



Assemblymember PATRICIA A. FAHY

COVID-19 Update – 109th Assembly District



Spring 2020

The last few weeks and months have been both extraordinary in terms of the disruption COVID-19 has suddenly caused to our lives, and tragic as New York continues to bear the brunt of the national outbreak. Despite this, the state government and legislature continue to respond to the needs of New Yorkers, including right here in the Capital Region. Early on in this crisis, the legislature enacted Paid Sick Leave for those affected by COVID-19 and appropriated \$40 million in immediate emergency funds. Shortly thereafter, facing a large revenue shortfall compounded by COVID-19, we passed a state budget that included expanded unemployment insurance (UI) benefits for COVID-19 affected workers, the Environmental Bond Act, a ban on flavored e-cigarettes, and a host of other accomplishments.

Recently, I've co-hosted several weekly virtual town halls with my colleague Assemblymember John McDonald that have brought experts and professionals directly in conversation with constituents on

a variety of COVID-19 related issues. I've worked to ensure that my office is communicating timely updates, information, and resources to constituents in order to keep you apprised of the most critical updates through our regular emails and social media. Several of you have already used my office as a resource throughout this crisis and I encourage you to do so with any questions you might have regarding unemployment insurance, job and career resources, small business assistance, SSI or federal stimulus payment help, and more, at the contact info on page 3. I am honored to represent each of you in the New York State Assembly and I look forward to navigating this crisis together as we work to ensure the Capital Region's communities and economy rebound from this crisis stronger than ever before.

Stay healthy,

NY Tough – Combating the Spread of COVID-19

I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues in the state legislature to ensure that our recovery works from the bottom up and that we act based on science and facts, not fear. Any federal recovery plan or stimulus package will need to include financial assistance for New York State to effectively fund local governments, our public schools, and a continued, effective response to our serious economic challenges as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.



To the Class of 2020:

A special congratulations to the Class of 2020. While your graduation may be remote, you are no less celebrated!



Delivering NYS Hand Sanitizer: In May, I delivered a supply of NYS hand sanitizer to the Albany Boys & Girls Club, as well as the Central Ave. BID (pictured), where constituent Gary Turner and member of the STEAM Garden's Clean Team helped us distribute the materials!

Our Push for a 21st Century— Works Progress Administration (WPA)

Two dozen of my colleagues in the Assembly signed my letter to New York's Congressional Delegation, urging them to include a new, modern-day WPA jobs program as part of their priorities in upcoming stimulus legislation or future recovery strategies. In an op-ed published by *The Altamont Enterprise* ('The Case for a 21st-Century WPA – We Must Be Bold As Well As Practical') and the *Albany Business Review* ('It's Time for a New Works Progress Administration'), I urge for a return to what worked in the 1930s and to launch an immediate, short-term 21st-Century WPA. Over 1.5 million people in New York State are out of work, and the United States economy is in disarray on a scale that our nation has not seen since the 1930s. Let's establish a new WPA in the next federal stimulus package without delay and focus on millennials as they are bearing the brunt of the economic fallout. I will continue to push for such an initiative as we continue to discuss the next steps on the road to what must be a smart and broad economic recovery. I've introduced legislation (A.10480/Fahy) on this as well as the WPA-Pandemic Recovery Act, sponsored by Senator Rachel May in the state Senate.

Support Our Small Businesses and Main Streets

It is vital that, especially now, we support our local small businesses and Main Streets — the lifeblood of our communities, however we can, so I've highlighted a number of local restaurants and eateries in the 109th District, including the Savoy Taproom, Sukhothai, Healthy on Lark, El Loco Mexican Cafe, and more! Check out this link for restaurants in the region offering takeout and delivery:

<https://capitalregionchamber.com/coronavirus-covid-19-information-and-resources/>



Buying Local Now More Than Ever: Speaking with WTEN (Channel News 10) outside El Loco Mexican Cafe about the importance of small businesses in our communities and local economies.

State Resources

Unemployment Insurance

In March, I joined my colleagues in expanding critical unemployment insurance (UI) benefits to workers affected by COVID-19 through job loss, quarantine, or other variables, to provide working families with critical financial assistance. To apply for UI benefits, call 1-888-209-8124 or visit labor.ny.gov/unemploymentassistance.shtm. The federal CARES Act provides enhanced UI benefits and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) for New Yorkers, including an extra \$600/week in benefits. Visit labor.ny.gov/ui/cares-act.shtm to learn more. If you have questions or need help with your UI claim, please don't hesitate to reach out to my office.

Federal CARES Act

Part of the federal stimulus package passed this year authorizes recovery checks for U.S. taxpayers, which are being sent out now. If you have not received your check, visit www.irs.gov/coronavirus/economic-impact-payments.

Small Business Assistance

Small business is the backbone of our communities. I will continue to advocate for additional small business relief from the federal government with my colleagues in the state legislature moving forward, and encourage you to support our local small businesses now more than ever. Small businesses are eligible for \$33.8 billion in emergency loans to help retain employees through the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). Go here for more info: www.sba.gov/page/coronavirus-covid-19-small-business-guidance-loan-resources.

New Sick and Paid Leave Benefits

As part of the state's response to COVID-19 in March, I was proud to vote on a new state law that extended paid sick leave and benefits to isolated or quarantined workers as a result of COVID-19 infection. To learn how much you might qualify for, visit paidfamilyleave.ny.gov/COVID19.

Critical Resources

New York State Department of Health:

888-364-3065 | www.ny.gov/coronavirus

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/whats-new-all.html

NYS Mental Health Hotline:

For free and confidential emotional support, consultation and referral to a local provider, call: 1-844-863-9314

New York State Domestic Violence Hotline:

1-800-942-6906

Child Care Resources for Parents and Providers:

www.ocfs.ny.gov/programs/childcare

Election Information and Updates:

elections.ny.gov

518 Strong – Charting the Capital Region’s Recovery

The Capital Region has shown its best during this crisis and risen to the challenges presented to our community together, and we’ll continue to do so as we emerge from this crisis. I’ve hosted several virtual town halls, each on various topics to bring resources directly and digitally to constituents. These are available to view online on my official Facebook page: facebook.com/AssemblymemberPatriciaFahy. Below is also a list of 518 resources and organizations that are available to you.



Pre-COVID19: BYOB (Bring Your Own Bag) Awareness Press Conference with Local Elected Officials at Crossgates Mall, including Albany County Legislators Dennis Feeney, Dustin Reidy, and County Legislature Chair Andrew Joyce.

Virtual Transitional Town Halls

‘A Roadmap to Reopening: Looking Towards Your Businesses’ Next Steps’ A discussion with local Chamber of Commerce Presidents on reopening the local and NYS economy, protocols, and procedures businesses might take as they look toward a healthy, sustainable return to business, including a brief conversation about New York’s long-term economic picture.

‘Career Transitioning and Job Search During COVID-19’ A panel of job experts and career professionals joined us to discuss adjusting your career transition or job search amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

‘NYS Nonprofits: COVID-19’s Impact and the Path Forward’ A group of 518 nonprofit directors joined us for a discussion on COVID-19’s impact on Capital Region’s nonprofit agencies/organizations and the path forward in a rapidly changing economy.

‘Small Business Survival Forum’ Small businesses, microenterprises, and start-ups are part of the lifeblood of the Capital Region economy — yet navigating the resources available during this crisis can be difficult, so we heard from local small business assistance experts on how owners can best secure that assistance.

‘Virtual Capital Region Town Hall: The NYS Budget’ As we did last year, Assemblymember McDonald and I held a virtual town hall to recap what was an extraordinary state budget process this year. We provided a summary of the recently enacted NYS budget, answered constituent questions, and discussed what’s ‘left to do’ in the remainder of the legislative session.

Local Resources

Childcare:

<https://cdymca.org/programs/child-care/>

School Meals:

<https://www.bgccapitalarea.org/covid-19-update>

Food Insecurity: thefoodpantries.org

CDTA Updates: <https://cdta.org/news/>

Free Legal Resources:

<https://lasnny.org/coronavirus-information/>

<https://legalproject.org/>

Job and Career Opportunities:

<https://tinyurl.com/rssxokv>

At-Home Educational Resources:

<https://www.wmht.org/homeclassroom/>

Housing and Eviction FAQ: [Utalbany.org](https://www.ualbany.org)

United Way Volunteer Opportunities – Where You’re Needed Most:

<https://www.unitedwaygcr.org/volunteer>

Small Business Assistance:

Albany Small Business Development Center:

<http://www.nyssbdc.org/centers/centers.aspx?centid=10>

Phone: (518) 380-5077

Follow Me for the Latest NYS COVID-19 Updates

Follow me for the latest COVID-19 updates, information, and resources on:

 **Facebook:** [@AssemblymemberPatriciaFahy](https://facebook.com/AssemblymemberPatriciaFahy)

 **Twitter:** [@PatriciaFahy109](https://twitter.com/PatriciaFahy109)

Assembly Page: nyassembly.gov/mem/Patricia-Fahy

or contact my office with any questions.

Let's Move! Pat's Pointers for Staying Physically Active & Mentally Sharp During COVID-19:

Staying Active During the Shutdown: I try to integrate exercise into my daily routine by biking to the office whenever I can — and greening my commute in the process!

Let's face it, even in the best of circumstances, it's hard to remember to keep ourselves moving — yet even a few minutes a day makes a difference in our overall well-being! So, I thought I'd share a few tips and some free exercise videos in this guide: <https://tinyurl.com/patspointerscovid>.



New York State Assembly • Albany, New York 12248

PRSRT STD.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Albany, New York
Permit No. 75



Assemblymember
Patricia A.
FAHY
COVID-19 Update
Spring 2020

Assemblymember Patricia A. Fahy

Vice-Chair, Majority Steering Committee

Albany Office Staff:

Laura Rabinow – Chief of Staff • Jake Egloff – Legislative Director

Elissa Kane – Scheduler/Legislative Aide • Alex Flood – Communications Director
Room 452, Legislative Office Building

Albany, New York 12248 • 518-455-4178 • Email: fahyp@nyassembly.gov

www.facebook.com/AssemblymemberPatriciaFahy

www.twitter.com/PatriciaFahy109

Web: www.nyassembly.gov/mem/Patricia-Fahy

Census 2020

The Capital Region and New York needs a complete census count so we get our fair share of federal funding for everything from hospitals to our public schools. The national deadline to complete the census is August 14. Respond by mail, by phone or online. Visit my2020census.gov to fill out the questionnaire online, learn more, or contact my office with any questions.