



NEWS

From Bill Magnarelli

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120th Assembly District

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I would like to announce the passage of the Assembly budget proposal for fiscal year 2012-13. The spending plan closes the current budget gap with no new taxes, fees or gimmicks, and provides for no spending growth on an All Funds basis. Additionally, the Assembly budget restores vital funding for education and health care, funds important to job-creation programs and cuts taxes for most New Yorkers. The Assembly will join negotiations with the Senate and the Governor to pass an on-time budget.

This year's Assembly budget proposal is fiscally responsible and includes increased funding for our schools, invests in job creation and cuts taxes for 99 percent of New Yorkers. This is a budget that delivers for hardworking Central New York families.

William B. Magnarelli

Cutting taxes for 99 percent of New Yorkers

The Assembly budget proposal continues a new tax bracket first established last December in which rates for 4.4 million people were reduced, resulting in a tax cut of \$690 million for middle class and working families. This middle-class tax cut is paid for by the actions of the Assembly in December, which established a higher tax bracket for those making over \$2 million per year – which is less than 1 percent of all New York residents.



Members of the Syracuse City School District visited Assemblyman Magnarelli in Albany.

Working families tax cut

The Assembly budget proposal includes a working families tax cut, decreasing tax rates to zero for married couples who file joint tax returns and whose adjusted gross income is less than \$25,000 – phased out at \$30,000. The same would apply to single New Yorkers with adjusted gross incomes of less than \$12,500 – phased out at \$15,000 – and head-of-household filers with adjusted gross incomes less than \$18,750 – phased out at \$22,500.

Investing in education

The Assembly budget proposal increases school aid by \$806.4 million and honors the two-year commitment made in 2011-12 to increase school aid by approximately 4 percent. The proposal directs \$178 million to school districts through a renewed commitment to Foundation Aid.

Additionally, the Assembly budget proposal:

- provides \$38 million in expense-based aids and rejects the plan to freeze this aid;
- restores \$10.2 million to teacher resource and computer training centers;
- increases aid to public libraries by \$1 million, providing \$80 million in total funding;
- increases support for the Comprehensive Attendance Policy program for non-public schools by \$1 million for a total of \$27.2 million; and
- increases adult literacy education by \$1 million for a total of \$5.2 million.

“I’m working to make sure our schools have the funding necessary to give our children the quality education they need to succeed in life,” Assemblyman Magnarelli said. “Adequate state funding provides equal educational opportunities for our children and less of a tax burden on our hardworking families.”



Assemblyman Magnarelli held a Community Information Night at Clary Middle School to discuss the Governor’s proposed budget.

Providing increased aid to the elderly and disabled

The Assembly budget proposal implements a Social Security Income Cost of Living Adjustment beginning January 2013.

“As the cost of living rises, it gets harder and harder for many seniors and disabled individuals to make ends meet,” Assemblyman Magnarelli said. “This adjustment for social security recipients will help ease the financial burden on millions of retired and disabled New Yorkers who have seen their medical and prescription expenses skyrocket and their savings accounts diminish.”

Rebuilding our economy and creating jobs

The 2012-13 Assembly budget proposal provides nearly \$64 million in funding for various Empire State Development Corporation projects to help promote business growth, ultimately leading to job creation and thriving communities throughout New York State.

The proposal includes funding for:

- creation of a new Back to Work NY Jobs Program (\$20.25 million);
- Commercialization Assistance Fund (\$10 million);
- military base retention efforts (\$5.4 million);
- Agricultural Industry Competitiveness Assistance Program (\$1 million); and
- Regional Technology Development Centers (\$200,000).

“The Back to Work NY Jobs Program will help rebuild the ladder to middle-class financial security,”

Assemblyman Magnarelli said.

“Support for these programs is crucial to job revitalization in our state. It provides incentives for New Yorkers to get back to work, giving our communities a chance to grow and improve.”

Small-business programs

The 2012-13 Assembly budget proposal also includes significant benefits to small businesses in the following areas:

- a second round of loans within the Small Business Revolving Loan Fund (\$25 million);
- support for the Minority- and Women-owned Business Development and Lending Program (\$2 million); and
- Small Business Innovation Research Outreach and Technical Assistance efforts (\$500,000).

The budget proposal also extends loan eligibility under the Small Business Revolving Loan Fund to bridge loans for procurement purposes for small businesses and minority- and women-owned business enterprises (MWBE).

Increasing health care spending, reducing unfunded mandates

The Assembly budget proposal increases health care spending by 4 percent, making our state a healthier, more secure place to live. The plan also includes a provision for the state to take over 100 percent of the costs of Medicaid growth, to be phased in over three years, saving local governments \$1.2 billion over the next five years. Currently, all growth over 3 percent is paid by the state. Additionally, the proposal expands Medicaid enrollment centers and provides for the state to relieve local districts from Medicaid administrative burdens. These proposals provide mandate relief to local governments and municipalities – providing them the opportunity to cut property taxes.

The Assembly proposal also includes \$34.3 million to maintain the right for spousal refusal, ensuring that seniors with ailing spouses who are in need of long-term care services are protected against losing assets that are critical to their well-being.



Members of Syracuse Community Health Care visited Assemblyman Magnarelli in Albany to discuss health care funding.

Aid for towns and villages

The proposed budget includes \$67.6 million in Aid and Incentives for Municipalities (AIM) funding for towns and villages. The plan also includes \$4 million for the Local Government Efficiency Grant (LGEG) program, which funds the costs of local government projects that focus on efficiency, functional consolidation and/or shared services. Additionally, \$75 million in funds have been allocated to support programs aimed at encouraging the consolidation of local governments and a performance-based rewards program.

Aid for cities

The Assembly budget proposal includes \$647.1 million in AIM funding for cities, including Syracuse.

“By expanding the budget proposal to include advanced AIM payments for cities in fiscal crises, we can help them balance their budgets and enable them to better provide for necessary services,” Assemblyman Magnarelli said.



Assemblyman Magnarelli held a Community Information Night in Geddes.

About New York State Assemblyman William B. Magnarelli

Assemblyman William Magnarelli represents the 120th Assembly District, which includes the Northside, Westside, Eastwood and Valley areas of the City of Syracuse, as well as the towns of Geddes and Van Buren. He first won election in 1998 for an open Assembly seat and was reelected in 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008 and 2010. During his previous six terms in office, Assemblyman Magnarelli focused his efforts on bringing more jobs to Central New York, lowering taxes, providing our children a better education at every level, improving our healthcare and keeping our families safe. For more information, contact Assemblyman Magnarelli's District Office at (315) 428-9651 or visit <http://www.assembly.state.ny.us/magnarelli>.