

**SUMMER
2018**

In this edition:

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- Fundamental Reform
- Bringing Sunlight to Albany
- Around Town with Mike



Want to learn more? E-mail Mike Norris at norrism@nyassembly.gov to sign up for his e-newsletter.

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ASSEMBLYMAN **Mike NORRIS**

Dear Neighbors:

With the 2017-18 Legislative Session behind us, there is a lot I got to witness in Albany since taking office and let me be honest with you: there has never been a greater moment for fundamental reform. From day one I have been fighting to deliver that reform for you so we can protect and enhance the quality of life in Western New York and provide hardworking citizens with greater economic prosperity.

Toward that goal, I am very proud to have been able to accomplish so much on your behalf during my first term, including supporting the following initiatives:

- Delivering pension forfeiture for corrupt public officials;
- Expanding volunteer firefighters' benefits;
- Allowing ride-sharing services statewide;
- Helping charities more easily fundraise;
- Fighting back against the governor's proposed \$1 billion in taxes and fees in the 2018-19 State Budget;
- Delivering record increases in school funding;
- Restoring the governor's proposed cuts in funding for our local road and bridge maintenance programs;
- Fighting for \$1 million more in funding for our libraries (for a total of \$96.6 million), as well as an increase of \$10 million for library construction projects (for a total of \$34 million);
- Creating a statewide workplace sexual harassment prevention policy;
- Extending the "Hire-A-Vet" tax credit;
- Enhancing the Environmental Protection Fund with \$300 million in funding;
- Increasing funding for Direct-Care Workers; and
- Adding more money and funding flexibility for the Flood Recovery Program, a significant outcome for constituents living along Lake Ontario's southern shore.

I am so proud of these accomplishments because they each will have a meaningful impact for Western New York – the community I always resided in and continue to call home. But as we see in the news regarding the Buffalo Billion and other scandals, there is more to be done to change the systemic corruption in Albany.

Inside you can learn more about what I am doing to reform Albany – in terms of restoring the public trust and also to protect your hard-earned tax dollars. As always, I welcome your input and thank you for your support as I continue fighting every day for you. For more updates and resources, please sign up for my e-newsletter (email me at norrism@nyassembly.gov).

I am so proud to be your Assemblyman and to be delivering so much for you. Please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff for assistance on any state issue.

Working for you,

Michael J Norris

BRINGING FUNDAMENTAL REFORM TO ALBANY

“There is no greater moment for fundamental reform. From day one, I’ve been fighting for you.”

When I swore the oath of office to become your state Assemblyman, I made a promise to represent our community with integrity and to fight for the interests and values of Western New York. Since day one, I have been working to reform our state government, as its brokenness and dysfunction have cost our community, our region, and individual New Yorkers for far too long.

I am so proud to have co-sponsored legislation that was enacted to require the forfeiture of public pensions for corrupt public officials in my first year. There is no greater violation an elected official can make than to violate the public trust for

their personal gain, and by passing this legislation and then having it approved by the voters as a constitutional amendment this past fall, it sends a loud and clear message that corruption will no longer be rewarded with taxpayer-funded pensions.

Unfortunately, this year, we saw former Attorney General Eric Schneiderman resign in disgrace and the former Speaker of the State Assembly, Sheldon Silver, was convicted of seven felonies for using his office for personal gain. With these recent events, there is no greater moment than right now to focus on reforming how Albany operates.

That’s why I am fighting for the enactment of two important bills to reform Albany: the Public Officers Accountability Act (A.5864) and the State Contracts Sunlight Act (A.5857).



BRINGING SUNLIGHT TO ALBANY

The Public Officers Accountability Act places term limits on legislative leaders and committee chairs to avoid the severe accumulation of power in the hands of a few individuals and requires conflict of interest disclosure forms to be signed by the governor and legislators when disbursing state funding.

The State Contracts Sunlight Act, which I proudly introduced, protects taxpayers' money by bringing accountability to state spending. My legislation would bring light to the billions of dollars of secretive state spending and ensure that any publicly-funded investment in job creation results in real, lasting jobs. We cannot let the corruption involved with the Buffalo Billion and other programs to continue. If there is nothing to hide, then let's place all state contracts in a public database for open inspection and review to provide the most effective and transparent government possible.

Reforming State Spending: I strongly believe that every item of state spending (which currently is way too high at a staggering \$170.3 billion annually) should be clearly lined out in the budget or legislation, and these bills should be allowed proper time to be reviewed and vetted by rank-and-file lawmakers and the public before they come up for a vote. Further, it was very upsetting to me that this year's budget was adopted (despite my overwhelming opposition) without any procurement reform – and without any procedural reform to clearly detail the billions in secretive spending contained in this year's budget.

The time is now to bring reform to Albany so the hardworking taxpayers of New York get the open and transparent government they so rightly deserve. As your representative, I promise to keep fighting every day to shed light on these matters and to continue calling for real and fundamental reform at our state Capitol.



***Around Town
with Mike!***

MIKE NORRIS IS FIGHTING TO STOP ALBANY'S TAX-AND-SPEND MENTALITY

He voted:

11 times against tax hikes to save you \$12.8 billion

He voted:

6 times to cut taxes, saving you another \$2 million

Assemblyman Mike Norris

**SUMMER 2018
Legislative Newsletter**

WORKING FOR US!



ASSEMBLYMAN **Mike
NORRIS**

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Assemblyman Mike Norris: Working for Us!

Learn more about Mike's accomplishments and legislative priorities inside!

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