

Liz Krueger



New York State Senate | 28th District

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Message from Liz...

Impeachment and Religion: I happen to be Jewish, and while I serve as an elected official who strongly believes that there must be a clear line between “church and state,” one of the sermons at my house of worship this week offered all of us a critical message and lesson for our times. My Rabbi said: “In a place where there is a lack of courage and noble character, you are mandated to be courageous and a person of strong and noble character.” Then he went on to quote an Episcopalian priest – “We have come to accept as normal a steady stream of language and accusations coming from the highest office in the land that plays to racist elements in society.” The point is that we must not lose our focus as individuals and as a nation to reject disgraceful behavior of people in the public eye when they show complete disregard for our institutions and the fundamental rule of law.

Then he went on to quote an Episcopalian priest – “We have come to accept as normal a steady stream of language and accusations coming from the highest office in the land that plays to racist elements in society.” The point is that we must not lose our focus as individuals and as a nation to reject disgraceful behavior of people in the public eye when they show complete disregard for our institutions and the fundamental rule of law.

Next, a reminder that this November 5th, New York City residents will be voting on a number of proposed changes to the City Charter. Details on these proposal are available here: <https://www.charter2019.nyc/ballot-questions>. There will also be a series of information sessions on the proposals. See the community spotlight section below for details on the Manhattan session, taking place on October 17th.

This will also be the first election where early voting will be an option. New York City will have early voting available from Saturday October 26th through Sunday November 3rd at 57 locations across the city, including at the Park Avenue Armory, 643 Park Avenue, between 66th and 67th Streets. For a complete list of early voting locations and hours for early voting, visit <https://www.vote.nyc.ny.us/html/voters/earlyVoting.shtml> or call the Board of Elections at 212-487-5400.

And if you haven't already, I hope you will take a few minutes to fill out my **Constituent Survey** and share your thoughts about how my office can best serve you, both in Albany and in the district. The survey can be found here: <https://www.nysenate.gov/questionnaires/liz-krueger/sen-kruegers-2019-constituent-survey>. I look forward to hearing from you!

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Last month, the United Nations hosted the Climate Action Summit and Youth Climate Summit, and more than 6 million people also took to the streets for a Global Climate Strike. These events highlighted how little time we have to take meaningful action to address climate change, and how much more every nation must do. If we fail to act we will leave our children and grandchildren with an unrecognizable world full of extreme droughts and heat waves, dangerously rising sea levels, increasingly severe storms, agricultural failures, and massive population dislocations.

New York can and must be on the right side of history by acting to reduce fossil fuel emissions. One of the most important pieces of legislation passed this year was the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA). This legislation establishes efforts to address and mitigate the effects of climate change by drastically cutting greenhouse gases, diverting the state's energy reliance to renewable sources, creating green jobs, and promoting environmental justice across New York State.

The CLCPA sets a goal of net-zero emissions economy-wide by 2050, while ensuring that frontline communities and the needs of workers remain front and center. In the nearer term it requires zero emissions for electricity generation by 2040. It also reorients New York's economy, ensuring that New York businesses and workers will be at the forefront of new clean energy industries.

As important as passage of the CLCPA was, goal-setting is only a first step. Achieving those goals is the hard part. The legislation calls for the establishment of a Climate Action Council, which is tasked with studying how best to reach the goal of carbon neutrality, and issuing final guidelines by 2023, which will then be incorporated into the state energy plan and broader regulations. The Council will consist of technical experts, stakeholders and government officials. The Senate Majority gets three appointments to the Council, and I will be pushing to ensure they are true climate champions who will represent the needs of frontline communities.

The success of this endeavor will involve hard choices, and must be informed by science, not by the political whims of the moment. It will require major changes in our behavior and economy to make meaningful progress on climate change, and too often a focus on short-term political costs has undermined attention to the long-term realities of what we face. One of the most inspiring parts of the climate march was seeing young people mobilized to fight for their future. They can continue to be leaders in providing the political will to take the actions necessary to ensure a livable future for everyone.

POLICY SPOTLIGHT

Fossil Fuel Divestment

Addressing the climate emergency will require simultaneous action on many fronts. One important strategy, among many, is fossil fuel divestment. The global divestment movement has seen rapid growth in the few years since it was launched, galvanizing climate action, removing the social license from the corporations driving the crisis, and protecting assets from the increasingly risky "carbon bubble."

I have long carried legislation that would require New York State to divest our pension funds from the fossil fuel industry (S2126). Last month I joined 11 other Senators in writing to State Comptroller

Thomas DiNapoli, urging him to study a fossil fuel divestment scenario as part of the five-yearly asset allocation review for the Common Retirement Fund that his office is currently engaged in. You can read the letter here: <https://www.scribd.com/document/427254392/Letter-To-Comptroller-DiNapoli-Regarding-Asset-Allocation-Review>

As trustee of the Common Retirement Fund, the Comptroller is required to review and establish an asset allocation plan at least once every five years. The plan is informed by an asset allocation study performed by an outside consultant, which the Comptroller has said is being developed now. In our letter, my colleagues and I urge the Comptroller, "to include in the scope of work for the consultants performing the asset allocation study a scenario for a fund portfolio that includes divestment from fossil fuel producers within the next five years."

A recent report from Carbon Tracker revealed that no major oil company is making capital investments that align with the goals of the Paris Agreement to keep global warming below 2°C, let alone the now broadly accepted goal of 1.5°C. Such a misallocation of funds creates significant stranded asset risk for the companies, and therefore unacceptable long-term risk for the pension fund. The letter quotes the recent report from the Decarbonization Advisory Panel, jointly appointed by the Comptroller and Governor Cuomo, which stated that, "being too early in the avoidance of the risk of permanent loss is much less of a danger than being too late."

Not only is it unacceptable to financially support the extraction of climate-destabilizing fossil fuels, but the state pension fund is exposed to increasing financial risk by holding onto fossil fuel producers, which stand to lose significant value as the world acts to mitigate climate change. The impact of the clean-energy transition is already being felt by these companies, and the economics of renewable energy continues to develop in such a way as to threaten the hegemony of fossil fuels regardless of the actions taken by governments. The Common Retirement Fund has already lost more than \$260 million in coal investments since 2010; a recent study by Corporate Knights estimated that the Fund is valued at \$22.2 billion less than it would have been had it divested from fossil fuels in 2008 and redistributed those funds across the rest of the portfolio.

The climate crisis is here – fiduciary and moral responsibility require the process of divestment to begin now. The writing on the wall could not be clearer: fossil fuel producers are a bad long-term investment. Divestment will protect workers and retirees from the rapid devaluation these companies will suffer in the coming energy transition. Though the Comptroller continues to resist calls for divestment, I urge him nonetheless to use the asset allocation review process to begin preparing for the inevitable.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Senator Krueger's 13th Annual Senior Resource Fair October 24th:

My 13th Annual Senior Resource Fair will take place on Thursday, October 24th 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, the arts and volunteer opportunities. No RSVP necessary.

Co-op and Condo Forum October 29th:

On Tuesday October 29th I am hosting a Forum on Co-ops and Condos. Speakers will include Lucas Ferrara of the firm Newman & Ferrara; Kevin McConnell of the firm Himmelstein, McConnell; and Rose Marie Cantanno, Associate Director, Consumer Protection Unit, New York Lawyers for the Public Interest. This will be an opportunity to learn about the role of the board, the role of management, your rights as a shareholder or unit owner, strategies to address common issues in coops and condos, and recently passed state legislation that will allow coop shareholders to obtain reverse mortgages. The event will take place from 6-8 pm at Hunter College, West Building Faculty Dining Room, 8th floor, 904 Lexington Ave, southwest corner of 68th Street and Lexington Avenue. RSVP required. RSVP online at tinyurl.com/CoopCondoForum2019 or by calling 212-490-9535.

Roundtable for Boomers and Seniors Starts November 7th:

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 Living Well and Aging Well in Your Community. The first roundtable will take place Tuesday, November 7th from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. at Lenox Hill Neighborhood House, 331 East 70th Street, and the topic will be NYC's Older Adults: What We Need to Live in the City. At this session, Christian Gonzalez Rivera, Senior Analyst with Center for An Urban Future, will present his yearlong study of the growing and increasingly diverse needs of older adults in New York City. Other sessions in this year's series will take place on December 12th, March 5th 2020, April 2nd 2020 and May 7th 2020.

RSVP online at www.tinyurl.com/SeniorRoundtable11-7-19, call (212) 490-9535, or email lkrueger@nysenate.gov.

Senior Health Fair October 10th:

On Thursday October 10th, Councilmembers Ben Kallos and Keith Powers are hosting a Senior Health Fair. Information on fire safety, identity theft protection, accessing unclaimed funds and public benefits will be available. The event will take place at St. Peter's Church, 619 Lexington Avenue, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. To RSVP visit benkallos.com/events or call 212-860-1950.

There will also be flu shots available at no cost by appointment only. Bring health insurance or Medicaid card. Call 212-860-1950 to make an appointment.

Ballot Proposal Information Session October 17th:

On November 5th, New Yorkers across the five boroughs will vote on five ballot questions that could change our local elections, how police officers are held accountable, how the city budget is set, government ethics rules, and how land in the city is developed. This month, the NYC Charter Revision Commission is holding a series of informational sessions on the proposals. The Manhattan session will take place Thursday, October 17th from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at John Jay College, 524 W 59th Street. For more information, visit www.charter.2019.nyc.

Career and Technical Education High School Fair October 19th:

The Department of Education will be hosting its annual NYC Career and Technical Education (CTE) High School Fair on Saturday, October 19th from 9am-2pm. The event will be held at George

Westinghouse High School (105 Johnson Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201). For more details, please contact us at: ctenyc@schools.nyc.gov or visit our website, www.cte.nyc.

Genetic Testing Scam:

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has issued a warning that scammers are offering "free" genetic testing, stating that Medicare will cover the cost. These scammers are targeting people through telemarketing calls, health fairs, and knocking on doors. Their goal is to obtain a person's Medicare number to commit fraud and identity theft. It is important to know that Medicare will not cover any medical expenses that are not ordered by your doctor and/or that are not medically necessary. To protect yourself, do not give your Medicare number, Social Security number, or other personal information to anyone who offers to give you a "free" genetic screening or cheek swab, or to mail you a DNA testing kit. If you receive a genetic testing kit in the mail, refuse the delivery or return to sender unless your doctor ordered it. If you suspect Medicare fraud, call 1-800-MEDICARE.

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. Arrive by Noon.

- October 14 and November 1 from 10am to 1pm at Lenox Hill Neighborhood House Casa Mutua at 159 East 102nd Street. Arrive by Noon.

First come, first served. Bring proof of identity, income information, utility bill, proof of housing costs, information on any dependents, proof of immigration status for non-citizens, and if you are 60 or over or on SSI/SSD, information on medical costs. For more information, call [212-218-0503](tel:212-218-0503), option 2.

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

- December 5 from 10am to 1pm at 331 East 70th Street. First come-first Served, arrive by Noon.

- October 16 and November 20 at East Harlem Action Center, 158 East 115th Street, from 2pm to 4 pm. First come-first Served, arrive by 4 pm.

- November 7 from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Lenox Hill Neighborhood House Casa Mutua Clinics at 159 East 102nd Street. First come, first served, arrive by 4 p.m. Please bring all relevant housing-related documents with you.

- SCRIE Clinics: Walk-in Clinic. The next clinics will take place October 22 from 10:00 a.m to 1:00 p.m at Lenox Hill Neighborhood House, 331 East 70th Street. You must arrive before 11:30 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.

- DRIE Clinics: The next clinic will take place October 17 from 2:00 p.m to 4:00 p.m at Lenox Hill Neighborhood House, 331 East 70th Street. If you are receiving disability benefits, 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 DRIE. For more information, please email DRIE@lenoxhill.org or call 212-218-1503, option 0.

- Health Care Access Project: call [212-218-0503](tel:212-218-0503). Assistance with Medicaid, Medicare Savings Program Medicare Part D, Epic and health insurance through the New York State of Health Marketplace.

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:

Friday October 11th - 2:00 pm, Legal Clinic,
Burden Center for the Aging, 415 East 73rd Street (b/t 1st and York)

Friday October 18th - 10:00 am, Legal Clinic,
Stanley M. Isaacs Neighborhood Center, 415 East 93rd Street

Monday October 28th - 10:00 am, Legal Clinic,
Encore Community Services Center, 239 West 49th Street (b/t Broadway and 8th Ave.)

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 8, 9 - 10:30 am, 92 Street & Lexington Avenue – Bus
- October 8, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm., 86 Street & Lexington Avenue – Bus
- October 8, 1:30 - 2:30 pm, 68 Street & Lexington Avenue – Bus
- October 16, 9 – 10:30 am, 79 Street & Third Avenue - Bus
- October 16, 11 am - 1 pm, 79 Street & York Avenue – Bus
- October 16, 1:30 - 2:30 pm, 72 Street & York Avenue – Bus
- October 17, 8:00 - 10:30 am, 47 Street & 2 Avenue – Van
- October 17, 11:30 am - 2:00 pm, 28 Street & 2 Avenue – Van
- October 22, 9 - 10:30 am, 92 Street & Lexington Avenue – Bus
- October 22, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm., 86 Street & Lexington Avenue – Bus
- October 22, 1:30 - 2:30 pm, 68 Street & Lexington Avenue – Bus
- November 1, 9 - 10 am, 57 Street and 1 Avenue – Van
- November 1, 10:30 - 11:30 am, 57 Street and 3 Avenue – Van
- November 1, 12:30 - 2:00 pm, 68 Street and 1 Avenue – Van
- November 6, 9 - 10:30 am, 79 Street & Third Avenue – Bus
- November 6, 11 am - 1 pm, 79 Street & York Avenue – Bus
- November 6, 1:30 - 2:30 pm, 72 Street & York Avenue – Bus
- November 7, 7 – 9 am, 90 Street and York Avenue - Van
- November 7, 8:30 - 10:30 am, 47 Street & 2 Avenue – Van
- November 7, 1:30 - 3:30 pm, 28 Street & 2 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.

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.