



# NEWS

March 2018

## From Bill Magnarelli

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### Constituent Survey Results

In January, my office mailed a survey to every household in the 129<sup>th</sup> Assembly District to hear directly from constituents regarding proposed legislation and initiatives in this year's proposed budget. Below are the tabulated responses from the 1,101 surveys received, representing about a 5% return. The results are also tabulated to reflect the overall responses received from constituents residing in the City of Syracuse, the Town of Geddes and the Town of Van Buren. The percentages may not add up to 100% because some respondents did not answer every question. If you took the time to return your survey – Thank you. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please call my office.

*William B. Magnarelli*

209 from Geddes 761 from Syracuse  
 131 from Van Buren 1101 overall

**1. Would you support the State's elimination of the Tip Credit – raising the minimum wage of tipped employees?**

Geddes	Yes	55%	No	45%
Syracuse	Yes	67%	No	33%
Van Buren	Yes	49%	No	51%
Overall	Yes	62%	No	38%

**2. Do you support the Governor's proposal to make it a crime to share sexually explicit photos or videos of another without their consent, also known as "Revenge porn?"**

Geddes	Yes	95%	No	5%
Syracuse	Yes	96%	No	4%
Van Buren	Yes	93%	No	7%
Overall	Yes	95%	No	5%

**3. Would you support legislation that would ban anyone convicted of domestic violence offenses from owning firearms?**

Geddes	Yes	91%	No	9%
Syracuse	Yes	92%	No	8%
Van Buren	Yes	81%	No	19%
Overall	Yes	90%	No	10%

**4. Do you support the Compassionate Care Act which would permit persons with terminal illness and of sound mind the ability to seek a physician's assistance in ending their lives?**

Geddes	Yes	64%	No	36%
Syracuse	Yes	72%	No	28%
Van Buren	Yes	66%	No	34%
Overall	Yes	68%	No	32%

**5 Last year, the State required each county to create a shared services panel, made up of local government officials, to examine cost saving measures. Do you believe these panels should become permanent?**

Geddes	Yes	52%	No	48%
Syracuse	Yes	59%	No	40%
Van Buren	Yes	52%	No	48%
Overall	Yes	55%	No	45%

**6 Do you support Governor Cuomo's \$65 million proposal to combat harmful algae blooms in our lakes, including Skaneateles Lake?**

Geddes	Yes	83%	No	17%
Syracuse	Yes	89%	No	11%
Van Buren	Yes	70%	No	30%
Overall	Yes	85%	No	15%

**7 Do you support Governor Cuomo's proposal to withdraw State pension fund investments in Fossil Fuel Industries?**

Geddes	Yes	51%	No	49%
Syracuse	Yes	62%	No	38%
Van Buren	Yes	39%	No	61%
Overall	Yes	54%	No	46%

**8 Do you support legislation to create an opportunity for same day voting and early voting in New York State?**

Geddes	Yes	69%	No	31%
Syracuse	Yes	75%	No	25%
Van Buren	Yes	64%	No	36%
Overall	Yes	72%	No	28%

**9 Would you support the creation of a universal plan, NY Health, to provide comprehensive health coverage for all New Yorkers?**

Geddes	Yes	68%	No	32%
Syracuse	Yes	74%	No	26%
Van Buren	Yes	53%	No	47%
Overall	Yes	71%	No	29%

**10 What possible solution do you support for the I-81 project?**

a. Community Grid

Geddes	30%
Syracuse	41%
Van Buren	20%
Overall	35%

b. Rebuilding the existing viaduct

Geddes	58%
Syracuse	43%
Van Buren	61%
Overall	49%

c. Tunnel/Grid hybrid

Geddes	12%
Syracuse	16%
Van Buren	19%
Overall	16%

# Recognizing Community Service

Assemblyman Magnarelli presented Ralph Rotella, owner of the Discount Shoe Repair in Syracuse, with a Proclamation acknowledging his long standing commitment to community service. For the past 8 years, Mr. Rotella has collected, repaired and donated thousands of shoes to people in need in the community. In 2017, he donated a total of 16,127 pairs of shoes to the Rescue Mission of Syracuse.

Mr. Rotella works hard throughout the year, repairing and donating many thousands of pairs of shoes for people in need in our community. He started holding an annual shoe drive seven years ago when he saw someone on the street in the cold weather wearing worn-out shoes. That first year, Rotella collected around 75 pairs of shoes. In 2017, he gathered over 11,000 pairs. He doesn't only collect the shoes, he repairs them, too. Despite the amount of work this takes, Mr. Rotella doesn't let that process get in the way of business. His business is open weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., but he works after hours to repair the donated shoes.

Ralph Rotella has been repairing shoes at Discount Shoe Repair in downtown Syracuse for over 40 years. He learned how to repair shoes from his uncle who came with him to the United States from Italy in the 1970s.



## Changes to NYS Election Process Under Consideration

\*The following column by Assemblyman Magnarelli recently was printed in the Eagle Newspapers.

Voting is the cornerstone of democracy. Yet, only about half of voting-age New York citizens chose to vote in the 2016 General Presidential election, according to U.S. Census Bureau figures. That's the eighth worst voter turnout among the states that year. Voter turnout in non-Presidential election years is much lower--around 30%. Changes to help to improve turnout, such as early voting and same-day registration, are currently being reviewed in Albany and the Governor has included state funds to help in this effort in his 30-Day Budget Amendments.

In this year's Executive Budget, Governor Cuomo is providing approximately \$7 million for proposed election reforms. The goal is to make the voting process more accessible and convenient. New technology will be used to assist in this process. When more people exercise their right to vote, greater civic engagement helps to make our government more responsive and representative.

Additional state funds would allow New York Counties to offer voting in the 12 days leading up to Election Day. Society is much different now than it was 25 or 50 years ago and it is commonplace for citizens to have unconventional daily work or school schedules. When voting is limited to one day, many people may have to choose between voting and other commitments. This proposal would require each County to have one early voting polling site for every 50,000 residents. These sites would be open at least eight hours on weekdays and five hours on weekends for citizens to cast early ballots—again, during the 12 days leading up to the election.

New York is only one of 13 states without early voting and it requires voters to have specific reasons to request an absentee ballot.

In addition, New York is looking to add same-day registration. This proposal would allow citizens to register and vote on the same day. Currently, many New Yorkers are prevented from voting due to missed registration deadlines as well as other factors. Today's sophisticated technology gives New York the tools to offer same-day registration, as 13 other states do, which increases accessibility to our election process.

As an elected official, I am encouraged when people are engaged in the political process and are civic-minded. My office regularly hosts interns from our local colleges and I am always heartened by their interest and engagement. When my constituents join me at the four "Community Information Nights" I host during February and March, it allows me to hear from them directly about their concerns, answer questions and learn more about their thoughts on the issues being discussed in Albany.

New York State is on the right path to modernize our voting system, to make elections more accessible. I look forward to working with my colleagues over the next few months on this and other budget and legislative matters.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact my office at 315-428-9651.



**Assemblyman Magnarelli annually holds four Community Information Nights: Geddes Town Hall, Van Buren Town Hall, Cecile Center and Henninger High School. The meetings are opportunities for residents to learn about issues that are being discussed at the State Legislature.**



## Recent Meetings with Constituents and Advocacy Groups



SEIU members who work at Crouse Hospital Center and Loretto Health and Rehabilitation visited to discuss healthcare issues in Syracuse.



Advocates for our libraries were in Albany to talk about funding and other issues.



Mike Stattler and Sue Cumoletti from Bryant & Stratton College in Syracuse were in Albany along with Students Jamie Becker and Karen Bannister

## Save the Date



**Thursday, May 17 at DestinyUSA**

Non-profit organizations seeking volunteers to help in their operations will be on hand at DestinyUSA to talk to people who are looking for opportunities.

This event has been moved from September to the Spring giving students an opportunity to partner with an organization during the summer months.

## Assemblyman Magnarelli Announces Collegiate Scholarships

Assemblyman William B. Magnarelli (D-Syracuse, Geddes, Van Buren) announced that the New York Conference of Italian-American State Legislators is now accepting applications for four \$2,500 scholarships to be awarded in June at its Annual Conference Weekend. Scholarship winners must be present to receive their awards.

"Given the high costs of college, every opportunity must be pursued by students along with their families to apply for scholarships, financial aid, and other opportunities," said Magnarelli.

This year the Italian-American State Legislators Conference will be awarding four \$2,500 scholarships to four current or future college students from New York State. Eligibility will be based upon the student's grade point average, interest in pursuing a higher education, involvement in the local community as well as individual financial need.

"Our conference is very proud of our role in promoting higher education and assisting students in reaching their academic goals and full potential for future success in the global marketplace," Magnarelli continued. "This year's recipients will be invited to Albany to receive their scholarship awards in June."

Area students may request an application by contacting Assemblyman Magnarelli's office at [magnarw@assembly.state.ny.us](mailto:magnarw@assembly.state.ny.us) or (315)428-9651.

## Local Student Recognized

Matthew Honeywell, of Syracuse, was honored in Albany on March 6<sup>th</sup> at the 2018 All NY Academic Team reception. Matthew earned his associate degree in Human Services from Onondaga Community College in December and was the Student Speaker at OCC's December Recognition Ceremony.

Matthew grew up in the foster care system and was adopted at the age of 11. After he graduated from West Genesee High School in 1989, he attended SUNY Delhi, earned a spot in the Olympic qualifiers for the 3000-meter steeplechase and traveled the world in the United States Navy. In 2016 he went back to college to pursue his passion to help foster care children. Matthew is continuing his education and plans to become a therapist for children and their families.



Assemblyman Magnarelli congratulating Matthew Honeywell in Albany at the 2018 All NY Academic Team reception.

## About New York State Assemblyman William B. Magnarelli

Assemblyman William Magnarelli represents the 129<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, which includes the Northside, Westside, Eastwood Valley and Downtown areas of the City of Syracuse, Syracuse University area, Outer Comstock, as well as the towns of Geddes and Van Buren. He first won election in 1998 for an open Assembly seat and was reelected in 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014 and 2016. During his terms in office, Assemblyman Magnarelli has focused his efforts on bringing more jobs to Central New York, lowering taxes, providing our children a better education at every level, improving our healthcare and keeping our families safe. For more information, contact Assemblyman Magnarelli's District Office at (315) 428-9651 or visit <http://www.assembly.state.ny.us/magnarelli>.