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Capital Update

Assemblywoman

Michelle Schimel

16th Assembly District • Summer 2011

YOU HAVE ONE OF THE STRONGEST ADVOCATES IN ALBANY ASSEMBLYWOMAN MICHELLE SCHIMEL

2011 Hailed As Most Successful Legislative Session in Recent History



- On-Time Balanced Budget
- The Marriage Equality Act
- Landmark Ethics Reform
- Complete Streets Legislation
- A Permanent Power for Jobs Program

Bringing Ethics Reform to Albany

The State Legislature passed sweeping ethics reform legislation (A.8301) that cracks down on unethical behavior and forces greater accountability and transparency. This measure closes loopholes, strengthens ethics oversight, increases disclosure of outside income requirements for public officials, and ends the unjust practice of using taxpayer money to fund pensions of officials convicted of felonies related to their positions. This landmark legislation was recently signed into law.

An Outspoken Leader Against Hydrofracking

Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel is one of the most outspoken state leaders against hydrofracking, a dangerous method of natural gas extraction. The New York State Assembly recently passed legislation (A.7400), sponsored by Assemblywoman Schimel, that places a moratorium on hydrofracking until June 1st, 2012. Hydrofracking, also known as hydraulic fracturing, is a method used to create fractures that extend out after drilling for natural gas. This procedure has created significant controversy because of its potential to release harmful chemicals into New York's drinking water.



Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel speaking at a rally about the need for a moratorium on hydrofracking.

The State Legislature Passes On-Time Balanced Budget

Working with the Governor and Senate, the New York State Assembly passed an **on-time balanced budget with no new taxes** that closed a \$10 billion deficit and cut state spending by \$3 billion over last year. Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel and her colleagues successfully fought to mitigate the executive budget's drastic cuts to vital public services and made critical restorations in education, health care, job creation, and economic development.



Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel met with mayors and village officials from the 16th Assembly District to discuss the impact of the state budget on local government services. Attending the meeting were: East Hills Deputy Mayor Manny Zuckerman, Flower Hill Mayor Charles Weiss, Great Neck Mayor Ralph Kreitzman, Great Neck Plaza Mayor Jean Celender, Kings Point Clerk/Treasurer Louis DiDomenico, Lake Success Trustee Adam Hoffman, Lake Success Deputy Mayor Steven Lam, Munsey Park Mayor Harry Nicolaidis, North Hills Deputy Mayor Dennis Sgambati, Plandome Heights Mayor Diana Merenda, Plandome Manor Mayor Barbara Donno, Sands Point Trustee Marc Silbert, Sands Point Mayor Leonard Wurzel, and Williston Park Deputy Mayor Terry Thomann.

Providing Consumers with Freedom of Choice in Purchasing Prescription Drugs

This session, the State Legislature passed legislation (A.5502B) that provides freedom of choice to consumers who have prescription drug coverage as part of their health insurance policy. Sponsored by Assemblywoman Schimel, this measure prohibits health insurance companies from mandating policy holders to purchase prescription drugs from a mail order pharmacy. Requiring consumers to use mail order pharmacies is detrimental to the well-being of neighborhood drug stores as well as to consumer safety. The bill was recently signed into law.

Historic Civil Rights Legislation

This session, the New York State Legislature took a huge step forward in extending marriage equality to all New Yorkers. **The Marriage Equality Act (A.8354)**, which was signed into law immediately following its passage, affords homosexual couples the same legal marital status as heterosexual couples.

“I am proud to live in New York State where all people have equal rights under the law. I applaud Governor Andrew Cuomo for his leadership on this issue,” said Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel, a sponsor of this historic legislation.

Protecting Breast Cancer Services



Michelle visited Lakeville Elementary School to thank Ms. Meisel's 4th grade class for raising funds with their PINK lemonade stand to help support the fight against breast cancer.

Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel successfully fought to restore funding to the **Adelphi NY Statewide Breast Cancer Hotline and Support Program**, which has provided comprehensive breast cancer services to New Yorkers for the past 30 years.

Overtuning HCRA Surcharge

Due to Michelle's leadership, the 9.63 percent **HCRA** surcharge on radiological and outpatient surgical services was rejected from the final state budget. This proposal would have forced many outpatient medical practices to close, severely limited patients' access to care, and significantly lengthened wait times for mammograms, cancer screenings and critical imaging.

A Permanent Low-Cost Power Program for Businesses

Recharge New York, a permanent replacement for the **Power for Jobs Program**, was enacted by this year's state budget. **Under Recharge New York**, the New York Power

Authority will provide low-cost energy to businesses and not-for-profits that commit to job creation and retention, and capital investment goals.

IMPROVING PUBLIC SAFETY

Pedestrian Safety Legislation

To help ensure that the streets of our community are safe, Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel sponsored **Complete Streets legislation** (A.8366), which requires transportation planners to consider safer crossings and roadways for commuters and pedestrians. Under the new law, design features to be considered by transportation officials include sidewalks, paved shoulders for bicycle use, bicycle lanes, lane striping, crosswalks, pedestrian signals, and other traffic-calming measures.

Protecting Those Who Safeguard Our Community

Every day, law enforcement officers and first responders risk their lives to serve and protect us. In order to help protect them, Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel supported the **Move Over Law** (A.5292B). This new law requires vehicles to move over and slow down when approaching an authorized vehicle with emergency lights flashing, parked on a New York Interstate highway or parkway. The measure was introduced following a series of police officer fatalities that occurred during traffic stops.

In early February, **Police Officer Michael J. Califano**, a twelve-year veteran of the Nassau County Police Department, was killed during a routine traffic stop when another motorist struck his cruiser from behind.

As a small token of appreciation for Officer Califano's service to protecting our community, **Michelle sponsored a new law** (A.7751a) that designates a portion of the Glen Cove Road overpass of the Long Island Expressway in his honor.

Schimel Secures Grant for Emergency Response Traffic System

Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel secured a \$125,000 grant to help improve the traffic flow for emergency response vehicles along Northern Boulevard, one of the busiest and most heavily congested secondary roads in Nassau County. The funding will be used by the **Manhasset-Lakeville Fire Department (M-LFD)** to install an emergency response traffic pre-emption system. This system will enable emergency response vehicles to travel through busy intersections safely, eliminating confusion and reducing the potential of accidents involving fire engine trucks and ambulances.

Assemblywoman Schimel's grant will be used to outfit all of M-LFD's emergency response vehicles as well as 19 intersections along Northern Boulevard, stretching from Great Neck Road to Port Washington Boulevard. The traffic pre-emption system will reduce overall response times to emergencies and will enable M-LFD's ambulances to get patients to hospitals quickly and safely, which will improve service to the community.



Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel and the Manhasset-Lakeville Fire Department (M-LFD) unveil an emergency response traffic system for Northern Boulevard. Pictured (L to R) with M-LFD volunteer firefighters are Deputy Chief Michael Farrone, Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel, former Chairman Rudolph Barranco, Chief James Dillion, and Commissioner Andrew DeMartin.



Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel demonstrates the traffic pre-emption system by directing a special LED light at a traffic light which triggers a sensor installed on the light causing it to turn green.

Schimel & Bosworth Get LIRR to Repair Great Neck Eruv Just in Time for Shabbat

After being notified by Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel and Nassau County Legislator Judi Bosworth about a break in the eruv near the Great Neck train station, the Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) quickly dispatched High Tension Team Two to repair it before sundown, just in time for Shabbat. Due to the dangers posed by the LIRR tracks, community members were hesitant to remedy the situation themselves. On the morning of July 15, LIRR workers constructed a new wire that closed the eruv.

Assemblywoman Schimel & Legislator Bosworth express their appreciation to LIRR crew members for quickly fixing the eruv before the start of Shabbat. Pictured (L to R) Jo Piroozian, Steven Munday, Rob Sloma, Dan MacMonigle, Chris Flood, Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel, Rabbi Eitan Rubin, Nassau County Legislator Judi Bosworth, Steven Trancheff-Foreman, Andy Hoffer, and Anthony Castano.



Protecting Children from Harmful Chemicals

To help protect children from exposure to harmful chemicals, Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel sponsored a new law (A.6195A) that prevents the manufacture and sale of child care products containing the flame retardant chemical TRIS phosphate (TRIS). A study conducted by the National Cancer Institute found that TRIS can cause cancer in test animals and could be absorbed

by children through the skin or mouthing of TRIS treated clothing. TRIS is increasingly used in baby gear including strollers, nursing pillows, and rocking chair foam. Under this measure, the sale of child care products containing TRIS will be prohibited in New York State after December 31st, 2013.

Schimel and Kaiman Bring North Hempstead's School Recycling Program to the State Capitol

Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel and Supervisor Jon Kaiman showcased the Town of North Hempstead's award winning School Recycling Partnership Program in Albany. The opportunity arose when Assemblywoman Schimel arranged for the Town's 2010 Recycled Art Exhibit to be displayed at the State Capitol during the week of April 11th-15th. Under this program, North Hempstead has partnered with nine school districts and has supplied every classroom and office in each participating district with recycling bins. With more than 30,000 students participating, the recycling program reaps an average of 25 tons of paper and 6 tons of co-mingled recyclables a month.

This April, Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel and Supervisor Jon Kaiman showcased the Town of North Hempstead's award winning School Recycling Program and 2010 Recycled Art Exhibit at the State Capitol in Albany. Pictured (L to R) by some artwork displayed in the exhibit are Supervisor Jon Kaiman of the Town of North Hempstead, Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel and Assistant Principal Mark Warford of Bethlehem Middle School.



AROUND THE COMMUNITY



This May, the Town of North Hempstead sponsored the 2nd Annual Asian American Heritage Festival at Bar Beach in Port Washington. The focus of this year's event was China, India, Japan, Korea, and Pakistan. Pictured from left to right are Kal Varughese, North Hempstead's Director of Environmental Planning Fran Reid, Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel, George Thomas, and Jose Jacob.



Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel recently visited Herricks Middle School to present citations to students for their help in her annual Valentines for Veterans program. Under the guidance of Advisor Tom Fauvell, members of student government, the honor society and the social studies club, designed special handmade valentines.



This summer, Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel held mobile office hours at several locations throughout the 16th Assembly District. Pictured (L to R) at the Town of North Hempstead's newly renovated Manorhaven Pool: Assembly Intern Lauren Kobrick, constituent Meryl Rubin, Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel, Assembly Interns Matt Paterson and Eddie deSciara, Deputy Town Supervisor Christopher Senior, and Chief of Staff Emily Frankel.



In honor of St. Aidan School's sixtieth anniversary, Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel presented a citation to Principal Eileen Oliver. St. Aidan School is located in Williston Park.

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