



WINTER UPDATE FROM  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER

# Pamela J. Hunter

Serving the people of the 128<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

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Reports to the people

# Pamela J. Hunter

ASSEMBLYMEMBER

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## Year-End Update

Dear Friend,  
I hope you and your loved ones are healthy and well. 2020 has – without a doubt – been a challenging year as our state and nation continue to battle the ongoing public health crisis that has taken thousands of lives and battered our economy. But in these difficult times, our community members stepped up and looked out for one another. I couldn't be prouder of the kindness, resilience and strength you've continued to show in the face of adversity.  
I take my role as your legislator seriously and will continue to do everything I can to support our communities. In this newsletter, you will find important COVID-19 information and resources, as well as a glimpse of the many accomplishments we made this past year and the legislation I'm fighting for to push our community forward.  
Lastly, I strongly encourage you to make your voice heard and fill out my Winter 2020 survey.  
Your input is critically important for me to serve as an effective representative and, if anything, 2020 has shown that we can only build a brighter future by working together. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Warm regards,

Assemblymember Pamela J. Hunter



# COVID-19 Information and Resources

As we enter the colder months, it's critical to remember that COVID-19 is still a serious threat and we need to continue doing our part to stop the spread and help one another through these challenging times. This includes:

- Washing your hands regularly
- Covering your cough or sneeze with your sleeve or a tissue
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth
- Practicing social distancing and avoiding contact with people who are sick
- Staying home if you feel sick
- Getting help from your health care provider if you experience symptoms of COVID-19, such as cough, fever or shortness of breath

For the latest information about COVID-19 in Onondaga County, visit [covid19.ongov.net](https://covid19.ongov.net). For statewide information, visit [coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home](https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home).

## Other helpful resources:

### NY Project Hope Emotional Support Helpline:

Call 1-844-863-9314. Available seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

**Crisis Text Line:** Text the word GOT5 to 741741 for assistance.

### NYS Domestic and Sexual Violence Hotline: Call

800-942-6906. Available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

For child care services, call Child Care Solutions at 315-446-1220 or visit [childcaresolutionsny.org](https://childcaresolutionsny.org).

## Community Events

Throughout this past year, it was critical for my office to remain open and continue assisting our families. While it was challenging at times, we were able to find ways to safely get out in the community and stay connected.

### Touring Loretto's Health and Rehabilitation

I had the opportunity to visit the Syracuse location of Loretto's Health and Rehabilitation on Jan. 17 and receive a tour of the Alzheimer's and Dementia Care Unit, which is a welcoming and suitable atmosphere for patients.



\*photos were taken prior to social distancing and mask guidelines

### Southwood Fire Department Installation Banquet

I attended the Southwood Fire Dept.'s installation banquet on Jan. 25 and was honored to congratulate their officers as well as recognize Gary Boisseau for his 50 years of service.



\*photos were taken prior to social distancing and mask guidelines

### Recruiting Battalion

This past June, I celebrated the 245th birthday of the U.S. Army by visiting the local Syracuse recruiting battalion.



## YWCA Syracuse and Onondaga County

I had the pleasure of spending time at the YWCA Center with the Summer Teen Program. The event encouraged conversations on social and racial justice, the importance of voting and other ways to make your voice heard. It was so encouraging to see girls and young women fill out their voter registration cards, especially since this year marks the 100th anniversary of a woman's right to vote.



## 100 Years of Women at the Ballot Box

This year, we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the passing of the 19th Amendment, which granted women the right to vote, as well as honor the extraordinary work of the suffragists who marched on Washington and demanded our voices be heard. The women's suffrage movement was a decades-long fight that took great bravery, resilience and strength, and is a monumental moment in our country's history.

## Winter 2020 survey

[See back for return instructions](#)

I want to hear about the issues that matter most to you. Please take a few minutes to fill out the following survey. You can clip and return the survey to my district office or fill it out at [nyassembly.gov/hunter](https://nyassembly.gov/hunter).

1. What is your:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Age Range

- 18-24 years old.  25-34 years old.  35-44 years old.  
 45-54 years old.  55-64 years old.  65+  
 Prefer not to say

2. Please select your gender:

Male  Female  Other - \_\_\_\_\_

3. Please select your ethnicity below:

- Native American  African American  Hispanic  
 White  Asian  Native Hawaiian  Other  
 Pacific Islander  2 or more races  Prefer not to say

4) Are you a veteran?  Yes  No

5) What kind of health insurance do you currently have?

- a. Private Insurance  
b. Public Insurance (ex. Medicaid, Medicare, VA)  
c. I do not have insurance

6) Do you believe your health care is affordable?  Yes  No

7) Do you feel you will be able to afford health care in the future?

Yes  No

8) If you are currently uninsured, please choose one of the following reasons as to why.

- a. Too expensive  
b. I don't need health insurance  
c. I do not know where to get health insurance  
d. N/A, I have insurance

9) Are you able to pay your current medical bills?  Yes  No

10a) Have you used telehealth services since March 2020?  Yes  No

10b) If so, were you satisfied with the quality of the service?  Yes  No

10c) If so, did you feel that your current mobile technology and internet bandwidth was sufficient to connect to telehealth services?  Yes  No

10d) If so, do you plan to continue to use telehealth services after it is no longer necessary due to the pandemic?  Yes  No

11) What are your current major concerns regarding COVID-19?

Check all that apply:

- Contracting COVID-19  
 Transmitting COVID-19 to friends and/or family with comorbidities  
 Nursing home safety

Economic impact and job security

State budget cuts

Access to PPE

None of the Above

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

12) "Qualified immunity holds that government officials such as police officers cannot be held accountable in civil court unless the rights that were violated are already clearly established in existing case law. This doctrine allows many officers who have engaged in misconduct and abuse to walk freely with little or no consequences."

Do you support the end of qualified immunity to the furthest extent possible under New York State law?  Yes  No

13) "Civil asset forfeiture is the practice of confiscating money or assets when it is believed that they were obtained as proceeds of a crime or used to commit a crime. Civil asset forfeiture started as a way to undermine the profitability of large illicit drug operations, but has since been used in conjunction with small infractions. Even when an individual has criminal charges dismissed, that does not clear their belongings. The legal cost to obtain the lost goods or money is often in excess of the value, which leads to many people walking away from their property despite their innocence of the initial purported crime."

Do you agree that there should be reforms made to civil asset forfeiture?  Yes  No

14) Should municipalities such as Syracuse require police officers to live within the city limits?  Yes  No

15) Should the state close businesses such as restaurants and gyms if COVID-19 positivity rates indicate a high degree of community spread?  Yes  No

16) Do you support New York's new policy of allowing out-of-state travelers to "test out" of the 14-day quarantine requirement if they receive a negative test result on their 4th day of quarantine? Travelers are also required to complete a test before departing to New York.

- Yes, travelers should be able to leave quarantine if all test results are negative  
 No, all travelers should complete the 14-day requirement  
 Travelers should only have testing requirements  
 Travelers should not have quarantine or testing requirements

17) Should students be required to get a COVID-19 vaccine, when it becomes available, before attending school?  Yes  No

18) Do you believe New York State should pursue new revenue raisers in response to the COVID-19 related budget shortfall? Please check all that apply:

- The legalization and taxation of mobile sports betting  
 The legalization and taxation of recreational marijuana  
 An ultra-millionaire tax  
 A stock transfer tax  
 A pied-a-terre tax (A tax on high-value second homes)  
 None of the above

# Legislative Spotlight

While it has been a tumultuous year, my Assembly colleagues and I were still able to pass meaningful legislation that will help improve the lives of families in the 128th District and across the state. I sponsored and passed a law allowing tenants to deduct water payments from their rent if their landlord fails to cover costs they were contractually obligated to pay (Ch. 143 of 2020).

I also sponsored and passed legislation, which is now awaiting the governor's signature, to restore driver's licenses that were suspended due to traffic debt and require income-based payment plans be made available for fines, fees and surcharges incurred due to traffic violations. In addition, I passed a bill to impose a 2% occupancy tax for hotel stays in Onondaga County to help close the revenue gap without burdening residents.

As we look toward 2021, I'm ready to hit the ground running with several pieces of legislation that tackle the most pressing issues facing our families:

## Health Care

- Establish a program to incentivize unemployed individuals to enter jobs in health care (A.10765)
- Establish a state stockpile of personal protective equipment (PPE) (A.10938)

## Veteran Support

- Ensure veterans have access to our courts to seek legal recourse for chronic illnesses caused by exposure to toxic burn pits overseas (A.11119)

## Criminal Justice Reform

- Require members of the Syracuse Police Dept. to reside within the city limits (A.11008)
- Provide a civil action for deprivation of rights by any person or public entity, which will help dial back the legal principle known as qualified immunity to ensure that those that have been wrongfully deprived of their rights can seek justice (A.10978)
- Criminal Forfeiture Process Act, which would bring due process to the practice of asset forfeiture while preserving the tools law enforcement and district attorneys need to bring down criminal enterprises

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**Look inside for a  
winter update from  
Assemblymember  
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**Fold and  
Tape Here**