



JEFF GALLAHAN
Assemblyman, 131st District

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
Racing and Wagering
Committee

COMMITTEES
Aging
Local Governments
Small Business
Tourism, Parks, Arts and
Sports Development

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Dear Neighbor,

As your Assemblyman, having my finger on the pulse of our community continues to be my top priority. **My mission in the New York State Assembly remains unchanged: to serve you by standing up for common-sense policies that support our families, protect our values, and ensure a brighter future for the next generation.**

Each year, I work hard to remain visible and accessible throughout the 131st Assembly District. Good governance starts with listening to my constituents. You deserve a government that is transparent, responsive, and accountable, and I will always fight to make sure your voice is heard in Albany.

This year's legislative session had its challenges, but it also had real victories. Universal free school breakfast and lunch will now be available for all students in New York's public and non-public schools.¹ I've said it before and I'll say it again, how can we expect our children to learn and thrive on an empty stomach? Research consistently shows that students with access to healthy school meals have improved attendance, behavior, and test scores.² This investment in our children's future was long overdue, and I'm proud to have fought to make it happen.

Another important gain was a \$50 million increase in Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) funding, which supports our municipalities in maintaining local roads and infrastructure.³ After the long and cold winter we had this past year, this is a big win for the 131st District, where safe, passable roads are essential for families, farmers, and businesses.

For far too long, New York procrastinated paying off its unemployment insurance debt to the federal government, which was racked up during the pandemic. Even though the state had the money to pay off the debt in full coming out of the pandemic, it passed that debt onto employers, and it began to incur interest to the federal government. Businesses were forced to pay higher unemployment insurance rates through no fault of their own, making operating a business even more costly in New York. I'm proud to share that we finally eliminated that debt.⁴ This is a huge relief for small businesses and a major victory for our local economy.

Despite several legislative gains this session, I remain deeply concerned about the unsustainable growth of our state budget. When I first took office in 2021, the budget was \$209 billion.⁵ In just four years, it has surged to more than \$254 billion, an alarming increase of more than \$45 billion.⁶ If we're serious about addressing the affordability crisis facing New Yorkers, we must rein in excessive spending, cut taxes, and eliminate the burdensome regulations.

¹ Part B of A.3006-C, A.282 (2025), A.1941 (2023-2024)

² <https://schoolnutrition.org/about-school-meals/school-meal-statistics/>

³ <https://www.budget.ny.gov/pubs/archive/fy26/en/fy26fp-en.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.budget.ny.gov/pubs/archive/fy26/en/fy26fp-en.pdf>

⁵ 2021 budget bills

⁶ 2025 budget bills

Back in February, **I stood alongside brave correctional officers who engaged in a work stoppage and took a stand against the HALT Act, short staffing, and mandatory overtime.** According to the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS), since HALT went into effect, assaults on staff have jumped by more than 75%, and inmate-on-inmate assaults are up more than 170% statewide. I proudly called for a full repeal of this law because the safety of our officers and everyone inside these facilities must come first. While our COs were fighting to protect themselves and do their jobs, I feel the governor turned her back on them. DOCCS fired more than 2,000 correctional officers,⁷ including some who were out on leave taking care of a spouse with cancer.⁸ Health insurance was canceled for these officers and their families.⁹ Even the case of a prison nurse who tragically miscarried after being exposed to an unknown substance on the job went ignored.¹⁰

Finally, I will always stand up for our farmers and fight back against efforts to introduce more costly and unnecessary regulations. This year, Assembly Bill A.6928 was introduced, which would limit certain dairy farms to just 700 cows, something that would devastate family farms and do serious damage to our economy.¹¹ **New York has already lost nearly 3,000 farms in recent years.¹² We can't afford to lose more.** I am firmly against this proposal and will always stand with the hardworking men and women who grow our food. Remember, if you ate today, thank a farmer.

There's no doubt that we still have a long way to go, but I remain committed to being part of the solution. I'll continue fighting for a more efficient government, safer communities, and a stronger Upstate New York.

Thank you for the honor of representing you in the New York State Assembly. **To stay up to date on my work and events across the district, be sure to follow my Facebook page: @Assemblyman Jeff Gallahan.** Please know that I will never stop working to make our region the best place to live, work, and raise a family.

Sincerely,



Jeff Gallahan
Member of Assembly
131st District

⁷ <https://www.wnytv.com/2025/03/19/hochul-doubles-down-decision-bar-fired-strikers-working-state-law-enforcement/#:~:text=Ultimately%2C%20%2C000%20corrections%20officers%20who,any%20level%20of%20law%20enforcement>

⁸ <https://www.whec.com/top-news/news10nbc-investigates-corrections-officer-with-fmla-has-health-insurance-canceled-amid-strike-leaving-wife-without-chemo-treatment/>

⁹ <https://www.whec.com/top-news/new-york-state-issues-warning-begins-terminations-for-corrections-officers-after-two-weeks-of-strikes/>

¹⁰ <https://www.wnytv.com/2025/03/11/grief-stricken-man-speaks-out-after-prison-nurse-wife-loses-baby/>

¹¹ Assembly Bill A.6928

¹² <https://cnycentral.com/news/local/nearly-3000-new-york-farms-closed-in-five-years-underlining-industry-issues>