

COMMUNITY NEWS

Summer 2018

from Assemblyman

J. GARY PRETLOW

89th Assembly District

Friends,

The 2018 state legislative session has come to an end. I am pleased to announce that the New York State Legislature passed a \$168.3 billion 2018-2019 state budget that includes a nearly \$1 billion increase in education funding, invests in infrastructure and transportation repairs, protects New Yorkers from federal tax changes and institutes meaningful sexual harassment policy reforms.

This budget gives all New Yorkers a voice. From the public school student who deserves every chance to reach for the stars, to the tenant whose quality of life has been sacrificed for far too long, to the hardworking parents struggling to put their kids through college and the family torn apart by the drug crisis, we're here for you. It is our responsibility to look out for and to build a better New York and this blueprint moves us forward.

INVESTING IN OUR CHILDREN



Assemblyman Pretlow reading with Jeremiah at the Summer Buddies Reading Program at the Yonkers Riverfront Library.

From the first time our kids pass through the doors of their school, we're sending them on a path of endless possibility. That's why 2018-2019 state budget builds on the Assembly's commitment to ensuring every New York student receives a quality education by providing a total \$26.6 billion in education funding, an increase of \$914 million-or 3.6 percent over the previous year.

This year Yonkers received \$289,261,927 in school aid, an increase of 5.26% from the previous year. I am also pleased to inform you that I was successful in obtaining an additional \$1.5 million in bullet aid for our children in the Yonkers Public Schools System.

Each summer I also encourage your children to make this the summer they read their favorite book. Although promoting and reinforcing the importance of reading throughout the year is essential to ensuring a child's future success, more than 90 percent of families agree that reading books over the summer will help children during the school year. Yet far too often, reading takes a back seat in the summer.

Please remember to take advantage of the services offered by the Yonkers Public Library. It is a wonderful place that goes above and beyond book lending, offering internet access, educational programs and more.

The best education plants the seeds for a future that's budding in the imaginations of our kids. Our students deserve to learn not only how to read and write, but also how to think critically and creatively and I fought to ensure that every student in Yonkers, no matter where barriers stand in their path, has those opportunities.

PROTECTING YOUR HEALTH

Affordable, quality health care should be a human right, but far too often, New Yorkers are forced to choose between the prescriptions they need and putting food on the table or paying rent. This should never be anyone's reality and that's why we made sure this budget protects vital health programs by addressing rising drug and health insurance costs so that more New Yorkers have access to the health care they need.

The Assembly budget restores \$11.28 million to reject the executive budget proposal to limit coverage for over-the-counter (OTC) drugs and increase OTC co-payments and an increase of \$15 million for enhanced safety-net facilities that provide care to large Medicaid populations, for a total of \$25 million.

To also ensure that public health programs New Yorkers

rely on can continue providing care to the communities they serve, the Assembly fought to restore funding for Community Health Advocates, which helps New Yorkers understand their health insurance and access the health care services they need. For more information regarding Community Health Advocates, you can access their website at www.communityhealthadvocates.org or contact my office and we will send you information.

Also, everyone over the age of 18 should have a health care proxy. Having a person serve as your health care proxy helps to ensure you receive the appropriate care you want and need and make decisions for you when you no longer can. For a Health Care Proxy application, please contact my office and we will mail one to you.

TAX CUTS FOR MIDDLE-CLASS FAMILIES

Saving for the future can be an uphill battle when more and more families are struggling just to make ends meet. These families deserve a break and that is why this year's budget continues vital tax cuts.

The budget continues phasing in middle-class tax cuts, which are projected to save families \$4.2 billion annually by 2025. The plan reduces the state income tax rate from 6.45% to 5.5% for those earning between \$40,000

and \$150,000 and from 6.65% to 6% for those who earn between \$150,000 and \$300,000.

The budget also continues the local property tax relief credit which will provide an average reduction of \$380 to 2.6 million taxpayers in 2018. Next year, the tax credit will offer an additional \$1.3 billion in property tax relief and save the average New Yorker \$530.

HELPING NEW YORKERS ACHIEVE ECONOMIC SECURITY

The state budget establishes the New York State Secure Choice Savings Program to help private-sector employees plan for their futures. The Program allows for a voluntary-enrollment payroll deduction IRA for employees of private employers that do not already offer retirement savings plans.

It is difficult for many workers to save enough for a comfortable retirement, especially if their employer doesn't offer a plan. No one deserves to be left with nothing and forced to keep working during their golden years. This program will give more workers an opportunity to put money aside and prepare for the future.



Assemblyman Pretlow and Fios1 News Host Andrew Whitman.

PROTECTION AND SUPPORT FOR CRIME VICTIMS

The Office of Victim Services (OVS) provides compensation to innocent victims of crime, funds direct services to crime victims through network of community-based programs and advocates for the rights of all innocent victims of crime.

The Assembly majority is committed to ensuring victims of crime have access to the support and resources that OVS offers that's why I'm pleased to announce that a bill I sponsored, Assembly Bill 3936, passed both houses of the New York Legislature. The bill authorizes

the Office of Victim Services to accept certain official documents, in lieu of a person not having a police report, for documentation of eligibility for compensation for rape, sexual assault, child abuse and domestic violence.

I recognize that crime touches the lives of not just its victims, but also their families and communities. That is why I am committed to ensuring that all those affected have the protections, resources, services and support they need to rebuild their lives.

89TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS



Assemblyman Pretlow and Students of Baruch College.



Assemblyman Pretlow and members of the "Money Makin Mob of Mt. Vernon" and "Arts of Westchester".



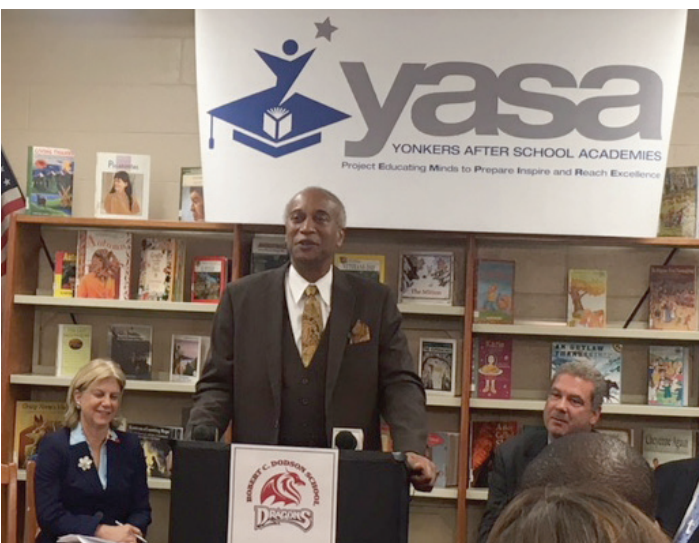
Assemblyman Pretlow, Dr. Kenneth Hamilton Superintendent of Mt. Vernon School District and Mt. Vernon School Board Trustee Adriene Saunders.



Assemblyman Pretlow receiving an award from the Youth Shelter Program of Westchester.



Assemblyman Pretlow meeting with Students of the Sports & Arts in School Foundation.



Assemblyman Pretlow, Senator Shelly Mayer and Mayor Mike Spano announcing the \$7 million state grant to the Yonkers After School Academies Program (YASA).



Assemblyman Pretlow and Consul General of Ireland, Barbara Jones.

CLIP AND RETURN



As your representative, I can assure you that I am and will continue to work on your behalf in the New York State Assembly. Always remember that you have the power to speak up and inform me of any concerns or comments that you have and would like to discuss with me. Please indicate and return to:

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Name:

Address:



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**J. Gary
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SUMMER 2018

Assemblyman J. Gary Pretlow



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