

- ✓ 2024-25 Budget Update
- ✓ Christmas in July Toy Drive: June 25-July 29
- ✓ Around Town with Mike: Stronger Together



DEAR *Neighbors:*



Every household and business knows that budgets are about priorities, and that has been the message I've been prioritizing at the State Capitol by encouraging Governor Hochul, since her first day in office, to get our state's finances "Back to Basics."

Despite some bipartisan accomplishments, this year's budget increased spending by \$7 billion and prioritized the legislative Majorities' agenda. Included in that spending was \$2.4 billion of your tax dollars toward handouts for individuals who have come here illegally -- on top of the \$1.9 billion that was spent last year.¹⁴

It is time our state government realizes it cannot spend at this rate because this is the direct cause of the continued outmigration of New Yorkers to other states—and with them go their tax dollars, jobs and the brighter future we all need.

On behalf of the constituents of the 144th District, I voted no on the state budget.

In this newsletter, you can learn more about this year's final State Budget, as well as my efforts to support children with cancer and other serious, life-changing diseases at the John Oishei Children's Hospital through our annual Christmas

in July Toy Drive.

This summer, as other kids are outside playing, please keep these children in the hospital in mind. Your donation of a new toy or activity set will bring them such incredible joy and allow them to be children as they deserve to be.

It is my honor to represent our community and help make Western New York a better, more affordable and safer place to call home. Please know, I am hard at work for you, and there's more to come. Please do not hesitate to contact my office in Clarence at 1-716-839-4691 or email me at norrism@nyassembly.gov if I can be of assistance.

Working for you,

Michael J. Norris

1. *State Budgets 2018-2024*
2. <https://www.nasbo.org/reports-data/summaries-proposed-enacted>
3. <https://taxfoundation.org/research/all/state/2024-state-business-tax-climate-index/>
4. *State Budgets 2023-24, 2024-25*
5. A.8808-C
6. A.8804-D
7. A.8804-D

8. A.8806-C
9. A.8804-D
10. A.8804-D
11. A.8803-D
12. A.8804-D
13. *2024-25 State Budget*
14. *State Budgets 2023-24, 2024-25*



NORRIS VOTES NO ON BUDGET... PROVIDES UPDATE

Since the 2018-19 Enacted State Budget, the legislative Majorities have increased spending by more than \$66 billion¹. More than two-thirds of all other state budgets are less than just the increase in New York's budget over this period². The current rate of spending in New York state has been and continues to be unsustainable, driven by our costly Medicaid programs and, now, the funding of individuals who have come here illegally.

Sadly, New York state leads the nation in population loss and is at the bottom of other states—ranking 49th on the state business tax climate index and 50th in the amount of individual income tax³. This is directly tied to the amount of state spending, taxation and burdensome regulations New York families, farmers and small businesses encounter here.

Essential services that benefit everyone deserved more from the governor and the legislative Majorities, yet, they chose instead to hand out \$2.4 billion to people who entered our nation illegally, on top of the \$1.9 billion handed out last year⁴. Further reasons I voted "NO" on the budget were:

- ✓ **The RAPID Act, which expands the state's authority to approve transmission lines to industrial solar and wind-generating facilities. This is New York state's most recent effort to eliminate local control and trample private property rights upstate. I continue to adamantly oppose the state consolidating its power because it fundamentally alters the character of our communities, destroys rich agricultural soils and infringes on our local home rule rights.⁵**
- ✓ **Though the Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) funding (used by municipalities for local roads, bridges and culverts) was restored from the governor's proposed cut, funding remained flat while the cost of materials has risen by nearly 60% in the past three years. This will impact our local highway departments. Also, BRIDGE NY, Extreme Winter Recovery and the Pave Our Potholes Program also remained flat. After listening to our local highway superintendents, the Assembly Minority Conference requested an additional \$200 million for CHIPS, but the Majorities and governor chose to reject any increase in this important infrastructure investment.⁶**
- ✓ **The lack of an increase to the volunteer firefighters' earned income tax credit of \$200, which has remained flat for decades, and the delayed roll out of the \$25 million in funding to support facility and equipment upgrades for our volunteer fire departments has been disappointing. To make matters worse, this year's budget failed to provide another round of capital funding.⁷**

I believe New York state needs to get back to the basics and properly invest in education, public protection and infrastructure. That's why I continue to advocate for our region's fair share and the priorities that are important to Western New Yorkers.

Regarding education, I am proud that the Legislature, in a bipartisan manner, pushed back against the governor's planned cuts to our local school districts and increased foundation aid funding by \$934.5 million⁸—directly assisting our students, teachers and property taxpayers. Additionally, library construction funding was increased to \$44 million, which was \$10 million more than the governor proposed and \$10 million more than last year⁹. This was a priority issue for me and our community, and I'd like to thank everyone in the district who took this time to sign my petition on this important issue—your voices were heard!

A few other positive steps in this year's budget include a new \$50 million investment in the Erie Canal's infrastructure¹⁰, and Aid and Incentives for Municipalities funding was increased for the first time in more than 15 years, which results in more than \$300,000 in additional funding for the City of Lockport.¹¹

Finally, I was also pleased this budget, in a bipartisan manner, invests in a longtime priority of mine to help prevent childhood drowning by increasing access to swimming lessons. The budget devotes \$150 million to the NY SWIMS program to enhance and expand swimming lesson opportunities for kids across our state, investments in our swimming pools and the recruitment and retention of lifeguards.¹² This is an example of our government at its best: working together.

While I am proud of the successes, it is a drop in the bucket when it comes to the overall \$237 billion in state spending and the disproportionate percentages provided to programs and funding downstate. Western New Yorkers deserve more for their investment, and these are the reasons why I voted no, despite some worthwhile and important bipartisan accomplishments.

Christmas in July

TOY DRIVE

JUNE 25 THROUGH JULY 29

**LOCKPORT
PUBLIC LIBRARY**
23 East Ave.
Lockport, NY 14094

**CLARENCE
TOWN LIBRARY**
3 Town Pl.
Clarence, NY 14031

WILSON LIBRARY
265 Young St.
Wilson, NY 14172

NEWFANE LIBRARY
2761 Maple Ave.
Newfane, NY 14108

**ASSEMBLYMAN
MIKE NORRIS'
DISTRICT OFFICE**
8180 Main Street
Clarence, NY 14221

HOW TO DONATE:

Beginning June 25, you can donate new, unwrapped toys and activity sets to be given to the children with cancer and other serious illnesses at the hospital through July 29.

Items you purchase can be donated directly at the assemblyman's office or any of the drop-off locations listed below.

Seeing the joy

**ON THE CHILDREN'S FACES
WAS LIFE-CHANGING, AND I
WANT THE COMMUNITY TO
KNOW HOW MUCH THEIR
DONATION OF A NEW TOY OR
ACTIVITY SET WILL MEAN TO
THESE CHILDREN AT A
TIME WHEN THEY NEED
EVERY BIT OF JOY
THE MOST.**

*-Assemblyman
Mike Norris*

If you would like to participate in the hospital's online gift registry, please go to:

<https://bit.ly/norrischristmasinjuly>
or scan this QR CODE



AROUND TOWN

With Mike!

STRONGER TOGETHER



norris@nyassembly.gov
(716) 839-4691
Clarence, NY 14221
8180 Main Street
Assemblyman Mike Norris



MIKE NORRIS
Assemblyman

*Contact Assemblyman
Mike Norris*



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A NEWSLETTER UPDATE

**ASSEMBLYMAN
MIKE NORRIS**

Working for Us

Assemblyman
MIKE NORRIS

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LEARN MORE INSIDE!



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