

OCTOBER 2022



BOLDEST NEWS

SPECIAL ELECTION EDITION



ELECTIONS HAVE CONSEQUENCES!

IF YOU CARE ABOUT CREATING SAFER JAILS,
JOB PROTECTION, YOUR EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS,
YOUR PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS,
THEN MAKE SURE YOU MAKE YOUR VOICES HEARD!

ON NOVEMBER 8, 2022

VOTE FOR ALL OF COBA'S ENDORSED CANDIDATES!

SEE WHO COBA IS SUPPORTING FOR THE NYS GENERAL ELECTIONS



COBA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS



Benny Boscio Jr.
President



Joseph Bracco
1st Vice President



Glenn Morgan
2nd Vice President



Keisha Williams
3rd Vice President



Michael Maiello
Treasurer



Lionel Cumberbatch
Financial Secretary



Herman Jiminian
Legislative Chairman



Antoinette Anderson
Corresponding Secretary



Angel Castro
Recording Secretary



Felix Sanchez
Sergeant-At-Arms



Ashaki Antoine
First City-Wide Trustee



Charles J. Wingate
Manhattan Borough Trustee



Edward Yates
Brooklyn Borough Trustee



Matthew Romano
Bronx Borough Trustee



Neil Renois
Queens Borough Trustee

**CORRECTION OFFICERS'
BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION, INC.**

"PATROLLING THE TOUGHEST PRECINCTS IN NEW YORK"



COBA HEADQUARTERS

77-10 21ST AVENUE, EAST ELMHURST, N.Y. 11370

T. 718.545.COBA (2622) F. 718.545.2668

FOLLOW YOUR UNION!

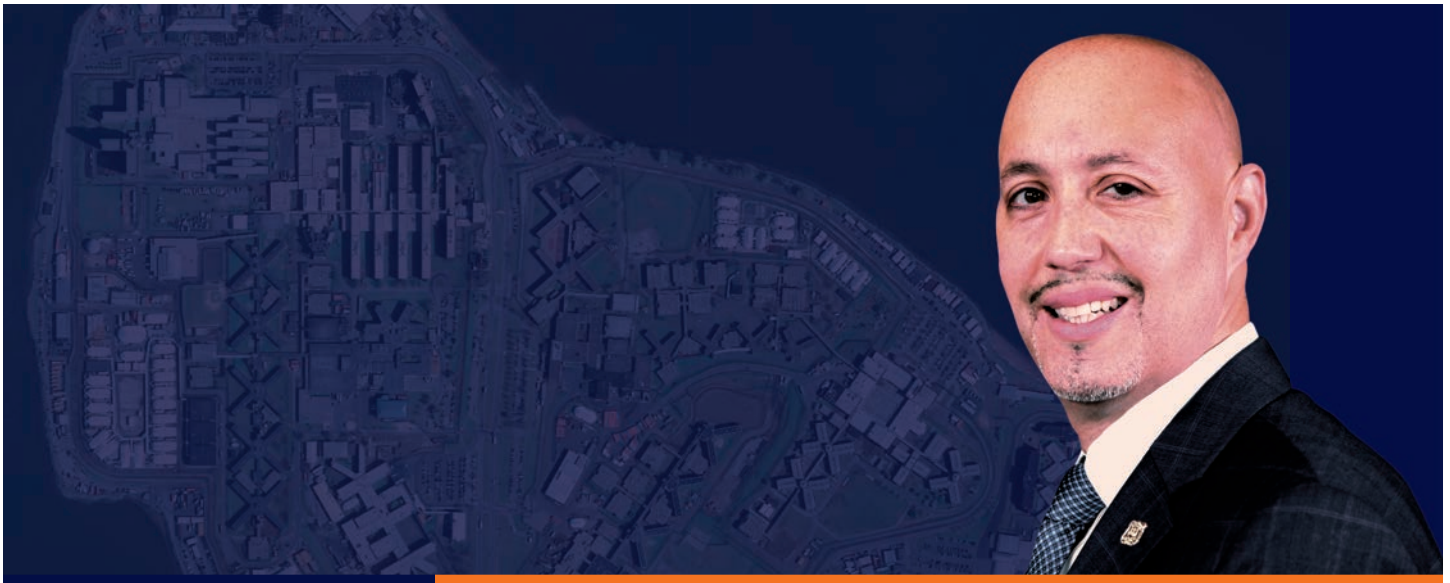


WWW.COBANYC.ORG

THE BOLDEST UNION

Message from **COBA PRESIDENT**

Benny Boscio Jr.



**YOUR
VOTE
MATTERS!**

**VOTE!
NOV. 8
2022**

Dear Brother/Sister Officer,

It's no secret that our quality of life has deteriorated significantly over the past eight years. Our staffing crisis, the increase in inmate assaults on our officers, year after year, and most recently, the proposed legislation in the City Council that seeks to eliminate punitive segregation all have one common denominator. The common denominator behind all of these challenges we face can all be traced back to the progressive/socialist agenda that has dominated the vast majority of our local and state government for far too long.

For the past two years, the Executive Board and I met with the Governor, the previous Mayor, the Senate Majority leader, countless Assembly Members, Senators, and City Council Members. We also met with the City Council

Speaker and the Public Advocate. Yet despite these meetings, despite the data we presented, and despite the dozens and dozens of stories we published in the press, it became increasingly clear that these entrenched politicians had sold their souls to the forces and special interests seeking to destroy us.

They want to protect violent offenders and to justify their votes to close Rikers Island. They want to release as many inmates as possible and some have even gone as far as arguing that New York shouldn't even have jails and prisons. They lie in our faces and shed crocodile tears, pretending to empathize with our concerns, then they turn around and support policies that further jeopardize our safety. A perfect illustration of their hypocrisy can be



seen with none other than New York City Council Speaker Adrienne Adams, who in 2021, stood with COBA at a press conference at the entrance to Rikers Island to call for sexual predators, who sexually assault our officers to face Felony charges instead of Misdemeanors. She even introduced a Resolution in the City Council last year to call on Albany lawmakers to change the current law.

Fast forward to this year, Adrienne Adams sought a promotion to become City Council Speaker, refused to meet with COBA, didn't pursue her own Resolution and on top of all of that, recently announced that she now supports a Bill to ban punitive segregation in New York City's jails. Imagine that. As the daughter of a former correction

officer and a correction captain, she knowingly supports a Bill that will jeopardize the lives of thousands of men and women who put their lives on the line every single day, just like her mother once did!

The bottom line is that our future will only get brighter if we do everything we can to vote out the hypocrites and the criminal defenders at all levels of government who continue to do everything possible to jeopardize our safety and our way of life.

In this special election edition of COBA News, we have provided you with a list of the candidates who have consistently demonstrated that they stand with Correction Officers. After a careful review of the answers to our candidate questionnaire, as well as their public positions, they have

earned our endorsement. The Executive Board and I strongly urge you, your fellow officers, your family, and your friends to vote for these candidates on Election Day, November 8th. You can also begin voting during the early voting period that commences October 29th until November 6th. If you are not currently registered to vote, register. If your family members aren't registered, ask them to register as well.

It's not just candidates on the ballot, it's your future! Elections have consequences! Make your vote count and make your voices heard!

In Solidarity,

Benny Boscio
President



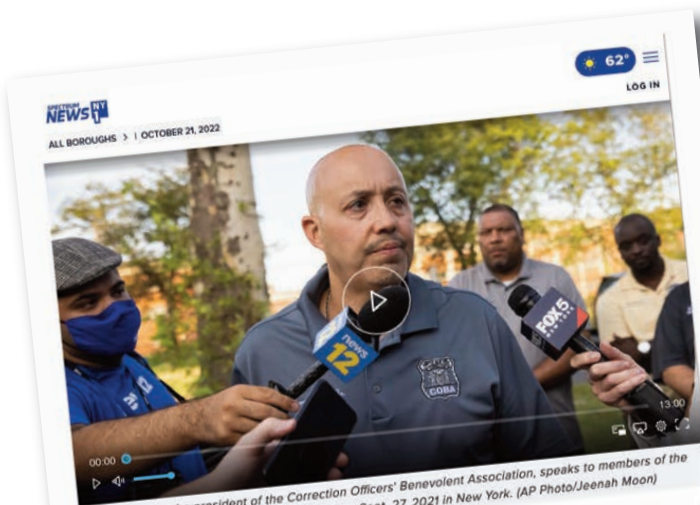


COBA MEMBERS RALLIED AT CITY HALL & TESTIFIED AGAINST THE CITY COUNCIL'S PROPOSED BAN ON PUNITIVE SEGREGATION IN NYC'S JAILS

On September 28, 2022, COBA led a massive rally on the steps of City Hall to send a powerful message to the misguided sponsors of Intro 0549-2022 which seeks to ban punitive segregation in our jails. Prior to entering the hearing we brought together Correction Officers who were assaulted and sexually assaulted by inmates to tell their story. We held a press conference attended by every television station and we were joined by City Council members who support COBA, as well as leaders of other labor unions who support our fight for safer jails.

Once inside the hearing, before the Criminal Justice Committee, the Council Members heard powerful testimony delivered by our brave female officers, detailing the abuse they have sustained because of the failed policies in our jails that continue to protect violent offenders over the safety of our officers and non violent inmates. The Council Members also heard from our 3rd Vice President, Keisha Williams, and our First City-Wide Trustee, Ashaki Antoine.

COBA IN THE NEWS



INSIDE CITY HALL Corrections union head blames City Council for Rikers dysfunction

BY DAVID LAZAR | NEW YORK CITY
PUBLISHED 9:30 PM ET SEP. 19, 2022



Correction Officers' Benevolent Association president Benny Boscio blamed City Council for why there have been 14 Rikers-related deaths this year.

"Any death in our custody is very tragic and the Council has no one else to blame but themselves Monday night. "We have been defunded for weeks."

Kevin Bryan, 35, who was in custody at the Rikers Island on Wednesday morning, according to the Department of Correction.

Bryan was being attacked by several other inmates in a cell. A female officer — the only one on duty in the cell at the time — locked the gate, Boscio said. While the officer was trying to get the bathroom door open, the inmates got the door open, they found Bryan.

"We need staff," Boscio said. "In order to keep everyone in our system safe."

Boscio added that a new proposed bill would mandate a maximum of 15 inmates at risk.

The legislation would mandate a maximum of 15 inmates at risk, the Department of Correction would be required to hire more staff.

"Inmates know there are no consequences for bad behavior. We encourage them to change their behavior."

Boscio claimed that banning punitive transfers would make inmates vulnerable to attacks from violent inmates.

"Everyone is advocating for the same thing. We need staff. Who is advocating for the staff? Who is advocating for the staff? Doesn't everyone deserve to be safe?"

The proposed bill comes as the Department of Correction is calling out sick, contributing to a staffing shortage at city jails, citing this as a reason for why there have been 14 Rikers-related deaths this year.

In August, on average, 12% of the Department of Correction staff was on medically modified duty.

Boscio alleged that violence is just a symptom of the problem.

"We did not sign up to take this job. We signed up to be cut in the face. When everybody says we can't have people in the cell, we can't have people in the cell."





EXCERPTS FROM COBA PRESIDENT BENNY BOSCIO'S CITY COUNCIL TESTIMONY

"When violent individuals rape, murder, stab, cut and assault innocent people on the streets of New York, each of you supports having that perpetrator immediately arrested and removed from our neighborhoods. Yet when they commit the very same violent crimes in jail, you believe that they should get an 8-hour time out and then return to the scene of their crimes? That's not just hypocrisy, that's plain reckless. I ask each and every one of you that are sponsors of this Bill, what do we do with the individuals in our custody who continue to cut, stab, sexually assault and brutally assault our officers and non-violent inmates? This proposed legislation will only further handcuff our members, while simultaneously emboldening the very same individuals who have committed violent crimes to commit further acts of violence in jail. We don't have to guess what will happen if the city completely eliminates punitive segregation. Former

Mayor de Blasio eliminated punitive segregation for inmates ages 21 and under in 2016 and jail violence increased every year thereafter, as the data I discussed earlier confirms. There is nothing progressive about the carnage that this legislation will cause and the fact that you continue to turn your backs as jail violence continues to soar is further evidence of your complicity in this crisis. Don't the brave men and women who work in our jails, as well as the non-violent inmates in our custody deserve to be safe? We can't live in a society where there are no consequences or deterrents for crimes committed on our streets or in our jails. Let me be crystal clear- your support for this Bill will not come without the blood of innocent lives on your hands. And our union will hold you and any other Council Member who votes in favor of this reckless legislation, accountable for the bloodshed this will cause!"



Scan QR-Code to view City Council Hearing Sept. 28, 2022 BOC meeting





**COBA BOARD
MEMBERS
ASHAKI ANTOINE,
AND ANTOINETTE
ANDERSON
ALONG WITH
COBA DELEGATES
PROVIDED
COMPELLING
TESTIMONY
BEFORE
THE BOARD OF
CORRECTION
MEETING HELD
ON OCTOBER 18TH**

**Excerpt from First-Citywide Trustee
Ashaki Antoine's Remarks at the BOC Meeting
Held on October 18, 2022**

"One of the major components in keeping the jails safe on Rikers island is having the ability to remove violent inmates from the general population and to address the increase in violence. Removing punitive segregation for inmates 21 and under in 2016 created this chaos and eliminating it completely for all ages will drive our jails from chaos to catastrophe. Punitive segregation is a vital tool used to separate violent inmates from officers, civilians, and non-violent inmates. It has been shown that punitive segregation is effective in holding violent inmates accountable for their misbehavior and acts of violence committed while detained.

Our rights to work free from violence, especially sexual violence, against our female correction officers in the jails, is non-negotiable and we will continue to fight and hold the City Council and the Board of Correction accountable for their inaction to keep everyone in our jails safe!"

Scan QR-Code to view
October 18, 2022
BOC meeting



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RhPJb7O8Sr8&list=PLcxplEKMyUw6k0Cg4oPZgZo0s6hYkCVks>



Excerpt from Corresponding Secretary Antoinette Anderson's Remarks at the BOC Meeting Held on October 18, 2022

"If we as a society can agree that there must be a zero tolerance for sexual harassment and sexual assault in every work environment, then our city's jails, one of the most challenging work environments that exists, should be no different. So we are here today not simply to expose this problem, but to reaffirm to each one of you why it is critical to maintain our ability to implement punitive segregation for violent offenders! Your job is to ensure the safety and well being of the people in our custody, as well as our essential officers, who put their lives on the line each and every day to keep our city safe. Our safety matters!

How are you helping officers if punitive segregation is gone? What safety plans will be implemented for officers?

Remember the staffing crisis was partially created by them not hiring COs in a 3 year span. Freya was part of the de Blasio administration. Cohen talks about programming for the inmates. We can't do that without additional staff. All these programs added but no funding for additional officers.

No consequences for inmate actions has caused more assaults which equals more people out sick due to injuries and has caused record numbers of resignations. Also, 7 of the 16 inmate deaths were known to have some sort of mental illness. Rikers Island is not the proper facility to handle these types of individuals."





Herman Jiminian
Legislative Chairman
hjiminian@cobanyc.org



MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN:

I once believed, my vote didn't matter because I have never seen a favorable outcome after an election. Today, I speak with great conviction & indignation that my vote does matter and it will have a favorable outcome. I implore you to not only vote in the 2022 General Election, but to also participate by volunteering your time at the poll sites on behalf of the COBA Endorsed candidates. I don't have to explain to you how hard this career has become. You endure this hardship daily. I don't have to persuade you on how desperately we need to change. I know you yearn for change. These candidates have boldly fought to protect and preserve our rights and are committed to tackling those obstacles with us, if elected.

As you may or may not have seen the video footage on September 28, 2022 of our rally on the steps of City Hall, it is evident that our profession is under attack by multiple entities including Lawless Politicians, the BOC, SCOC, Inmate Advocacy Groups, Bail Reform Advocacy Groups, and many many more.

Elections are a viable option of expression and communication. Selecting the right candidates for office will positively or negatively impact your life.

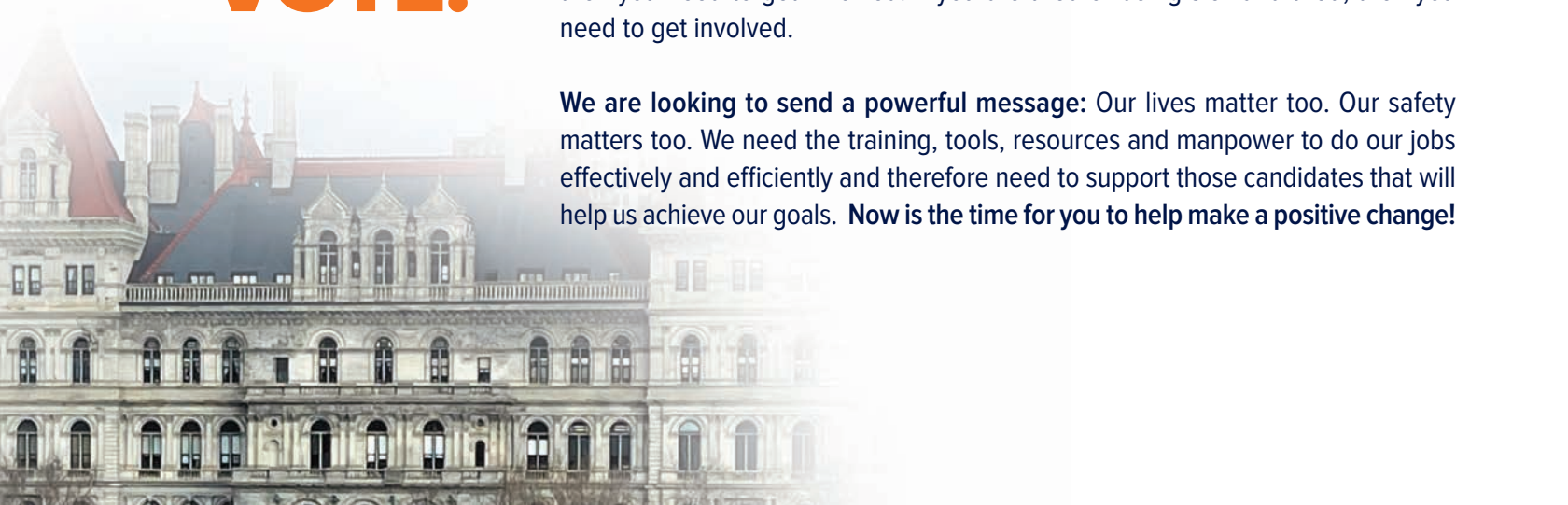
COBA President Benny Boscio has done a phenomenal job in changing the narrative and exposing the truth of what we are really enduring and dealing with at Rikers Island, but it is not enough. We need to fire a lot of corrupt politicians and **we need your help.**

I am calling on all Active and Retired members of Service, Neighbors, Friends and Family members of uniformed staff, and all DOC Fraternal Organizations to unite with us to fight against this one-sided agenda.

I have said it before, Politicians directly dictate our working conditions. I repeat, **POLITICIANS DIRECTLY DICTATE OUR WORKING CONDITIONS.** If you are tired of working double, triple and quadruple shifts, then you need to get involved. If you are tired of having issues at home because of the amount of hours you work, you need to get involved. If you are tired of missing once in a lifetime family events, then you need to get involved. If you are tired of being sick and tired, then you need to get involved.

We are looking to send a powerful message: Our lives matter too. Our safety matters too. We need the training, tools, resources and manpower to do our jobs effectively and efficiently and therefore need to support those candidates that will help us achieve our goals. **Now is the time for you to help make a positive change!**

**LET'S
START
MAKING
OUR
VOICES
HEARD
VOTE!**



THE FOLLOWING CANDIDATES ARE ENDORSED BY COBA GENERAL ELECTION NOVEMBER 8, 2022

SCAN QR-CODES TO VISIT THEIR CAMPAIGN'S WEBSITE



VOTE
NOV. 8



COBA ENDORSES
LEE ZELDIN
FOR NYS GOVERNOR
zeldin.house.gov



VOTE
NOV. 8



COBA ENDORSES
MIKE LAWLER
FOR CONGRESS DISTRICT 17
lawlerforcongress.com



VOTE
NOV. 8



COBA ENDORSES
NICOLE MALLIOTAKIS
FOR CONGRESS DISTRICT 11
nicolemaliotakis.com



VOTE
NOV. 8



COBA ENDORSES
TOM DINAPOLI
FOR NYS COMPTROLLER
dinapoli2022.com

ELECTIONS HAVE CONSEQUENCES!

VOTE **NOV. 8, 2022**

VOTE FOR ALL OF COBA'S ENDORSED CANDIDATES!

CANDIDATES ENDORSED BY COBA GENERAL ELECTION NOVEMBER 8, 2022

SCAN QR-CODES TO VISIT THEIR CAMPAIGN'S WEBSITE



**VOTE
NOV. 8**



COBA ENDORSES
**JESSICA
SCARELLA-SPANTON**
FOR STATE SENATE
DISTRICT 23
jessicafornewyork.com



**VOTE
NOV. 8**



COBA ENDORSES
**STEVE
RHOADS**
FOR STATE SENATE
DISTRICT 8
steverhoads.com



**VOTE
NOV. 8**



COBA ENDORSES
**JOHN
MANNION**
FOR STATE SENATE
DISTRICT 50
mannionforstatesenate.com



**VOTE
NOV. 8**



COBA ENDORSES
**MONICA
MARTINEZ**
FOR STATE SENATE
DISTRICT 4
monicaforsenate.com



**VOTE
NOV. 8**



COBA ENDORSES
**IWEN
CHU**
FOR STATE SENATE
DISTRICT 17
iwenchu.com



**VOTE
NOV. 8**



COBA ENDORSES
**INEZ
DICKSENS**
FOR ASSEMBLY
DISTRICT 70
inezedickens.com

SAVE OUR STATE SAVE OUR JAILS!

Endorsement Statement from COBA President Benny Boscio

“Correction Officers, like most New Yorkers, are sick and tired of living in constant fear of being victimized by violent criminals in their communities and in their workplace. We need a Governor who will finally declare war on crime, support the men and women who keep our jails and our streets safe, and invest in our essential, first responders. We need a leader who isn’t afraid to stand up for public safety. **We need a leader who will fight to end bail reform, repeal HALT, and give us the tools we need to keep everyone in our jails safe.** It’s time to elect a leader who will save our state and save our jails. For all of these reasons, the **Correction Officers’ Benevolent Association is proud to endorse Lee Zeldin for Governor!**”

VOTE



LEE ZELDIN FOR GOVERNOR!

OUR SISTER CORRECTION UNIONS HAVE ENDORSED THE FOLLOWING CANDIDATES IN THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTIES

NASSAU COUNTY

CONGRESS

2nd District – Andrew R. Garbarino {R}
3rd District – George A.D. Santos {R}
4th District – Anthony D'Esposito {R}

SENATE

5th District – Steven D. Rhoads {R}
6th District – James L. Coll {R}
7th District – Jack Martins {R}
8th District – Alexis Weik {R}
9th District – Patricia M. Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick {R}

ASSEMBLY

9th District – Michael A. Durso {R}
10th District – Aamir Sultan {R}
11th District – Christopher Sperber {R}
13th District – Ruka Anzai {R}
14th District – David G. McDonough {R}
15th District – Jake Ryan Blumencranz {R}
16th District – Vibhuti N. Jha {R}
17th District – John K. Mikulin {R}
18th District – LaMont E. Johnson {R}
19th District – Edward P. Ra {R}
20th District – Eric Ari Brown {R}
21st District – Brian F. Curran {R}
22nd District – Cara J. Castronuova {R}

WESTCHESTER COUNTY

CONGRESS

Nicole Malliotakis Con-11th
Mike Lawler Con-17th
Colin Schmitt Con-18th

SENATE DISTRICT

Monica Martinez 4th SD
Robert Jackson 31st SD
Shelley Mayer 37th SD
Peter Harckham 40th SD

NYS COMPTROLLER

Thomas DiNapoli

ASSEMBLY

David Weprin 24th Assembly
Peter Abbate 49th Assembly
Amy Paulin 88th Assembly
Nader Sayegh 90th Assembly
MaryJane Shimsky 92nd Assembly
Matt Slater 94th Assembly
Anil Beephan 105th Assembly

SUFFOLK COUNTY

US CONGRESS

Andrew Garbarino District 2

GOVERNOR

Lee Zeldin

NYS COMPTROLLER

Thomas DiNapoli

SENATE DISTRICT

Anthony Palumbo District 1
Mario Mattera District 2
Dean Murray District 3
Steve Rhoads District 5
James Coll District 6
Jack Martins District 7
Alexis Weik District 8

ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Peter Ganley District 1
Jodi Giglio District 2
Joseph Destefano District 3
Edward Flood District 4
Doug Smith District 5
Kevin Surdi District 6
Jarett Gardolfo District 7
Michael Durso District 9
Keith Brown District 12

VOTE EARLY NY

IT'S YOUR RIGHT!

TO LEARN MORE
ABOUT EARLY
VOTING SCAN
THE QR-CODE
BELOW!



GENERAL ELECTION DAY
NOVEMBER 8, 2022

EARLY VOTING
OCTOBER 29 – NOVEMBER 6

**FOR MORE
INFORMATION VISIT:
VOTEEARLYNY.ORG**



Correction Officers' Benevolent Association, Inc.
"Patrolling The Toughest Precincts in New York"

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**NOW MORE THAN
EVER CHOOSING
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**MAKE YOUR VOTE
COUNT AND
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BE HEARD.**

**IN THIS GENERAL
ELECTION SUPPORT
THOSE WHO
SUPPORT US!**



VOTE

**FOR ALL OF
COBA'S
ENDORSED
CANDIDATES!**

**TUESDAY
NOV. 8, 2022**

**POLLS ARE
OPEN FROM
6:00AM-9:00PM**

