



News from Assemblywoman

# Sandy Galef

2 Church Street, Ossining, NY 10562 • Phone: 914-941-1111 • Fax: 914-941-9132  
Email: galefs@assembly.state.ny.us • Website: www.assembly.state.ny.us

SPRING 2016

Like me on Facebook

Dear Constituent,

The 2016 Legislative Session is in full swing, and I would like to update you on my priorities for this year.

In light of recent events in Albany, there has been much discussion and proposed legislation this year focusing on ethics and providing new reforms to increase transparency and deter irresponsible behavior among elected officials statewide. On February 24th, I held a press conference in Albany to bring attention to my priority reform bills for this session, which I have highlighted on pages 2 and 3 of this newsletter. As always, if you have any questions or concerns about these proposals, please do not hesitate to contact my district office.

I have received a great deal of correspondence from many of my constituents regarding this year's budget, especially when it comes to education funding. I truly believe in the importance of public education, and am committed to pushing for additional funds in the budget for all my school districts including the elimination of the Gap Elimination Adjustment and for increased Foundation Aid.

On this page, I invite you to an upcoming panel discussion about Paid Family Leave which I am hosting on March 24th. My hope is that we can discuss the pros and cons of adopting this program. Paid family leave has been promoted by Governor Cuomo as he included it in his budget proposal, and would address individuals who require time away from work to care for a disabled or ill loved one or a new child. Similar legislation has been passed in many countries worldwide, as well as in California, Rhode Island, Washington, New Jersey, and the District of Columbia. The question is: Should NY do the same?

I look forward to seeing you at local events around my district, and always feel free to stop by my office to share your opinions with me.

Sincerely,

*Sandy Galef*  
Sandy Galef



Assemblywoman Sandy Galef invites you to attend

## PAID FAMILY LEAVE FORUM

A Pro & Con Discussion to Consider New York State's Approach to Family Leave

Thursday, March 24th  
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Stanley H. Kellerhouse  
Municipal Building  
1 Van Wyck Street  
Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520

Panelists Include:

**Eric Williams**  
Campaign Director, NY PFLI Campaign

**Bev Neufeld**  
Founder, PowHer NY

**Ken Pokalsky**  
VP of Government Affairs, NYS Business Council

**Ted Potrikus**  
Executive Director, Retail Council of NYS

I encourage you to bring your friends, family, neighbors and anyone else you think would be interested in this complicated and important issue that affects all of us.

### DISTRICT OFFICE OPEN HOUSE

Friday, March 18th, 2016  
12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
2 Church St, Ossining, NY

Come and discuss your questions and concerns.

## Power, Ethics and Transparency Reforms

On February 24th, I held a press conference in Albany to bring attention to some legislation that I have proposed to deter irresponsible behavior on the part of legislators around the state. I have called these reforms my "P.E.T." bills, short for Power, Ethics, and Transparency. The idea is to level the playing field of power, enforce ethical behaviors, and increase the transparency of the political process by creating roadblocks to make it harder for anyone to engage in unethical or corrupt behaviors, even if they tried. Much of the public has lost faith in their elected officials, I believe that in order to restore confidence in our leadership abilities, we need to take bold and aggressive measures. Hopefully laws such as these will prevent future misconduct on the part of elected officials statewide.

For this press conference, I chose to highlight nine bills that are most important to me. I also included a number of my other bills in addition to these nine because they are significant to the reform process. Some of these bills are new proposals, but some, like one that I first introduced in 1995, have been around for a while. A press conference focused on more than one bill is quite uncommon, and was a new experience for me. I hope that my proposals will gain support from my colleagues and be adopted soon.



Barbara Bartoletti (League of Women Voters), Assemblywoman Sandy Galef, Senator John Bonacic, Senator Jose Serrano, and Blair Horner (NYPIRG) at the February 24 Reforms Press Conference.

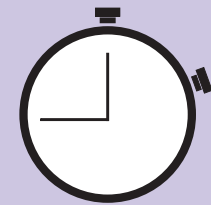
## POWER REFORMS

A.9260-A



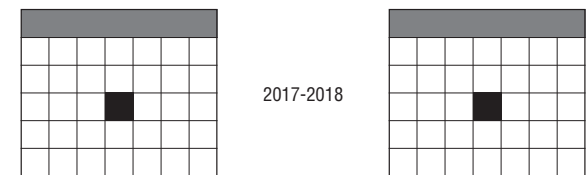
Pay to Play - Restricts companies that give campaign donations from bidding on government projects

A.4677-D



Limits the amount of time any member of the legislature may serve in a position of leadership

A.5495



Allows for a 2 year legislative session, for bills to move forward, and not go backward

## ETHICS REFORMS



A.5006-A  
Prevents members of the legislature from giving public money to businesses/non-profits with which their family is involved

A.6585-A

Prevents individuals from being both lobbyists and political consultants, and requires them to report political consulting services



A.4671  
Prohibits political fundraisers in Albany during the Legislative Session

## Assemblywoman Sandy Galef's Reform Package 2016

### Power Reforms

A.4425 Restricts transfers of campaign funds between political candidates.

A.7000 Prohibits election commissioners from also being chairs of political parties.

A.7415 Prohibits elected officials from serving as delegates to the State Constitutional Convention.

### Ethics Reforms

A.5884 Requires forfeiture of pension and retirement benefits from elected officials convicted of felonies.

### Transparency Reforms

A.2830 Establishes a New York State Independent Budget Office to provide objective, non-partisan analyses of state revenues, expenditures, and management practices.

A.4390 Requires legislative fiscal impact notes to include objective calculations of anticipated economic impacts for the following three years.

## TRANSPARENCY REFORMS



A.5307-A

Clarifies that legislative grants can not be used to provide financial gains to legislators or family, and provides detailed reports quarterly

A.9180



Having political consultants register to address conflict of interest, just as lobbyists do

A.8622

Prohibits the change of party names once on ballot  
Example: The "Don't Eat Bread Party" changing to the "No Carbs Party"

HELLO  
my name is

## College Loan Forgiveness

There is a new program for college students who graduated in New York in or after 2015 who have outstanding student loans. This program, called the "Get On Your Feet Loan Forgiveness Program" has begun to accept applications from those who are eligible for it. It was designed to lessen the burden of student loans for the students who graduated in 2015, who are the most indebted in U.S. history.

This program allows up to two years of federal student loan repayments to be forgiven.

The requirements for eligibility include that the student must have graduated from both high school and college in the State of New York, has received an undergraduate degree in or after the 2014-2015 academic year, and will stay and work in New York State. The student must also have lived in the state for 12 continuous months and be enrolled in an income-based or pay-as-you-earn repayment program, with an adjusted gross income of less than \$50,000.

Apply at [hesc.ny.gov](http://hesc.ny.gov) or call 1-888-697-4372 to learn more.



## Family Tax Relief Credit

The State of New York is providing a tax credit for parents and guardians of children under 17 years of age. This is the second year of a three-year program that started with 2014 tax filings. Unlike last year, when checks were mailed out as a rebate, this year's rebate, in the amount of \$350, is a credit when you file your 2015 income taxes. The system will be the same for 2016 taxes filed in 2017.

The program, called the "Family Tax Relief Credit" was approved by the Legislature and the Governor, and is applicable to taxes in 2014, 2015, and 2016. See below to find out if you are among the more than 1 million New Yorkers eligible for this rebate.

- A New York resident for a full year
- At least one dependent child younger than 17 years as of December 31, 2015
- Adjusted gross income between \$40,000 and \$300,000

### Upcoming TV Shows:

#### Speak Out with Sandy Galef:

Policing: Past, Present, and Future  
Reforming NYS Government with Richard Brodsky  
League of Women Voters: Westchester Update

#### Dear Sandy:

Boscobel House and Gardens  
Manitoga

Check with your TV provider or call my office for times and dates for your channel.



## PAID FAMILY LEAVE FORUM

SPRING 2016

### Consumer Beware: Telephone Scams

The Attorney General has released warnings recently about an uptick in the frequency of telephone scammers. They tend to claim to be an agent or police officer from a governmental agency, often the Internal Revenue Service or Attorney General's Office. The callers threaten that unless the "debt" is paid, the victim will be arrested that day. The confusion is often compounded by false caller IDs, which make the call appear as if they were from the Internal Revenue Service.

If you receive a suspicious phone call, keep the following things in mind:

- Government agencies, including the IRS, will never ask for payment over the phone.
- It is okay to give out information if you were the originator of the call, and you know and trust the number.
- Legitimate callers will never request that the conversation remain a secret.
- It is okay to say no, and hang up. Legitimate callers will also provide written requests.

Please report fraud to Attorney General Schneiderman's office at 1-800-771-7755 or <http://www.ag.ny.gov>