



# REPORT

Representing  
Greenwich Village,  
Chelsea, Hell's Kitchen  
and the Upper West Side  
**SUMMER 2024**

## FROM STATE SENATOR **BRAD HOYLMAN-SIGAL**

Dear Neighbor:

This year's Legislative Session that ended in June was very productive; this edition of my newsletter covers bills that passed, including many of my own!

I've also accomplished victories within the 47th Senate District, too; for example:

- *Helping to seize and shutter the dozens of illegal cannabis shops sprouting on what seems like every other corner.*
- *Moving early voting from the William O'Shea educational campus on W. 77th Street to the Museum of Natural History—to prevent a 10-day takeover of the school cafeteria for 1,500 students.*
- *Working to restore full weekday service at the Midtown Community Justice Center, the problem-solving court focusing on retail theft and mental health.*
- *Successfully sought to disbar Rudy Giuliani for spreading lies about Donald Trump's 2020 election loss. (Grievance Case No. 2021-00506)*

But the successes were tarnished by the “pause” of congestion pricing. It means \$16.5 billion in revenue must be found to replace that funding stream to ensure the MTA's capital projects continue—including major signal improvements, train car purchases, and ADA elevators. I remain strongly committed to congestion pricing, but I'm open to adjusting the toll amount to help reduce sticker shock.

Sincerely,

Brad Hoylman-Sigal  
State Senator, 47th District

P.S. If you have a problem—or notice one in the neighborhood—my staff and I are always available to help. Call (212) 633-8052 or email [hoylman@nysenate.gov](mailto:hoylman@nysenate.gov).



Scan this QR code to sign up for my regular email alerts—or visit [bit.ly/HoylmanAlertSignup](http://bit.ly/HoylmanAlertSignup)



*It was my bill (sponsored in the Assembly by Deborah Glick) which renamed the Christopher Street/Stonewall Station! I helped unveil new signage on Pride Weekend with MTA Chair Janno Lieber and Rep. Jerry Nadler.*

### A RECORD NUMBER OF MY BILLS PASSED!

In the 2024 Legislative Session, which just ended, I'm proud to have passed a record 84 bills, including these now ready for the Governor's signature:

- **28 New Family Court Judges** (S.7534)—In response to the findings from my Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on Family Court to help reduce the unacceptable backlog of cases—and as we go to press, the Governor has signed this!
- **Fashion Workers Act** (S.9832)—Closes a loophole in labor law, which left fashion models largely unprotected from exploitation by modeling agencies and safeguards use of their digital images.
- **Moving the West 30th Street Heliport** (S.9408C)—Requires the heliport to move when the current permit expires in 2026 and creates new open space at Pier 76, passed with Assembly Member Tony Simone. Signed by Governor Hochul.
- **Parkinson's Disease Research Registry** (S.4674A)—Creates the infrastructure to collect helpful information about the current 65,000 New Yorkers living with Parkinson's, and those diagnosed in the future.
- **Authorizing Ballot Dropboxes** (S.610)—Allows the State Board of Elections to create absentee ballot drop-off locations and give more options for voters, passed with Assembly Member Tony Simone.
- **Making Gestational Surrogacy Work in NY** (S.5107C)—Makes changes to the NYS landmark law legalizing surrogacy to help protect the parties to surrogacy agreements in New York.
- **The “Seinfeld” Telemarketer Bill** (S.8182B)—Named for an episode of the sitcom when Jerry gets a sales call, my bill requires telemarketers to identify themselves within the first 30 seconds of a call. >>

■ **Protections for Threatened Wildlife** (S.3185A)— Bans the taking of the ancient horseshoe crab, except for legitimate educational or scientific purposes, passed with Assembly Member Deborah Glick.

■ **Security Protections for Payment Apps** (S.8677B)—For mobile payment services such as Zelle or Venmo, consumers can opt in to using PINs before confirming a transaction, just like ATMs—in response to several heinous crimes in our district targeting LGBTQ people.

■ **Expanding Insurance Coverage for Human Donor Milk** (S.6674A)—Helps parents with difficulty breastfeeding their children.

■ **Eliminating Junk Fees** (S.2601B)—Prevents banks from imposing fees on the use of electronic benefit transfer cards issued by government agencies; constituents' EBT balances were drained this way during the pandemic.

■ **Grieving Families Act** (S.8485B)—Allows family members to seek financial compensation for emotional loss when there is a wrongful death of a loved one, revised to meet objections in the Governor's veto of a previous bill.

## **PASSED! THE BUDGET INCLUDED MANY OF MY OTHER BILLS...**

### **TAX CREDITS TO SUPPORT LOCAL JOURNALISM.**

Nearly 250 newspapers have closed in New York over the last 20 years, as the internet has captured the ad revenue which used to fund them. That meant town meetings, local budgets, and elected officials don't get the same scrutiny that they used to. My first-in-the-nation law allots \$90 million to fund a new payroll tax credit to help improve small media outlets' budgets to retain and hire journalists—to help civic awareness and the small-d democratic process thrive.

### **IMPROVED TENANT PROTECTIONS.**

■ My legislation requires audits of "421-a" affordable housing tax credit projects to ensure accountability from developers.

■ I supported "Good Cause" eviction protections for market-rate tenants, which will limit annual rent increases to 5% plus inflation.

■ \$10 million to fund lawyers representing tenants in eviction proceedings.



*My team joined forces with the nonprofit Shoes That Fit to distribute footwear and socks to asylum seekers on the Upper West Side.*

### **STRENGTHENING THE JUDICIARY.**

■ As Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, my legislation will increase security for State judges by allowing their personal information to be withheld and creating new felonies for assault and harassment of judges.

■ Allocates \$7.9 million in funding for legal representation in Family Court.

■ \$8.2 million for court mental health navigators.

### **IMPROVING PUBLIC SAFETY.**

■ My legislation (written with D.A. Alvin Bragg) vastly expands hate crime protections, with 23 new possible charges.

■ My bill to combat retail theft by holding online sellers of stolen goods accountable.

■ Legislation allowing NYC law enforcement to padlock illegal cannabis shops (thousands have been shuttered citywide so far).

■ \$35 million in hate crime funding to safeguard vulnerable locations like houses of worship and community centers.

### **INCREASED PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING.**

■ Full Foundation Aid funding so that NYC schools get all the dollars to which they're entitled, in addition to \$100 million for Universal Pre-K.

■ A \$20 million increase for after-school programs.

■ \$180 million to continue universal school meals.

### **IMPROVING MASS TRANSIT.**

■ \$4.2 billion for the MTA, an increase of \$140 million from last year. But we must find a replacement for the congestion pricing revenue stream to fund complete modernization of the subways.

### **ADDRESSING THE CLIMATE CRISIS.**

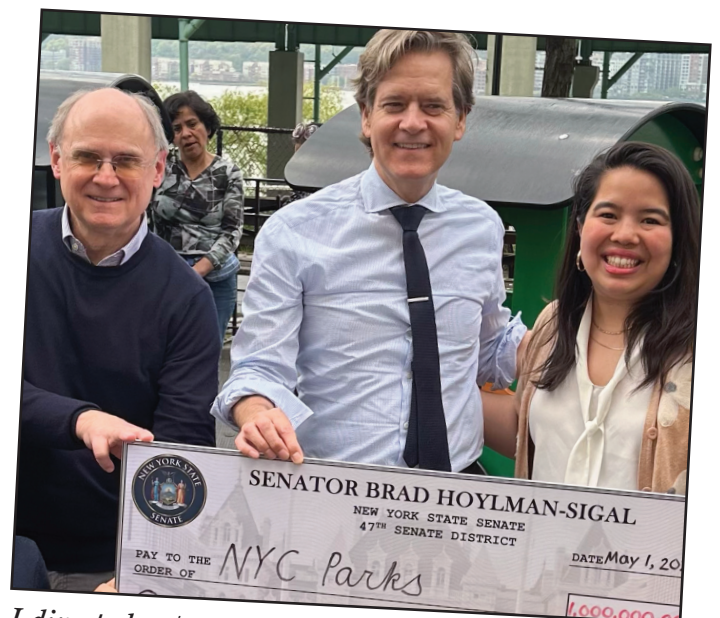
■ \$500 million for the Clean Water Infrastructure Act.

■ \$1 billion for Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

■ \$47 million to plant 25 million trees by 2033.

### **HELPING FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN.**

■ \$350 million for a new supplemental tax credit for families eligible for the Empire State Child Tax Credit and allowing children ages 0-6 to stay continuously enrolled in Medicaid or Child Health Plus.



*I directed a \$1 million State grant to refurbish the Little Engine Playground at Riverside Park South to increase accessibility and safety. (Pictured: reps from NYC Parks and Riverside Park Conservancy)*

## **PASSED! MY FIRST-IN-THE-NATION BILL HOLDING GUN MAKERS ACCOUNTABLE FOR SAFETY.**

It takes just \$25 to purchase a piece of plastic (known as a “Glock switch”) and a screwdriver to turn a semi-automatic pistol into a machine gun capable of firing 15 rounds in under two seconds. Gun manufacturers like Glock have known about this design defect for decades—but have done nothing to address it.

My bill (S.7365B), which passed this past Session, updates the State’s gun industry accountability law to explicitly require firearm makers to take steps to ensure their handguns cannot be easily turned into machine guns. With this new measure, we’re putting gun manufacturers on notice that by failing to take reasonable steps to prevent these illegal conversions, they’ll be held accountable for the preventable acts of gun violence caused by their inaction.

## **FIGHTING FOR KIDS WITH DYSLLEXIA.**

The *New York Times* cites studies that show as many as 10 to 20 percent of NYC school children struggle with dyslexia (including my 13-year-old, Silvia).

Last year, Albany passed S.2599, my bill creating a Dyslexia Task Force to recommend screening and teaching standards for children with this disability; this year, the Legislature funded the Dyslexia Task Force in the State Budget. The Legislature also passed my Dyslexia Diagnosis Access Act (S.5481A), another first-in-the-nation bill to require private health insurance plans to cover the cost of neuropsychological exams for dyslexia. Right now, these exams can cost between \$5,000–\$10,000, but aren’t covered by most insurance plans. Early diagnosis of dyslexia, coupled with intervention and appropriate teaching plans, drastically improves outcomes limiting the learning challenges caused by dyslexia.

## **SIGNED! MY BILLS TARGETING ILLEGAL MOPEDS AND SPEEDING DRIVERS.**

I’m elated that the Governor signed “Sammy’s Law” in June (see photo), my bill with Assembly Member Linda Rosenthal allowing NYC to control its own speed limits without the prior approval of Albany. I named the bill in memory of Sammy Cohen Eckstein, a young man fatally struck by a speeding vehicle. Already, speed limits have been reduced



*Celebrating Governor Hochul’s signing of “Sammy’s Law,” my bill to allow NYC to set its own local speed limits, with Assembly Member Linda Rosenthal (who sponsored the bill in the Assembly) and Amy Cohen, Sammy’s mother (at right above).*

in our district on West 64th Street, West End Avenue, and Amsterdam Avenue.

The Legislature also passed my bill (S.7703B) to require mopeds to be registered and licensed at the point of sale, before the vehicles leave the premises of the moped retailer. This idea originated at a community symposium on micro-mobility safety I co-hosted in March with the Midtown Community Justice Center and government colleagues.

## **SIGNED! MY BILLS TO COMBAT HIV-AIDS.**

Under New York’s current, archaic HIV testing law, nearly one in five newly diagnosed New Yorkers with HIV didn’t learn of their status until they *already* had AIDS.

New York had been one of only two states to deviate from the CDC’s HIV testing guidelines, but thankfully, no longer. During Pride Month, the Governor signed my HIV Testing Modernization Act (S.7809) to align NYS laws with federal guidance and make HIV testing part of routine care.

The Governor also signed my bill (S.1001A, sponsored by Linda Rosenthal in the Assembly) to bar insurers from requiring prior authorization for antiretroviral drugs for HIV treatment and prevention, and my legislation to prohibit insurers from imposing copayments on PrEP or PEP to prevent HIV infection (S.9842, sponsored by Tony Simone in the Assembly).

## **PASSED! MY BILL TO COUNTER ONLINE ANTISEMITISM, ISLAMOPHOBIA AND RACISM.**

Antisemitism, Islamophobia, racism, anti-LGBTQ bias, and other hate speech have surged—even before the October 7 terror attacks in Israel.

Social media platforms are being used to spread that hateful content, but tech companies aren’t subject to any reporting requirements for moderation of these harmful posts. My bill, the Stop Hiding Hate Act (S.895B), written with the ADL, requires that platforms report their moderation policies to the NYS Attorney General to help boost accountability and create a safer social media environment. I look forward to the Governor signing this bill into law.

## **COURT RULES: EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT ON THE NOVEMBER BALLOT AS PROPOSAL 1!**

The courts have now ruled that the New York State Equal Rights Amendment will be on the ballot this November, labelled Proposal 1. As Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I helped shepherd the ERA through the required two legislative sessions.

The State ERA will prohibit discrimination based on ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, pregnancy outcomes, and reproductive healthcare and autonomy decisions. (The gender expression language was the basis for the lawsuit denied by the court.) It will also constitutionally protect abortion, IVF, surrogacy, and gender affirming medical care.

Here’s the actual language of the amendment (for space purposes, it will be summarized on the ballot):

*A. No person shall be denied the equal protection of the laws of this state or any subdivision thereof. No person shall, because of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, age, disability,*

(continued)

(continued from page 3)

*creed [or], religion, or sex, including sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, pregnancy outcomes, and reproductive healthcare and autonomy, be subjected to any discrimination in [his or her] their civil rights by any other person or by any firm, corporation, or institution, or by the state or any agency or subdivision of the state, pursuant to law.*

*B. Nothing in this section shall invalidate or prevent the adoption of any law, regulation, program, or practice that is designed to prevent or dismantle discrimination on the basis of a characteristic listed in this section, nor shall any characteristic listed in this section be interpreted to interfere with, limit, or deny the civil rights of any person based upon any other characteristic identified in this section.*

Learn more about the State ERA at [nyclu.org](http://nyclu.org).

# ! Older Adult Resource Fair

SAVE THE DATE

Lincoln Sq. Neighborhood Center/250 W. 65th St.

**Tuesday 8 October/3-5 pm**



STATE SENATOR

**BRAD HOYLMAN-SIGAL**

Goddard Riverside

INVESTING IN PEOPLE, STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY



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

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**BRAD HOYLMAN-SIGAL'S**

## Community Report

INSIDE SUMMER 2024:

84 HOYLMAN-SIGAL BILLS PASSED  
(INCLUDING THREE FIRST-IN-THE-NATION!)

TARGETING ILLEGAL MOPEDS & SPEEDING DRIVERS

HOLDING GUN MANUFACTURERS ACCOUNTABLE

HELPING SCHOOLKIDS WITH DYSLEXIA

State Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal invites you to his

# West Side Town Hall

Sunday, September 15, 2024, 1-4 pm, American Museum of Natural History (enter on West 77th Street)

### E-BIKE SAFETY

*How can e-bikes share streets safely with pedestrians?*

### GOOD CAUSE EVICTION

*Understanding the new protections for market-rate tenants.*

### ANTISEMITISM

*How can we address the surge in antisemitic incidents?*

**Get your questions answered on these and other topics!**

**Please RSVP** by calling 212-633-8052 or online at [www.nysenate.gov/WestSideTownHall](http://www.nysenate.gov/WestSideTownHall)