



NEWS

MARCH 2016

From Bill Magnarelli

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129th Assembly District

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2016 Constituent Survey Results are in!

Assemblyman Magnarelli mailed a constituent survey to every household in his district in January regarding legislation and topics of concern in this year's budget. Below are the responses from the 1,518 surveys received.

1. Do you agree with raising the NYS minimum wage to \$15 an hour by 2016 for New York City and by 2021 for rest of state?

Yes 51% No 47%

2. Do you agree with \$150 million in tax credits included in the state budget for parents who send their children to private schools?

Yes 32% No 66%

3. Do you agree that NYS should enact mandatory paid family leave, paid for via an employee 60 cents weekly payroll deduction?

Yes 53% No 40%

4. Do you agree with closing the Limited Liability Company (LLC) loophole so that LLC's no longer make unlimited secret campaign donations?

Yes 92% No 5%

5. Do you agree the state should strip pension payments from elected officials convicted of crimes related to their public office, regardless of when the official was first elected?

Yes 92% No 6%

6. Do you agree with requiring every county to establish voting sites where voters can cast votes up to 12 days before Election Day?

Yes 41% No 54%

7. Do you agree with making Mixed Martial Arts legal in NYS? (New York is the only state that bans MMA)

Yes 51% No 41%

8. Do you agree that daily Fantasy Sports gaming should be allowed in NYS?

Yes 33% No 60%

9. The "New York State Dream Act" would allow certain undocumented immigrants, here illegally, to be eligible for state financial aid for higher education. Do you agree with this proposal?

Yes 20% No 77%

10. Do you agree with changing state law to treat some 16 and 17 year-olds as juvenile offenders rather than adult criminals?

Yes 52% No 43%

11. This year a lot of information will be distributed regarding the merging or consolidation of the City of Syracuse and the County of Onondaga. The full report and a summary of the report can be viewed at www.consensusny.com?

32% a) Favor the idea

29% b) Oppose the idea

37% c) No opinion at this time

*Percentages don't add to 100 due to answers left blank on surveys received.

Celebrating Women's History Month and Continuing to Fight for Full Equality

We celebrate Women's History Month in March to appreciate how far women have come and to recognize there is always more we can accomplish in order to achieve true women's equality. Susan B. Anthony, leader of the women's rights movement in America, recognized that change can take time; however, progress is always worth it.

It took over 70 years for women to secure the right to vote – from the start of the battle for women's suffrage in 1848 until the ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920. It was strong women like Anthony who took action and didn't stop fighting until they achieved justice.

New York has long been a leader when it comes to advancing the rights of women. Beginning with the Seneca Falls Convention in 1848, to new women's equality laws that took effect this year, women's protections here in New York State are now stronger than ever.

This past year, New York took a major step forward and enacted laws to protect women on the job, including prohibiting employers from paying women less than men for performing similar work. For too long women have been underpaid, making a mere 78 cents for every dollar a man earns. We must keep working to achieve full pay equity.

Addressing several gaps in workplace protections, the measure gives women the right to discuss and share information about salaries and recover litigation costs when they're paid unequal wages. And because working mothers are often put at a disadvantage in areas of employment and promotion, employers are now prohibited from discriminating against employees based on family status.

The New York State Legislature also strengthened existing laws to help victims of human trafficking and domestic violence. We are all horrified by stories of girls and women who have suffered these heinous crimes. Under the new laws, victims will have better protections and perpetrators will face stronger penalties. Both of these measures will help victims to protect themselves, see justice done and put an end to criminal abuse and exploitation.

This month, as we celebrate the great strides women have made over the years, we must also recognize the need to continue to stand up for women's rights whenever possible.

CNY Hospitals awarded more than \$90 million

Assemblymembers William Magnarelli (D-Syracuse, Geddes, Van Buren), Al Stirpe (D-Cicero), and Pamela J. Hunter (D-Syracuse), announced the state's investment of more than \$90 million in four Central New York hospitals to upgrade and expand essential health care programs.

"Ensuring all Central New Yorkers have access to quality health care is a top priority in the fight to strengthen our communities," said Magnarelli. "These funds will help local hospitals improve their facilities and maintain financial stability so they can continue to provide the topnotch services our families deserve."

A total of \$1.55 billion has been allocated to two capital programs to improve health care facilities statewide, including \$1.2 billion for the Capital Restructuring Financing Program (CRFP) and \$355 million for the Essential Health Care Provider Support Program (EHCPSP). Together, the programs help strengthen and promote access to vital health services by improving infrastructure and supporting financial sustainable systems of care.

More than \$90 million of these funds has been awarded in the following amounts to Central New York health care facilities:

***More than \$70 million for Upstate University Hospital at SUNY Upstate Medical University to integrate ambulatory care;**

***\$20 million for St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center in Syracuse for debt restructuring and program reinvestment;**

***\$625,000 for Liberty Resources in Syracuse to expand its integrated services; and**

***\$342,164 for St. Camillus Residential Health Care Facility in Geddes to improve its information technology infrastructure.**

St. Patrick's Day Parade



Assemblyman Magnarelli took part in the Syracuse tradition of walking with other elected officials in the St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 12.

Music Money

Assemblyman Magnarelli visited the West Genesee School District during the Festival of Bands event to announce a \$150,000 state grant to purchase and replace musical instruments. Director of Fine Arts, Bill Davern, introduced Magnarelli to the 210 student musicians and their families, thanking him for his support of the West Genesee Music Program.



Above: Assemblyman Magnarelli addressed the audience at the March 3rd Festival of Bands event at West Genesee School District.

Left: Assemblyman Magnarelli, Superintendent Dr. Chris Brown, and Director of Fine Arts Bill Davern posed with high school band members prior to the concert.

Magnarelli to be Honored for Work on Youth Mental Health Awareness

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Syracuse will be honoring Assemblyman Magnarelli and Congressman Katko with the first Gentile Family Advocacy Award for their outstanding work on the Youth Mental Health Taskforce.

Joe Gentile was a force to be reckoned with. As a family member, he was a fierce advocate for individuals with psychiatric disorders and aggressively pushed for programs and services that would benefit them. President of NAMI Syracuse from 1992 to 2000, he also was a mediator between labor unions and New York State. When he was sure that his goals were correct, he knew how to use power in an efficient and pragmatic manner; he would not take "no for an answer." Joe died in 2011 at the age of 80.

The Youth Mental Health Taskforce was started in 2014 by Assemblyman Magnarelli in response to concerns his office received from the Syracuse Chapter of NAMI about the lack of inpatient youth mental health beds in Onondaga County. The Task Force is working with the Congressman, local advocates, county mental health directors and mental health care providers to identify issues facing youth mental health care in the area, and to identify solutions to these issues.

The "Gentile Family Advocacy Award" is for those who have advocated for mental health awareness. It will be presented during the NAMI Annual Conference during Mental Illness Awareness Week, which is the first full week of October.

Recent Advocacy Meetings



Members of Bryan and Stratton College met with Assemblyman Magnarelli to talk about higher education in this year's budget. Attending the meeting were Michael Stattler, Campus Director and Susan Cumoletti, Director of Syracuse Colleges. Also attending were two students: Nancy Felix, a criminal justice major attending the Syracuse campus, is completing her Internship at Interfaith Works of Central New York; and Holly Armstrong, a paralegal major attending the Liverpool campus, is completing her Internship at the Onondaga County District Attorney's office.



Assemblyman Magnarelli also met with members of the Onondaga County Farm Bureau. Those in attendance included Mark Tucker, John Lemondes, Brian Reeves of Reeves Farms in Baldwinsville and Nick Palladino of Palladino Farms of Pompey.



Student members of Syracuse University's Higher Education Opportunity Program met with Assemblyman Magnarelli to discuss support for Higher Education in this year's budget.

New York State Legislature Elects Three New Members to the Board of Regents

A local educator, Elizabeth Smith Hakanson, was one of three people named to the New York State Board of Regents. Ms. Hakanson was elected by the Legislature on March 8th and announced by Assembly Speaker Carl E. Heastie, Education Committee Chair Catherine T. Nolan and Higher Education Committee Chair Deborah J. Glick.

"Elizabeth is and always has been a forward thinking educator. She brings 32 years of experience to the Board of Regents. She has worked with learners from pre-school to adulthood. Elizabeth brings excellent mediation and relationship skills to the Board, with the ability to inspire others to outperform expectations. She has a proven record of designing, implementing and enhancing educational programming that is multi-cultural and involves diverse curriculum. Her experiences also include being a Fulbright Scholar, not once, but twice, and she has been a member of the panel that selects such scholars. Elizabeth knows the unique challenges our Upstate schools face," Magnarelli said.

Ms. Hakanson, the 5th Judicial District Regent, taught at the high school and middle school levels in the Syracuse City School District. Throughout her career in public education, she has been committed to designing, implementing and enhancing education in ways that inspire individuals to realize their full potential. From Syracuse University, Hakanson earned a M.S. in Student Personnel Administration in Higher Education, and an A.B. in Arts and Sciences and Education Social Studies.

The NYS Board of Regents was established in 1784 and is the oldest continuous state education entity in the United States. The Regents are responsible for the general oversight of all educational activities within the state, presiding over the State University of New York and the State Education Department.

Board members are elected to five-year terms by a joint session of the State Legislature. There is one Regent for each of the state's 13 Judicial Districts and four at-large members. Regents do not receive a salary for serving on the Board.

SAVE THE DATE

TBA – Progress Report

July 13 – Community Services on the Road, Ray Middle School, Baldwinsville

July 13 – Blood Drive, Ray Middle School

July 30 – Electronics Recycling Event, Baldwinsville Schools

Sept. 13 – CNY Volunteer Fair - DestinyUSA – 3 p.m.- 6:30 p.m.

Nov. 12 – CNY Veterans Parade and Expo – NYS Fairgrounds

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 re-elected in 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012 and 2014. During his 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>.