

Liz Krueger

New York State Senate | 28th District



August 2018

Message from Liz...

The New York Times Magazine has an interesting piece by Nathaniel Rich about the history of efforts to address climate change that offers some lessons for us today. The main takeaway of the article is that there was general agreement about the need to address climate change among both scientists and policymakers by the 1980s and a concerted effort to “enact a binding, global framework to reduce carbon emissions.” But the opportunity was missed, largely due to the failure of the United States to assume a leadership role. The long essay is worth a read:

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2018/08/01/magazine/climate-change-losing-earth.html>

Many climate activists and scientists, however, have taken issue with the Times Magazine piece for placing the blame for inaction on “human nature,” rather than specific actors who intentionally thwarted concerted action. These actors included leading fossil fuel producers, other elite business interests, and key members of the Reagan and Bush administrations, such as President George H. W. Bush’s chief of staff John Sununu. For important context to the Times piece, read the responses by Naomi Klein (<https://theintercept.com/2018/08/03/climate-change-new-york-times-magazine/>) and several others (<https://thinkprogress.org/scientists-slam-new-york-times-climate-story-for-whitewashing-role-of-big-oil-and-gop-63fbc3a85b09/>).

Regardless of where the blame for inaction lies, thirty years later the situation is much more dire. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), in 1980 global land and ocean surface temperatures were .25° Celcius above the 20th Century average. By 2000, temperatures had risen to .66°C above average, and since 2015 they have ranged between .84° and .94° above average. Experts agree that dramatic events like the Carr fire currently raging in California or last year’s devastating hurricanes, from which Puerto Rico has yet to recover, are made more likely due to climate change. Meanwhile, the less dramatic steady rise in global temperatures marches on. The NOAA website offers some great tools to look at these changes - you can see the 20th Century chart here: https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cag/global/time-series/globe/land_ocean/1/6/1900-2018.

The failures of the 1980s are being repeated by the Trump administration today. The United States is now the *only country in the world that is not part of the Paris Climate Accord*. If there is any reason for hope it is that other nations, as well as many states and cities within the U.S, are taking action on their own. New York is among those states, but there is more that can and must be done to wean us

What’s Inside

Message from Liz	1
Policy Spotlight	2
- Adult Use Marijuana	
Community Spotlight	3
- Opposing Liquor License for 583 Park Avenue	
- Ferry Service at East 90th Street Begins August 15	
- Housing Court Answers Training Series for Tenants	
- Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training	
- NYC Elder Abuse Center’s Helpline	
- Volunteer Opportunity for Retired Persons	
- Upcoming Pet Adoption Events	
- Series on Resume Building at Lenox Hill Senior Center	
- Legal Advocacy Clinics From Lenox Hill Neighborhood House	
- VOLS Legal Clinics for Seniors	
- Affordable Housing Opportunities in Manhattan	
- Metrocard Bus and Van Schedule	

off of fossil fuels. I recently joined 15 of my colleagues in writing to Governor Cuomo urging the Department of Environmental Conservation to adopt strong regulations that will ensure New York's dirtiest energy generation sources can responsibly retire without prolonging the state's reliance on expensive and unsafe fossil fuels or biomass. New York must move to rapidly develop clean energy sources to replace existing fossil fuel plants, while prioritizing support for workers and communities negatively impacted by the transition.

Wind energy is one major resource we should be developing, and I am pleased that New York is aggressively pursuing development of offshore wind facilities. Such investments will pay dividends across the board, with a stronger grid, lower emissions, thousands of local jobs, healthier air, and greater energy security.

Wind and other clean energy sources like hydroelectric and solar power have the capability to replace our existing fossil fuel plants using current technology. A Stanford University study examined the technical and economic feasibility of, and proposed policies for converting New York State's energy infrastructure to 100% sustainable sources including wind, water, and sunlight. The study found that such a conversion is feasible, and would improve the health and welfare of New Yorkers by creating a cleaner environment. That study is available at

<http://web.stanford.edu/group/efmh/jacobson/Articles/I/NewYorkWWSEnPolicy.pdf>.

New York State must also pass important climate legislation that is pending in Albany, including the nation-leading Climate and Community Protection Act (S.7971), the Fossil Fuel Divestment Act (S.4596), and a bill to end state fossil fuel tax subsidies (S.6881), as well as enacting a statewide polluter fee to cut pollution and fund climate solutions.

The failure to address climate change 30 years ago makes it much harder to do so now, but the window for action is still open; if we care about the world we will leave to our children and grandchildren, we need to act now and act aggressively. So I will continue to push for policies in New York State that move us toward the elimination of our current dependence on fossil fuels.

P.S. In last month's bulletin I discussed the Trump Administration's new Title X "gag rule" which is a threat to New Yorkers' basic reproductive healthcare throughout the state, especially in rural areas. Here is an interview I conducted with advocates from Planned Parenthood on this critical issue: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l140AikWYl8>.

POLICY SPOTLIGHT

Adult Use Marijuana

As many of you know, I carry legislation (S.3040B/A.3506B) that would legalize, regulate, and tax adult use marijuana. I am pleased to see significant momentum building in New York for addressing the need to modernize our approach to marijuana. Earlier this year Governor Cuomo tasked the State Health Department with studying legalization, and on July 13th they issued their report, which is available at https://health.ny.gov/regulations/regulated_marijuana/. The study concluded that "the

positive effects of regulating an adult (21 and over) marijuana market in NYS outweigh the potential negative impacts.”

On August 2nd, the Governor followed up the release of the report by appointing a workgroup to draft legislation for a regulated adult-use marijuana program. The workgroup will be tasked with engaging with the leadership of both the State Senate and the State Assembly, as well as bill sponsors of medical and regulated marijuana legislation including Assemblywoman Crystal Peoples-Stokes, who sponsors the Assembly version of my bill, and me.

Until this year, the Governor had been clear that he did not support legalizing adult use of marijuana, and his support for addressing this issue is a major step toward getting something passed in the near future.

As the state moves forward, I believe my legislation offers a reasonable model for balancing the different issues associated with removing criminal penalties for marijuana and creating a regulated market. But regardless of whether the final product is my legislation or some new bill developed by the workgroup, there are some key principles that I believe any legislation must address:

- Removal of criminal penalties for possession and use, and mechanisms for clearing the records of those who were convicted under the old marijuana laws;
- Reinvestment of the revenues generated through taxation of marijuana in the communities that have been most impacted by the drug war, which because of racial disparities in prosecutions are largely communities of color;
- Creation of a regulatory structure and small business assistance that allows opportunities for small community-based businesses rather than a centralized industry where only large companies with access to major capital can participate;
- Bans on discrimination solely on the basis of marijuana use;
- Controls over product design and packaging to ensure safety and accurate information on product conduct;
- Strict limitations on advertising and marketing aimed at those younger than 21.

The final legislation must create a system that both redresses past injustices created by the racialized enforcement of marijuana laws, and also recognizes the need to address public health issues associated with marijuana use. I believe we can do both, and look forward to participating with the workgroup in developing the best solutions for regulating adult use marijuana in New York.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Opposing Liquor License for 583 Park Avenue:

The Rose Group has once again applied for a full liquor license at 583 Park, despite previous denials by the State Liquor Authority going back to 2009. The location is covered by the “200 foot rule” which prohibits the issuance of a license to an establishment that is within 200 feet of a church or school. The Rose Group has made multiple efforts to get around this law, including pushing through state legislation in 2014 to create an exception to the 200 foot rule, which Governor Cuomo vetoed. I have joined Congressman Maloney and Councilmembers Powers and Kallos in writing to the SLA in opposition to this license, as nothing has changed that would make it legal now. Our letter is

available at <https://www.nysenate.gov/newsroom/articles/liz-krueger/senator-krueger-and-east-side-electeds-oppose-liquor-license-583-park>.

Ferry Service at East 90th Street Begins August 15:

Ferry Service on the Soundview route which serves East 90th Street is launching on August 15th. This route will begin at Soundview in the Bronx and also serve East 34th Street and Wall Street. The schedule is available here: <https://www.ferry.nyc/routes-and-schedules/route/soundview/>.

Housing Court Answers Training Series for Tenants:

Trinity Church is partnering with Housing Court Answers and Mobilization for Justice to provide helpful information for New York City residents facing eviction in Housing Court who don't have legal representation. The series will take place on Wednesdays in August from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Parish Center, 56 Trinity Place.

Topics to be covered include:

- August 8 | Rental Arrears Assistance
- August 15 | Getting Repairs
- August 22 | Holdover Cases
- August 29 | Rent Stabilized Tenants' Rights

Walk-ins welcome. For more information contact Mandy Culbreath at mculbreath@trinitywallstreet.org or 212.602.0800.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training:

New York City Emergency Management will be holding a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training in the 28th Senatorial District beginning in October.

CERT is a group of dedicated volunteers who help to prepare their neighborhoods and communities for different types of disasters by educating their communities about emergency preparedness and building community disaster networks. Learn more about this program at www.nyc.gov/cert.

To become a member of CERT, individuals must complete a five-week training. The next training session in Manhattan will take place at Manhattan - Monday/Wednesday session, 32BJ Training Fund - 25 West 18 Street, NY.

Dates: 10/10, 10/15, 10/17, 10/22, 10/24, 10/29, 11/5, 11/7, 11/12 & 11/14. Orientation is 11/19.

To sign up for a training session, please visit:

https://nycem.samaritan.com/cert#/volunteer_registration

NYC Elder Abuse Center's Helpline:

If you are concerned that an older adult is being abused, are distressed by a past or present elder abuse situation, or want support but are uncertain about where to turn, you may want to call the NYC Elder Abuse Center's Helpline for Concerned Persons.

The Helpline offers an array of FREE services from trained specialists, including supportive counseling for anxiety and stress, and guidance to plan next steps. Helpline operators will provide accurate information about elder abuse, neglect and exploitation, and make appropriate and timely referrals

Telephone: 212.746.6905

Email: helpline@nyceac.org

This NON-EMERGENCY Helpline is open Monday through Friday from 9 am – 5 pm. Calls received evenings, weekends or holidays will be responded to on the next business day.

If you or a victim is in IMMEDIATE danger, CALL 911.

The Helpline is a service of the NYC Elder Abuse Center, a project of Weill Cornell Medicine's Division of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine.

Volunteer Opportunity for Retired Persons:

The Community Service Society's Advocacy Counseling and Entitlement Service (ACES) Project is recruiting retired individuals to help clients with public benefit applications and issues. The training for this opportunity would begin on October 2, and it will take place at 633 3rd Avenue (between 40th and 41st Streets). Those who are interested can read the Community Service Society's volunteer description here: <http://cssny.org/pages/the-aces-project-volunteer-description>. For a full description of the ACES Project, visit <http://cssny.org/programs/entry/the-aces-project>.

Upcoming Pet Adoption Events:

Animal Care Centers of NYC (ACC) is sponsoring several Pet Adoption events around the district in December. Upcoming dates and locations are:

Saturday, August 25, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Biscuits and Bath – Dogs only
1064 First Avenue b/t at 58th Street

Upcoming events are also listed at <http://nycacc.org/Events.htm>

Series on Resume Building at Lenox Hill Senior Center:

Lenox Hill Senior Center is offering a Series on Resume Building, including One-on-One Coaching with Career Experts Peter Patch and Dr. Joan Rodman Smaller, PhD. The sessions are as follows:

- August 8, 4:00-5:30pm: Presentation on Creating Powerful Resumes with Peter and Joan – open to all, no pre-registration.
- August 9, 3:00-5:30pm: One-on-One Resume Writing & Review.

Pre-register at the Front Desk.

- August 10, 9:00-11:30am: One-on-One Resume Writing & Review. Pre-register at the Front Desk.

All sessions will take place at 343 E. 70th Street. Sessions are only open to members of the Center @ Lenox Hill Neighborhood House. If you are not a member and want to participate, you can submit your application for membership Friday - Monday, 1- 2pm or Tuesday - Thursday, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm.

Legal Advocacy Clinics At Lenox Hill Neighborhood House:

The Lenox Hill Neighborhood House Legal Advocacy Center Offers assistance on a number of different issues. Here is a list of their ongoing programs and clinics:

- SNAP (formerly Food Stamps) Clinics: Wednesdays from 10am to 1pm at Lenox Hill Neighborhood House, 331 East 70th Street. First come, first served. Bring proof of identity, income information,

utility bill, proof of housing costs, information on any dependents and if you are 60 or over or on SSI/SSD, information on medical costs. For more information, call [212-218-0431](tel:212-218-0431).

- SCRIE Clinics: Walk-in Clinic. The next clinic will take place Thursday, August 9 from 10:00 a.m to 1:00 p.m at Lenox Hill Neighborhood House, 331 East 70th Street. You must arrive before Noon to ensure you can be seen. If you are 62 years or older, live in a rent regulated apartment and have an annual household income of \$50,000 or less you may be eligible for the Rent Freeze Program. Find out if you are eligible and get assistance applying or recertifying for SCRIE.

- Tenants Rights Advice Clinic: Walk-in clinic, now at 2 locations.

- September 6 from 10am to 1pm at 331 East 70th Street. First come-first Served, arrive by Noon.

- August 15 from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the East Harlem Health Action Center, 158 East 115th Street. First come, first served, arrive by 4 p.m.

Please bring all relevant housing-related documents with you.

- End-of-Life Planning/Advance Directives: volunteer attorneys may be able to assist you with one-on-one counseling and individualized drafting of Advance Directives including Health Care Proxies, Living Wills, Powers of Attorney, and simple, low-asset Wills. If you are interested in being screened for a possible appointment, call the intake hotline at [212-218-0503](tel:212-218-0503) ext 4.

- Health Care Access/Medicare/Medicaid: call [212-218-0503](tel:212-218-0503) ext 3. Find out about Medicare Savings Programs, Medicaid home care, Medicare Part D, Medicaid Spend-down, EPIC and if you are eligible for Medicaid.

- Health Insurance Enrollment: call [212-218-0432](tel:212-218-0432). Assistance with finding and enrolling in an affordable health insurance plan.

VOLS Legal Clinics for Seniors:

The VOLS Elderly Project will be at one location in my district this month. The Elderly Project staff and pro bono attorneys provide free legal advice, information, document drafting, and other brief services to low-income Manhattan residents aged 60 and over, and to the social workers and advocates who assist them. Their schedule includes

August 17th - 10:00 am, Legal Clinic,
Stanley M. Isaacs Neighborhood Center, 415 East 93rd Street

Affordable Housing Opportunities in Manhattan:

Fulton Houses is now accepting applications for 159 affordable studio, 1- and 2-bedroom apartments newly constructed at 425 West 18th Street in the Chelsea neighborhood in Manhattan. Rents for these apartments range from \$702 to \$3,216 depending on income and unit size. To be eligible, applicants must have incomes between \$26,400 and \$185,955 depending on unit and family size. Asset limits also apply. Preference will be given to Community Board 4 residents for 50% of units, NYCHA Residents for 25% of units, mobility-impaired persons for 5% of units, visual- and/or hearing-impaired persons for 2% of units, and City of New York municipal employees for 5% of units. A full description of the building and application process is available at <https://a806-housingconnect.nyc.gov/nyclottery/AdvertisementPdf/549.pdf>.

Households may elect to submit an application by one of two methods: EITHER online OR by mail. To submit your application online now, please visit NYC Housing Connect at www.nyc.gov/housingconnect and select "Apply for Housing." To request an application by mail, mail a self-addressed envelope to: FULTON HOUSES, 316 West 118th Street, 4th Floor, New York, NY 10026.

Applications must be submitted online or postmarked by September 24, 2018. Applicants who submit more than one application may be disqualified.

Metrocard Bus and Van Schedule:

The MTA offers MetroCard-related services throughout New York City through mobile buses and vans. Buses provide a full range of services, including applying for or refilling a Reduced-Fare MetroCard, buying or refilling a regular MetroCard, or getting answers to a MetroCard-related question. Vans sell Unlimited Ride MetroCards and Pay-Per-Ride MetroCards, and they refill MetroCards and Reduced-Fare MetroCards. Buses and vans will be in my district on the following dates and locations:

August 14, 9 - 10:30 am, 92 Street & Lexington Avenue – Bus
August 14, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm., 86 Street & Lexington Avenue – Bus
August 14, 1:30 - 2:30 pm, 68 Street & Lexington Avenue – Bus
August 15, 9 – 10:30 am, 79 Street & Third Avenue - Bus
August 15, 11 am - 1 pm, 79 Street & York Avenue – Bus
August 15, 1:30 - 2:30 pm, 72 Street & York Avenue – Bus
August 16, 8:00 - 10:30 am, 47 Street & 2 Avenue – Van
August 16, 11:30 am – 2:00 pm, 28 Street & 2 Avenue – Van
August 28, 9 - 10:30 am, 92 Street & Lexington Avenue – Bus
August 28, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm., 86 Street & Lexington Avenue – Bus
August 28, 1:30 - 2:30 pm, 68 Street & Lexington Avenue – Bus
September 5, 9 - 10:30 am, 79 Street & Third Avenue – Bus
September 5, 11 am - 1 pm, 79 Street & York Avenue – Bus
September 5, 1:30 - 2:30 pm, 72 Street & York Avenue – Bus
September 6, 7 – 9 am, 91 Street and York Avenue - Van
September 6, 8:00 - 10:30 am, 47 Street & 2 Avenue – Van
September 6, 11:30 am - 2:00 pm, 28 Street & 2 Avenue – Van
September 7, 9 - 10 am, 57 Street and 1 Avenue – Van
September 7, 10:30 - 11:30 am, 57 Street and 3 Avenue – Van
September 7, 12:30 - 2:00 pm, 68 Street and 1 Avenue – Van

The full mobile MetroCard schedule is available at <http://mta.info/metrocard/mms.htm>. Please note that MetroCard buses and vans do not take credit cards.