



# NEWS

March 2021

## From Bill Magnarelli

District: 333 East Washington St., Syracuse, NY 13202 (315) 428-9651 Albany: LOB 837, Albany, 12248 (518) 455-4826  
129<sup>th</sup> Assembly District [Magnarw@nyassembly.gov](mailto:Magnarw@nyassembly.gov)

### A Look Towards the State Budget in COVID Times

The New York State Assembly has passed its version of the New York State Budget. Assembly members were cognizant of how the COVID-19 pandemic created an economic crisis that devastatingly impacted many industries. The Governor has given his proposal for the State Budget, now the Assembly and State Senate offer theirs. The Executive and Legislative branches of State government must come to an agreement to pass the New York State Budget by April 1.

The present Assembly budget proposals include:

- Additional funding for PAVE NY and BRIDGE NY restores funding for Extreme Winter Weather Recovery all to improve infrastructure programs across the state, including improving our roads and bridges;
- \$9.7 million for upstate transit systems, which was cut in the Executive's proposal;
- \$100 million to establish a new capital program to reimburse cities, villages and towns for capital projects on State touring routes;
- Funding the Aid and Incentives to Municipalities (AIM) program to help fund vital programs and services while keeping property taxes down;
- Creation of a \$1 billion Small Business Reopening and Relief Grant Program;
- Increasing Foundation Aid for Schools by \$1.4 billion to help students and educators as they transition from remote learning to learning in person, including:
  - Expanding the Governor's proposal to make transportation costs related to delivering food, educational materials and internet connectivity reimbursable;
  - Increasing Universal PreKindergarten Statewide;
  - Providing \$10 million to support mental health in schools to pay for school counselors and other mental health support services;
- Restoring \$4.6 million in aid to public libraries;
- Restoring \$700,000 for Public Broadcasting;
- Increasing funding for SUNY and CUNY schools to help with hardships caused by COVID:
  - Rejecting a proposed increase to SUNY tuition.

If you or your organization have questions about the New York State Budget or State issues, please feel free to contact my office at (315) 428-9651 or at [magnarw@nyassembly.gov](mailto:magnarw@nyassembly.gov).

*William B. Magnarelli*

### New Lab to Study Infectious Tick and Mosquito-Borne Diseases



Assemblywoman Didi Barrett and Assemblyman Magnarelli speak with Saravanan Thangamani, PhD, Director of the Vector Biocontainment Laboratory.



Assemblywoman Didi Barrett and Assemblyman Magnarelli are pictured next to Anne Messenger, Chair of the Board of the CNY Lyme and Tick-Borne Disease Alliance.

Assemblyman Magnarelli attended the grand opening of the Vector Biocontainment Laboratory at the SUNY Upstate Medical University. The scientists at the new facility will be studying infectious diseases, with a special emphasis on tick and mosquito-borne diseases. The new \$7.6 million, 2,500-square-foot laboratory was funded by New York State investment and will house clinical experts from SUNY institutions who will collaborate on cutting-edge research of Coronavirus, Lyme, West Nile, Zika, Dengue, and other infectious diseases, as well as the potential carriers including ticks and other insects.

## 2021 Constituent Survey Results

I am pleased to provide the results of the survey my office mailed out in January to every household in the 129<sup>th</sup> Assembly District to hear directly from constituents regarding proposed legislation and initiatives this year. Below are the tabulated responses from the 1,239 surveys received, representing about a 6% return. The results are also tabulated to reflect the overall responses received from constituents residing in the City of Syracuse, the Town of Geddes and the Town of Van Buren. The percentages may not add up to 100% because some respondents did not answer every question. For those who took the time to return your survey – Thank you. As always, if you have any questions or concerns about this or any other issue, please call my office.

1. New York State currently faces about a \$15 billion deficit in the 2021 State Budget:
  - a) Do you support increasing taxes on millionaire's income?  
Yes **72%**      No **27%**
  - b) Do you support taxing the rich on their wealth – i.e. increases in property value, value of possessions (increases in value of stocks/bonds, real estate, artwork or collectibles) as well as their income?  
Yes **50%**      No **47%**
  - c) Do you support a stock transfer tax (a tax on the sale of stock)?  
Yes **38%**      No **58%**
  - d) Are you worried that any of the above taxes may drive the wealthy to leave New York State, thereby reducing state revenue?  
Yes **48%**      No **50%**
2. Do you support any of the following actions regarding housing and the COVID-19 pandemic?
  - a) Do you support cancelling rent payments for tenants financially impacted by the pandemic?  
Yes **46%**      No **51%**
  - b) Do you support having the State compensate landlords who lose rent payments due to the pandemic?  
Yes **62%**      No **33%**
  - c) Do you support a ban on all evictions for any reason?  
Yes **17%**      No **81%**
3. Would you support a new payroll tax to fund universal childcare in New York State?  
Yes **40%**      No **57%**
4. Do you support Governor Cuomo's proposal to legalize recreational cannabis (marijuana) as a revenue enhancer?  
Yes **57%**      No **40%**
5. Do you support mobile/online sports gambling that would allow consumers to place wagers using their smartphones or tablets, as a revenue enhancer for the state?  
Yes **46%**      No **50%**

---

## Community Information Nights Held Via Zoom

Each year Assemblyman Magnarelli schedules Community Information Nights throughout the 129<sup>th</sup> District so that residents could ask questions and voice concerns directly with the Assemblyman regarding matters of the State. This year two such meetings were held via Zoom. Residents who signed on spoke with Assemblyman Magnarelli about issues in the New York State budget and funding for local non-profits and schools.



## Community Meetings Via Zoom

As the community continues to deal with the COVID-19 Pandemic, most constituent or community group meetings are being held via Zoom. Below are screenshots of several meetings Assemblyman Magnarelli held in the past few weeks.

### County Health Officials

Assemblyman Magnarelli met with representatives of the NYS Association of County Health Officials, including Onondaga County Commissioner of Health Dr. Indu Gupta to discuss the State Budget and the association's legislative priorities. They talked extensively about the important work county health departments are doing to combat the COVID-19 Pandemic in addition to other important public health programs.



### Railroads of NY

Assemblyman Magnarelli met via Zoom with representatives of Railroads of NY (RONY). RONY represents New York State's freight rail operators and proudly partners with many of New York State's businesses, economic development organizations, industrial development agencies and governmental agencies to help promote economic development efforts all across the state, helping to enable many of New York's industrial, manufacturing and agricultural businesses to reach markets across the country and to realize a substantial competitive advantage over other businesses that lack access to the rail network. They were meeting to discuss their State Budget and legislative priorities for 2021. RONY supports the New York State Energy plan by advancing freight rail transport as an efficient, environmentally friendly and energy saving mode for shipping goods. As a result, more heavy trucks would be off our bridges, highways, and roads.



### CNY Library Resources Council

Assemblyman Magnarelli met with representatives of our local libraries via Zoom. They were meeting to advocate for additional funding in the State Budget for our public library system. Our public libraries are providing more important services to residents during the Pandemic, including helping seniors sign up for vaccination appointments.



### Neighborhood Preservation Corporations

Assemblyman Magnarelli met with members of our local Neighborhood Development Corporations via video conference. The meeting was to advocate for additional funding in the State Budget for the Neighborhood Preservation and Rural Preservation Programs. Neighborhood Development Corporations provide vital services to our neighborhoods, including housing supports, promoting affordable housing and community activities.



### Independent Insurance Agents

Assemblyman Magnarelli met with local representatives from the Big-I NY. The Big-I represents independent insurance agents throughout the State. The purpose of their meeting was to discuss their legislative agenda for 2021 impacting the insurance industry.

