

Liz Krueger

New York State Senate | 28th District



October 2018

Message from Liz...

Last month as part of Climate Week NYC, I joined my colleague Senator Brad Hoylman in hosting a panel discussion on the role New York State and local communities can play in addressing climate change. The speakers included Payal Parek, Global Programme Director at 350.org; Peggy Shepard, Co-Founder and Executive Director of WE ACT for Environmental Justice; Lara Skinner, Executive Director of The Worker Institute at Cornell; and Alex Tindal Weisendanger, Campaign Coordinator at NY Renews. The panel was particularly useful in highlighting the need to link action on climate change to environmental justice, workers' rights, and inequality. Video of the full event can be viewed here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xueu-RnbPS8&>

Payal Parekh set the stage for the discussion by placing the role of subnational governments in addressing climate change in an international perspective. This is particularly important in the United States, given the efforts of the Trump administration to withdraw from the Paris Climate Accord. Ms. Parekh emphasized that such actions were hardly limited to the United States, and that subnational governments were playing a leadership role around the globe. She also pointed out the clear link between inequality and climate change, as it is often the poorest communities around the globe that face the greatest impacts from changing temperatures and rising sea levels, and which also have fewer resources to address those challenges.

Peggy Shepard focused on the need to involve local communities, particularly those that have been the center of the fight for environmental justice, in efforts to address climate change. One example is Solar Uptown Now, a campaign to bring Northern Manhattan community members together to purchase solar as a group. The Solar Uptown Now model helps customers choose a solar installer that offers competitive, transparent pricing. Solar One, the Urban Homesteading Assistance Board, and Sustainable CUNY, are helping to facilitate the installation of at least 150 kW of new solar power on low- to moderate-income multifamily affordable housing units and HDFC co-op buildings in Northern Manhattan. Purchasing solar as a group helps to bring down the cost of solar installation for all participants.

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Lara Skinner spoke about the need to challenge the narrative that pits protecting the environment against job creation. There are major opportunities to create tens of thousands of jobs in renewable energy, but we must ensure that these are good jobs that pay a family-supporting wage and help build a sustainable economy at the same time that we are addressing climate change.

Finally, Alex Tindal Weisendanger spoke about the organizing work at NY Renews, which is engaged in building support for legislation and funding to address climate change. NY Renews is a broad coalition of environmental, labor and community groups focused on building solutions to climate change that address inequality and environmental justice issues. He spoke about the need to pass the New York State Climate and Community Protection Act (CCPA) (S6617A/A8270A), the most ambitious and far-reaching climate bill in the country. CCPA would cut greenhouse gas pollution from all sectors of the economy, protect communities and workers on the front lines of climate change, ensure that jobs in the new energy economy conform with fair labor standards, and require all state government decisions to align with climate and equity policies.

NY Renews is organizing a grassroots campaign in support of the CCPA and other efforts to address climate change at the state and local level. For information about how you can get involved, visit <http://www.nyrenews.org/take-action-plan/>. There are also several other advocacy organizations working to push New York State in the right direction on climate policy, including several that co-sponsored the panel: Sierra Club of NYC, 350nyc, NYPIRG, and Environmental Advocates of New York. I would encourage anyone interested in rational climate policy to get involved with one of these organizations, to help keep the pressure on for statewide action.

POLICY SPOTLIGHT

Anti-Corruption Constitutional Amendment

It is clear to me that the various “ethics reforms” the legislature and governor have implemented over the years have failed. Recent convictions of close aides to the Governor are only the latest example, as legislators from both parties, including the most powerful legislative leaders, have faced corruption charges for years now. In an effort to address this chronic issue that undermines faith in our government, I have been working with a wide range of advocates to develop a truly independent ethics enforcement structure.

I have joined my Assembly colleague Robert Carroll in introducing an Anti-Corruption Constitutional Amendment (S8309/A10651). Amending the state constitution is a complicated process, but I believe that enshrining ethics in the constitution is a necessary response to the failure of existing ethics oversight bodies. The Anti-Corruption Amendment would create the Commission on State Government Integrity to replace the Joint Commission on Public Ethics (JCOPE) and the Legislative Ethics Commission (LEC). These two bodies lack the independence needed to be effective enforcers of ethics laws.

Unlike JCOPE and LEC, a majority of the members of the new Integrity Commission would be appointed by the judiciary, and only a minority by the bodies being regulated. The Integrity Commission would also operate by majority vote; currently, New York is the only state where the

ethics commission does not already do so. Incredibly, two of the Governor's appointees to the 14-member JCOPE can veto an investigation or a finding of violation, as can three of the appointees of the legislative leaders.

New York is also marked by its division of ethics enforcement responsibility. JCOPE can find a violation by executive branch officials or employees and impose a fine but only the LEC can find a violation by or fine a legislative branch official or employee. The LEC may reject JCOPE's interpretation of the law. In all cases, discipline (admonishment, censure, demotion, suspension or removal) is left to the discretion of the entity in which the official or employee works. The Integrity Commission would have full discipline authority over both branches except that the Legislature could overrule censure or removal of an elected official.

Ethics and other rules barring official misconduct are only as good as the mechanism available to enforce them. Without an adequate enforcement mechanism these rules exist only on paper without real world force or effect. "Paper" rules do nothing to combat what far too many see as a culture of corruption and pay-to-play in Albany.

Other key features of the Anti-Corruption Amendment include the following:

- Unlike JCOPE, where the person appointing a member can remove that member for what the appointing authority deems to be substantial neglect of duty, members of the Commission could be removed for cause only through a process by which a majority of the Commission votes to make an application for removal to the Court of Appeals.
- The Commission would have jurisdiction and enforcement power over state ethics, lobbying, and campaign finance laws.
- Ex parte communications between Commission members and their appointing authorities and related staff would be barred, and no member could have held office, employment in state government or any political party, or been engaged as a lobbyist in the three years prior to his or her appointment or during his or her term.
- Transparency laws would apply equally to the executive and legislative branches.
- All state officers and employees would have an ethical duty to report known misconduct to the Commission and would be protected against retaliation.
- Specifically defines sexual harassment as unethical conduct, and requires the establishment of a special unit to address harassment complaints.
- The Integrity Commission would have full authority to sanction officers or employee of public authorities.

The primary reason for utilizing the constitutional amendment process is to ensure the independence of the commission. A constitutional amendment is required to allow judicial appointments to a commission overseeing the legislative and executive branches, as well as to grant enforcement powers over these different sections of law to a single body.

With all the disturbing news out of Washington, it is easy to lose focus on what we still need to fix in New York. I have been gratified to see the amount of support this amendment has garnered since I first introduced it in the Spring, and I will be pushing for quick action on it when the new legislative session begins in January.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

College Affordability and Excelsior Scholarship Forum October 11th:

On Thursday, October 11th, Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright, Council Member Ben Kallos and I are hosting a Forum on College Affordability and the Excelsior Scholarship Program. Representatives from SUNY, CUNY, the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities, and the New York State Higher Education Services Corporation will be presenting financial aid information and answering questions. The forum will take place from 5:30 to 7:30 pm at Eleanor Roosevelt High School, 411 East 76th Street, between York and First Avenues. To RSVP, call my office at 212-490-9535 or email liz@lizkrueger.com. Childcare is available upon request.

Senator Krueger's 12th Annual Senior Resource Fair October 18th:

My 12th Annual Senior Resource Fair will take place on Thursday, October 18th from 2:00 to 5:00 pm at Temple Emanu-El, 1 East 65th Street. Last year's fair was attended by more than 500 people and this year we expect around 100 non-profit senior service providers and advocacy groups to participate and provide information about a range of issues including healthcare, housing, and volunteer opportunities. No RSVP necessary.

Flu Vaccines for Adults on November 8th:

On Thursday, November 8th, Mount Sinai and I are hosting an event offering free flu shots for adults at Lenox Hill Neighborhood House's Senior Center, 619 Lexington Avenue at 54th Street. Appointments are still available from 10:15 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. We will be offering the standard, not the senior dosage. If you need the senior dosage, you can generally get that at a pharmacy or through your primary care physician. To make an appointment for the 8th, call 212-490-9535 or email gresham@nysenate.gov.

Later Life Planning Series:

In November, I will be hosting a three-part series addressing issues in later life planning, designed to offer key information and tools necessary to navigate later life planning for you and your loved ones. The sessions are as follows:

Thursday, November 8th – Medicare and Social Security.

Speakers: Eric Hausman, HIICAP Outreach Coordinator, NYC Department for the Aging and Michael Martin, Principal, Marius Wealth Management

Thursday, November 15th – Important Documents: Wills, Health Care Proxies, Living Wills and Power of Attorney

Speakers: Michael Bond, Law Office of Michael Bond, Lisa Rachmuth, LMSW, Deputy Director of Elder Abuse MDTs, NYC Elder Abuse Center, and Peg Horan, LMSW, Senior Program Coordinator for Elder Abuse MDTs, NYC Elder Abuse Center

Thursday, November 29th – Palliative Care, Hospice and Sharing with Your Family

Speakers from Weill Cornell Medicine/New York Presbyterian Division of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine: Dr. Ronald Adelman and Dr. Mark Lachs, Co-chiefs; Dr. Randi Diamond, Palliative Care Attending Physician, Elizabeth Schack, Palliative Care GNP and Chaplain Jeanmarie Walsh

All sessions will take place from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at New York Presbyterian, Belfer Research Building, 413 East 69th Street, between York and First Avenues. Space is limited so please RSVP.

To RSVP for each session, or for further information, visit <https://tinyurl.com/latelifeplanning> or call [212-490-9535](tel:212-490-9535).

Roundtable for Boomers and Seniors Starts November 13th:

The Roundtable for Boomers & Seniors provides an opportunity for constituents to come together to explore life issues that are relevant across the age span. At each session, attendees hear from and engage with professionals who are knowledgeable on topics that are of most concern to the growing population of older adults in New York City. Over the course of five sessions, the Roundtable looks at a specific issue from different perspectives each month.

This year's series will focus on myths, facts and possibilities. The first roundtable will take place Tuesday, November 13th from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. at Lenox Hill Neighborhood House, 331 East 70th Street, and the topic will be ageism. At this session, I will interview Ashton Applewhite, ageism activist and author of *This Chair Rocks*. Other sessions in this year's series will take place on December 6th, March 14th 2019, April 4th 2019, and May 9th 2019.

To RSVP call (212) 490-9535 or email lkrueger@nysenate.gov.

Senior Portrait Day at DOROT on October 21st:

On Sunday October 21st DOROT is hosting a Senior Portrait Day. This event is open to all individuals who are 65+. Each senior will receive a mini portrait session and receive one FREE 4X6 photo which will be mailed to them and can also receive up to 5 digital photos via email. Photos will be taken at the DOROT office at 171 West 85th Street. This is a timed event and takes place between 11am and 4pm and hourly spots must be reserved at <http://www.dorotusa.org/seniorphotoshoot> or by calling Rob Secrease at 212-769-2850. Light refreshments will be served throughout the event.

Senior Resource Day at Church of the Incarnation on October 28th:

The Church of the Incarnation is having a Senior Resource Day on October 28th. The event will run from 1:00 to 3:00 PM in the Parish House at 209 Madison Avenue, at 35th Street

Church of the Incarnation offers one-on-one tech assistance to help seniors in the community navigate the internet and email, video chat, social media, smartphones, and tablets (such as iPads). All levels are welcome! Computers will be provided, but feel free to bring your own device if you wish. Physical Therapist Todd Edelson will offer a seminar on dizziness, falls, balance, and distracted walking (mostly due to cell phone use) at 1:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served. To RSVP for this free event, email info@churchoftheincarnation.org or register at <https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07efjxebw36cb545d5&oseq=&c=&ch=>

New York City Budget Ideas:

The New York City Independent Budget Office is updating their collection of budget options for New York City—ways to cut spending or increase revenue. What would you suggest? Send them your ideas—no need to work out all the calculations. That's part of their job. They'll add your ideas to their own and see what's viable for the next update.

Send your ideas to iboenews@ibo.nyc.ny.us.

Financial Empowerment Workshop at Lenox Hill Neighborhood House:

In partnership with Neighborhood Trust Financial Partners, Lenox Hill Neighborhood House is offering a free four-part Financial Empowerment Workshop. See your credit report, meet one-on-one with a

Financial Counselor, get help with credit and debt issues, and create a personalized Financial Action Plan. The workshop will take place on Thursdays, October 18th – November 8th (4 sessions), from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at 331 E 70th Street. Registration is required. Space is limited. Register by Monday, October 15th. To enroll, please contact Hannah Roucher: 212-218-0328 or hroucher@lenoxhill.org.

Sparking Wellness and Creativity through Art for People with Dementia:

Lenox Hill Neighborhood House is offering a five-session program designed for individuals with mild to moderate cognitive impairments, including dementia, which will explore the use of art to spark creativity, expressive outlets and cognitive stimulation. The person-centered process will focus on each individual's strengths and the development of their own creative style. No previous art experience required.

The program will take place over 5 Tuesdays from October 16th-November 13th from 3:00pm-4:30pm at Lenox Hill Neighborhood House, 331 East 70th Street between 1st and 2nd Avenues, 4th Floor Conference Room. There is a fee of \$150 for the program and pre-registration is required. To register visit <http://www.lenoxhill.org/arttherapy>.

For More Information Contact Leah Gable at 212-218 0481 or <http://www.lenoxhill.org/careprogram/>.

Friendly Visiting Program for Seniors:

Lenox Hill Neighborhood House & the New York City Department for the Aging (DFTA) are currently seeking volunteers for the Friendly Visiting Program for Seniors.

Volunteers visit with seniors on Manhattan's East Side & on Roosevelt Island once a week, for one hour. For volunteers, friendly visiting offers the opportunity to cultivate a lasting friendship, to learn from a senior's life experiences, and to benefit from the personal satisfaction derived from community service. Friendly visiting leads to the creation of meaningful relationships between older adults and volunteers, promoting intergenerational understanding.

Lenox Hill Neighborhood House is also looking for seniors (aged 60+) who are interested in having a volunteer visit with them. For seniors, friendly visiting provides connection to a new person, something to look forward to, and an opportunity to contribute to society through sharing wisdom, knowledge, talents and stories.

If you are interested in learning more about this program or signing up as either a volunteer or to be paired with a volunteer, please contact: Lauren Goldman, Deputy Volunteer Director, Lenox Hill Neighborhood House, 212-218-0452, lgoldman@lenoxhill.org.

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:

Sunday, October 28, 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Find Your Fido & Friends Adoption Event In collaboration with NYPD and ASPCA/ACC
Central Park -East Drive Enter at 5th Ave & E 60th St

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

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.
- SCRIE Clinics: Walk-in Clinic. The next clinic will take place Tuesday, October 16 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.
 - October 11 and November 1 from 10am to 1pm at 331 East 70th Street. First come-first Served, arrive by Noon.
 - October 17 from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the House Casa Mutua Clinics at 159 East 102nd Street. First come, first served, arrive by 4 p.m.
 - October 18 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.
- Medicare Part D & Medicare Advantage Plan Clinic: You can arrange an appointment for counseling and enrollment in a plan during Medicare Open Enrollment, between October 15 - December 7. Please call Aitan Groener at 212-218-0449 to arrange an appointment.
- Health Insurance Enrollment: call 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

Tuesday, October 12th - 2:00 pm, Legal Clinic,
Burden Center for the Aging, 415 East 73rd Street (b/t 1st and York)

Friday, October 19th - 10:00 am, Legal Clinic,
Stanley M. Isaacs Neighborhood Center, 415 East 93rd Street

Monday, October 22nd - 10:00 am, Legal Clinic,
Encore Community Services Center, 239 West 49th Street (b/t Broadway and 8th Ave.)

And, just across the Park on the Westside: Monthly Housing Clinics and Workshops:

Council Member Helen Rosenthal, Goddard Riverside's SRO Law Project, and the Urban Justice Center co-sponsor monthly housing clinics and workshops at the Goddard Riverside Community Center, 593 Columbus Avenue (between 88th and 89th Streets). On the first Wednesday of each month, from 6pm – 8pm, the clinic offers a presentation on a variety of topics, followed by a question and answer session. Each evening, at least one staff attorney will meet with individuals who are seeking specific legal advice.

For questions, contact the Office of Council Member Rosenthal at (212) 873-0282 ext. 206 or Helen@helenrosenthal.com. Sign-up sheet starting at 6pm each evening.

November 7, 2018: Getting Repairs, Heat/Hot Water, Reduction in Services, HP Action

December 5, 2018: Housing Court 101: Retaining a Lawyer and Preparation

January 2, 2019: DHCR I: IAI and MCIs

February 6, 2019: DHCR II: Failure to Provide a Lease and Rent Overcharge applications

March 6, 2019: When a landlord wants you to go: Harassment, Construction Harassment and Buyouts

April 3, 2019: Eviction Prevention: Residency Challenges, Clutter, Unapproved Alterations, Nuisances

May 1, 2019: Succession Rights I: Family, Partners and Others

June 5, 2019: Succession Rights II: Apartment Sharing, Roommates, Sublets, Short-term rentals

Affordable Housing Opportunities in Manhattan:

Waterline Square is now accepting applications for 269 affordable studio, 1-, 2- and 3-bedroom apartments newly constructed at 675 West 59th Street, 400 West 61st Street and 645 West 59th Street on the Upper West Side in Manhattan. Rents for these apartments range from \$1,041 to \$1,553 depending on unit size. To be eligible, applicants must have incomes between \$37,578 and \$72,600 depending on unit and family size. Asset limits also apply. Preference will be given to Community Board 7 residents for 50% 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/599.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: Waterline Square c/o Breaking Ground, PO Box 3620937, New York, NY 10129.

Applications must be submitted online or postmarked by December 6, 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:

October 9, 9 - 10:30 am, 92 Street & Lexington Avenue – Bus

October 9, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm., 86 Street & Lexington Avenue – Bus

October 9, 1:30 - 2:30 pm, 68 Street & Lexington Avenue – Bus

October 17, 9 – 10:30 am, 79 Street & Third Avenue - Bus

October 17, 11 am - 1 pm, 79 Street & York Avenue – Bus

October 17, 1:30 - 2:30 pm, 72 Street & York Avenue – Bus

October 18, 8:00 - 10:30 am, 47 Street & 2 Avenue – Van

October 18, 11:30 am – 2:00 pm, 28 Street & 2 Avenue – Van
October 23, 9 - 10:30 am, 92 Street & Lexington Avenue – Bus
October 23, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm., 86 Street & Lexington Avenue – Bus
October 23, 1:30 - 2:30 pm, 68 Street & Lexington Avenue – Bus
November 1, 7 – 9 am, 91 Street and York Avenue - Van
November 1, 8:00 - 10:30 am, 47 Street & 2 Avenue – Van
November 1, 11:30 am - 2:00 pm, 28 Street & 2 Avenue – Van
November 2, 9 - 10 am, 57 Street and 1 Avenue – Van
November 2, 10:30 - 11:30 am, 57 Street and 3 Avenue – Van
November 2, 12:30 - 2:00 pm, 68 Street and 1 Avenue – Van
November 7, 9 - 10:30 am, 79 Street & Third Avenue – Bus
November 7, 11 am - 1 pm, 79 Street & York Avenue – Bus
November 7, 1:30 - 2:30 pm, 72 Street & York Avenue – Bus

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.

Heat Season Rules:

The City Housing Maintenance Code and State Multiple Dwelling Law require building owners to provide heat and hot water to all tenants. Building owners are required to provide hot water 365 days a year at a constant minimum temperature of 120 degrees Fahrenheit.

Between October 1st and May 31st, a period designated as “Heat Season,” building owners are also required to provide tenants with heat under the following conditions:

- Between the hours of 6AM and 10PM if the outside temperature falls below 55 degrees, the inside temperature is required to be at least 68 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Between the hours of 10PM and 6AM the inside temperature is required to be at least 62 degrees Fahrenheit. Note that there is no longer any outside temperature requirement for night hours

Tenants who are cold in their apartments should first attempt to notify the building owner, managing agent or superintendent. If heat is not restored, the tenant should call the City’s Citizen Service Center at 311. For the hearing-impaired, the TTY number is (212) 504-4115. The Center is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.