



Assemblyman

# DAVID I. WEPRIN

## Reports to the Community

SUMMER 2013

*Serving the partial or entire communities of Briarwood, Bellerose, Bellerose Manor, Fresh Meadows, Glen Oaks, Hillcrest, Holliswood, Jamaica Estates, Jamaica Hills, Oakland Gardens, Queens Village, Richmond Hill, South Richmond Hill, and Utopia.*

### Assemblyman Weprin Celebrates Puerto Rican Heritage



*Assemblyman Weprin marches at the 56th Annual National Puerto Rican Day Parade.*

### Assemblyman Weprin Celebrates the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual National Night Out Against Crime



*Assemblyman Weprin congratulates Henry Sautner, Commanding Officer of the 102nd Precinct on being promoted to Deputy Inspector at the National Night Out Against Crime.*

### Assemblyman Weprin takes part in the Annual Schlep for Breast & Ovarian Cancer



*Assemblyman Weprin gathers at the starting line with participants of the 2013 Annual Schlep for Breast & Ovarian Cancer hosted by American Friends of Rabin Medical Center.*

### Assemblyman Weprin welcomes new executive director



*Assemblyman Weprin congratulates Yoel Lichstein, the new executive director at Margaret Tietz Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Jamaica Hills.*

## Assemblyman Weprin works to restore cuts made to the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities

*Issue is crucial to our most vulnerable New Yorkers and their families*

Assemblyman Weprin co-sponsored a bill that would restore up to \$90 million to the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) to help nonprofits who work with some of New York's most vulnerable people (A.6692-C).

This year's state budget restored \$30 million of \$120 million in proposed cuts to OPWDD funding. However, this restoration is still shy of what is needed to provide services to this vulnerable population, leaving a 4.5 percent cut totaling \$90 million. "OPWDD-funded not-for-profits provide life-changing services for those with developmental disabilities, helping them get the care and compassion they need to live a quality life," Assemblyman Weprin said. "Restoring the funding for these OPWDD services is vital. I'm thrilled that Governor Andrew Cuomo signed this legislation into law and safeguarded much-needed services for New Yorkers with developmental disabilities."



Dear Friends,

The 2013 state legislative session proved again that New York State has turned the corner toward building a brighter future. Working together with Governor Cuomo, we passed legislation that will boost our economy, create jobs and cut taxes. We also fought for equal rights, successfully restored funding to protect our most vulnerable citizens and raised the minimum wage.

This year marked the state's third consecutive on-time budget. The fiscal plan makes a commitment to putting more money in the pockets of working families by extending a middle-class personal income tax reduction for three more years, locking in the lowest rate in 60 years. Working families will benefit from the creation of a \$350 tax credit per child for families with incomes between \$40,000 and \$300,000, which will provide much-needed relief to parents and guardians across the state.

Our communities are only as strong as our schools – that's why I fought for the funding our schools need to provide a quality education. This year's budget invests in our children's future by giving our schools nearly a billion dollars in education funding. The budget also provides \$25 million in funding for full-day and half-day pre-kindergarten programs.

Some of the accomplishments of the 2013 legislative session include passing the most comprehensive gun safety law in the country in order to save lives and increasing penalties for repeat child abusers. We also assisted New Yorkers as they rebuild from the devastating effects of Superstorm Sandy and created a \$1 billion affordable housing program to preserve and create 14,300 affordable housing units, which will also create jobs and stabilize distressed areas.

Our work for the people of New York continues on and I remain committed to getting things done for Queens' hardworking families. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have via email at [weprind@assembly.state.ny.us](mailto:weprind@assembly.state.ny.us) or call me at 718-454-3027.

Sincerely,



David I. Weprin  
Member of Assembly

## Women of New York deserve full equality

**Assemblyman Weprin stands up for all 10 points in Women's Equality Act**



Assembly Members David Weprin, Deborah Glick and William Scarborough greet Ann Jawin (second from the right), Chair of The Center for Women of New York who works in conjunction with existing women's groups in Queens to help meet the needs of women.

The Assembly passed the full, 10-point Women's Equality Act (WEA) (A.8070) co-sponsored by Assemblyman Weprin. "It is important more than ever that we fight for the rights of New York women. The women of New York deserve action on all of their rights - not just some of them," Assemblyman Weprin said.

### **The Assembly Majority has long advocated for all 10 points of the Women's Equality Act:**

1. Protecting a woman's right to make decisions about her own body
2. Achieving pay equity
3. Stopping sexual harassment in the workplace
4. Strengthening human trafficking laws
5. Giving domestic violence victims better protections
6. Ending housing discrimination for domestic violence victims
7. Ending family status discrimination
8. Stopping pregnancy discrimination once and for all
9. Removing barriers to remedying discrimination
10. Stopping source-of-income discrimination

## **Assemblyman Weprin is hosting a Community Job Fair**

**Thursday, September 12, 2013**

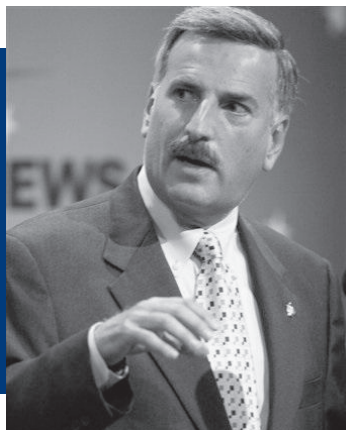
**11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

**Tolentine Hall**

**150-75 Goethals Avenue, Jamaica, NY 11432**

*(Parking Lot Is Accessible Via Union Turnpike)*

**For more information please call: 718-454-3027  
or email: [dosamantesc@assembly.state.ny.us](mailto:dosamantesc@assembly.state.ny.us)**



**Assemblyman Weprin appointed as Chairman of the Assembly Subcommittee on Banking in Underserved Communities**

## Assemblyman Weprin fights to bring early voting to New York

*Reform will lead to greater participation in elections*

Assemblyman Weprin co-sponsored legislation that would strengthen the state's electoral process by instituting early voting in all general, primary and special elections in New York (A.689-A).

"Voting is a fundamental right in our democracy, and we have to find ways to get more people involved in the process," Assemblyman Weprin said. "Unfortunately, less than 46 percent of New York voters cast their vote on Election Day 2012. The Assembly's legislation would provide voters with more opportunities to cast their ballots. Increasing voter participation is extremely important to me because it will make our democracy more representative."

Under the bill, early voting would begin on the third Thursday prior to a general election and go right up until the Thursday before Election Day, providing voters with a two-week time frame to cast their ballots. In the case of a primary or special election, early voting would run from the second Thursday before regular voting until the Thursday prior to the actual election date, giving voters up to a week of early voting. Early voting polls would be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. each weekday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends.

### Assemblyman Weprin meets with St. John's University Students in Albany!



*Assemblyman David Weprin meets with St. John's University students in the Assembly Chamber on their group visit to the Capitol.*

### Assemblyman Weprin guest stars at the Big Apple Circus in Cunningham Park



*Assemblyman Weprin cameos as the ringmaster of the Big Apple Circus at Cunningham Park. Here, he poses with the daily ringmaster John Kennedy Kane, at the circus.*

### Assemblyman Weprin presents Assembly resolution to National Spelling Bee Champion!



*Assemblyman David Weprin presents an Assembly resolution to the 2013 National Spelling Bee Champion and Bayside resident, Arvind V. Mahankali.*

## Assemblyman Weprin pushes for Alice's Bill to become law

Assemblyman Weprin has been tirelessly fighting to ensure that legislation which cracks down on staged auto accidents becomes law. The legislation known as, "Alice's Law," named after Alice Ross, would make staged accidents a stand-alone crime (A.756). More than ten years ago on March 22, 2003, Alice Ross, a 71-year-old grandmother was tragically killed in Bellerose by Waurd Demolaire who staged an auto accident to collect insurance money under the state's No-Fault Law.

A loophole in New York State's no-fault insurance laws has led to a dramatic increase in the number



*Assemblyman Weprin joins New Yorkers Stand Against Insurance Fraud Spokesman David Schwartz to rally for the passage of Alice's Law to combat staged car crashes.*

of these staged accidents. In a study conducted in 2011 by the Insurance Research Council, almost 20% of all no-fault claims in 2010 had elements of fraud. New Yorkers have paid an estimated \$1 billion in extra auto insurance premiums over the past five years because of these scams. Alice's Law seeks to close the loopholes in no-fault insurance fraud in New York. Slightly different versions of the bill passed both houses of the legislature this year, but Assemblyman Weprin is working to ensure consensus language is reached and the bill makes it to Governor's Cuomo's desk for signage.

## Assemblyman Weprin votes to curb distracted drivers

### Legislation increases penalties for young and new drivers who text while driving

Assemblyman Weprin announced that Governor Andrew Cuomo signed legislation he co-sponsored into law that will improve highway safety by increasing penalties on young and new drivers who text while driving.

The legislation would increase penalties for texting or using a cell phone while driving on two different categories of permits and licenses, including:

#### Probationary licenses:

- first offense is a 60-day license suspension; and
- second offense, if within six months of getting the license back, is a six-month license revocation.

#### Junior permits or licenses:

- first offense is a 60-day license suspension; and
- second offense, if within six months of getting the permit or license back, is a 60-day permit or license revocation.

From 2005-2011, there has been an approximate 143 percent increase in cell phone-related crashes in New York State, Assemblymember Weprin noted.



Assemblyman David Weprin said, "As a staunch advocate for consumer and drivers' safety, the health and safety of all New Yorkers takes primary importance to me. I co-sponsored Assembly Bill A.7739 with Assemblyman Edward Hennessey because cracking down on texting-while-driving will prevent accidents in New York State that are avoidable."

## Assemblyman Weprin passes legislation to safeguard insured homeowners from unfair business practices by public adjusters

Assemblyman Weprin sponsored legislation that would clearly establish conflict of interest standards to ensure that public adjusters work for the benefit of insured homeowners when settling or negotiating an insurance claim (A.6786-B).

The legislation extends the state's insurance laws by prohibiting public adjusters from receiving any additional fee or payment other than what was stated in the financial agreement. In addition, the public adjusters or their close family relatives cannot have any financial interests in the work or repairs associated with the insurance claim unless the financial arrangement is clearly disclosed and acknowledged by the insured homeowners in writing. The bill

also establishes a heightened standard of conduct for public adjusters and allows the Department of Financial Services to suspend or revoke a license of a public adjuster if they have violated the law.

"We need stricter conflict of interest standards incorporated in to the state's insurance laws to protect homeowners from the unjust practices of public adjusters acting on behalf of their own financial interests rather than on behalf of their clients," Assemblyman Weprin stated. "This legislation strengthens protections that countless homeowners in New York depend on when negotiating or settling insurance claims."

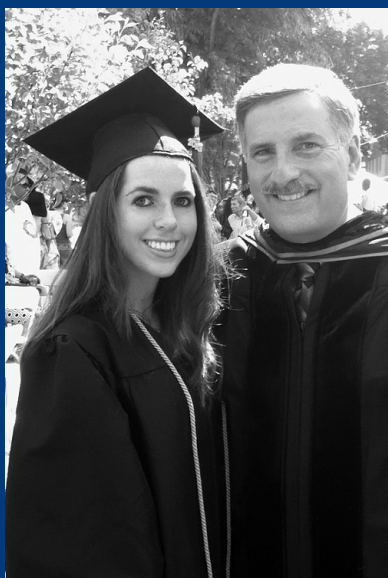
## Sweeping election reform measure tackles NY's campaign finance system

### Public financing of elections will help average citizens

Assemblyman Weprin co-sponsored the 2013 Fair Elections Act to help reform New York's campaign finance system. The bill, which would cover statewide offices, state legislative offices and constitutional convention delegates, establishes optional public financing of elections, creates the Fair Elections Board – an independent enforcement entity – and increases disclosure of independent expenditures (A.4980-C).

"This landmark reform legislation will restore confidence in our democratic process," Assemblyman Weprin said. "With more citizens participating in the process we'll truly empower voters. Full disclosure of independent expenditures would also give voters a better idea of who is really behind the campaign messages they see."

## Proud father celebrates graduation at Queens College



Assemblyman Weprin congratulates graduate Stephanie Weprin and the Class of 2013 at the 89th Queens College Commencement Ceremony.

## Assemblyman Weprin congratulates the new President of Queensborough Community College



Assemblyman Weprin attends the inauguration of Queensborough Community College's fifth and first woman President, Dr. Diane Bova Call.

## Assemblyman Weprin gathers with members of the Riders Alliance to call on the MTA to restore bus services with additional funds!



The state budget increases transit subsidies by more than \$358 million — \$40 million more than the MTA anticipated in its own budget. Assemblyman Weprin gathers with members of the Riders Alliance to demand the MTA use \$40 million dollars in additional funds to restore and bolster service.

## Assemblyman Weprin holds vigil for the Bangladeshi building collapse



Assemblyman Weprin gathers with members of the community in a moment of silence for victims of the Bangladeshi building collapse this past May. The final death toll stands at 1127.

## Assemblyman Weprin holds candlelight vigil on the first anniversary of the Oak Creek Temple shooting



Assemblyman Weprin and members of the community stood together in solidarity to remember the victims of the Wisconsin Massacre and spread awareness on hate crimes.