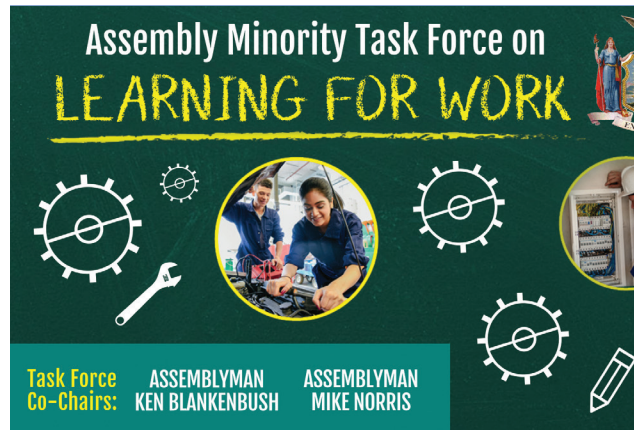


- ✓ 2022 End of Session Summary
- ✓ Norris' Learning for Work Task Force Report
- ✓ Around Town with Mike: Better Together



DEAR *Neighbors:*



This session was a busy one at our state Capitol. Despite my overall objection to the 2022-23 State Budget, because it was done without public input, substantial reforms, or long-term fiscal responsibility, there were measures I worked hard on which were included in the final agreement.

First, a bipartisan agreement to allow fire companies to recover costs for providing emergency medical services was part of the final deal. This has been a top priority for me and I was a sponsor of the original bill (A.534). This is wonderful news for our fire companies and for public safety.

I was out front calling for a suspension of the state's gasoline taxes way back in 2021, and this was the first act my Conference and I took together upon returning to the Capitol for the new legislative term. Our plan suspended state sales tax on motor fuel for two years, along with taxes on household essentials, cleaning products, and personal care items (A.8481). I also sponsored a bipartisan bill temporarily removing state taxes on motor fuels (A.9503); which was eventually included in the final State Budget. I feel our state leaders could have done more to combat inflation, but this is a start.

In addition, I worked across the aisle to enhance what we call the "Database of Deals." When I was first elected, my very first bill was the State Contracts Sunlight Act (A.3784), because it was imperative that state government reform how it was treating taxpayers' hard-earned dollars. Trust needed to be reestablished between the public and top elected officials, especially when it came to huge investments made through the state budget in the middle of the night. Sadly, our elected officials have not changed their behavior as we have just witnessed again this year. But

by enhancing the Database of Deals, which is a public, searchable database of state contracts similar to one of the reforms proposed in my bill, hopefully there will be greater transparency and reporting requirements moving forward.

Outside of the budget, there were many good bills passed and on their way to being signed into law. I wanted to highlight that by working together we have created targeted ways to help New Yorkers who need it the most. For example, we created a New York State Rural Ambulance Service Task Force and the New York State Department of Veterans' Services. I am proud to have been a sponsor of legislation that was signed into law this year to create the Office of the Advocate for People with Disabilities (A.3130), among many other good things we accomplished together.

We also completed an inclusive, comprehensive, 28-page report from my Learning for Work Task Force; which you can read about inside this newsletter! I am so proud of the hard work that went into this report, and how by sharing it with legislative leaders and the governor, progress was made to improve workforce development in our state already this year!

As always, it is my honor and pleasure to serve you and our community. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance to you on any state issue. For more timely updates, please sign up for my e-newsletter by emailing me at norrism@nyassembly.gov or follow me on social media.

Working for you,

Michael J. Norris

NORRIS IS WORKING HARD TO CREATE A BETTER WORKFORCE IN NY, AND BETTER JOBS FOR US

His Inclusive, Multi-year Task Force Study Comes to Fruition with a Comprehensive Report, Legislative Recommendations

Since he was first elected, addressing New York State’s unmet needs of in-state employers for a highly-trained workforce was a top concern for Mike Norris. There is a tremendous need for electricians, plumbers, nurses, mechanics, and other professional skills positions. It is imperative that we encourage our young students to pursue these very important careers. This ultimately led him to create the Assembly Minority Task Force on Learning for Work, which toured the state starting at the Sanborn BOCES’ Niagara Career and Technical Education Center here in Western New York, and went on to similar venues in the Adirondacks, Southern Tier, Capital Region, Hudson Valley, and Long Island, meeting with employers, school officials, workforce training programs like BOCES and, most importantly, students themselves to listen, learn, and gather information on what the future of workforce development in our state could, and should, be.

After compiling and recompiling the data and making recommendations in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, giving consideration to how that changed the economy, remote learning, and business practices, Mike and his colleagues unveiled a comprehensive, omnibus, 28-page report this year. The report was sent to Governor Hochul and all legislative leaders for their review and consideration. **The report includes:**

- ✓ **Initiatives to enhance the BOCES experience**
- ✓ **Removing outdated stigma around BOCES and using modern, proactive language about workforce development and high-skills jobs**
- ✓ **Expanding and enhancing P-TECH programs to enhance pathways in technology**
- ✓ **Removing bureaucratic barriers and requirements to allow for expanded internships in the field**
- ✓ **Changing state education laws to allow college credits for students in apprenticeship programs**
- ✓ **Ensuring students of all socioeconomic backgrounds are eligible for youth apprenticeship programs by providing transportation, equipment, and other materials**

To learn more about the task force, its comprehensive plan, and individual solutions, you can read a copy of the 28-page report online at <https://bit.ly/learningforwork> or by contacting his office.

**Assembly Minority Task Force on
LEARNING FOR WORK**

**Task Force
Co-Chairs: ASSEMBLYMAN
KEN BLANKENBUSH ASSEMBLYMAN
MIKE NORRIS**

Fact:

When Norris set about to create the task force in 2018, this workforce gap was significant, with 49 percent of all jobs available defined as “professional-skills,” but only 37 percent of workers trained for these types of positions.

Professional-skills jobs traditionally have been defined as high-tech, manufacturing, or trade jobs, or those positions that require more than a high-school diploma but less than a four-year degree.

2022-23 STATE BUDGET ACTIONS

After Mike Norris submitted his plan, it appeared leaders in Albany were listening as Governor Hochul talked about the urgent need to reshape workforce development in our state. That's great news. However, Mike felt the state budget could have done more. Here's how the final budget compared to his plan:

	MIKE'S PLAN	STATE BUDGET
Increase access to BOCES?	✓ YES	✗ NO
Increase transparency for use of funding with Workforce Development Initiative and consolidated funding application process?	✓ YES	✗ NO
Create grants or scholarships for career and technical students?	✓ YES	✗ NO
Provide additional transportation options for BOCES students as well as other materials and needs?	✓ YES	✗ NO

AROUND TOWN

With Mike!

BETTER TOGETHER

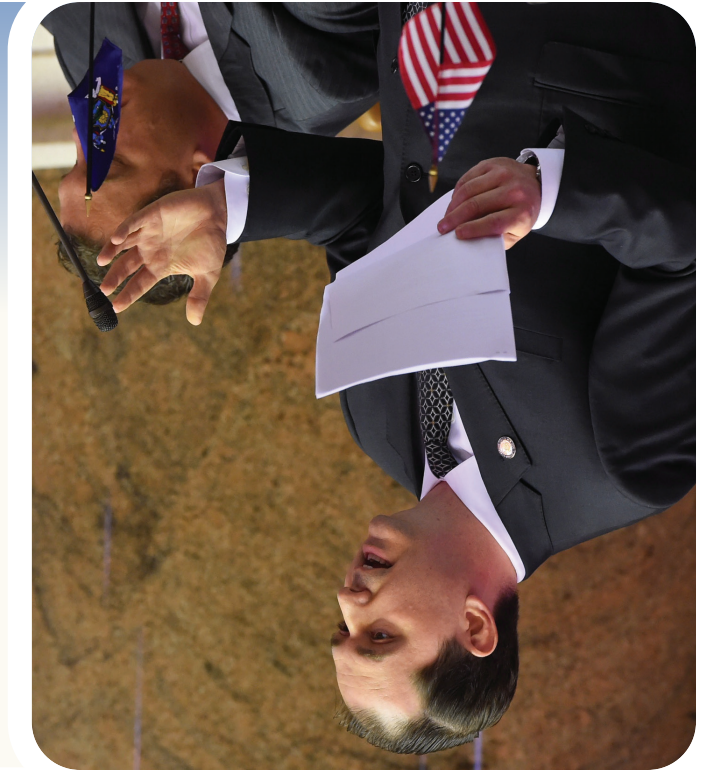


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A NEWSLETTER UPDATE

ASSEMBLYMAN MIKE NORRIS

Working for Us

Assemblyman
MIKE NORRIS

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LEARN MORE INSIDE!



"I am immensely proud of the work Work Task Force and the patience for perseverance of all of the participants. This plan will make our workforce and our economy so much stronger as a result. Ultimately it's about keeping New Yorkers together, families together. The pandemic has reminded us all how important family and home really are. That's what our plan is really all about. Enabling today's students for rewarding, financially-viable careers that will allow them to stay in the communities they love and call home for generations to come."

Assemblyman
MIKE NORRIS

LEARN MORE
ABOUT MIKE
NORRIS' WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT &
JOBS PLAN
INSIDE!