



**ASSEMBLYMAN**

**Fred W. Thiele, Jr.**



**Reports to the People**

# 2020 LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

During the 2020 Legislative Session, despite the disruption of the normal Session calendar as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, I passed 13 bills through the New York State Assembly. Of these, one has already been signed into law and eight will be sent to the Governor for final consideration.



## BOATING LIABILITY INSURANCE RATE REDUCTIONS

Owning and operating pleasure boats is one of the most popular pastimes on the East End, and for good reason. However, we must ensure the safety of our residents and visitors and help prevent future avoidable tragedies on the water. Legislation that I sponsored with Senator LaValle (A.5415-A/S.3688-A) will provide boat owners and operators with a liability insurance rate reduction upon completion of a boating safety course or an advanced boating safety course, and will ultimately make our waters a safer place for all. This bill has passed both Houses of the Legislature and will be delivered to the Governor for final consideration.

## EAST HAMPTON VOLUNTEER OCEAN RESCUE STATE DESIGNATION

A.7493/S.5571, one of my local priority bills that I sponsored with Senator LaValle, designates the East Hampton Volunteer Ocean Rescue and Auxiliary Squad (EHVOR) as an emergency rescue and first aid squad under the General Municipal Law. This special act provides official State recognition of the critical life-saving functions and services carried out by EHVOR and allows members to display green lights on motor vehicles when engaged in emergency operation. This bill has passed both Houses of the Legislature and will be sent to the Governor for his final action prior to the end of the year.

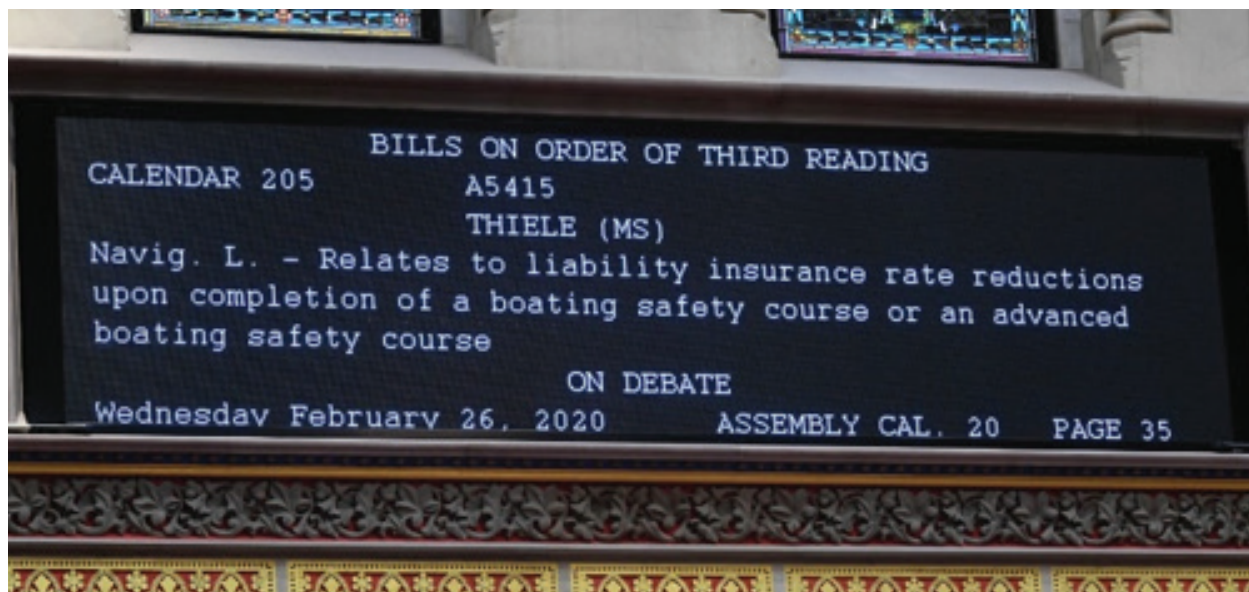
## PRESERVATION OF COMMUNITY CHARACTER AND MARITIME HERITAGE UNDER THE CPF

A.8195/S.6379, another local priority bill that I carried with Senator LaValle, amends the Peconic Bay Community Preservation Fund to protect and preserve the rich heritage of the maritime and agricultural industry that has long contributed to the beauty, character and economy of Long Island's East End. This legislation will be sent to the Governor at some point before the end of the year for his executive action.

## INCREASED OVERSIGHT OF LIPA

Millions of customers across Long Island depend on LIPA to meet their energy needs. A.8936 (same-as S.6868 by Senator Jim Gaughran) will bring LIPA in line with other utilities across the state and rightfully give the PSC the necessary authority to enforce audit recommendations and protect ratepayers from waste, fraud, and abuse.

*Continued on next page*



### Chamber Board A.5415

*My legislation, A.5415 to provide for boating liability insurance rate reductions, came to the floor of the Assembly for debate and a vote on February 26, 2020.*

# 2020 LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS continued



**Debating on Chamber Floor**  
*I debated my legislation to provide boating liability insurance rate reductions for those who take boater safety courses. February 26, 2020.*

## INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY UNDER MILITARY SERVICE

Registering as a military voter in New York State entitles persons serving in the military, including spouses and dependents, to receive an absentee ballot for all federal, state, and local elections. My legislation, Chapter 489 of the laws of 2019, extended such provisions to ballots for school elections. This year, I sponsored legislation with Senator Shelley Mayer (A.9076/S.7152) to ensure the provisions of military voting in school elections are extended to all five Federal Academies, this legislation amends the definition of “military service” to include the United States Merchant Marine Academy. This bill has passed both Houses and will be delivered to the Governor prior to the end of the year.



## VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION TASK FORCE

Volunteer firefighters serve not only an important function as first responders in the community they serve, but volunteers are often the first line of defense during a state-wide emergency,

like COVID-19. A.9779-A (same-as S.7589-B by Senator Jim Gaughran) would create the New York State volunteer firefighter recruitment and retention task force to provide the Governor and State Legislature with recommendations to assist in the recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters. This bill has passed both Houses of the Legislature and is awaiting delivery to the Governor.

## GUARANTEED LOSAP CREDITS FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER AND AMBULANCE WORKERS (CHAPTER #113 OF THE LAWS OF 2020)

Legislation that I sponsored with Senator Todd Kaminsky (A.10438A/S.8215B) has been signed into law to authorize length of service award program (LOSAP) sponsors to make adjustments to certain point systems used to calculate credits for volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance workers during the COVID-19 state disaster emergency. This will ensure that these dedicated volunteers rightfully receive adequate point credits despite COVID-19 related restrictions placed on personnel response and training opportunities.

## INCREASED FINANCIAL AND BUDGETARY FLEXIBILITY FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

As Chair of the Assembly Local Governments Committee, I introduced legislation at the request of the New York State Comptroller to address the increased fiscal burden municipalities across the State are facing as they continue to operate and provide critical services during the COVID-19 pandemic, A.10492 (same as S.8417 by Senator Liz Krueger). If signed into law by the Governor, my legislation will provide much needed financial and budgetary flexibility to local governments during the pandemic and its aftermath by extending the rollover period for bond anticipation notes, authorizing local governments and school districts to utilize reserved funds for COVID-19 expenses and extending the repayment time frame of inter-fund loan advances made for COVID-19 expenses.

# INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

I have tirelessly advocated for the paving of the Sag Harbor Golf Course Road and, at long last, this essential reconstruction project is finally moving forward. This project will be funded by a \$375,000 grant that I secured in the 2018 State Budget for road paving work and other necessary improvements to the Sag Harbor State Golf Course. Sag Harbor Golf Course Road will be repaved from NY114 to the Sag Harbor Golf Clubhouse, with construction expected to begin this fall.

Over the years, I have repeatedly called for the resurfacing of NY114, one of the most heavily traveled corridors on the East End of Long Island. As traffic volumes have continued to grow exponentially, the increased volume has taken its toll on the road surface. I am thrilled to announce that earlier this year the repaving of Route 114 from Stephen Hands Path to the South Ferry was approved. The planning and design will begin this year, and the work is scheduled to begin in 2021.



## Monster Pole Rally

*I was proud to stand up on behalf of Eastport residents to call for the removal of the PSEG-LI “monster poles” that lined Eastport Manor Road in Eastport, on an approximately 1-mile stretch between Sunrise Highway and Montauk Highway. The tireless efforts of Senator LaValle and myself, the Town of Brookhaven, and the community have finally paid off. I thank PSEG-LI for their cooperation and for responding to our many concerns through the rightful removal of these poles and undergrounding of the transmission lines.*

The New York State Department of Transportation (DOT) is expected to begin construction on a westbound NY27 over Barnes Road Bridge repair project in early 2023. Previously, the funding for this project had been allocated for the construction of a NY27 interchange at Barnes Road in Manorville. However, the community’s opposition to the interchange project was heard, and it was important that this funding be reallocated to a new project within the community. This repair project will enhance public safety and improve the riding surface of the Barnes Road Bridge.

The resurfacing of NY27 in Montauk, from South Etna Avenue to Montauk Point has been approved by The New York State Department of Transportation (DOT). This project will rehabilitate the pavement by removing the deteriorated asphalt riding surface, repairing any damage to the underlying base pavement, resurfacing with a new asphalt riding surface, and installation of new pavement markings. I want to thank NYSDOT for acting to resurface NY27 from Montauk Village to the Lighthouse with bids scheduled to begin in March of 2021.



## Local Governments Committee Joint Budget Hearing

*On February 10, I co-chaired the Joint Legislative Budget Hearing on Local Governments and heard testimony from local elected officials and organizational leaders from across the state to better inform our State budget decisions.*



## NYSAC Steve Acquario in Albany Office

*As the Chair of the Assembly Local Governments Committee, it is always a pleasure to meet with Stephen J. Acquario, Esq., Executive Director of New York State Association of Counties. I look forward to our continued work together on behalf of New York’s counties and local governments.*

# LOCAL GOVERNMENTS COMMITTEE

This has been my second Legislative Session serving as the Chairman of the Assembly Committee on Local Governments. The Local Governments Committee considers the legislative needs of New York State’s local governments, including counties, cities, towns, villages, school districts, fire districts, and various other special districts and local agencies. As a former Town Attorney, Town Supervisor, and County Legislator, I know that now more than ever, the interests of New York’s local governments must be protected.

This year, the Assembly Local Governments Committee considered several pieces of important legislation, including bills to:

- ✓ Provide industrial development agencies (IDAs) with the flexibility to support small businesses and non-profits during public health emergencies (A.10294 Stirpe)
- ✓ Raise the revenue level at which fire departments are audited from \$300,000 to \$400,000 (A.10041 Gunther)
- ✓ Authorize the State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services to adopt regulations relating to proof of eligibility for volunteer firefighter enhanced cancer disability benefits (A.9065 Gunther)

# CONGRATULATIONS

The Village of East Hampton's history began on September 25, 1920, when residents voted, by a margin of 166 to 57, to break away from East Hampton Town. The Village of East Hampton has continued to play a significant role in the life of the community and the State of New York, and I join residents in celebrating this momentous occasion. Congratulations!

I was proud to sponsor a legislative resolution commemorating the Ladies Village Improvement Society (LVIS) of East Hampton upon the occasion of its 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The LVIS was formed in 1895 to maintain and preserve East Hampton's many historical landmarks and for the maintenance of ponds, parks, greens, and trees in the village and vicinity, as well as for charitable and educational improvement and the advancement of its general welfare. The LVIS continues to stay true to its mission and our community has been made better by its existence. I offer my sincere congratulations on this significant anniversary!



### Senator LaValle Retirement

For over 44 years, Senator Kenneth P. LaValle has been tirelessly serving the communities of the first Senatorial District of New York State. His leadership and dedication to his constituency spans longer than my entire career in public service. He has been my teacher, my mentor, my professional colleague and most of all, my friend. I wish him, and his wife Penny, all the best on his upcoming retirement. Congratulations!



### Valedictorians and Salutatorians

During my tenure as your State Assembly representative, I have consistently joined with Senator LaValle in personally congratulating each of the 1st Assembly District's high school valedictorians and salutatorians. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this ritual was held via ZOOM conference on June 2, 2020. Each student received a copy of a New York State Legislative Resolution that was formally adopted by the Assembly and Senate in recognition of these students' outstanding achievements.

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ASSEMBLYMAN

**Fred W.  
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**REPORTS TO THE PEOPLE**

SUMMER 2020

## There's Still Time to be Counted

As we work together to combat COVID-19, it is now more important than ever that we do our part to ensure that every New Yorker is counted. Conducted every 10 years, the Census provides information on every person living in the United States. This information helps with important political, economic and social decisions.

Our state receives \$53 billion in federal funding each year to support our hospitals, public schools, housing, transportation and other vital programs that keep our state moving. Each person not counted costs New York State thousands of dollars in federal aid each year.

The U.S. Census Bureau has extended the response deadline. If you have not already done so, please take a moment and go to [my2020census.gov](http://my2020census.gov) for more information on the Census questionnaire. It can be completed online, by phone or by mail. It's safe, secure and confidential. Your privacy and information are protected.

BE COUNTED.

CENSUS  
2020

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