary via TrustedID Premier. According to the State Attorney General, you do not waive your right to arbitration or legal action by enrolling this service. *The deadline to sign up is November 21, 2017.*
- ✓ **Put a fraud alert on your credit report.** This free service lasts 90 days and can be renewed. To request this service contact:
 - TransUnion, www.TransUnion.com, 1-800-888-4213
 - Equifax, www.Equifax.com, 1-866-447-7559
 - Experian, www.Experian.com, 1-888-397-3742
- ✓ **Keep a close eye out for unusual activity on your bank and credit card account statements and opt-in for activity and fraud alerts from your bank.**
- ✓ **Consider freezing your credit reports.** Go to www.consumer.ftc.gov
- ✓ **Create a recovery plan if you think your identity has been stolen.**
Visit www.identitytheft.gov
- ✓ **Watch out for tax-related fraud.** Monitor your Social Security statement at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount
- ✓ **If you experience tax-related fraud, file an Identity Theft Affidavit (Form 14039) with the IRS at www.irs.gov.** *You only need to do this if:* your Social Security number has been compromised and your efile return was rejected as a duplicate; or the IRS has informed you that you may be a victim of tax-related identity theft.

Safeguards

- ✓ **Continue to monitor your accounts.** Your data can be used at any time in the future.
- ✓ **Check your credit reports regularly.** Credit reports are available for free once a year from www.annualcreditreport.com.
- ✓ **Do not use the same passwords for all of your accounts.**
- ✓ **Keep your anti-virus and security software up to date.**
- ✓ **Shred documents containing personal information before you discard them.** Look for shredding events hosted by me and other government offices. Last month I hosted one at Penn South where we shredded paper containing sensitive personal information amounting to over four tons!

Sources: Office of NYS Attorney General Eric Schneiderman & the Citizens Crime Commission of NYC

New York Must Let Tenants Know!



On August 7, I sent a letter to NY State Homes & Community Renewal (HCR) demanding the agency notify tenants in buildings that have been deregulated where the landlord has received J-51 benefits. The J-51 program offers tax abatements to landlords in exchange for placing the building under rent regulation, but a recent report shows that landlords have illegally deregulated an estimated 50,000 buildings across the city. Currently, HCR only notifies landlords when it suspects apartments have been unlawfully removed from stabilization, *but not tenants*. This summer, I joined volunteers from the Village Independent Democrats (pictured) to canvass buildings in our Senate district and inform tenants where they suspect these unlawful practices have occurred.

Hundreds Attend My Senior Resource Fair

I'm pleased to report on the success of my first annual Senior Resource Fair on July 25 at the New School. Over 500 constituents joined me and dozens of government and nonprofit social service providers (pictured) to learn about the wide range of resources available to the older adult community and their caregivers. If you were unable to attend and want a copy of my new Senior Resource Guide, please call me at 212-633-8052 or download it from my website.



Success! State Will Study West Side Highway Safety



The State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) has agreed to the request I spearheaded for a traffic safety study of the West Side Highway, from the Battery to 72nd Street, to be followed by targeted improvements to enhance safety for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers. I first requested this study in February along with other colleagues in government. We believe that a comprehensive approach is necessary to improve the safety of the West Side Highway, which runs alongside a park with 17 million annual visitors and an explosion of new residential and commercial development.

In November, I participated in the World Day of Remembrance for Traffic Victims at City Hall with Borough President Gale Brewer and the parents of Jack Koval, age 22, who was killed last year while crossing the West Side Highway at 46th Street.

State Senator Brad Hoylman Presents:

FREE FLU SHOTS

Thursday, October 26, 2017

10am – 1pm

My District Office at

322 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1700 (enter on 26th Street)



Space is limited. To reserve your appointment contact 212-633-8052 or hoylman@nysenate.gov

Vaccination



I marched with GMHC this summer to commemorate its anniversary as the nation's leading provider of HIV/AIDS care, advocacy and prevention.

Calling Out Discrimination

In July, United Healthcare (UHC) announced it was limiting access to a pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) drug that prevents the spread of HIV/AIDS because they stated “homosexuals were engaging in risky sex.” Without insurance, PrEP costs \$1,300 a month and is thereby prohibitively expensive for most users. In response, I sent a letter to the NYS Department of Financial Services (DFS) requesting the agency halt UHC’s unwise and discriminatory policy. I’m pleased to report that at my urging, along with advocates and DFS, UHC has since apologized and reversed course, ensuring continued access to this life-saving and cost-effective drug.

Shining a Light on Shady LLCs

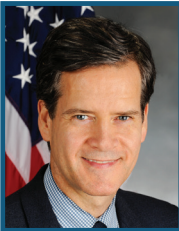
New York’s laws allow almost anyone to start a limited liability company (LLC) with virtually complete anonymity – in fact, you’re required to provide more personal information to get a library card than to start an LLC. While the vast majority of LLC owners are law-abiding business owners, the secretive structure of LLCs provides anonymity to unscrupulous landlords, tax evaders and even those who would like to evade detection in making campaign contributions. A bill I recently announced would require LLCs organized or authorized to do business in New York to publicly disclose a list of their beneficial owners, with stiff penalties for knowingly providing false or fraudulent information.



Senator Brad Hoylman
322 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1700
New York, NY 10001



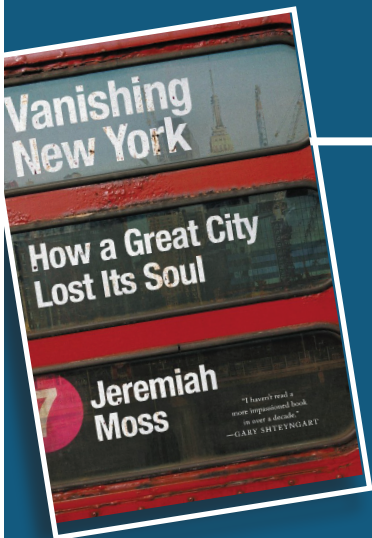
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New York State Senator
BRAD HOYLMAN
27th Senate District
322 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1700
New York, NY 10001

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Senator Brad Hoylman Presents: **VANISHING NEW YORK**

A Town Hall on High Rent Blight with

Jeremiah Moss
Author, *Vanishing New York*
&

Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer

Thursday, November 9, 2017
6 - 7:30 p.m.

Haft Auditorium at the Fashion Institute of Technology
227 W. 27th Street (between 7th & 8th Avenues)

Space is limited. To reserve your seat contact 212-633-8052 or hoylman@nysenate.gov
Free and open to the public.

