



# NEWS

April 2018

## From Bill Magnarelli

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### Investing in New York State Recent State Budget Creates Needed Changes

After intense negotiations, the New York State Budget passed before the April 1 deadline. The \$168.3 billion Budget holds spending growth to 2 percent, and closes the \$4.4 billion budget gap, avoiding spending increases and adding some measures to raise revenue.

The Budget includes the highest ever investment in K-12 education, enacts a nation-leading women's agenda, protects taxpayers against federal tax changes and strengthens the middle class. Some of the highlights are:

**Education-** The State's commitment to educating every New York State student is the foundation for the Budget's investment in public education. The 2018-2019 Budget includes \$26.6 billion in education funding, an increase of \$914 million, or 3.6 percent over the previous year. The State's support of education ranges from investing \$25 million for expanding Pre-K and after-school programs, to providing \$7.6 billion in State support for higher education. For students looking to pursue higher education, the State Budget includes a \$1.2 billion for strategic programs to make college more affordable and to encourage students to stay in New York. The Budget's allotment of \$7.6 billion includes the second year of the Excelsior Free Tuition Program, and the New York State Tuition Assistance Program.

**Libraries** - Local libraries are wonderful resources of learning and opportunities within our communities. With resources ranging from adult literacy classes to job search materials, our libraries are a community hub for all ages. The Budget includes a total of \$96.6 million, an increase of \$1 million from last year, for libraries, and an additional \$34 million to support library capital projects.

**Enacting a Nation-leading Women's Agenda** - The Budget includes a multi-pronged approach to combating sexual harassment in the workplace. The progressive legislation requires State contractors to have a sexual harassment policy and provide employee training; prohibits using a mandatory arbitration provision in an employment contract; and ensures that nondisclosure agreements can only be used upon explicit preference of the victim. Budget legislation also extends the length of time rape evidence collection kits are preserved—from 30 days to 20 years. In addition, the legislation passed requires all new or renovated buildings with public restrooms to have changing tables available to both men and women.

**Bans Gun Ownership from Domestic Violence Abusers** - In an effort to keep guns out of the wrong hands and prevent gun violence, Legislators passed, and the Governor signed, a measure that prohibits individuals who have been convicted of a domestic violence crime from purchasing or possessing a fire arm.

**Protecting Taxpayers against Federal Tax Changes** - The recently enacted Federal tax law guts the deductibility of state and local taxes, effectively raising middle class families' property and state income taxes by 20 or 25 percent. Legislation in the State Budget combats this by expanding charitable contributions, creating alternative employer compensation expense programs and decoupling from the Federal tax code.

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### Save the Date

#### Residential Paper Shredding

Friday, April 20

DestinyUSA Parking Lots

Saturday, June 2

NYS Fairgrounds



Thursday, May 17 at DestinyUSA  
Canyon Area

Assemblyman Magnarelli is co-sponsoring two opportunities for residents to shred sensitive paperwork containing personal important information. At these residential paper shredding events, people can destroy up to 5 boxes of paperwork. Often people are unsure how to properly dispose of documents and paperwork without risking identity theft. This is also a wonderful way to support Earth Day (April 22) as the paper, after being shredded properly, will be recycled.

Non-profit organizations seeking volunteers to help in their operations will be on hand at DestinyUSA to talk to people who are looking for volunteer opportunities.

This event has been moved from September to the Spring giving students and adults an opportunity to partner with an organization during the summer months.

## 2018-2019 Budget Continued...

**Strengthening the Middle Class** - The new State Budget continues to phase in the \$4.2 billion middle class tax cut to deliver relief to 6 million New Yorkers, saving households \$250 on average, and \$700 annually, when fully effective. The State Budget also continues to support county-wide shared services panels for the next three years, encouraging the sharing of local services to deliver further savings for taxpayers. The 2018-2019 Budget also includes the enhanced child care tax credit for middle-class families.

**Combating the Opioid Crisis** - In response to the opioid epidemic that is widespread throughout New York, the 2018-2019 Budget includes a fee paid by the manufacturers and distributors of opioids. The \$100 million Opioid Stewardship Fund seeks to help curb the epidemic by partnering with the pharmaceutical industry to fund prevention, treatment and recovery services.

**Transparency of Political Advertisements and Elections** - The Budget expands the definition of political communications to include paid Internet and digital advertisements, and requires all independent expenditures to include a "paid for by" statement. The legislation also requires the State Board of Elections to keep a publicly available database of all digital ads purchased. In addition, \$5 million is included in the Budget to strengthen cyber protections for New York's election infrastructure. The money will be used to create an election support center, develop an election cyber security tool kit, provide cyber risk vulnerability assessments for Boards of Elections, and require Boards of Elections to report data breaches to state authorities.

**Senior's Health and Well-Being** - The State Budget restored \$8.16 million to support long-term care, and \$7.81 million to preserve spousal refusal. This ensures that couples do not lose their life savings in the event a spouse becomes ill and needs nursing home care. The State also rejected the proposal to limit the amount of resources a spouse is allowed to retain. These measures allow a spouse to maintain economic security while ensuring their loved one receives the care they need. The budget also restored \$13.99 million in hospital and nursing home reductions, and restored \$12 million in managed care reductions.

**Environmental Protection** - A \$65 million initiative to combat harmful algal blooms threatening local water bodies is being funded by both the Clean Water Infrastructure Act and the Environmental Protection Fund. Skaneateles Lake, which provides the majority of drinking water in Syracuse, is among those affected by the algal blooms.

As always, please call my office if you have any questions or concerns.

*William H. Magnarelli*

## Syracuse's "Marching For Our Lives"



Assemblyman Magnarelli participated in Syracuse's "March for Our Lives" on March 24th. The local rally was coordinated by students from CBA, and thousands of people from all over Central New York came to Syracuse to show their support to end gun violence and for safer schools. The rally was one of many which took place around the world that called for tighter gun control legislation following the horrific shooting at a high school in Parkland, Florida. The March ended at the Federal Office Building where the students spoke passionately for Congress to pass legislation including universal background checks, and high capacity magazine and assault rifle bans.

## Hard Work Pays Off



Solvay Athletic Director Matt Shutts and members of the Solvay Track and Field Team received a check from Assemblyman Magnarelli for unloading cars at the recent electronics recycling event. Team members' hard work and heavy lifting helped keep the lines of cars moving throughout the event.

## SU's Maxwell Students Visit Albany



Maxwell Students who are members of the Syracuse University Chapter of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) recently met with Assemblyman Magnarelli in Albany.

# Supporting Early Voting

Prior to the adoption of the New York State Budget, Assemblyman Magnarelli addressed members of the CNY Solidarity Coalition at a rally, held outside of the New York State Office Building on March 23, in support of Early Voting in New York State. Assemblyman Magnarelli and other legislators considered legislation that would allow polling places to be open a week before Election Day, and would allow same day registration. Although these measures were not adopted, the Assemblyman will continue to advocate for changes which would allow people more opportunity to vote.



## CNYREDC Round 8

Assemblyman Magnarelli attended the Central New York Regional Economic Development Council (CNYREDC) meeting on March 8<sup>th</sup> at the SUNY Oswego Syracuse Campus. As a member of the Council over the past seven years, the Assemblyman has voted to support local economic development projects with state grant funds and Excelsior Tax credits which have created jobs and investment in our community. In 2017, the CNY region was a “top-performer” and was awarded over \$86 million for 112 projects. During this meeting, in addition to regular business, the Council was briefed regarding the status of on-going CNYREDC and Upstate Revitalization Initiative (URI) projects including: the Alliance for Economic Inclusion, Genius NY, NUAIR and the 2018 CNYREDC Round 8 process. The next Council meeting will be in May.



## College Student Interns at Syracuse Office

John Sweeney, a senior at LeMoyne College, spent 15 hours in Assemblyman Magnarelli’s office learning about the NY State Assembly and office procedures as part of his service learning requirement for his Political Science 331 – Introduction to Public Administration class. John is interested in pursuing a career in public service and is also a member of LeMoyne’s lacrosse team.



## Local Doctors Visit Albany



Local Emergency Room Doctors recently met with Assemblyman Magnarelli in Albany to discuss how pending legislation and budget changes would affect healthcare in New York State.

## Celebrating with the Bhutanese Community



On March 24<sup>th</sup>, the Bhutanese Community in Syracuse (BCS) proudly hosted its 10<sup>th</sup> BCS Community Day of Celebration which was held at Franklin Elementary School. The celebration is held every year during the third week of March, which coincides with the arrival of the first Bhutanese family to Syracuse. The celebration included Nepali food, traditional songs, music and dance.

### About New York State Assemblyman William B. Magnarelli

Assemblyman William Magnarelli represents the 129<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, which includes the Northside, Westside, Eastwood Valley and Downtown areas of the City of Syracuse, Syracuse University area, Outer Comstock, 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, 2012, 2014 and 2016. 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>.