

Senator Roxanne Persaud

19th Senate District, New York

Roxanne Persaud is the Senator for the 19th Senate District. It is a District that includes Canarsie, East New York, Mill Basin, Brownsville, Sheepshead Bay, Bergen Beach and Marine Park. The legendary Shirley Chisholm once represented a portion of this District so Roxanne is in wonderful company.

Roxanne is charming and pleasant and she carries herself with poise and purpose. She is knowledgeable about the issues of her community and it seems only a matter of time before she moves on to greater heights. Roxanne is proud of her Guyanese heritage. She was born in Middle Street, in Georgetown, Guyana. Her dad is Kenrick and her mom is Yvonne Persaud.

Roxanne attended Henry's Under 12 School and then Charles Prep. After a stint at Tutorial High School Roxanne went to live with her grandmother Eliza Bakker in New Amsterdam. While there, she attended Berbice Educational Institute from 1980 to 1982. Roxanne took a liking to electronics and computers. Bhowani Mohanlall, a history teacher at Berbice Educational Institute made a positive impact on her.

In January 1983 her life was changed forever as Roxanne boarded a plane for New York. She settled in Queens and she quickly became acclimatized to her surroundings. After two days in New York Roxanne was able to take a bus, follow directions and visit relatives in New Jersey. She says, 'I was always a person that wanted to do things. No challenge is too great. There is no telling me you can't

do something. Taking the train and travelling around after I just arrived was no big deal.'

This 'can do' attitude led Roxanne to complete her GED, get a summer job at a child center and to land a position at Pace University as a part-timer. But Roxanne had her sights on the bigger picture. She wasn't prepared to stay with just filing. She was a busybody that wanted to find out what everyone was doing. In this way she was able to acquire valuable experience. By October of that year Roxanne was involved in several aspects of the office. She also

number of years at Pace she moved to St. Francis College as the Registrar in 2005. This was indeed a high honor.

During her time at St. Francis Roxanne was able to bring ideas for innovation. For example, she recommended that technology be introduced that would make registration easier and paperless. This was duly implemented and it made life less stressful and was also cost-effective. Roxanne says that while she was at St. Francis the aim was to make information easily accessible and she was happy to achieve this objective.

How did she get involved in politics? Roxanne explains that she was always involved in community work and politics

lack of street lighting.

Roxanne says, 'I always took an initiative to do things and when

Districting Commission, among other assignments. She was also on various organizations highlight-

schedule. There are meetings in Albany and New York to discuss bills and issues affecting the community. A recent New York meeting was with Hillary Clinton and her stand on policy matters. Roxanne believes in an early start to the day and in punctuality. A proud moment for her was the acquisition of funds from Albany for housing development in her district. Roxanne uses her office to help the local community in other ways. For example, her office plays a positive role in the schools and among seniors. Will she run for Congress one day? Roxanne smiles and says that she is happy working in her District but who knows? She has also volunteered in Guyana as part of a medical outreach and has also conducted workshops in domestic violence while she was there.

Roxanne loves to travel and the flora of Amsterdam is her favorite.

The welfare of the young is never far; she advises that young people should find their passion and become involved in the community. Roxanne would like to thank her parents, her aunt Albertha Pakeman, and her teacher Isaac Theophilus Henry who instilled discipline in her. Senator Roxanne Persaud has made us proud. Her motto is 'You deserved to be served' and with her can do attitude and pleasant personality she will definitely go a far way. We wish her all the best in the future.



Senator Roxanne Persaud is a Guyanese-American who is serving the 19th Senate District in New York with distinction.

ing domestic violence and cancer awareness.

During the course of her many meetings people kept asking Roxanne when she was going to run for office. It seemed to be the most logical thing to do.

The Thomas Jefferson Club welcomed her and in time Roxanne was active in the community. When a seat opened up she was approached and after some thought and a family discussion she agreed to run for the New York State Assembly. Roxanne won the seat in 2014. This was an historic moment as she became the first female of Guyanese parentage to win public office in New York. A year later she made the headlines again by winning a seat in the State Senate.

Roxanne has a busy



Senator Roxanne Persaud with her favorite newspaper.

enrolled at York College, CUNY, and would travel to Pace University to work part-time.

After a year at York Roxanne transferred to Pace where she studied information systems and speech communications. She did well and graduated with her Bachelor's Degree. Roxanne then enrolled to do her Master's Degree while she worked at Pace. After a

played a part in it. She recalls that in Guyana her aunt Albertha Pakeman was the matron of the local hospital and was a good influence. Albertha would take the young Roxanne around and it gave her a sense of activism. This interest was rekindled in New York as she would write to the Borough President to complain about potholes, garbage collection or the

we moved to Brooklyn I became more involved. I became a part of civic and community board organizations in Canarsie.' This healthy mixture of activism and community concerns paved the way for her to meet many persons and to make an impact. Roxanne served as President of the 69th Precinct Community Council and was Commissioner on the New York City