



NYS ASSEMBLYMAN BILL MAGNARELLI

2021 Progress Report

Dear Neighbor:

In my annual Progress Report, I am pleased to highlight this year's New York State Budget, important legislation impacting our area which passed this Session, the 2021 Constituent Survey and its results, as well as other important matters affecting the 129th Assembly District.

This year we were able to pass legislation which continues to improve the lives of working men and women in our state: Increased taxes on the very rich; a record amount of funding earmarked for our schools; safety measures for school buses; and legalization of marijuana. New York continues to lead the way on these and so many other important issues.

I am honored to serve as your Assemblyman, representing the 129th District, which includes the Northside, Westside, Eastwood, Valley, Outer Comstock and Downtown areas of the City of Syracuse, as well as the Town of Geddes, including the Village of Solvay, and the Town of Van Buren, including the Van Buren portion of the Village of Baldwinsville. I am committed to serving my constituents and encourage you to call my office if you have any questions about State Government Agencies, or concerns about community matters. My office is available to assist you with these concerns.

I hope that you will take the time to read the 2021 Progress Report. It is filled with important information and accomplishments for our community.

Bill Magnarelli



Constituent Survey Results

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%**

2021 Survey Update

Below is the outcome of the 2020-2021 Legislative Session on the topics discussed in the 2021 Constituent Survey.

To the left are the tabulated responses from the 1,239 surveys received to the annual constituent survey. The percentages may not add up to 100% because some respondents did not answer every question.

- (a) The State Budget passed a new progressive Personal Income Tax surcharge on taxpayers **with incomes over \$5 million**, to increase the current 8.82% rate to 9.65% and to establish two new brackets as follows: 10.30% for taxpayers between \$5 million and \$25 million and 10.90% for taxpayers over \$25 million.

(b) A tax on wealth did not pass this session.

(c) A stock transfer tax did not pass this session.
- (a) Cancellation of rent payments for tenants financially impacted by the pandemic did not pass this session.

(b) The State Budget provided \$2.3 billion for the statewide Emergency Rental Assistance Program, supported by federal funds. Funding will support up to 12 months of rental arrears and up to three months of future rent for households that have experienced financial hardship, are at a risk of homelessness or housing instability and that earn up to 80 percent of the area median income. Households may also qualify for up to 12 months of utility arrears. Priority will be given to individuals who have been unemployed for 90 days and to those earning up to 50 percent of the area median income. Additional priority will be granted to applicants who are from vulnerable populations, such as survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking and veterans.

(c) A ban on all evictions did not pass this session; however, the Legislature did extend the current eviction moratorium due to COVID until the end of August. (A.7175-A/Chapter 104 of 2021).



Save the Date

Electronics Recycling Event
NYS Fairgrounds

Saturday, November 13

Watch the newsletters for more details



Securing State Funds for Schools

Joint School Construction Board Phase III legislation (A.6258-A) sponsored by Assemblyman Magnarelli authorizing up to \$300 million in renovations for the Syracuse City School District passed in the Legislature and awaits the Governor’s signing. As the JSCB makes the bond payments on these renovations, over 90% will be reimbursed by the state.

The projects will be at the following schools: STEM at Blodgett Middle School, the Corcoran High School, the Delaware Primary School, the Henninger High School, the Syracuse Latin School, the Lincoln Middle School, the Nottingham High School, the Roberts PreK-8 School, the Seymour Dual Language Academy and the Webster Elementary School.

Assemblyman Magnarelli sponsored the legislation that established the Syracuse Joint Schools Construction Board (JSCB) in 2006. JSCB Phases 1 and 2 financed more than \$450 million in renovations of city schools.

The 2021-22 NYS Budget provided a record level of funding to our schools. Overall, statewide general funding to public education increased by \$3.1 billion (12%) over 2020-21 to \$29.1 billion. Foundation Aid was funded at \$19.8 billion with a \$1.4 billion (7.6%) increase over 2020-21, and a multi-year commitment to fully fund it going forward. The budget also provided Transportation Aid to districts to cover costs related to delivering food, educational materials, and internet connectivity to students during the pandemic.



Education funding increases for the 129th Assembly District in 2021-22:

DISTRICT	TOTAL AID INCREASE	FOUNDATION AID INCREASE
Syracuse City	\$30,643,224 (8.34%)	\$18,938,590 (6.56%)
West Genesee	\$3,125,045 (8.89%)	\$1,954,241 (9.43%)
Jordan Elbridge	\$2,127,303 (12.57%)	\$314,247 (3%)
Westhill	\$1,846,658 (12.38%)	\$577,882 (7.45%)
Solvay	\$2,227,448 (13.97%)	\$1,207,927 (12.37%)
Baldwinsville	\$5,020,780 (11.62%)	\$2,193,300 (8.19%)

Legislation Passed In Both Houses

The following legislation was sponsored this year by Assemblyman Magnarelli in the Assembly and has also passed the Senate. The legislation awaits the governor’s approval before becoming law.

Baldwinsville Funding: A.6376-A: Allows the Village of Baldwinsville to use sewer funds for other infrastructure projects after Onondaga County takes control of the Village sewer system.

School Bus Safety: A.7330: Creates “School Bus Motorist Education Program” to educate motorists about school bus safety and directs surcharge money from illegal passing to fund it.

A.6155-A: Allows the use of stickers/signs on school buses to warn motorists of “Stop-Arm” cameras. As a follow up to legislation passed in 2019 by Assemblyman Magnarelli to allow the use of cameras to enforce against the illegal passing of school buses, this bill allows school bus operators to place warning stickers or signs on the bus to warn motorists of the presence of cameras.

Disabled Firefighter Benefits: A.1324-A: Increases weekly benefit for temporary totally disabled volunteer firefighters/ambulance workers to \$650 per week from \$400 per week. This benefit for injured volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers hasn’t been increased in over a decade. It will help those injured meet their basic needs until they are fully recovered from their injuries.

Increasing the Inner Harbor: A.7697: Allows the New York State Office of General Services to transfer its remaining property in the Syracuse Inner Harbor Property to the City. The City will preserve it for recreation and public access.

Fines for Obstructed License Plates: A.6014-A: Increases fine for obstructing license plates from a range of \$25 - \$200 to \$50 - \$300. The goal is to discourage behavior that would evade the new cashless tolling system on the Thruway and other toll roads, bridges and tunnels.

Military Driver’s Licenses: A.6968: Allows active duty military stationed in NY to keep their home state driver’s license. This bill was introduced at the request of the US Department of Defense. Currently, active duty military and their family members stationed in New York must apply for a New York driver’s license after 60 days. This bill allows them to keep their home state license if they choose. Some service members and their families may choose this to keep benefits like “in-state” tuition and/or voting rights.

Work Zone Speed Camera Pilot Program: A.485-B: Authorizes the NYS Department of Transportation to install up to 20 cameras and the NYS Thruway Authority to install 10 cameras to combat speeding in work zones. Tickets would be issued for going 10 mph or higher over the posted limit, and motorists would be given a 30-day warning period before fines are issued. The fines would be \$50 for a first offense, \$75 for a second offense within 18 months and \$100 for a third offense within 18 months.

Fines for Loud Mufflers: A.471-C: “SLEEP Act” increases penalties for illegally modifying car mufflers and motorcycle exhausts. Excessively loud mufflers and exhaust systems are becoming more prevalent and disturbing neighborhoods. This bill increases fines for repair shops that illegally modify car and motorcycle exhaust systems up to \$1000 per violation. It increases the fine for motorcyclists with an illegal exhaust system up to \$500. The bill also allows the State to suspend or revoke the inspection certificate and/or license of a repair shop repeatedly violating the law.

Landmark Theatre Renovations



“The community should be proud of its efforts to revitalize the iconic Landmark Theatre.”

— Assemblyman William Magnarelli

The seats from the historic Landmark Theatre in Syracuse have been removed. Assemblyman William Magnarelli secured \$2 million in state funding to renovate the theatre, including the new seats and new marquee.

The changes in part are enticing shows to the area, encouraging some to hold rehearsals in Syracuse. With incentives from the Empire State Music and Theatrical Production Tax Credit, four Broadway shows chose to rehearse in Syracuse ahead of their national tours. The four shows rehearsing in Syracuse will create more than a \$10 million revenue boost for the region. Cast and crews will be representing more than 2,500 hotel room nights and meals every day for 9 weeks.

The new seats are a welcome change after decades of squeezing into the theatre’s original small seats with little legroom. The new seats, while maintaining the historic character, will be bigger and improve accessibility for those with disabilities.

The current Salina Street marquee is being replaced with a replica of the original 1928 marquee with the addition of video displays and high-efficiency LED lamps.

The renovations are expected to be completed before the Landmark Theatre opens for its 2021-2022 season, which includes Broadway touring companies for Charlie & The Chocolate Factory: October 12-16; Waitress: December 7-12; Hamilton: March 15-27; Cats: April 26-30 and Blue Man Group: February 24-27.

“The community should be proud of its efforts to revitalize the iconic Landmark Theatre,” said Assemblyman William Magnarelli. “The cultural events that the Landmark Theatre brings to Central New York are top notch. I look forward to watching live theater, especially the Broadway Shows as they come to the area.”

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ASSEMBLYMAN
MAGNARELLI

Working for You

It's Back! CNY Veterans Parade and Expo

Saturday, November 6, 2021

NYS Fairgrounds

Parade at noon • Expo 9 AM – 2 PM

**Together we can
Thank Our Troops!**

For more information, email
cnyveteransparadeandexpo@yahoo.com or call (315) 428-9651

cnyveteransparade.org

