



Green Light NY Funder Briefing

New York Immigration Coalition

April 19, 2019



Welcome!

This webinar is being recorded and will be shared with registrants unable to attend. Please be mindful when sharing information.

Please note that all participants will be muted until the Q&A section of today's webinar.

If you have questions, feel free to write the host through the chat or use the “Raise Hand” function.

Agenda

Moderator: Steve Choi

Executive Director

The New York Immigration Coalition

Introduction & Background on Issue

Steve Choi

Current Moment & Why Now

Emma Kreyche

*Statewide Coordinator, Green Light NY Campaign
Worker Justice Center of New York*

Green Light Coalition Members' Presentations

Carola Otero Bracco

Executive Director, Neighbors Link

Dulce A. Rojas-Mendez

Senior Organizer, SEPA Mujer

How do we get to the finish line together?

Steve Choi

Q&A

Introduction on Green Light NY

**How did we get to this place
engaging in this fight?**

This year is *the* moment -- thanks to painstaking **coalition-building**, the current **political climate**, and our much stronger **statewide presence**.



“We mean business this year,” Choi said. “Our goal is to target every single legislator in New York State. We think it makes a ton of sense.” - [**NY Daily News**](#)

Passing Green Light is good for everyone



- Improves road safety
- Lowers the number of uninsured drivers
- Generates revenue for state and county governments
- Provides essential access to transportation in rural & suburban areas
- Prevents use of DMV data for immigration enforcement

History of the Green Light Coalition

2016

- Official formation of the Green Light NY Coalition
- Creation of Steering Committee
- "Consejo" advisory group is formed



2017

- New Green Light driver's licenses legislation introduced
- FPI, Comptroller policy briefs officially launched

2018

- Driver's licenses legislation re-introduced, moves to Transportation Committee

What's different in 2019?

- **Democratic ascendance:** Progressives win power in State Senate
- **Trump backlash:** Cuomo, others campaigned on "protecting" immigrants
- **Growing statewide coalition:** see the [full list of members](#) on our Green Light NY website



Progress Since Our Launch in January



"I've lived here for 18 years and have two citizen children. I was detained and separated from my children because I do not have access to a license. We can put an end to stories like this if we pass access to driver's licenses for all" Dalila Yeend @FWDus
#DriversLicensesNOW



2019 campaign highlights to date:

- Grassroots organizing
- Lobbying and political pressure
- Op-eds, editorials, and paid advertising
- Non-traditional stakeholders, including law enforcement and business



Let Undocumented Immigrants Drive

From the Editorial Board of the *New York Times*

“There are an estimated 725,000 undocumented immigrants in New York State, making up more than 5 percent of the labor force in 2016... Almost 250,000 of them live in the suburbs and upstate, where people rely on cars to get to work and school.”



“For those who have to work and raise their families in the shadows as they provide cheap labor for contractors, restaurants, farms and factories, a driver’s license could change their lives.”

Current Moment & Why Now

Political Moment & Landscape

- Albany mobilization: nearly **1000 directly impacted people and advocates** from across the state, with strong participation from the Hudson Valley
- Growing grassroots support on Long Island
- A **post-budget priority** for Speaker Heastie
- Cuomo's warming comments



Carl E. Heastie 
@CarlHeastie

Follow

We will look to advance @GreenLightNYDT post budget.

Reply

Marco Crespo @MarcosCrespo85

As a Democratic Legislature we ALL need to pass @GreenLightNYDT and raise much needed revenue for NYS \$60 Mill annual new revenue is within our grasp. Senate and Assembly Dems should come together and support our immigrant families in This budget cycle. @MaketheRoadNY @thenyic

6:54 PM - 27 Mar 2019

Support from Electeds

69 Assembly co-sponsors including Crespo who is the sponsor:

Nolan, Glick, Dinowitz, Rosenthal L, Abinanti, Simotas, Quart, Seawright, Simon, Gottfried, Peoples-Stokes, Weprin, Mosley, De La Rosa, Hyndman, Perry, Jaffee, Dilan, Walker, Dickens, Ortiz, Bronson, Epstein, Sayegh, Ramos, Pichardo, Buchwald, Thiele, Cruz, Otis, Magnarelli, Jacobson, Carroll, Reyes, Niou, Paulin, Fernandez, Benedetto, Taylor, Raynor, Arroyo, Rodriguez, Hevesi, Pretlow, DenDekker, Lifton, Rosenthal D, Rivera, Cahill, Blake, D'Urso, Jean-Pierre, Kim, Hunter, Davila, Steck, Richardson, Galef, Joyner, Fall, Lavine, Frontus, Barron, O'Donnell, Stirpe, Wright, Lentol, Rozic

25 Senate co-sponsors including Sepulveda who is the sponsor:

Bailey, Benjamin, Biaggi, Carlucci, Comrie, Gianaris, Gounardes, Harckham, Hoyle, Jackson, Kavanagh, Krueger, Liu, May, Mayer, Montgomery, Myrie, Parker, Ramos, Rivera, Salazar, Sanders, Serrano, Stavisky

Where is there hold out?

“Long Island Six”

- Democratic majority in Senate for the first time since 2010
- Several Long Island Senate seats considered “marginal”
- Likely backlash from anti-immigrant opposition
- Need for public education on the issue, emphasizing public safety
- Law enforcement support is key



Green Light: Changing Hearts and Minds Across New York State



Leadership Spotlight: Westchester

Carola Otero Bracco

Executive Director, Neighbors Link

- Steering committee representative & regional coordinator for Westchester County Green Light coalition member organizations
- Community forum with 300+ participants and dozens of educational events throughout county
- Overwhelming support among Westchester Democratic Senators & Assembly Members
- Mobilized 4 buses to Albany on March 12
- 2000+ phone calls to Senate Majority Leader



Leadership Spotlight: Long Island

Dulce A. Rojas-Mendez

Senior Organizer, SEPA Mujer

- Leading Green Light partner on Long Island, working to build our coalition across Suffolk and Nassau Counties with over 20 organizations/groups/individuals in county committees
- Educational forums in Riverhead, Patchogue, Huntington, and Hempstead gathering more than 500 people
- March in Riverhead mobilized 200+
- “Tacos & Phone Banking” event, letters of support, meetings with legislators, collected over 2,000 letters of petitions with partners
- Started organizing committees in February 2019



“Marchers take to the streets to support driver’s license access for all” - RiverheadLOCAL

“Immigrants Meet in Hempstead to Discuss Driver’s License Campaign” - Long Island Wins

**How do we get to the
finish line together?**



As we enter the final phase of the Green Light NY campaign, \$100,000 is needed for:

- **501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) grassroots organizing** in Long Island and elsewhere
- **Engaging non-traditional stakeholders:** law enforcement and business
- **Mobilizations and lobbying:** Days of Action and another Albany mobilization
- **Intense communications:** op-eds, targeted paid media, digital organizing

Q&A

To ask a question, please type your question directly to the host or use the “Raise Hand” feature.

For any additional questions, please contact NYIC Development Director Rovika Rajkishun at rrajkishun@nyic.org or 917.596.0647. Thank you for your time!