

Assemblymember Linda B. Rosenthal

Community Report March 2014



DISTRICT OFFICE • 230 West 72nd Street, Suite 2F • New York, NY 10023 • T: 212-873-6368 • F: 212-873-6520
ALBANY OFFICE • Room 741 • Legislative Office Building • Albany, NY 12248 • T: 518-455-5802 • F: 518-455-5015
rosenthal@assembly.state.ny.us

Assemblymember Linda B. Rosenthal Budget Update

We stand at a delicate economic time in New York State and the country. Though the economy is finally showing signs of life, the benefits are not reaching those who were hardest hit by the downturn: working-class and low-income New Yorkers who continue to struggle to cobble together a livelihood.

The state budget process provides us with an opportunity to prioritize getting help to those who need it most. We must seize this opportunity and finance programs that will provide the greatest economic benefit to the largest number of people, namely funding for education and after-school programs, homelessness prevention and affordable housing and health care. Robust funding in these critically important areas will help boost the entire economy by helping millions to climb out of poverty. I have written to Speaker Silver to advocate for restored or increased funding for many critical services, including:

- As Chair of the Legislative Commission on Science and Technology, I recommended funding increases for Centers for Advanced Technology, Regional Technology Development Centers, Technology Development Organization programs, Industrial Technology Extension Services and Science and Technology Entry Programs.
- Universal Pre-K: I strongly support Mayor de Blasio's plan to provide guaranteed funding for a universal pre-kindergarten program in New York City through tax increases on those earning \$500,000 or more per year. Whichever plan is adopted, it is heartening to know that New Yorkers will have pre-kindergarten programs for all children.
- Rape Crisis Centers. Currently proposed funding of \$3.4 million would leave just \$45,000 for each of the 76 rape crisis centers statewide. The clients served by these centers have increased by 65% between 2011 and 2013 even as funding was cut 25% between 2007 and 2013. I requested an increase in funding to \$7.4 million to bolster these critical lifelines for victims and survivors of sexual assault.
- Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs (RHYP): The number of homeless children has grown every year since 1984, but funding for RHYP has been slashed by 59% since 2008. RHYP services are essential to the health and safety of New York's young people, and I called for an increase in funding to \$5.86 million.
- School-Based Health Centers (SBHCs): SBHCs provide easy access to primary and preventive health care and mental health services to schoolchildren in the schools themselves. SBHCs are currently in jeopardy as they face losing an exemption from moving into the Medicaid managed care system, which would cost \$16.2 million. I joined my Assembly colleagues in advocating for the continued Medicaid exemption for SBHCs.
- Lymphatic Education and Research Network (LE&RN): Approximately 10 million Americans suffer from Lymphedema and other lymphatic diseases, one-third of whom contracted the disease as a result of diagnostic or treatment procedures for cancer. I wrote to Speaker Silver and Senate Leader Skelos requesting \$200,000 to maintain LE&RN's National Lymphatic Disease Patient Registry and Tissue Bank, which is helping health practitioners devise better treatments and, hopefully one day, will lead researchers to a cure.

As budget negotiations continue, I will keep fighting to ensure that these programs receive the funding they need to provide quality services to the countless New Yorkers who rely on them.

Assemblymember Linda B. Rosenthal West Side SCRIE, DRIE & Homeowners' Exemptions Clinic with the New York City Department of Finance

Tuesday, March 11, 2014
2:00-5:00 p.m.

**DISTRICT OFFICE OF ASSEMBLYMEMBER
LINDA B. ROSENTHAL
230 WEST 72ND STREET, SUITE 2F
(BETWEEN BROADWAY & WEST END AVENUE)**

For Current Recipients and those Interested in:

- Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE)
- Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE)
- Senior Citizen Homeowner's Exemption (SCHE)
- Disability Homeowner's Exemption (DHE)

If you are 62 or older or disabled and are a rent-stabilized or rent-controlled tenant or live in a Mitchell-Lama or other subsidized development, you may be eligible to have your rent frozen! If you are a homeowner or co-op or condo owner, you may be eligible to have your property taxes or maintenance reduced!

Assemblymember Linda B. Rosenthal, her staff and representatives from the Department of Finance will assist with filling out applications and answer any questions regarding the program or application process.

Please note: Monday, March 17 is the last day for homeowners to apply for SCHE, DHE and other personal exemptions for the next fiscal year. Please attend the clinic if you may be interested in applying!

**APPOINTMENTS ARE REQUIRED, PLEASE RSVP
CONTACT 212-873-6368 OR
ROSENTHALL@ASSEMBLY.STATE.NY.US**



Assemblymember Linda B. Rosenthal on the Vision Zero Safety Initiative

I was proud to stand with Mayor Bill de Blasio, New York City Police Department Commissioner William Bratton, New York City Department of Transportation Commissioner Polly Trottenberg and my colleagues in government at the release of the Mayor's Vision Zero initiative. The recent fatalities on the Upper West Side have left no room for doubt that immediate, comprehensive action is needed, and I look forward to collaborating with the City to ensure that our streets are safe for all users of the road.



Assemblymember Linda B. Rosenthal on Central Park Supertowers

I joined Manhattan Community Board 5, a panel of experts and my colleagues in government to discuss the mega-developments being built on West 57th Street and what can be done to limit the impact of these new towers on their surrounding communities.

I have always worked to ensure that all development is responsible and contributes to the City infrastructure and services on which the future tenants and residents will depend. However, the City must consider the impact of all planned construction in a given area as a whole. Any city needs new buildings to grow, but unless the people who are making unbelievable profits are required to contribute to the City services overburdened by their developments, new buildings will only mean that the rest of us have our parks, trains, schools and other services strained and diminished.

Assemblymember Linda B. Rosenthal Fights to Protect Neighbors' Safety and Quality of Life from C72 Nightclub

For years, C72 Nightclub has been the source of persistent and extreme disturbance to its neighbors on West 72nd and 71st Streets. The club's music, especially the bass, vibrates through 100 West 72nd Street, causing neighboring residents sleepless nights. Despite written warnings within the club to respect the neighbors, the club's patrons are loud and often violent outside the club, and there is no intervention by club security. There was even a stabbing inside the club last year.

My office met with the 20th Precinct, the club's owner and neighbors, and the club has committed to several mitigation measures. These include ceasing admission to anyone under 21, ensuring additional security staff is hired to control patrons outside of the venue and installing carpeting or other insulation along the walls and ceiling to mitigate the effect of the club's music on nearby residential apartments. The 20th Precinct will continue stationing a patrol car near the club to prevent violence and other criminal activity.

While these steps are a good start, if C72 Nightclub is not able to eliminate its disruption of neighbors' lives, then it should find a new home. If complaints continue despite any mitigation measures taken, I will advocate strongly with the New York State Liquor Authority that C72 Nightclub's cabaret license be revoked and that no amplified sound be allowed in this or any future establishment at 100 West 72nd Street.

SIGN UP FOR ASSEMBLYMEMBER ROSENTHAL'S E-NEWSLETTER AND JOIN HER ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER!

Sign up today for Assemblymember Rosenthal's e-newsletter by emailing rosenthal@assembly.state.ny.us.

Become a friend of Assemblymember Rosenthal and get the latest updates, links to press statements, pictures and more. Visit www.facebook.com/LindaBRosenthal and <https://twitter.com/LindaBRosenthal> to join.

Assemblymember Linda B. Rosenthal Blasts RSA for Frivolous Lawsuit against Basic Tenant Protections

I was appalled to learn that the Rent Stabilization Association (RSA) of New York and groups of landlords filed a frivolous lawsuit against New York State Homes and Community Renewal (HCR) and the Tenant Protection Unit (TPU), which has been responsible for the re-regulation of nearly 30,000 units of illegally deregulated affordable housing in the last two years. The lawsuit challenges common-sense rent-regulation reform enacted by HCR in 2014 and the operation of TPU, which has audited landlord records for apartments that have not been registered without any explanation.

The smallest violin is playing for the landlords, who think their constitutional rights are 'being trampled.' As I review the case files of tenants in my district who have come to me for assistance because of constant, spurious harassment, lack of repairs and sky-high MCI charges improperly and illegally levied, I can only laugh at landlords' allegations that their rights are being trampled on.

This lawsuit merely confirms for the public what tenant advocates have always known: landlords are concerned with their bottom lines only, and not with creating an equitable rent-regulation system that ensures affordable rents and reasonable profits. I am disgusted, though sadly not surprised, by the RSA for fighting a legitimate effort to fix a broken system that has been unfairly tipped in the favor of landlords for years.

Assemblymember Linda B. Rosenthal Questions State Health Department on Delays of Release of Fracking Health Study

When the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation released its Draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement on hydraulic fracturing in 2011, it failed to include a study of the potential public health risks and impacts of fracking. Since then, the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) has repeatedly claimed to be just weeks away from releasing a comprehensive public health study of fracking, but three years later has released nothing for public review or comment.

I questioned NYSDOH Commissioner Nirav Shah extensively at a State Assembly budget hearing in February and presented him with 150 peer-reviewed health studies on hydrofracking because it is critical that NYSDOH have all relevant, unbiased information at its disposal when making a decision as important as this. The Commissioner resolutely refused to provide any information on the estimated completion date of the health impact study or even to make the study process open to the public. Keeping a matter of such import closed to the public is extremely concerning, especially since this health study was only initiated following a deluge of public comment.

If NYSDOH does not ensure that its process is transparent and accountable, the Legislature can and must intervene to guarantee that no fracking move ahead in New York State without guaranteeing that it can be done safely and without impacting the residents or environment of New York State.