



NEWS From Bill Magnarelli

April/May 2011

District: 333 East Washington St., Syracuse, NY 13202 (315) 428-9651 **Albany:** LOB 837, Albany, 12248 (518) 455-4826

120th Assembly District

Magnarw@assembly.state.ny.us

During this budget process, along with my colleagues in the New York State Assembly, I fought to restore some funding to key areas of the budget which directly affect residents' quality of life.

The 2011-2012 budget erases a \$10 billion deficit without raising taxes or incurring new debt. It brings spending to realistic levels supportable by economic growth, and it reduces the rate of growth in state spending and reduces out-year deficits by 86 percent over the next three years, virtually eliminating the state's structural deficit. It also calls for a 10 percent reduction in general fund operational costs. The \$132.9 billion budget is a 3.7 billion decrease from last year.

Education – I fought for restorations to soften the sharp cuts to education because our future economic growth depends on good public schools. We owe our children the best possible opportunities, which is why I supported a two year appropriation for school aid that provides for at least an \$800 million increase in next year's budget. The final 2011-2012 budget increases education funding by \$272 million over the executive budget proposal. The restorations include \$230 million for general support to public schools, bringing the total to \$19.6 billion in the 2011-12 school year.



Assemblyman Magnarelli, chair of the New York State Assembly's Standing Committee on Local Government, holds a joint budget conference meeting in Albany on March 21, 2011.

EPIC – Even in periods of economic strength, it is difficult for older New Yorkers on fixed incomes to make ends meet. In the aftermath of the economic downturn, it is especially important to make sure that seniors can afford to put food on the table and get the medicines they need. Providing premium assistance for lower income seniors preserves this vital life line for the thousands who depend on it. I helped ensure that the 2011-12 state budget restored \$22.3 million – a 65 % restoration – for lower income Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage participants' Medicare Part D premiums. Participants who were formerly in the comprehensive coverage portion of EPIC will continue to receive assistance in paying their Medicare Part D premiums.

Low-Cost Power – A long-term, low-cost power program is well overdue. Recharge New York is a sustainable and predictable energy program for businesses and not-for-profits designed to protect and create jobs and encourage new capital investments. The Power for Jobs program, which started in 1997, was only meant to be temporary. This new permanent solution will allow for strategic planning for local business owners and for those looking to relocate to our state, assuring them that low-cost energy won't just disappear.

Jobs – The 2011-12 budget strengthens the Excelsior Jobs program by enhancing tax credits and improving the program's responsiveness. Making our state more business friendly will attract new jobs and new capital to our state. This budget extends the program's tax benefit period from 5 to 10 years and provides a jobs tax credit equal to the product of gross wages paid and 6.85 percent. Over the next decade, the program will double, which will give businesses the stability they need and provide \$2.5 billion in total relief.

I am happy to have worked towards constructing this final budget which cuts state spending by more than \$3 billion over last year and closes the state's \$10 billion deficit, while restoring vital programs and focusing on job creation.

William B. Magnarelli



• **Salem Hyde's** fifth and sixth graders took part in Time Warner Cable's "Connect a Million Minds" Science Day at Syracuse's Center of Excellence. Assemblyman Magnarelli attended the event that kicked off a week-long campaign to motivate middle school students to learn more about science, technology and math.

The students took a tour of the LEED-Platinum designed building that houses the research and business offices for collaborations that focus on clean and renewable energy, indoor environmental quality, and water resources.



• **D**irectors of Syracuse's Turkish Cultural Center met with Assemblyman Magnarelli to talk about what the center offers the community. Halil Yavuz, executive director, said the non-profit organization, located at 320 Tracy Street, offers information about Turkish culture, as well as a meeting place for local residents of Turkish descent. They are dedicated to educating and informing the public and exchanging cultural diversity through sponsorship of different social gatherings.

• **S**tudents from the OCM BOCES Puerto Rican Hispanic Youth Leadership Institute recently visited Assemblyman Magnarelli in Albany. The group meets regularly to develop leadership skills, learn about the legislative process and responsible citizenry, and create opportunities to interact with elected officials.

The visit to Albany was part of a three-day weekend retreat in which over 200 students from across the state assembled to debate key bills and hold a mock assembly.



Pictured above are: Sally Doran, Coordinator, Sofia Escobed Tejada, Ofelia Anamaria, Michael Cutipa, Anibai Rosario, Bianca Gonzalez, Tanisha Huertas, Jordan Ramos, Marie Mauboussin, HYLI/Ithaca City School District, Nichole Scheu, Claritxa Aguirre, Silvia Perez, Brendalise Rosado, and Yesenia Reynoso

Exciting news about the CNY Veterans Parade!

In an effort to best satisfy the needs of the veterans participating in the parade and those attending the event, the parade will be moving to the **New York State Fairgrounds** at noon, Saturday, Nov. 5, 2011 and will be accompanied by a veterans' themed EXPO at the Center of Progress Building.

The New York State Fairgrounds offers the perfect "Main Street USA" venue for an expanded family oriented event. Veterans and their families will be able to experience hands-on military and veterans exhibitions, visit the memorials dedicated to all branches of the military and celebrate our patriotism.

Parade participants and watchers will enjoy better parking, buildings for shelter, and a familiar place to gather.

For more information, to volunteer or to register for the **CNY Veterans Parade and Expo** on **Nov. 5, 2011**, please contact Diana LaMattina Abdella at abdellad@assembly.state.ny.us.



• **A**ssemblyman Magnarelli gave the keynote address at the CNY New York State Building Officials 6th Annual Educational Conference on April 7, 2011. He spoke about the important role that code enforcement plays in the well being of our cities, towns and villages.

Left to right: Ed Cusato (2nd VP, NYSBOC), Bernie English (1st VP of Central Chapter NYSBOC), Robert Drexler (President of the NYS Codes Coalition), Assemblyman Magnarelli, Wayne Cichon (President of NYSBOC), Jim Morganson (1st VP of NYSBOC), Neal Smith (President of Central Chapter NYSBOC), Jody Nolan (1st VP of the NYS Fire Marshals and Inspectors Association) and Dorothy M. Harris Vice President, State and Local Government Relations of International Code Council, Inc.)



About New York State Assemblyman William B. Magnarelli

Assemblyman William Magnarelli represents the 120th Assembly District, which includes the Northside, Westside, Eastwood and Valley areas of the City of Syracuse, as well as the towns of Geddes and Van Buren. He first won election in 1998 for an open Assembly seat and was reelected in 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008 and 2010. During his previous six terms in office, Assemblyman Magnarelli has focused his efforts on bringing more jobs to Central New York, lowering taxes, providing our children a better education at every level, improving our healthcare and keeping our families safe. For more information, contact Assemblyman Magnarelli's District Office at (315) 428-9651 or visit <http://www.assembly.state.ny.us/magnarelli>.