



Assemblywoman
Michelle Schimel

*Reports to
the People*

16th Assembly District • Fall 2012



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**ASSEMBLYWOMAN MICHELLE SCHIMEL IS HARD AT WORK
DELIVERING RESULTS FOR YOU**



Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel (right) with Governor Andrew Cuomo (left) at the bill signing ceremony for historic tax relief legislation.

**State Legislature
Cuts Taxes for
99 percent of
New Yorkers**

Working with the Governor and State Senate, the New York State Assembly passed historic tax reform legislation in December. **The measure, supported by Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel, provides middle-class families with the lowest tax rate in 58 years, cutting taxes for 99 percent of New Yorkers.** The new high-income tax bracket for households earning more than \$2 million per year will raise nearly \$6 billion in revenue over the next three years. This will be used to restore crucial funding for schools, create jobs, and pay down the budget deficit.

**Schimel Gets MTA to Restore LIRR
Train Service & Change Ticket Policies**

For the past two years, Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel has advocated for the restoration of service on the Port Washington train line. In May, the Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) finally listened to Schimel's countless requests and restored half-hourly midday service on the Port Washington line.

Due to the efforts of Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel and State Senator Jack Martins, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) recently decided to extend the validity of LIRR tickets from two weeks to two months and the reimbursement window for unused tickets from one month to two months.



Pictured (L to R) at a press conference in Mineola announcing changes to the MTA's ticket policies are Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel, LIRR President Helena Williams, and State Senator Jack Martins.

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**New York Ranked
in Top 10 for
Economic Growth**



The United States Chamber of Commerce recently issued a report that **ranks New York in the top 10 states for economic performance, an 11 spot increase from last year.** The investments made by the State Legislature in economic development and job creation programs are making it easier for businesses to grow and putting New Yorkers back to work.

***SEE BACK PAGE FOR DETAILS ABOUT SENIOR CITIZEN LAW DAY**

Safeguarding the Democratic Process

To help preserve the integrity of local elections and save taxpayers money, Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel and State Senator Jack Martins fought to relieve local governments and school districts from a costly voting machine mandate. Just as they did two years ago, **Assemblywoman Schimel and Senator Martins worked together to pass legislation (A.9178a/S.6296a) that will allow villages, school districts, and special districts to continue using lever voting machines for an additional two years.** Without this measure, local governments and school districts would be forced to purchase or rent electronic voting machines at an exorbitant cost or use paper ballots in conducting their local elections. **This legislation was passed by the Assembly and Senate, and currently awaits action by the Governor.**



Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel and community advocates meet with Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver about Schimel's voting machine legislation. Pictured (L to R) Larry Greenstein, Trustee of the Port Washington School Board, and his son Kevin, an activist for the developmentally disabled, Great Neck Village Mayor Ralph Kreitzman, President of the Nassau County Village Officials Association, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel, Terry Hood, the Business Administrator for the Great Neck Union Free School District, and Assemblyman Charles Lavine.

SPOTLIGHT ON EDUCATION



Nassau BOCES students meet with Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel in Albany to discuss the significant impact that BOCES has had on them.

Investing in Education

The 2012-2013 final state budget increased school aid by \$805 million, a 4 percent increase over last year. Due to Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel's advocacy, the final budget rejects an executive budget proposal to shift costs

for Preschool Special Education onto local school districts. The state budget also restored funding for teacher resource and training centers, restored the CAP reimbursement to parochial schools, and increased aid to public libraries.

Protecting Teacher Privacy & Parents' Right to Know

Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel co-sponsored a new law (A.10786/S.7792) that requires the results of teacher evaluations to be disclosed to parents. Under the measure, school districts are required to release to parents or guardians of a student the final quality rating for each teacher the student is assigned for the current school year. To protect the privacy of educators, school districts and the State Education Department are required to ensure that any evaluation data released to the public does not contain personal information.

Relieving High Achieving Schools from State Testing Mandates

Rigorous testing and administrative costs have imposed an undue burden on high performing school districts and are negatively impacting the quality of our children's education. To address this issue, Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel introduced legislation (A.10484) that would exempt high achieving school districts from certain state testing and paperwork requirements.

Under this measure, any district with a graduation rate over 95 percent for a five-year period will be considered an "exemplary school district." Every three years an exemplary school district will undergo review to determine whether they should retain their exemplary status.

Schimmel Brings the Fight for Microstamping to the National Stage



Assemblywoman Michelle Schimmel talks about her microstamping legislation on CNN's Starting Point with Soledad O'Brien.

A leading voice on gun violence prevention in New York State, Assemblywoman Michelle Schimmel recently appeared on the CNN morning show *Starting Point with Soledad O'Brien* to debate her signature issue, microstamping. The opposing viewpoint was provided by Assembly Minority Leader Brian Kolb (R-Canandaigua). The guest panel of political commentators included Will Cain, Margaret Hoover, and Celeste Headlee.

Schimmel's appearance on CNN came on the heels of a front-page *New York Times* story about the national debate on microstamping. This past June, an article written by Assemblywoman Michelle Schimmel, entitled, "Microstamping Guns: A Tool to Help Solve Gun Crimes in New York," was published in the *New York State Bar Association's Government, Law and Policy Journal*.

For the fifth year in a row Schimmel's microstamping bill (A.1157b) passed the New York State Assembly. This year, the Assembly also included the measure in its one-house budget proposal, but unfortunately it was not included in the final budget. Schimmel's bill has the support of over 80 law enforcement organizations and police departments from across the state.

Cracking Down on Prescription Drug Abuse

The New York State Legislature passed legislation (A.10623/S.7636) that creates the first real-time prescription drug database in the country to crack down on the growing epidemic of prescription drug abuse here on Long Island and elsewhere in the state. Known as I-STOP, the measure, which was co-sponsored by Assemblywoman Schimmel, will overhaul the way prescription drugs are administered and tracked in the state. The bill currently awaits action by the Governor.



An Outspoken Leader Against Hydrofracking

One of the most outspoken state legislators against hydrofracking, Assemblywoman Michelle Schimmel co-sponsored legislation (A.10234) that would require a comprehensive health impact study of the effects of high volume hydrofracking in New York State. Schimmel also co-sponsored legislation (A.3245/S.3472) this session that would give local governments control over the issue of hydraulic fracturing. Both measures have been passed by the New York State Assembly. Hydrofracking, also known as hydraulic fracturing, is a method used to drill for natural gas by fracturing ground rock formations. This procedure is extremely controversial because of its potential to release harmful chemicals into New York's drinking water.



Outside a public hearing on hydrofracking in Manhattan, Assemblywoman Michelle Schimmel joined a group of students, who were voicing their opposition to the controversial gas drilling procedure.

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This policy change was prompted by the advancement of legislation (A.6889c/S.3778d) sponsored by Assemblywoman Schimmel & Senator Martins that would reverse the validity and refund period of one-way and round-trip LIRR tickets to six months and would prohibit the MTA from assessing a \$10 surcharge on ticket refunds. While the MTA's new policy is an improvement, Assemblywoman Schimmel will continue to fight for the full restoration of the six-month ticket validity and reimbursement policies, as well as the removal of the excessive surcharge for ticket refunds.



A group of students from Temple Sinai in Roslyn traveled to Albany to meet with state legislators about the growing epidemic of cyberbullying. After meeting with the Temple Sinai Hebrew High School students, Assemblywoman Michelle Schimmel took a picture with them on the floor of the Assembly chamber.

Bill Combating School Bullying Signed into Law

This session, the New York State Legislature passed a new law (A.10712/S.7740) that cracks down on bullying and cyberbullying in public schools. The law, which Assemblywoman Schimmel co-sponsored, will establish a mandatory reporting system for all incidents of bullying.

CARING FOR SENIORS

- **Reinstated the EPIC co-payment assistance program**
- **Maintained the spousal refusal program so seniors with ailing spouses can afford the care their significant other needs**
- **Expanded the In-Home Services for the Elderly Program (EISEP)**
- **Restored funding to Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORC) programs**



Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel To Host **SENIOR CITIZEN LAW DAY**

Date: Sunday, Sept. 9, 2012

Time: 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Location: Clinton G. Martin Park

1601 Marcus Avenue
New Hyde Park, NY 11040



*Light breakfast will be served
Topics will include:*

- **Long Term Health Care**
- **Elder Law and Estate Planning**
- **Planning for Someone with Special Needs**

For more information please call (516) 482-6966



Lending A Helping Hand

Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel volunteers alongside her staff and summer interns at Island Harvest's Summer Food Blitz. Pictured (L to R): Skyler Kanfer, Intern for County Legislator Judi Bosworth Thomas Veraart, Khusbu Patel, Jill Minogue, Nancy Ko, Communications Coordinator Sandy Portnoy, Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel, and Matt Rosenberg.

Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel

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