



# Assembly member Grace Lee



## Dear Neighbor,

I am grateful to continue serving as your representative in the New York State Assembly. With so much division and uncertainty at the national level, **it is clear local government is where we can make a real difference for New Yorkers.** That is why I have worked hard this year to pass legislation that includes strengthening our local economy, lowering taxes for working families, and promoting affordable housing. **These wins are ours together, and I look forward to all we will continue to achieve.**

Sincerely, *Grace*

## Reviving Our Local Economy

Lower Manhattan's economy depends on thriving businesses and vibrant commercial corridors, but ever **since the pandemic, companies leaving and fewer workers commuting has meant less foot traffic for our local shops and restaurants** in neighborhoods like the Financial District, Chinatown, Little Italy, and the Lower East Side.

**That's why I sponsored and passed bill A.8676 to renew the Lower Manhattan Relocation and Employment Assistance Program (LM-REAP), which provides financial incentives for businesses to relocate to Lower Manhattan.** LM-REAP helps bring more workers, more customers, and more support for the small businesses that are the backbone of our community. I am grateful to Jessica Lappin and the Downtown Alliance for their partnership on this important bill and to Governor Hochul for signing it into law.



*Rallying with colleagues and advocates for local job incentives*

## Other Legislation I Led and Passed

**! Safeguarding Families From Hazardous Sites:** A bill (A.5714) to ensure communities get access to Technical Assistance Grants at brownfield sites located near schools and daycare centers so they have technical representation during the remediation process.

**🗳️ Improving Electoral Access:** A bill (A.7618) to require the Board Of Elections (BOE) to inform county party committees and elected officials of any polling site change, so we can engage with the BOE on pollsite relocations and communicate changes to constituents.

**🏡 Supporting Communities of Color:** The inclusion in this year's budget of a historic \$90M to community-based organizations serving New York's Black, Latino, and Asian communities.

**🎓 Investing in Education:** The inclusion in this year's budget of \$1.05M to fund the Black, Hispanic, and Asian Leadership Institutes at SUNY, and another \$350,000 to support CUNY's Asian American/Asian Research Institute.



*Speaking on the Assembly floor*

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## More Advocacy I Led for New Yorkers

### Cutting Taxes for Mitchell-Lama Residents

I was proud to work with Senator Brian Kavanagh to help secure a **50% tax cut to the shelter rent tax** for Mitchell-Lama developments in the 2025-26 State Budget. This cut amounts to **hundreds of thousands of dollars in annual savings for Mitchell-Lama residents** including: \$554,755 annually for Masaryk Towers, \$186,835 annually for Confucius Plaza and \$295,063 annually for Gouverneur Gardens.



*Hosting a press conference for the Mitchell-Lama Tax Cut*

### Advancing Inclusive Education

I led and passed The Asian American, Native, Hawaiian, Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Education Equity Act (A.8463) — a **critical step towards making education more inclusive**. Inclusive education means making sure every student sees themselves and their community reflected in what they learn. This bill requires the State Education Department to study how New York public schools are teaching Asian American history and to create an advisory committee to recommend how best to integrate AANHPI history instruction into school curriculum. The bill sends a strong message: Asian American stories matter and our community deserves to be recognized and seen.



*Rallying for inclusive education with Senator John Liu and advocates*

### Funding Childcare for Our Families

Facing a severe childcare funding shortfall, the legislature secured over **\$2B to expand access to affordable, high-quality childcare** across New York. With \$350 million dedicated to New York City, more families in our communities can access the care they need—so parents can work, learn, and provide for their children with confidence.



*Speaking at a rally for affordable childcare funding in the state budget*

### Expanding Unemployment Insurance

This year, the legislature paid off nearly \$7 billion in pandemic-era unemployment insurance debt, **eliminating the interest burden on New York's small businesses**. With that burden lifted, we secured a major victory for working families by **raising the maximum unemployment insurance weekly benefit from \$504 to \$869**—the first increase in over two decades. This increase gives New Yorkers facing unemployment more security to care for themselves and their families while they get back on their feet.



*Nearly 700 participants gather at the AAPI Summit in Albany*

### Amplifying Asian New Yorkers' Voices

As Chair of the APA Task Force, I was proud to host the **second annual New York State AAPI Summit in Albany**, bringing together nearly 700 Asian American leaders and advocates. Events like this are vital for sharing ideas, addressing challenges like housing and civic engagement, and strengthening our communities. I am grateful to everyone working to uplift and unite our voices.

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## Other Key Legislation I Helped Pass This Session

### Protecting Tenants' Rights

- **Making home-ownership more accessible** by banning private equity purchases within the first 90 days of a home being on the market (2025-26 State Budget).
- **Protecting New Yorkers from discrimination** by codifying housing discrimination standards into state law (A.4040).

### Prioritizing Community Safety & Preventing Harm

- **Ensuring necessary care for those in mental health crises** by updating our involuntary commitment laws (2025-26 State Budget).
- Enhancing our discovery laws to **prevent cases from being dismissed on minor technicalities**, while still protecting the rights of defendants (2025-26 State Budget).
- **Improving conditions and accountability in state prisons** and extending the window for formerly incarcerated people to seek justice (A.8871).
- **Keeping New York City law enforcement jobs competitive and improving retention** by expanding retirement benefits for New York City police officers (2025-26 State Budget).



Advocating with Lilah Mejia and NYDIS to get funding for mental health clubhouses

### Supporting NYCHA Residents

- Investing **\$200M in capital improvements for NYCHA**, with the requirement to provide employment opportunities for residents (2025-26 State Budget).
- Allocating \$25M dedicated to **rehabilitating unused NYCHA apartments to move-in ready condition** (2025-26 State Budget).
- **Allowing NYCHA residents to succeed a lease** after the death of a family member (A.8412).

### Strengthening Consumer Protection

- **Preventing EBT fraud and theft** by allowing individuals to lock and unlock EBT cards (A.919).
- **Requiring companies to simplify subscription cancellations** and provide clear notices before free trials end (A.3928).



Calling for better protection of EBT cards

### Securing Users Online

- **Holding tech companies accountable** by establishing guidelines for the development of advanced AI (A.6453).
- Requiring AI companions to **alert users that they are not communicating with a human**, and follow a protocol if users express suicidal ideation (2025-26 State Budget).
- **Mandating disclosure** for ad images generated by AI (A.8887).

### Protecting our Environment

- **Reducing greenhouse gas emissions through a \$1B investment**—the most significant budget funding for any state's climate priorities in U.S. history (2025-26 State Budget).
- **Saving money for existing gas customers** by ending the "100 foot rule" that forced them to pay for new gas hookups in their area (A.8888).

### Preserving and Improving Access to Equitable Healthcare

- **Protecting the safety and privacy of doctors** who prescribe medical abortion and other maternal health medications (A.2145).
- **Allowing patients greater end of life autonomy** and dignity through *The Medical Aid in Dying Act* (A.136).
- **Funding high quality medical providers in underserved communities** through the Medicare Quality Incentive Program (2025-26 State Budget).



Standing with Governor Hochul to protect reproductive freedom in our state

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## **Fighting For Our Families** (2025-26 State Budget)

- **Cutting income tax rates for 8.3M New Yorkers** to the lowest rate in decades.
- Saving families roughly \$165 monthly per child by providing **universal free school breakfast and lunch**.
- **Expanding the Empire Child Tax Credit** to \$1,000 for children under 4 and \$500 for children 4-16.
- Providing **\$1.5M for free diapers and baby supplies** for low-income families.



*Rallying for the child tax credit  
with my colleagues*

## **Investing in Affordable Housing** (2025-26 State Budget)

- Investing **\$500M in new and existing affordable housing units** in the city.
- Protecting our older community members with **\$20M towards supportive housing for seniors**.
- **Preserving and improving Mitchell-Lama developments** with \$330M in total funding.



*With federal workers impacted by DOGE cuts,  
Dr. Lauren Komer and Dr. Nina Schwalbe*

## **Advocating for Workers**

- **Safeguarding workers who lose their job due to a strike or industry dispute** by shortening their loss of benefits (2025-26 State Budget).
- **Protecting workers from predatory training fees** that were mandated by employers (A.584).

**Trivia Answers: 1. Nom Wah Tea Parlor 2. Alexander Hamilton 3. University Settlement**

### **Trivia!**

#### **How Well Do You Know Lower Manhattan?**

1. What is the oldest currently operating Dim Sum Parlor in NYC?
2. What founding father once held the Assembly seat currently held by Assemblymember Grace Lee?
3. What LES institution, founded in 1886, was the first of its kind to support new immigrants to New York?

**Answers Inside!**

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legislative  
updates inside!**

ASSEMBLYMEMBER

# Grace LEE



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