

Liz Krueger



New York State Senate | 28th District

May 2017

Message from Liz...

May is usually a slow month in Albany – the budget is done and the legislature has a tendency to put off most of the major issues for a mad rush at the end of session. But there is still the occasional bill that raises important policy issues, and one of those came through the Senate earlier this month.

On May 2, the Senate passed legislation (S5126) prohibiting the New York Power Authority from contracting or purchasing energy when such energy comes via a transmission line connecting to a location outside of the United States. This bill is aimed at preventing competition for New York power producers – including heavily subsidized upstate nuclear plants – from Canadian-based hydropower. While there are issues with both nuclear and hydropower, the reality is that New York State needs to ensure that New York City and Long Island has access to adequate electricity, and that failing to build these transmission lines could make it harder to take the Indian Point nuclear reactor offline as soon as possible.

I have supported shutting down Indian Point since I first became a State Senator. Twenty million residents live and work within a 50-mile radius around Indian Point, most of whom are within the close confines of New York City. There is no improvement that can be made or test that can be administered that will change Indian Point’s location or its surrounding environment. In the event of a full-scale emergency, the frightening reality is that there is no effective evacuation strategy that would adequately serve and protect the people of New York City. There are simply too many people with too few exits.

I was therefore extremely happy that earlier this year Governor Cuomo reached a deal with Entergy, the plant’s operator, that would close Indian Point by 2021. But the reality is closing Indian Point does require the development of alternative energy sources for New York City if we are to keep costs from skyrocketing and avoid dependency on highly polluting local fossil fuel generating facilities. The Governor’s plan for closure involves investment in wind power and other renewable energy sources, but also depends on the construction of additional transmission lines to carry hydropower from Canada.

What’s Inside

Message from Liz	1
Policy Spotlight	2
-Reproductive Health Legislation	
Community Spotlight	3
-Senator Krueger’s Roundtable for Boomers & Seniors – Thursday May 11th	
-Senator Krueger’s Discussion with Attorney General Eric Schneiderman on May 24th	
-Housing Forum May 18th	
-Forum on the Benefits of Integration in Schools	
-Upper East Side Zoning Overview	
-Free Classes for Newcomers to Medicare	
-East River Greenway Funding	
-Advocating for Additional Pre-K Seats on the Upper East Side	
-Upcoming Pet Adoption Events	
-HEAP Cooling Assistance Program	
-Technology Assistance for Seniors	
-M/WBE Certification, Recertification and Business Profile Update Assistance	
-Legal Advocacy Clinics From Lenox Hill Neighborhood House	
-VOLS Legal Clinics for Low-Income Residents Over Age 60	
-Affordable Housing Opportunities in Manhattan	
-Metrocard Bus and Van Schedule	

I understand the desire of upstate representatives to protect their local power facilities from competition from Canada, but doing so at the expense of New York City and Long Island is unacceptable. The Governor has already agreed to a huge bailout for the upstate nuclear industry that will cost ratepayers billions if the legislature does not intervene. Failing to provide for an adequate electric infrastructure to ensure reliable affordable electricity for down state would only add insult to injury. I am also disturbed that some of my colleagues seem to believe shared economic activity with our important neighbor Canada is somehow problematic. I am happy that this bill does not have an Assembly sponsor, and hope they will show more foresight than the Senate and not allow this ill-advised proposal to become law.

POLICY SPOTLIGHT

Reproductive Health Legislation

On May 1, the State Senate Committees on Labor and Insurance passed two bills relating to reproductive healthcare rights, but a legislative maneuver by the Senate majority coalition will likely prevent them from reaching the Senate floor. S3791, known as the "Boss Bill", would ban employers from discriminating against employees on the basis of their personal reproductive health decisions; S3790, would increase access to emergency contraception. I sponsor both bills and forced the committees to bring them to a vote by using a procedure called a motion for committee consideration.

Although the bills passed both committees, they were subsequently referred to two secondary committees, a well-known tactic used by the Senate majority coalition to prevent unwanted bills from reaching the floor for a vote. Due to Senate rules that place time constraints on motions for consideration, the bills cannot be forced onto the agendas in the new committees this session, effectively rendering them dead in the face of opposition from the majority coalition.

S3791, known as the "Boss Bill," would close a glaring loophole in New York's existing workplace anti-discrimination laws. The bill would protect all workers, both men and women, from being discriminated against by their employers for their reproductive healthcare decisions or their use of the available range of reproductive care services, whether covered by insurance or otherwise. This would include, for example, women who have become pregnant and are accessing pregnancy-related healthcare services, regardless of their marital status or sexual orientation. The bill passed the Senate Labor Committee today and was referred to the Insurance Committee, despite not having any effect on insurance law.

S3790 would expand access to over-the-counter emergency contraception (EC) for those without a prescription. The Affordable Care Act required insurance companies to cover the full cost of EC when purchased with a prescription. But given the time-sensitive nature of EC, women are often forced to purchase it without a prescription, for example on weekends. In those circumstances, women must pay out of pocket, which can be cost-prohibitive for some, especially young women or those with lower incomes. S3790 requires insurance companies to provide coverage for EC purchased legally over-the-counter, even without a prescription. The bill passed the Senate Insurance Committee today and was referred to the Health Committee.

I wish I could say that I'm pleased so many of my colleagues voted to support the reproductive rights of women and families in New York State. But I am not pleased - because once again the Republican-IDC coalition is using parliamentary tricks to bury these bills and avoid taking

responsibility for their anti-woman, anti-choice agenda. I would be delighted if the majority would prove me wrong and bring these bills to the floor for a vote, but I'm not holding my breath.

The fate of these bills demonstrates yet again why we need a unified Democratic Conference in the Senate. In the wake of the passage of the American Health Care Act in the US House of Representatives, and the signing of President Trump's so-called "religious freedom" executive order, both of which are severely detrimental to women's reproductive rights, it is up to the states to protect our individual liberties. So far in the New York State Senate the Democratic Conference – and only the Democratic Conference – is standing up to the misogyny and attacks on fundamental American values emanating from the White House. Unless all Democrats unite, we may find ourselves unable to stem the tide.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Senator Krueger's Roundtable for Boomers & Seniors – Thursday May 11th:

This 5-part program provides an opportunity for neighbors to come together to explore life issues that are relevant across the age span. At each session you will hear from and engage with professionals who are knowledgeable on topics that are of concern to the growing population of older adults in New York City.

This year our topic is "Controversies in Aging." Sessions will be held on:

- Social Security: Retirement Insurance or Social Safety Net?
- Aid in Dying in New York: Debating Proposed Legislation
- The Court System and Older Adults
- Medicare – Why Isn't Vision, Hearing and Dental Covered?
- Transforming Public Policy: Making Government More Responsive to Older Adults.

The program meets one morning per month in November, December, March, April, and May.

Sessions are from 8:30am to 10:30am at Lenox Hill Neighborhood House, 331 East 70th St.

Session 5 – **Thursday May 11th:** Transforming Public Policy: Making Government More Responsive to Older Adults. This session will feature presentations by Lindsay Goldman of the New York Academy of Medicine and Bobby Sackman of LiveOn NY. Please RSVP by contacting my office at 212-490-9535, or via email at liz@lizkrueger.com.

Senator Krueger's Discussion with Attorney General Eric Schneiderman on May 24th:

On Wednesday, May 24th I will be holding an event titled "State of the Resistance: An Update From The Frontlines with Attorney General Eric Schneiderman and State Senator Liz Krueger." In the Trump era, State Attorneys General will be critical in challenging federal policies on a host of issues from immigration to the environment to civil and voting rights. AG Eric Schneiderman has been at the forefront of many of these efforts. Sen. Krueger will engage him in a conversation about his important work so far, and what more can be done to protect New Yorkers' fundamental rights. The event will take place from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the CUNY Graduate Center, Porshansky Auditorium, 365 Fifth Avenue between 34th and 35th Streets. Please RSVP at tinyurl.com/mzolqma or by calling my office at 212-490-9535.

Housing Forum May 18th:

On May 18th I am joining Councilmember Ben Kallos and Borough President Gale Brewer in hosting a Housing Forum on Tenants Rights, Rent Increase Exemptions, and the Rent Guidelines Board. Representatives from the Community Services Society, the Rent Justice Coalition and the NYC Department of Finance will offer information on a variety of tenant issues. The Forum will take place from 6PM to 8PM at the Julia Richman Education Complex, 317 East 67th Street. Reserve your space now by calling 212-860-1950 or visit BenKallos.com/Events.

Forum on the Benefits of Integration in Schools:

On Tuesday, May 9th the Community Education Council District 2 is hosting a Forum on “Creating Diverse Learning Environments to Benefit All Our Students.” Join education experts Amy Stuart-Wells, Kelly McGuire, and Lindsay Oaks, and a high school student for a discussion about benefits of a classroom with diverse learners and how we create and nurture such a learning environment.

Our current middle school admissions system sorts students by academic performance, resulting in many schools with students of similar abilities. This system of sorting leads to racially and socioeconomically segregated schools. The forum will explore the benefits of mixing students of all academic levels.

The forum will take place from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the Spruce Street School - PS 397, 8 Spruce Street, New York, NY 10038. For more information and to register, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/creating-diverse-learning-environments-to-benefit-all-our-students-tickets-34056663397>.

Upper East Side Zoning Overview:

On Saturday, May 13th, Friends of the Upper East Side Historic Districts and the Municipal Art Society are hosting a workshop entitled “Attack of the Killer Megatowers: How to Preserve Quality of Life in a Changing Upper East Side.” At the event, urban planning consultants George Janes and Ethel Sheffer will offer a crash course on using zoning and preservation as critical tools to help guide reasonable growth on the Upper East Side. Learn about the different types of zoning, how the Landmarks Preservation Commission works, and find out what FAR stands for (and how it should be changed) so that you can become an advocate for our neighborhood. Perfect for those involved in local block associations, aspiring community board members, or anyone interested in helping to plan for the future of New York City.

The event will take place from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at St. Jean Baptiste High School, 173 East 75th Street.

\$10 for Friends members, \$20 for non-members. To register, visit <https://www.nycharities.org/Events/EventLevels.aspx?etid=9748>

Free Classes for Newcomers to Medicare:

If you are new to Medicare or soon will be eligible, join one of DFTA’s upcoming monthly orientation classes. The class includes information on Medicare Part A and Part B, Medigap insurance, Medicare Advantage plans, Medicare Part D drug coverage and the Medicare Savings Programs. Orientation is held at 2 Lafayette Street, room 624 once a month throughout the year. Here is the current schedule of classes – each class covers the same material.

Friday, May 26: 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM

Monday, June 26: 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM

Space is limited so please register in advance by emailing ehausman@aging.nyc.gov.

Advocating for Additional Pre-K Seats on the Upper East Side:

Last month I joined my colleagues in writing to the NYC Department of Education (DOE) regarding the need for additional pre-K seats on the Upper East Side. According to the testimony by the DOE before the City Council, more than 900 four-year-olds applied for the 596 seats currently slated to be available for the 2017–2018 school year. This represents a loss of 22 seats from the previous school year and means that at least one in three four-year-olds will not be offered a seat in their neighborhood unless additional seats are identified. I also joined Councilmember Ben Kallos and other colleagues at a rally on April 30th calling on the DOE to solve this problem. There is also a severe shortage of pre-K seats in East Midtown, and I will continue to push DOE to address these unmet needs. Universal MEANS every 4 year old should have a seat available. The City is proposing moving forward with UPK for 3 years olds as well. This is not realistic unless they can find the space, which seems unlikely if we can't address the unmet demands for the 4 year olds.

East River Greenway Funding:

I was extremely pleased with Mayor De Blasio's recent announcement of \$100 million capital in his Executive Budget to extend the East River Greenway south from East 61st to 53rd Street. I and my East Side elected colleagues have long advocated for completing the Greenway and improving existing sections, and this funding is a major step towards that goal. I look forward to working with the Mayor and my colleagues to identify additional funds to address remaining gaps in the Greenway.

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:

Friday, May 12, 3:30-6:30PM

Petco, Union Square, 860 Broadway at East 17th Street

Saturday, May 20, 11-3PM – Dogs only

Biscuits & Bath Sutton Place, 1064 1st Avenue at East 58th Street

Saturday, May 20, 12-4PM

Petco, Union Square, 860 Broadway at East 17th Street

Sunday, May 21, 12-4PM - Adoptapalooza

Petco, Union Square, 860 Broadway at East 17th Street

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

HEAP Cooling Assistance Program:

The HEAP Cooling Assistance program provides for the purchase and installation of air conditioners or a fan to eligible households. (If an air conditioner cannot be safely installed, a fan will be provided.) Only one air conditioner or fan, not to exceed \$800 with installation, will be provided per dwelling.

A household may be eligible for a Cooling Assistance program benefit if all of the following requirements are met:

- The applicant and household members are United States Citizens or qualified aliens, and the household includes an individual with a documented medical condition that is exacerbated by heat;
- The household's gross monthly income is at or below \$2,300 for an individual and \$3,007 for a couple;
- The applicant receives SNAP benefits or Temporary Assistance or SSI or a regular HEAP benefit greater than \$21 in the current heating season;
- The applicant currently does not have a working air conditioner or the air conditioner s/he has is five years old or older;
- The applicant did not receive a HEAP funded air conditioner within the past ten years.

You can find additional information at <https://otda.ny.gov/programs/heap/program.asp#cooling>. Call (212) 331-3126 to request an application be sent to you or apply in person at the HEAP Manhattan Office
122 East 124th Street, lobby, Manhattan, NY 10035.

Technology Assistance for Seniors:

Search and Care’s Silver Circles of Connectivity program is free to community members age 65+ who would benefit from one-on-one tutoring on a computer, a tablet, a Kindle, or a cell phone. Their aim is to help you connect with family, to explore the Internet, find articles of interest, locate resources online -- anything (appropriate) that appeals to your interests -- and their coordinators will gently guide you over the hurdles preventing you from doing so. If interested in being tutored, or being a volunteer to help others, please contact Herbert Duran and Tegan Rein at 212-289-5300.

M/WBE Certification, Recertification and Business Profile Update Assistance:

Jean Kristensen Associates, LLC has been selected as the Manhattan community partner to assist small, minority and women owned firms with connecting to opportunities for doing business with NYC. This new program is part of Mayor Bill de Blasio’s historic commitment to M/WBEs that aims to award 30 percent of City contract dollars to M/WBEs by 2021. The partnership will also help keep the City on track to reach its OneNYC goal, which is to award \$16 billion dollars to M/WBEs by 2025.

The community partners will coach MWBEs on how to enhance their profiles in the New York City Business Directory, which city agencies use to select contractors, so that they can attract attention and be more competitive. The city will also work with the groups to identify and target the minority and women owned businesses, and help them through the certification process for becoming a designated MWBE contractor.

Jean Kristensen Associates, LLC is a full service consulting firm providing tools and resources to small, minority and women owned firms seeking to increase revenues through government contracting, certification and innovative business strategies. For more information about the MWBE Community partnership program please contact us at 917-397-7242 or jean@jeankristensenassociates.com.

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: call [212-218-0503 ext. 6](tel:212-218-0503) for assistance in applying or recertifying for the Senior Citizens Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) program. The SCRIE clinic is open to tenants city-wide. Please note that due to the volume of calls, it sometimes takes up to two weeks for staff to respond to messages.
- Eviction Prevention: Walk-in clinic, every 2nd and 4th Monday of the month, from 10am to 1pm at 331 East 70th Street, for tenants who live, work, or go to school on Manhattan's East Side above 59th Street and on Roosevelt Island.
- 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 ext 4](tel:212-218-0503).
- Health Care Access/Medicare/Medicaid: call [212-218-0503 ext 3](tel:212-218-0503). 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.

Affordable Housing Opportunities in Manhattan:

Essex Crossing Site 6 is now accepting applications for 99 affordable 1-bedroom apartments newly constructed at 175 Delancey Street in the Lower East Side neighborhood in Manhattan. Individuals or households with at least 1 household member who is 55 years of age or older at the time of the application who meet the income and household size requirements listed in the table below may apply. Rents for these apartments range from \$396 to \$1254 depending on income. To be eligible, applicants must have incomes below 57,150 for singles and 65,250 for families of 2. Preference will be given to Community Board 3 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/347.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: Essex Crossing Site 6/ Triborough Finance New Station, PO Box 2010, New York, NY 10035-9997.

Completed applications must be submitted online or returned by regular mail only to the post office box that will be listed on the application. Applications must be submitted online or postmarked by June 16, 2017. Applicants who submit more than one application may be disqualified.

321 EAST 60th STREET is now accepting applications for 20 affordable 1- and 2--bedroom apartments newly constructed at 321 East 60th Street in the Sutton Place neighborhood in Manhattan. Rents for these apartments range from \$1254 to 1511 depending on unit size. To be eligible, applicants must have incomes between \$44,950 and \$72,480 depending on unit and family size. Preference will be given to Community Board 8 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/344.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: 321 E.60th St., c/o Housing Partnership Development Corporation, 242 West 36th Street, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10018.

Completed applications must be submitted online or returned by regular mail only to the post office box that will be listed on the application. Applications must be submitted online or postmarked by June 16, 2017. Applicants who submit more than one application may be disqualified.

VOLS Legal Clinics for Low-Income Residents Over Age 60:

The Volunteers of Legal Services (VOLS) Elderly Project provides pro-bono legal services to low-income people over age 60 who live in Manhattan. VOLS conducts legal clinics each month at senior centers where seniors can discuss their legal concerns in confidence, receive legal advice and, where appropriate, obtain referrals to a volunteer lawyer for representation. Areas of legal assistance include wills, medical directives, powers of attorney, housing, consumer matters and Medicaid. Over 150 lawyers serve on their Elderly Project volunteer attorney roster.

Burden Center for the Aging, 1484 First Avenue (between 77th & 78th Streets) — 2 pm — second Friday of each month, (May 12, June 9). Call Velda Murad at 212-879-7400 for information.

Stanley Isaacs Senior Center, 415 East 93rd Street (east of 1st Avenue) — 10 am — third Friday of each month (May 19, June 16). Call Khristel Simmons at 212-360-7620 ext, 158 for information.

Encore Community Services Senior Center, St. Malachy’s Church - 239 West 49th Street (between Broadway and 8th Avenue) — 10 am — fourth Monday of Each Month (May 20, June 26). Call Narobe Arias at 212-581-2910, ext 125 for information.

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:

- May 9, 9 - 10:30 am, 92 Street & Lexington Avenue – Bus
- May 9, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm., 86 Street & Lexington Avenue – Bus
- May 9, 1:30 - 2:30 pm, 68 Street & Lexington Avenue – Bus
- May 17, 9 - 10:30 am, 79 Street & 3 Avenue – Bus
- May 17, 11 am - 1 pm, 79 Street & York Avenue – Bus
- May 17, 1:30 - 2:30 pm, 72 Street & York Avenue – Bus
- May 18, 8:30 - 10:30 am, 47 Street & 2 Avenue – Van
- May 18, 1:30 - 3:30 pm, 28 Street & 2 Avenue – Van
- May 23, 9 - 10:30 am, 92 Street & Lexington Avenue – Bus
- May 23, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm., 86 Street & Lexington Avenue – Bus
- May 23, 1:30 - 2:30 pm, 68 Street & Lexington Avenue – Bus
- June 1, 7 – 9 am, 91 Street and York Avenue - Van

June 1, 8:30 - 10:30 am, 47 Street & 2 Avenue – Van
June 1, 1:30 - 3:30 pm, 28 Street & 2 Avenue – Van
June 2, 9 - 10 am, 57 Street and 1 Avenue – Van
June 2, 10:30 - 11:30 am, 57 Street and 3 Avenue – Van
June 2, 12:30 - 2:30 pm, 68 Street and 1 Avenue – Van
June 7, 9 - 10:30 am, 79 Street & 3 Avenue – Bus
June 7, 11 am - 1 pm, 79 Street & York Avenue – Bus
June 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.