



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Budget Updates

I will continue to send updates regarding items in the New York State Budget that the Legislature passed last week and for highlights you can visit my Times Union blog at <http://blog.timesunion.com/johnmcdonald/>

Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences Visit



Had the pleasure last week of welcoming a cross section of students from the Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences to the NYS Assembly Chamber. The group was here to tour the Capitol and take in some of the proceedings.

Excelsior Scholarship Program Update

If you are looking for more information about the Excelsior Scholarship program, you can visit the link to the Higher Education Services Corporation website below to sign up for updates and to review the frequently asked questions.

<https://www.hesc.ny.gov/pay-for-college/financial-aid/types-of-financial-aid/nys-grants-scholarships-awards/the-excelsior-scholarship.html>

IN THE DISTRICT

Albany City Hall on the Road

The City of Albany will be hosting another series of City Hall on the Road Events. These events are designed to give residents the opportunity to meet one-on-one with Mayor Sheehan and City officials, and to access City services after-hours and closer to home.

For more information and a schedule of events please visit:

http://www.albanyny.gov/NewsandEvents/News/17-04-05/Mayor_Kathy_Sheehan_Announces_Spring_2017_Schedule_for_City_Hall_on_the_Road.aspx

New York State Museum: A Spirit of Sacrifice: New York State in the First World War

The New York State Museum will open “A Spirit of Sacrifice: New York State in the First World War” this Saturday, April 15. On display through June 3, 2018, the exhibition explores New York's pivotal role in World War I and features artifacts, images, posters, and documents from the collections of the State Museum, State Archives, State Library, and cultural institutions from across the state.

The exhibition is organized into six distinct areas covering New York's participation in the war both at home and on the warfront, and features a life-size recreation of a trench on the Western Front. In addition, the Museum will offer an online exhibition featuring an interactive World War I timeline and a teacher's guide (to be launched later this spring) and an exhibition catalogue (to be published by SUNY Press in December 2017).

New York State and its citizens played a critical role in the United States' efforts during World War I. By the end of the war, the Empire State would lead in the number of soldiers, tonnage of supplies, and money raised to support America's efforts.

The public is invited to attend an opening reception for A Spirit of Sacrifice on Sunday, April 23 from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. The program includes a reception with light refreshments at 1:00 p.m., followed by a guided tour of the exhibition at 2:00 p.m.

For more information:

<http://www.nysm.nysed.gov/exhibitions/spirit-sacrifice-new-york-state-first-world-war>

Looking for a job?

Verizon Technical Support will be holding an Albany Open House April 20, 2017 at 11:00AM and 6:00PM, 158 State Street Albany, NY 12207

[Register here](#) [Apply Now.](#)

IN THE NEWS

Unclear if Governor's Service Sharing Plan Can Save Counties Money

"It's a good opportunity for you to share what you've been doing," said Assemblyman John McDonald (D - Cohoes). "As a former mayor, I know how much they've worked to share services."

Cuomo has long sought to reduce the cost and scope of local governments, which he claims is a top driver of property taxes in the state.

"I think the important thing is the discussion about dissolution of governments is gone," McDonald said. "It's more about finding where can we use technologies and resources to help governments become more efficient."

<http://www.twcnews.com/nys/capital-region/politics/2017/04/12/unclear-if-governors-service-sharing-plan-can-save-counties-money.html>

Local school officials react to state aid after budget passes

Assemblyman John McDonald III, D-Cohoes, said in a weekend email to constituents that the 4 percent overall aid increase reaffirms the Assembly majority’s “unrelenting commitment to putting every student on their path to success.”

“There is no better investment in our children than in education,” he continued. “By giving our schools the funding and resources they need, we can protect vital education programs and help our kids learn, grow and get ahead.”

<http://www.troyrecord.com/general-news/20170410/local-school-officials-react-to-state-aid-after-budget-passes>



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