



News from Assemblywoman

WINTER 2014

Sandy Galef

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Assemblywoman Sandy Galef hosts **Town Meetings** in New York's 95th Assembly District

Please join me to hear about what has been happening in your State Government and how it impacts you. Bring your ideas, suggestions and questions.

Thursday, January 23, 2014
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Ossining Public Library
Budarz Theater on the lower level
53 Croton Avenue, Ossining, NY 10562

Saturday, January 25, 2014
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Hendrick Hudson Free Library
185 Kings Ferry Road, Montrose, NY 10548

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Julia L. Butterfield Memorial Library
10 Morris Avenue, Cold Spring, NY 10516

Thursday, January 30, 2014
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

The Field Library
4 Nelson Avenue, Peekskill, NY 10566
(Senior Nutrition Room on the Main Level)

Saturday, February 1, 2014
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Kent Public Library
17 Sybil's Crossing, Kent Lakes, NY 10512

There are no snow make-up dates. If the town meeting you are planning to attend is canceled due to weather, please feel free to attend another town meeting listed here. If the weather is inclement, please call my district office or you can try the location itself for an update on whether the meeting will be proceeding as scheduled.

Hosted by Sandy Galef **The Affordable Care Act and NY State of Health**

Helping Individuals and
Small Businesses Choose Health Plans

Thursday, February 6, 2014
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Croton Village Hall

1 Van Wyck Street, Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520
(off of Old Post Road)

Danielle Holahan
Deputy Director, NY State of Health

John Ravitz
Executive Vice President/COO
The Business Council of Westchester

Michael Reisman
Assistant Attorney General, Health Care Bureau
Office of the New York State Attorney General

These experts will discuss how businesses and individuals can benefit from the Affordable Care Act and sign up through New York's health exchange, as well as how to avoid potential pitfalls that could affect consumers who are not wary of fraudulent schemes. After the discussion, NYS Certified Navigators and Enrollment Specialists will be on hand to answer questions, give suggestions, and make appointments for those interested in enrolling.

Event Co-Sponsors:

NY State of Health, the Official Health Plan Marketplace
Office of the New York State Attorney General
Business Council of Westchester • Hudson Valley Hospital Center
Putnam Hospital Center • Open Door Family Medical Centers
Westchester Disabled on the Move
Putnam County Chambers of Commerce
Hudson Valley Gateway Chamber of Commerce
Cold Spring Area Chamber of Commerce
Greater Ossining Chamber of Commerce



Sandy spoke at a rally in Cortlandt to save the Veterans Hospital in Montrose and ensure it remains vital and responsive to the needs of our returning servicemen and women.

Dear Constituent,

Once again, we have had a very busy year filled with accomplishments and challenges. We have hope, with our economy improving, that state revenues will continue to rise so we can restore funding to programs that were cut during the recession.

This past year we were able to get some real traction in my district on road and bridge improvements by repaving a significant portion of Rt. 9/9A from Peekskill to Ossining and parts of Philipstown, restriping the Bear Mountain Parkway from Peekskill to Cortlandt, and repaving the Bear Mountain Pass, just to name a few, in order to improve safety and make it easier to live near and access these roads.

I was also pleased to get passed through both houses and signed into law many bills which I had been working on. Boating safety certificate requirements and no smoking on playgrounds are just two such bills. I look forward to continued success in finding ways to make New York safer and more livable for all.

In 2014, I will continue to focus on savings for taxpayers. I am pleased that the Governor is rallying around the Circuit Breaker legislation which I initially proposed in 2006. Hopefully, with his support and our bipartisan sponsorship in the Assembly and Senate, we can see real movement on this initiative. The Circuit Breaker bill looks at property taxes in relation to income, and limits the percentage that one pays within certain income guidelines. This will be another tool, along with the property tax cap and STAR, plus mandate rollbacks such as pension and Medicaid reform, which will start to make our property taxes less burdensome and more equitable.

I have received an overwhelming amount of correspondence about the new state education reforms and requirements. One of the concerns for parents is the data dashboard and how data is collected and shared. I also have concerns about privacy and the impact of this data collection on students and have co-sponsored two pieces of legislation that would either require parents to opt in or allow them to opt out of having their child's data shared on these databases.

Also, I am pleased that the report from the Moreland Commission's anti-corruption panel has focused on the use of public financing of campaigns as an important component of eliminating a pay-to-play culture in state government. The panel discussion that took place last year at my meeting in Garrison solidified my belief that the only way to end this slippery slope is to level the playing field.

I invite you to attend my town hall meetings this year in January and February, as well as a forum I am hosting for individuals and small businesses to get an update on the new health insurance requirements and tips for success.

I also encourage you to fill out my questionnaire and return it to me so that I can have a sense of where you stand as we embark on the 2014 Legislative Session. As always, I appreciate your feedback and look forward to working together on these and other important issues so we can move forward on a path of continuous improvement in New York.

Sincerely,



At Ossining High School, Sandy was joined by Senator David Carlucci and OHS Health Students as well as anti-tobacco groups and student prevention advocates for the Great American Smoke-out. Here, the legislators announced the bill they are introducing to restrict places where e-cigarettes could be used so that the restrictions mirror those for regular cigarettes.



Sandy joined her friends at the Peekskill Senior Citizens Victorian Tea.



Sandy interviews Kent residents Judge J. Peter Collins and Joyce Mitchell about the benefits of mediation to avoid court proceedings on her local public access TV Show, "Speak Out with Sandy Galef," which runs Wednesday evenings on public access channels offered by Cablevision and Comcast. Check your local listings.



Sandy's 2013 interns participated in state government over the summer and throughout the school year in her district office. Not only are interns an asset to her office, but they learn a great deal while helping others. For more information on the intern program, see page 4 of this newsletter.

Assemblywoman Sandy Galef's Constituent Questionnaire

(Room for two respondents)

To respond electronically, please click here:

<http://www.assembly.state.ny.us/mem/Sandy-Galef/story/55543>

1. Federal Case Law states that primaries for federal office holders must take place in June so that our overseas servicemen and women can have enough time to have their absentee votes counted. Do you think New York should require all primaries take place in June, at the same time as federal primaries?

Yes No

Yes No

2. Should we require health care insurance companies to cover the cost of GPS tracking devices for families of autistic children and adults with memory loss?

Yes No

Yes No

3. Should New York require solar panel installation on all building projects that are significantly funded by the state?

Yes No

Yes No

4. Should we raise the legal age to purchase cigarettes from 18 to 19, or 18 to 21 (like New York City just did), or keep it the same?

19 21 No Change

19 21 No Change

5. Should New York State fund cameras on the back or side of school buses to help enforce the no-passing-a-school-bus law with the intent of helping to improve safety for school children?

Yes No

Yes No

6. Should we oppose efforts taking place at the federal level to require states to allow longer and heavier double-trailer trucks on our state highways?

Yes No

Yes No

7. Should Super PACS, special interest groups and other organizations who support candidates during election season be required to disclose their sources of funding and how much they spend on political communications, as is now required for candidates and political parties?

Yes No

Yes No

8. Should Boating While Intoxicated infractions impact a person's driver's license?

Yes No

Yes No

9. Should we ban polystyrene (Styrofoam) from New York State, which could be replaced by paper, recyclable material or biodegradable products?

Yes No

Yes No

10. Should advertisers be prohibited from accessing the new education database containing confidential student data, which the State Education Department is creating for parents?

Yes No

Yes No

Please attach additional paper, if needed, for your responses to any of these questions.

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Email Address 1: _____

Email Address 2: _____

If you would like to receive periodic updates from my office via email, please provide your email address above.

↓ **Fill in Name and Address. Fold. Stamp. Include Zip Code for Tallying Purposes.** ↓

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Zip _____

Place
Stamp
Here

Assemblywoman Sandy Galef
2 Church Street
Ossining, NY 10562-4802

News You Can Use

The following information could be of use to you and your family in the months ahead.

- Governor Cuomo has launched “open.ny.gov,” a new and comprehensive state data transparency website that provides access to data from New York State agencies, localities, and the federal government.
- There is a Global Next of Kin Registry, which has free registration online and through the mail, and is easy to access at <http://www.nokr.org/>. The registry allows people to list their next of kin in the database so in the event of an emergency, the database can be accessed and next of kin can be reached.
- There are over 47,000 accounts, and over \$19 million of unclaimed funds being held for constituents in the 95th Assembly District. The New York State Comptroller has a database of unclaimed funds. You can search the database to see if you are owed any money, either on the website www.osc.state.ny.us or by calling the Office of Unclaimed Funds at 1-800-221-9311.
- Some veterans may be unaware of benefits which are available to them. Local agencies can help veterans apply for benefits and provide many other services, including: the Westchester County Veterans Service Agency, 112 E. Post Road, White Plains, 914-995-2145 or 914-995-2146; the Putnam County Department of Veterans Affairs, 110 Old Route 6, Building 3, Carmel, 845-808-1620; or the VA Vet Center, 300 Hamilton Ave, White Plains, 914-682-6250 or 877-927-8387.
- The New York State Department of Motor Vehicles website, “MyDMV,” has been greatly expanded. It now allows users to check the status of a driver’s license, renew or replace a driver’s license, check the number of points on their license, and more. The service is free and can be accessed at www.dmv.ny.gov.
- Starting January 1, 2014, New York State will offer employer incentives to hire post-9/11 veterans. The unemployment rate among this segment of the population remains much higher than the statewide average. The \$74 million tax credit will encourage employers to hire post-9/11 servicemen and women who are not currently employed.
- The New York State Department of Motor Vehicles office located in Yonkers is participating in a pilot program to extend their office hours from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. through the end of March 2014. Normally, DMV offices close at 4 p.m.

I am accepting high school and college students into my internship program in my District Office in Ossining. This unpaid opportunity offers students a first-hand look at how a state legislative office is run. Interns write news releases, proclamations, and letters, assist in legislative research, and help with upcoming events.

Anyone interested should contact Dana Levenberg in my office at 914-941-1111 or email her at levenbergd@assembly.state.ny.us.



News from
Assemblywoman
**Sandy
Gale**

**Town Meetings 2014
Health Care Forum**

WINTER 2014



At the West Point Foundry Preserve's Grand Opening, Sandy is joined by Chuck Burleigh, Lithgow Osborne, and Fred Osborn at the Foundry's new outdoor educational resource featuring interpretive elements that describe the Foundry's vital roles in the Industrial Revolution and Civil War and document the land's ecological renewal.



Sandy joined elected officials, Chamber of Commerce members, and business owners at Hudson House Restaurant in Cold Spring to celebrate Cold Spring's recognition by the Village Voice in its "Best of" Awards as the Best Weekend Retreat of 2013.