



Assemblyman

**Charles D.
Lavine**

***Reports to the
People***

Mid-Summer 2012

NEW YORK ON THE MOVE!

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I am pleased to report that our State Government has finished another successful year, even though we continue to confront a slowly improving economy.

Under the leadership of Governor Andrew Cuomo, New York is recovering from the great recession faster than most other states. We New Yorkers have certainly risen to the challenge and I am proud that you have trusted me to play a role in the following legislative accomplishments:

- A second on-time budget that decreased state spending
- \$50 million for grants and job retention tax credits for businesses damaged by Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee
- Reform of personal income tax rates to make them fairer and cutting of middle class taxes by more than \$650 million a year, bringing tax rates to their lowest levels in over half a century
- Relieving more than 700,000 small businesses and self-employed people of the MTA tax, saving citizens a quarter of a billion dollars
- Pension reform that will save New Yorkers \$80 billion over the next thirty years
- Helping local governments by allowing the state to assume the cost of Medicaid growth, resulting in lower property taxes for Nassau County
- Providing mortgage foreclosure counseling to those in danger of losing their homes
- Increasing funding for community colleges
- DNA samples must be taken from everyone convicted of a crime
- A new law to curb the illegal sale and abuse of prescription drugs
- Greater protection for victims of domestic violence
- Greater protection for children subjected to cyberbullying
- Creation of the Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs
- Safeguarding of the Environmental Protection Fund

New Yorkers and Long Islanders have every right to be proud of these accomplishments. And while more remains to be done, we should take some satisfaction in knowing that the United States Chamber of Commerce now ranks New York among the top 10 “performing states” for “growth, productivity and livability” and ranks us “fourth in GSP” (“Gross State Product” — meaning total state economic output). Moreover, the

Pew Center Economic Mobility Project has established that New York is one of the most attractive states for middle class citizens to gain upward economic mobility and achieve the American Dream.

There is much truth to the television commercials for New York State. We did build the first railroad, the first trade route to the west, and the first skyscrapers. We pushed the country forward. While some have said that we lost our edge, today there is a new New York State, the place where innovation meets determination, and we are once again pushing the country forward.

WORKING FOR LONG ISLAND

Writing bills and getting them passed and enacted into law is one of the most important responsibilities of any Member of the Assembly. I am especially proud that nine bills that I wrote passed the Senate and Assembly and will be sent to Governor Cuomo for his signature. These bills protect hard-pressed homeowners from increases in real estate taxes, and they protect veterans, adoptees, the physically challenged, and all New Yorkers. I am especially pleased that they all passed with overwhelming bipartisan support.

WORKING FOR LONG ISLAND

Continued on page 2



Assemblyman Lavine was honored to introduce Governor Andrew Cuomo at the 2012 Budget Presentation delivered this past February at Molloy College.

WORKING FOR LONG ISLAND

Continued from page 1

Protecting Homeowners

Due to changes in pension laws, unexpected numbers of public employees have decided to retire, requiring local governments to compensate them for their accrued service. With the amounts needed being greater than anticipated, Glen Cove and the Town of Oyster Bay would have been forced to increase property taxes dramatically. My bills allow these added expenses to be paid over the course of many years, meaning that homeowners will not face spikes in their property taxes.

Protecting People with Disabilities

An achievement that I am particularly proud of was the unanimous passage in both houses of my bill requiring that parking spaces for people with disabilities be at least 8 feet wide. This extension ensures enough space for every citizen with a disability to enter and exit their vehicles. The bill was passed on the New York State Assembly's Annual Disability Awareness Day.

Protecting New York Families

I was proud to stand with Attorney General Eric Schneiderman to support legislation creating an online real-time database that provides doctors and pharmacists with centralized information to prevent over-prescribing. This law provides a powerful tool to combat prescription drug-related crimes, a crisis that has reached epidemic proportion.

Protecting the Rights of Adoptees

Two bills that I wrote and were passed unanimously in both houses go a long way towards advancing the rights of adopted Americans. One bill modernizes New York's law to permit children adopted from foreign countries to enter the United States by recognizing new visa classifications. Another will allow people who were adopted in New York and now live in other states to participate in New York's Adoption Registry, which allows birth parents and adopted children who wish to do so to locate each other.

Iran Divestment Act

The Iran Divestment Act prohibits companies that invest in the Iranian energy sector from entering into or renewing contracts with New York State and local governments. I was truly honored to have been charged with the prime responsibility of arguing for its passage on the floor of the New York State Assembly. It passed unanimously and has since been signed into law by Governor Cuomo. Video of my presentation may be found at <http://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/Charles-D-Lavine>

Protecting Veterans

In this legislative session, I sponsored a bill that will help to provide vital services to veterans who may suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder and brain-related injuries, which affect many veterans who return from long and dangerous deployments in the Middle East. The bill I wrote directs the Division of Veterans' Affairs to create a program that will identify and provide treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder and brain-related injuries suffered by veterans. The Veteran Health Care Information Program is designed to ensure that veterans, their families, and health care providers are informed of post-traumatic stress disorder and brain-related injuries that may have been sustained during military duty. Access to these services is vital to their health and wellbeing.

Another bill that I wrote awaits passage in the Senate. For years, VFW's and American Legion Posts that own their own buildings have fought to be exempt from property taxes when they rent out portions of their buildings for events such as parties. I am very proud to have written a bill that will provide this exemption, which passed the Assembly unanimously. It is still my hope that this worthwhile bill will be taken up by the New York State Senate so it may become a law.



Assemblyman Lavine spent the Independence Day morning in the Village of Sea Cliff at a reading of the Declaration of Independence. Pictured are Robin Kennedy, Sea Cliff Village Mayor Bruce Kennedy, Tammy White and her children and dogs, and Assemblyman Lavine.



Assemblyman Lavine joined with State Transportation and Parks officials along with local civic leaders to announce the new extension to the Bethpage Parkway Bike Path. The new extension will create a safer path for both experienced and recreational cyclists. This new extension will encourage more Long Islanders to use their bikes and will enhance the vitality of the community as a whole. Pictured are State Department of Transportation Commissioner Joan McDonald, Assemblyman Lavine, State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Commissioner Rose Harvey, Old Bethpage Citizens Advisory Group President Mickey Miller, and Department of Transportation Regional Director Subi Chakraborti.



Assemblyman Lavine joined with Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, local activists, and elected officials from both parties at the offices of the Long Island Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence to discuss the impact of the new I-STOP legislation on our community. This landmark law will create a real-time database that will keep track of patient prescription history and curb the prescription drug crisis in New York State. Pictured are Assemblyman Lavine, activist Teri Kroll, and Attorney General Schneiderman.



The Community Vacation Camp sponsored by Unified New Cassel Revitalization Corporation hosted their annual carnival at First Baptist Cathedral in New Cassel. Assemblyman Lavine attended and had a great time. Pictured are Assemblyman Lavine, North Hempstead Town Councilwoman Viviana Russell, Nassau County Legislator Robert Troiano, and several happy campers enjoying cotton candy.



Assemblyman Lavine and Roslyn Little League President David Ozer discuss how the growth of the league has vastly improved the community for youngsters. Assemblyman Lavine looks forward to throwing out the first pitch at a game in the fall.



Special thanks to State Housing Commissioner Darryl Towns for taking time out of his busy schedule to visit the Westbury/New Cassel community and for taking a tour of the wonderful Apex I facility. Pictured are Kimmel Foundation Vice President Patricia Bourne, North Hempstead Supervisor Jon Kaiman, Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel, Commissioner Towns, Kimmel Foundation Chairman Howard Kimmel, Executive Vice President of Site Development Ellen Kelly, Rev. Monsignor Brendon Riordan of St. Aloysius Roman Catholic Church in Great Neck, and Assemblyman Lavine.



Assemblyman Lavine greatly enjoyed attending Sagamore Hill's annual July 4th celebration and celebrating the day with sailors from the U.S.S. Theodore Roosevelt, Sagamore Hill National Historic Park Supervisor Thomas Ross, and Executive Director of the Theodore Roosevelt Association, Terry Brown.

ASSEMBLYMAN LAVINE HOSTS 1ST ANNUAL PRESIDENTS' DAY ESSAY CONTEST

This past year, my office sponsored a Presidents' Day Essay Contest for schools in the 13th Assembly District. The 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students who participated wrote in detail about their favorite presidents. President Theodore Roosevelt was the overwhelming favorite with President Abraham Lincoln coming in 2nd place. It was a pleasure to visit all of the students who participated at the following schools:

- Bayville Elementary School
- Connolly Elementary School
- Glenwood Landing Elementary School
- Landing Elementary School
- Sea Cliff Elementary School



Assemblyman Lavine visited the Plainview-Old Bethpage Friends of the Library's annual Photography and Media Arts Exhibit. The artwork was created by students at John F. Kennedy High School and was truly incredible. Pictured are the members of Friends of the Library and the community's award-winning artists.



Assemblyman Lavine toured the wonderful Cold Spring Hills Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation in Woodbury, which employs over 1,000 people. The Center recently received 700 kilowatts of low-cost power as a part of the New York Power Authority's ReCharge New York program. Pictured are Cold Spring Hills Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation CEO Robert J. Baranello, Assemblyman Lavine, and National HealthCare Associates Director of Procurement and Materials Management Yosef Daskal.



Assemblyman Lavine was proud to present Glen Cove resident Phil Rizzo and Glen Cove City Councilman Tony Jimenez with proclamations for their service as rescue and recovery workers immediately following the attack on the World Trade Center on September 11.



Assemblyman Lavine views a presentation by the winners from Glenwood Landing Elementary School.



For the fifth straight year, high school and college students from Long Island are participating in our summer internship program. The structured program allows interns to gain the experience of working in a government environment with emphasis on serving Long Islanders. I meet with the intern class each week to discuss the challenges that must be met by our local, state and federal governments. Please don't tell the interns, but I learn far more from them than they learn from me. Those interested in applying to be part of the internship program may contact Harrison Feuer at feuerh@assembly.state.ny.us or at (516) 676-0050.

WORKING FOR LONG ISLAND cont'd



Assemblyman Lavine speaks to the students who participated in the essay contest at Bayville Elementary School.

STORIES FROM THE 13TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT



Assemblyman Lavine had a nice visit with Eddie Armstrong, owner of Armstrong Farms in Lattingtown. It was a great time seeing his vast property and the hundreds of chickens running around. According to Armstrong, his is the last chicken farm left in Nassau County. Armstrong Farms has served the community for over 70 years, since 1939, when it was then known as Armstrong Dairy and run by Eddie's father Frank. The farm, located on the former Guthrie Estate in Lattingtown, produces hundreds of eggs each day.



Assemblyman Lavine joined a group of truly dedicated Oyster Bay community members at the historic Pine Hollow Cemetery, which dates back to 1884, where lay many African-American veterans of the Civil War. The Assemblyman walked through the plans for the Pine Hollow Cemetery Restoration Project with Elliot Garrison and Reverend Kenneth Nelson of the Hood A.M.E. Zion Church. The cemetery was featured in the NBC show Who Do You Think You Are?, where Vanessa Williams traced her lineage from the Pine Hollow Cemetery to two of her great-great grandfathers, one of whom, David Carl, served in the Civil War, and another of whom, William A. Fields, served in the Tennessee House of Representatives.

If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to send me an email at lavinec@assembly.state.ny.us

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Albany 101

Regrettably, much of what goes on in our state and federal legislatures remains a mystery to far too many of us. To address this, I have a brief presentation entitled "Albany 101" designed to describe the legislative process in a practical way for community groups, social and civic organizations. Any group or organization interested in this presentation should contact Tara Butler-Sahai at either butlert@assembly.state.ny.us or at (516) 676-0050.