



NEWS

From Bill Magnarelli

March 2014

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Constituent Survey Results

Earlier this year, a survey was sent out to all constituents in the 129th District asking for feedback on some pressing issues that will be debated by the New York State Assembly this session. Below are the results. Almost 1,500 surveys were returned. The percentages below do not add up to 100%, as some respondents didn't answer all questions.

1. Do you believe there should be national standards (Common Core) defining what children should learn at each grade level K-12?

	All	Syracuse	VanBuren	Geddes
Y%	57	59	54	54
N%	37	35	39	41

2. Do you believe the Common Core standards were implemented in our schools properly?

	All	Syracuse	VanBuren	Geddes
Y%	10	11	10	8
N%	78	76	80	80

3. If the criteria for teacher evaluations could be fairly equalized between urban, suburban and rural areas, do you favor awarding teachers rated "highly effective" with a bonus of up to \$20,000?

	All	Syracuse	VanBuren	Geddes
Y%	28	33	19	21
N%	67	60	76	75

4. Do you favor Universal full-day pre-kindergarten access for all children throughout New York?

	All	Syracuse	VanBuren	Geddes
Y%	68	72	56	66
N%	29	25	41	32

5. Do you favor providing medical marijuana in 20 designated hospitals throughout NYS to qualified eligible patients?

	All	Syracuse	VanBuren	Geddes
Y%	68	69	64	67
N%	29	27	33	29

6. Do you favor increasing the age at which a person is charged as an adult for all crimes from 16 to 18?

	All	Syracuse	VanBuren	Geddes
Y%	29	31	28	25
N%	65	63	66	70

7. Do you support the natural-gas drilling process known as "hydrofracking"?

	All	Syracuse	VanBuren	Geddes
Y%	30	25	38	37
N%	65	69	56	59

8. Do you support the proposed "DREAM Act" (A. 2597) which would allow undocumented children of illegal immigrants to apply for state financial aid as well as provide private scholarships?

	All	Syracuse	VanBuren	Geddes
Y%	30	38	16	20
N%	65	57	79	77

9. Do you support "Campaign Finance Reform" if it included using tax dollars to publicly finance political campaigns?

	All	Syracuse	VanBuren	Geddes
Y%	35	38	33	30
N%	60	56	62	67

10. Do you favor the state instituting a "circuit breaker" that would provide property tax relief for home owners based on their household income?

	All	Syracuse	VanBuren	Geddes
Y%	72	75	67	69
N%	21	18	23	23

11. Do you favor "Estate Tax Reform" to protect family farms and small businesses in order to eliminate the incentive for individuals to move and to transfer wealth to other states?

	All	Syracuse	VanBuren	Geddes
Y%	80	78	82	86
N%	12	13	11	8

12. Do you favor decreasing corporate taxes for upstate manufacturers?

	All	Syracuse	VanBuren	Geddes
Y%	59	57	65	65
N%	33	35	30	29

13. Do you favor a \$2 Billion proposal to use bonds to provide technological improvements in our schools?

	All	Syracuse	VanBuren	Geddes
Y%	59	62	55	56
N%	33	29	38	37

14. It has been 1 year since the NYS SAFE Act has required stricter gun control measures. Do you view this law favorably?

	All	Syracuse	VanBuren	Geddes
Y%	54	60	42	48
N%	40	35	51	46

Assembly Budget Passes

On March 12, 2014, the New York State Assembly passed its one-house Budget proposal, in response to Governor Cuomo's executive budget proposal released in January 2014. To view the Assembly budget proposal details, go to (assembly.state.ny.us/Reports/WAM/20140312/)

Assemblyman Bill Magnarelli, Chair of the Committee on Local Governments said, "Our house budget recognizes that state aid to local governments cannot remain flat for another year as it has for the last several years. We in the Assembly are committed to a state budget that includes funding levels that can appropriately address the many financially distressed municipalities who are in need of additional state assistance."

The Assembly budget proposal would increase funding for education, protect vital programs for families in need, spur job growth and provide tax relief for working families and businesses.

Education:

- Increases aid to schools by nearly \$1.1 billion for SFY 2014-15, the largest increase in six years;
- The Assembly's proposal is the first step in a multi-year plan that would provide schools with an increase of approximately \$1 billion annually over each of the next four years;
- Expands the \$2 billion Smart School Bond Act proposal by an additional \$302 million;
- Provides an additional \$11 million to nonpublic schools, which includes \$5 million to address prior year claims for the Comprehensive Attendance Policy (CAP) program, for a total of \$153.8 million;
- Includes a \$300 increase in New York's Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) awards, bringing the maximum TAP award to \$5,300 per full-time student and increasing TAP support by \$47 million;
- Funds are allocated to restore SUNY and child care centers, invest in SUNY health science centers and increase aid to higher education opportunities programs.

VOTING RECORD

How Assemblyman Bill Magnarelli voted on other legislative issues:

VOTED ISSUE

Yes To delay the effects of Common Core high-stakes testing (A.8929).

No To extend college scholarship money to undocumented immigrants, legislation called the Dream Act.

Yes Women's Equality Act (A.8070), the act contains 10 reforms to bring fairness to the women of New York.

Yes To allow early voting in New York (A.689-A), currently 32 other states and the District of Columbia allow early voting.



Above: Assemblyman Magnarelli held four Community Information Nights prior to voting on the budget so that constituents could voice their opinions and concerns.

Left: Assemblyman Magnarelli meets with community groups on a regular basis at both his district office in Syracuse and in Albany. Here, he is pictured with members of the Syracuse Community Health Center.

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Investing in full-day Universal Pre-K:

- The Assembly's budget proposal earmarks \$100 million in universal full-day Pre-K funding for high-need districts. Under the plan, any unspent funds would be placed in a reserve account which would be available to districts in following years.

Lowering taxes for homeowners and renters:

- The Assembly budget proposal delivers \$1.1 billion in property tax relief;
- The proposal would apply to homeowners making less than \$200,000 per year and would base property taxes on the ability to pay, not property value;
- Unlike the governor's budget proposal, there are no strings attached to our "circuit breaker" proposal;
- A locality's efforts to consolidate services or stay under the property tax cap would have no bearing on receiving a property tax cut;
- The Assembly budget rejects the governor's proposal to eliminate the income threshold inflation adjustment for Enhanced STAR eligibility. The Assembly will fight any proposal that limits seniors ability to qualify for Enhanced STAR relief;
- The Assembly budget also provides a personal income tax credit for renters. Renters with incomes up to \$200,000 would receive 60 percent of the excess of a portion of their rent paid over a certain percentage of income.

Making New York more affordable for families:

- The Assembly championed the phasing out of the 18-a utility surcharge on energy bills, which was set to end in 2017. Our proposal fast-tracks this plan, eliminating it entirely for residential customers this year, saving families \$200 million annually;
- The Assembly proposal would provide relief through revisions in the estate tax. The threshold for the tax would now apply to estates worth more than \$3 million.

Increase Aid to Municipalities:

- The Assembly budget would increase total funding for base level grants in the Aid and Incentives for Municipalities (AIM) Program to \$995 million, up from the Executive's \$715 million;
- Funding for the state's Financial Restructuring Board is also increased in the Assembly budget by \$40 million above the Executive Budget for a total of \$120 million;
- Under the Assembly budget plan, \$438 million is provided for CHIPS and \$39.7 million is allocated to the Marchiselli Program.

Around Town



On March 8, 2014, Assemblyman Magnarelli attended the annual Bhutanese Community Day, celebrated to commemorate the first arrivals of Bhutanese refugees for resettlement in Syracuse in March 2008.

Since 2008, the Bhutanese community population has grown to 2,500 in Syracuse including secondary migration from other states. There are approximately 75,000 Bhutanese residing throughout the United States. This year's celebration highlighted the fact that the first arrivals in 2008 have become US citizens.

Assemblyman Magnarelli is shown with Jai Subedi, President of the Bhutanese Community in Syracuse and with Bhutanese women adorned in traditional dress.



About New York State Assemblyman William B. Magnarelli

Assemblyman William Magnarelli represents the 129th 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, 2010 and 2012. 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>.