

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL  
**PARTICIPATORY**  
BUDGETING

Once again, I have set aside \$1 million in discretionary capital funding for residents to decide how to invest on public projects as part of Participatory Budgeting. From March 25-April 2, district residents 14-and-over will be able to vote for which capital projects they like best and the winning projects will be funded.

Participatory Budgeting provides an opportunity for residents to be involved in the city budget cycle. Not only will residents vote for their favorite projects, but all the project proposals on the ballot were created by community volunteers. The ballot includes updates at public schools, park



renovations, street upgrades, and other improvements at public facilities. Visit [pbnyc.org](http://pbnyc.org) for more information about this year's ballot and see below for voting sites.

This fall, nearly 700 residents attended our neighborhood assemblies and idea collection sessions, where over 600 ideas were brainstormed. Volunteers broke up into groups and transformed the list of ideas into a ballot of fully-formed project proposals with details and costs. We hope to see you at one of the voting sites below!

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL • 250 BROADWAY • 30<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR • NY, NY 10007



**NEWS** FROM COUNCIL MEMBER WINTER 2017  
**COSTA CONSTANTINIDES**

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NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL  
**PARTICIPATORY**  
BUDGETING

You can decide how to invest \$1 million of public funds into our community's parks, schools, streets, and more. Make your voice heard by voting on which projects should win funding! Visit [pbnyc.org](http://pbnyc.org) for ballot info.

**VOTING SITES:** Office of Councilman Constantinides, 31-09 Newtown Ave., **March 25 – March 26 and April 1 – April 2**, 12 p.m. – 6 p.m., **March 27 – March 31**, 9 a.m. – 9 p.m.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 25TH**

**Queens Library at Steinway,**  
21-45st St., 12 p.m. – 5 p.m.

**Queens Library at Astoria,**  
14-01 Astoria Blvd., 12 p.m. – 5 p.m.

**SUNDAY, MARCH 26TH**

**Steinway BID,** 25-69 38th ST #1C, 12 p.m. – 6 p.m.  
**Bohemian Hall,** 29-19 24th Ave., 12 p.m. – 6 p.m.

**MONDAY, MARCH 27TH**

**MAS Ibn Sina Center,** 46-1 20th Ave., 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.

**TUESDAY, MARCH 28TH**

**Urban Upbound,** 4-25 Astoria Blvd., 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29TH**

**Bohemian Hall,** 29-19 24th Ave., 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

**THURSDAY, MARCH 30TH**

**Cretans Association,** 32-33 31st St., 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.

**FRIDAY, MARCH 31ST**

**Office of Assemblyman DenDekker,**  
75-35 31st Ave., 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

**Community Board 1,**  
45-02 Ditmars Blvd., 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 1ST**

**Queens Library at Steinway,**  
21-45 31st St, 12 p.m. - 5 p.m.

**SUNDAY, APRIL 2ND**

**Bohemian Hall,** 29-19 24th Ave., 12 p.m. - 6 p.m.  
**Urban Upbound,** 4-25 Astoria Blvd., 12 p.m. - 6 p.m.  
**Queensview Community Room #2,**  
33-64 21st St (Side Entrance), 12 p.m. - 6 p.m.



**NEWS** FROM COUNCIL MEMBER WINTER 2017  
**COSTA CONSTANTINIDES**

**Dear Residents of the 22nd District,**

I'd like to update you on our recent work in City Hall and in our neighborhood. We've been busy with projects throughout the district including upgrading our parks and improving traffic safety. We're also working to make our environment greener and more sustainable.

Please visit our website **[council.nyc.gov/Costa](http://council.nyc.gov/Costa)** for more information on these important issues.

I look forward to working with you as we continue to work on these projects.

Sincerely,

**Costa**  
Council Member  
22nd District, Queens

**AN OVER \$30 MILLION INVESTMENT IN ASTORIA PARK**



After dozens of years with a lack of governmental investment, Astoria Park will soon be transformed.

I have previously called for improvements across the park and worked to secure the funding. In the most recent budget, my office and Borough President Melinda Katz allocated almost \$4 million combined towards updates at Charybdis Playground within Astoria Park, and towards new gaming tables and water fountains in the park.

In addition to these discretionary allocations, I am proud that Astoria Park will be included in the Mayor's Anchor Park program and will receive a \$30 million investment for large-scale

upgrades. This transformative investment will go a long way towards improving our vital greenspace.

Our residents have had an integral role in deciding how to invest the \$30 million within Astoria Park. We held public input workshops where residents shared their ideas on which parts of the park need improvements. Some proposals included:

- ✓ A soccer field in the middle of the track and updating the track itself
- ✓ Repairing the lawns and pathways
- ✓ Better lighting
- ✓ Rain gardens
- ✓ Easy-to-maintain plantings
- ✓ Expanding Charybdis Playground to include new spray shower area

The ideas will be transformed into proposed designs by the Parks Department. We will keep residents informed as the capital upgrade process moves forward.





# LEADING ON THE ENVIRONMENT



As the New York City Council's Environmental Protection Chair, I am focused on ensuring that our city remains a leader on climate policy and sustainability. We have already made great headway by committing to reduce our carbon emissions 80% by 2050, and by implementing policies to do so.

This past year, the City Council passed several pieces of my legislation that will make our city greener. We implemented my bill to increase

## FIGHTING FOR OUR PLANET'S FUTURE

use of solar power in city buildings, which will reduce our emissions and save money. We passed my bill to increase our buildings' use of biodiesel in heating oil, a more renewable fuel oil that will decrease our reliance on dirty fossil fuels. We also approved my resolution that calls for the state to include climate change in the K-12 school curriculum.

We also helped encourage sustainable habits. This past November, the City Council approved my legislation that creates a pilot program for electric vehicle charging stations at publicly accessible locations, including municipal parking lots. Starting in 2018, at least 25 charging stations will be available across the five boroughs. This program will encourage more New Yorkers to use electric cars and reduce our emissions citywide.

Now more than ever, cities and local governments need to lead the way on protecting our environment. With a new presidential administration that has pledged to decrease environmental regulations, it is up to cities to mitigate the public health, economic, ecological, and geopolitical effects of climate change. I will work with my colleagues in city government to continue to implement policies that encourage renewable energy and reduce emissions. New York will continue to be a global role model on innovation and sustainability.



## WORKING FOR CLEANER AIR

I have continued to make environmental protection a top priority. This past December, I called for an end to using Numbers 6 and 4 fuel oil in power plants citywide. Ending the use of these oils would help reduce emissions. They're considered to be the dirtiest grades of oil available and are linked to air pollutants that pose risk to public health.

We also held a committee oversight hearing on power plants, and no

power plant operators were present to testify. Although plant operators have only three years left to comply with the scheduled 2020 phase-out of Number 6 oil, several plants are still burning it.

Our city has made great progress on ending the use of dirty fuel oil in buildings. We called on the power plant operators to follow this progress and quickly end their use of dirty fuel oil. For decades, power plants here in Western Queens have strongly contributed to increased respiratory illness and other public health issues. Neighborhoods that plants are located in have worse air quality and higher rates of asthma and hospitalizations.

Our city will continue to fight for cleaner power generation, leading the way on protecting our environment and public health.

# MAKING OUR STREETS SAFER FOR CHILDREN AND SENIORS



We are continuing to improve traffic safety across our district. We have worked with the Department of Transportation to install traffic signals at the intersections of 21st Street & 30th Road and at Astoria Boulevard & 43rd Street. Additional traffic signals along 21st Avenue at the intersections of 23rd, 24th, and Crescent Streets also help improve traffic safety.

For decades, our community has fought for additional traffic signals on 21st Street, which functions more as a speedway than a street. The intersection at 30th Road is especially dangerous, as hundreds of children cross the street every day to attend programming at the Variety Boys & Girls Club. We have also advocated for additional traffic signals on 21st Avenue, a street where there have been dozens of injuries due to crashes. I am proud that following our long advocacy for additional traffic mitigation measures on 21st Street and on 21st Avenue, these measures are a victory for families who cross these thoroughfares every day.

## CLEANING AND BEAUTIFYING OUR NEIGHBORHOOD



We've continued to make cleaner streets a top priority. In the past city budget, we designated over \$200,000 for cleaning services including sidewalk sweeping, increased corner litter basket pick-ups, weeding, and graffiti removal across Astoria.

Since this past summer, almost 200,000 pounds of litter have been removed off our sidewalks. We have also worked to keep our streets graffiti-free. If you see graffiti, contact our office at (718) 274-4500 so that we can have it removed.

In keeping with our efforts to beautify our neighborhood, we worked to upgrade the old benches around the intersection of 31st Street & Ditmars Boulevard. These benches had fallen into disrepair, so we ensured they were removed and replaced with new metal benches that are easier to maintain.

I was proud to have allocated the funding to the Association of Community Employment Programs for the Homeless (ACE), Department of Sanitation, Queens Economic Development Corporation, and Community Board 1 for these services.

## IMPROVING OUR GREENSPACE



In addition to the \$30 million capital investment in Astoria Park, upgrading our district's playgrounds and greenspaces has brought benefits to families throughout our neighborhood. During my time in office, we have broken ground on six major park renovations and have secured or allocated funding for five other capital park projects. Children, teenagers, young adults, and families with dogs will have newly updated recreational spaces. Families near Astoria Heights Playground, Hallets Cove Playground, Triborough Bridge Playground C, Van Alst Playground, Bulova Moser Playground, and other parks in District 22 will soon see brand new amenities.

I look forward to continuing this progress by working with the Parks Department and community stakeholders to secure funding for the remaining parks in our district.