

Assemblyman Kenneth P. Zebrowski Fighting for Rocklanders



67 North Main Street, New City, NY 10956 • 845-634-9791 637 LOB, Albany, NY 12248 • 518-455-5735 • zebrowskik@assembly.state.ny.us

Providing Property Tax Relief for Homeowners

Assemblyman Zebrowski continues to advocate for programs that will bring property tax relief to Rockland homeowners. Last session, he supported new initiatives and fought to ensure current programs remained in place.

- Ken successfully fought the Governor's proposal to freeze STAR benefits.
- He supported the creation of a new STAR rebate program that will begin in 2016 which provides middle class residents with a rebate based on their STAR exemption.
- New York State is now in the second year of the property tax freeze credit program that reimburses homeowners for increases in municipal and school taxes. Eligible residents should expect a tax freeze check over the next few months.
- Ken supported extending the tax cap law to 2019 with some changes to better help school districts with rising costs.

Securing State Funds to Invest in New Projects

Ken is always working to advocate for state funds for Rockland's towns and municipalities. Most recently, Assemblyman Zebrowski was successful in securing several grants for Clarkstown in order to improve infrastructure.

- Assemblyman Zebrowski secured a \$250,000 grant for paving projects to improve local roads.
- \$500,000 in infrastructure funding for Clarkstown Police, including a roof replacement.



Cracking Down on Illegal Housing

For years, Assemblyman Zebrowski has been a leader in the fight to end the pervasive lack of code enforcement in certain municipalities throughout Rockland. Ken has called on the Department of State to take action and conduct investigations into blatant violations seen in various buildings and non-public schools. Recently, there has been some progress:

- In October, the State Division of Building Standards and Codes issued an order to the Village of Spring Valley to immediately inspect buildings and non-public schools that have fire and safety code violations after finding that there has been a widespread failure of code enforcement.
- Assemblyman Zebrowski believes the State must also investigate the many violations in the Town of Ramapo. He has started a petition urging the Secretary of State to immediately open an investigation and ensure the safety of buildings before there is a tragedy (Petition can be found at: http://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/Kenneth-Zebrowski).
- Nen has also been in contact with the State Education Department (SED) to ensure the safety of non-public schools in the County. In October, SED provided a list showing that 46% of non-public schools in Rockland have not filed an annual fire safety report (FSR) in any of the last three years. In response to these troubling statistics, he has formally requested that SED work with our fire officials to have all of these schools immediately inspected. Assemblyman Zebrowski has also written legislation that would withhold state funding to schools that do not comply with FSR requirements (A2847).

Welcoming the Assembly Speaker to the 96th District

In October, Assemblyman Zebrowski welcomed Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie to Rockland as a part of his tour of the State. Ken wanted to show the Speaker the many accomplishments in Rockland, and inform the Speaker of some challenges Rockland is facing before the start of the legislative session.

Highlights of the tour included:

- Toured the Nanuet Outdoor Education Center with the Superintendent, teachers, and students. Students explained how their innovative educational program incorporates agriculture and culinary arts. Assemblyman Zebrowski was also able to secure a \$100,000 grant for the Center for a kitchen to improve their culinary program.
- Viewed Clarkstown's Transit-Oriented Development plan for the Nanuet Train Station. The Supervisor and members of the Town Board unveiled proposed improvements to the train station and downtown area which will spur economic development.
- Attended a demonstration of Rockland's new text-to-911 technology. The Speaker and Assemblyman Zebrowski met with the Sheriff at the County Emergency Command Center to discuss Rockland's "Text 911" technology that allows residents to communicate with police via text message in case of an emergency.



Assemblyman Kenneth P. Zebrowski Fighting for Rocklanders

Dear Neighbor:

As your New York State Assemblyman I am constantly fighting for property tax relief, economic development and our fair share of state aid.

In this mailer, you will find an update on some positive initiatives that I have spearheaded and supported over the past few months. I look forward to heading back up to Albany in January and continuing to advocate for Rocklanders during the next legislative session.

As always, feel free to contact my office with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Ken Zebrowski