

**SUMMER  
2019**

**In this edition:**

- 2019 Legislative Survey Results
- STAR Changes You Need to Know
- 2019 Legislative Highs & Lows
- Around Town with Mike

***Around Town with Mike!***



Want to learn more? E-mail Mike Norris at [norrism@nyassembly.gov](mailto:norrism@nyassembly.gov) to sign up for his e-newsletter.

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Assemblyman  
**MIKE NORRIS**

**Dear Neighbors:**

This year's legislative session ended as it began: on the wrong foot, focusing on the wrong priorities. Unfortunately, the Assembly Majority chose to bring up for a vote legislation that largely advanced a socially progressive agenda instead of addressing the pocketbook issues Western New Yorkers face every day. My priorities- and those of Western New York- remain lower taxes, making government smaller and investing even more in our infrastructure and education. Despite these challenges, I am privileged to stand up for you and to fight for Western New York.

**I am so proud to have delivered on these priorities for you:**

- ✓ Expanding the Discover Niagara Shuttle, bringing additional tourism dollars and new economic development opportunities to our region (A.2163, A.2236);
- ✓ An additional \$300 million in relief and resiliency funding for Lake Ontario communities that are continuing to battle emergency situations on the southern shoreline (REDI Task Force, A.8434);
- ✓ Developing a new legislative package to support volunteer firefighters that encourages recruitment and offers tuition incentives to members in good standing (A.7809, A.7827, A.8307); and
- ✓ Restoring Extreme Winter Recovery funding for local infrastructure projects including roads and bridges (A.8434).

**I am proud to have stood up for Western New York values and I voted "NO" on:**

- Driver's licenses for illegal immigrants (A.3675-B);
- DREAM Act to give taxpayer funds to illegal immigrants for free college tuition (A.782, Budget);
- Farm Workers Fair Labor Practices Act that will cripple NYS family farms (A.8419); and
- Unsafe priorities in Albany, including restricting police officers' authority when making arrests for Class E felonies and misdemeanors (Budget Bill – S.1509-C, Part JJJ) as well as allowing convicted felons to serve on juries (A.4760).

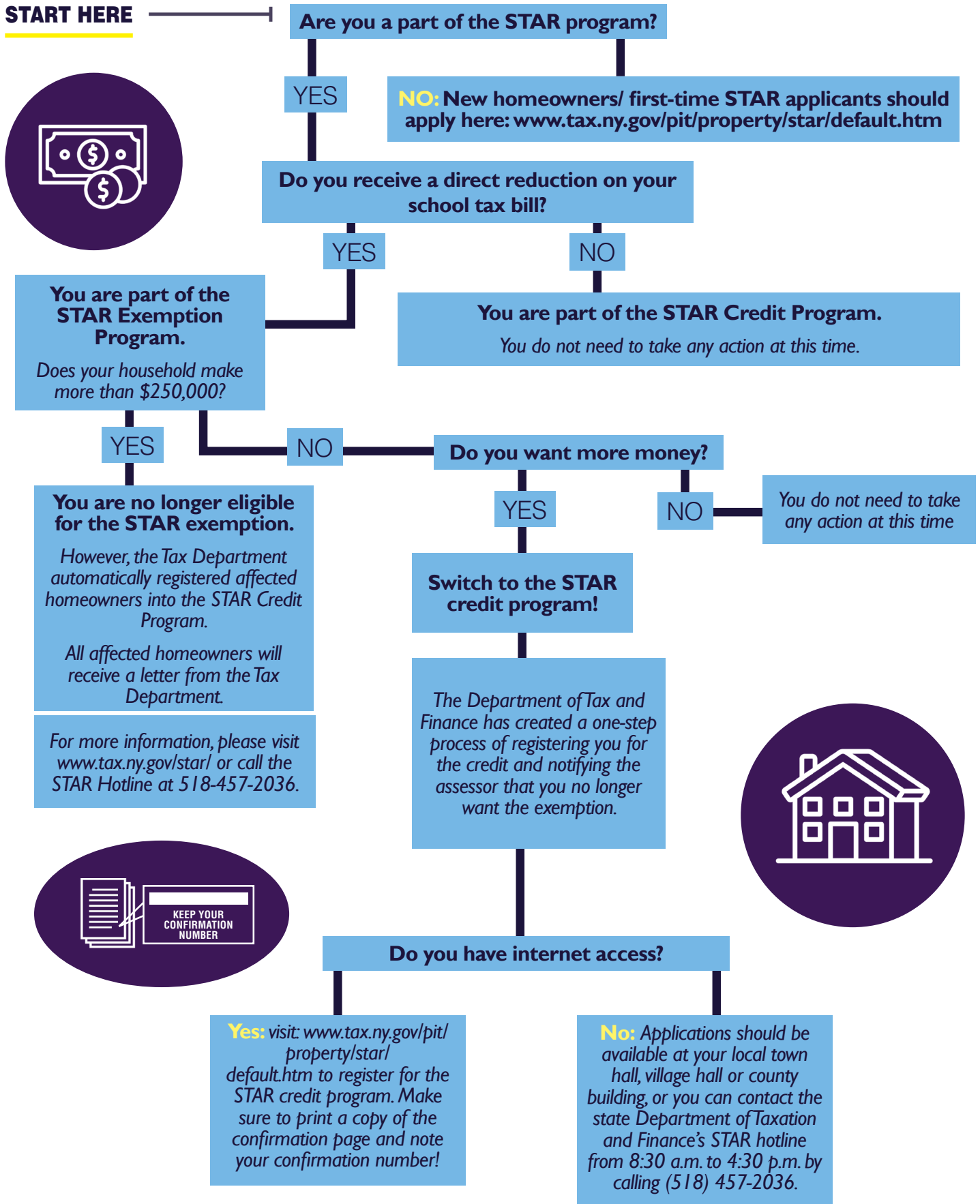
These are just some of the highs and lows from this year's session. Inside this newsletter you can learn more about the changes to the STAR program that were made this session and how this may impact you. Please know I am working hard for you and for more frequent updates, I welcome you to sign up for my e-newsletter – to do so please send me an email at [norrism@nyassembly.gov](mailto:norrism@nyassembly.gov).

Working for you,

*Michael J Norris*

# WHAT ARE THE CHANGES?

Beginning this year, recipients of the STAR credit program may see their savings increase by as much as 2 percent each year; however, there will be no increase for those who participate in the STAR exemption program. If you currently receive your STAR benefit as a reduction on your school tax bill (the STAR exemption), you may receive a greater benefit if you switch to the STAR credit. I felt these changes were unnecessary and overly complicated the process for taxpayers and voted “NO.” Despite my staunch opposition to these changes, unfortunately they were included as part of this year’s state budget. Because they can affect property owners – particularly those who are elderly or without internet access – I want to make sure you are aware of the changes.



## Basic STAR

- ★ Available for owner-occupied, primary residences.
- ★ The income limit for the Basic STAR credit is \$500,000 (the new income limit for the Basic STAR exemption is \$250,000).
- ★ Reduces the first \$30,000 of the full value of a home.

## Enhanced STAR

- ★ Provides an increased benefit for the primary residences of senior citizens (age 65 and older).
- ★ The income limit for the Enhanced STAR benefit is \$86,300 or less for the 2019-2020 school year.
- ★ Reduces the first \$68,700 of the full value of a home for the 2019-2020 school year.
- ★ Enhanced STAR recipients are required to enroll in the Income Verification Program (IVP). To learn more, please go to [www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/star/ivp.htm](http://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/star/ivp.htm).

## BEFORE YOU MAKE THE SWITCH:

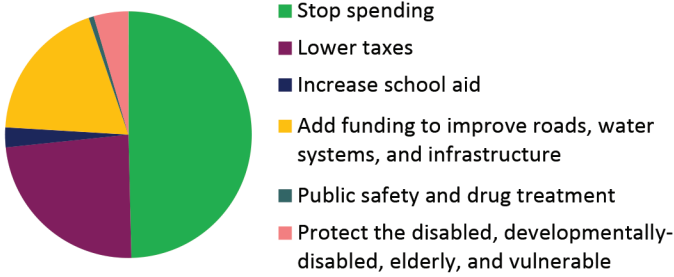
Before registering, be sure to have the following information on hand for reference. You will not be able to save your online registration mid-point to complete at a later time if you do not have these materials on hand before you start:

- ★ The names and Social Security Numbers for all owners of the property and their spouses.
- ★ The primary residence of the owners and their spouses.
- ★ Approximate date the owners purchased the property and the name of the sellers. This information is on file with your Town Clerk if you do not have it.
- ★ 2018 school tax bill, if the current owners received one.
- ★ Address of any residential property owned in another state.
- ★ The legal name of the trust, if applicable.
- ★ 2017 federal or state income tax returns for all owners.

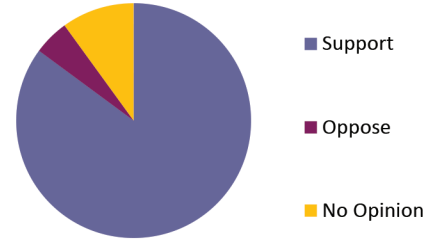
**NOTE:** *If you weren't required to file a 2017 income tax return, you will need the following information for all property owners: total wages, salaries, and tips; taxable interest income and dividends; unemployment compensation; total pensions and annuities; Social Security benefits; and other income.*

Earlier this year, thousands of constituents participated in my 2019 Legislative Survey. Thank you so much to everyone who participated. I am happy to share some of the highlights in this newsletter.

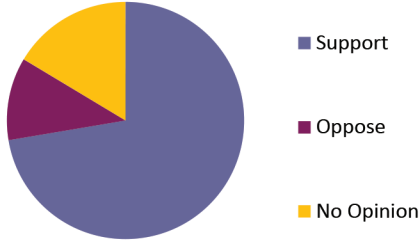
What should be the top state budget priority?



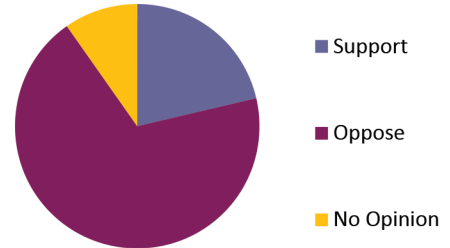
Do you support allowing retired police officers to serve as School Resource Officers in our schools?



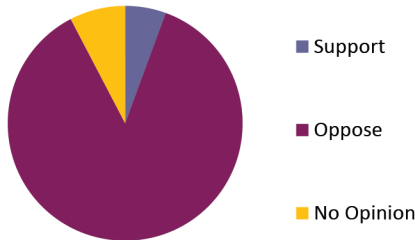
Do you support a permanent extension of the state's two percent property tax cap?



Do you support legalizing recreational use of marijuana?



Do you support a plan to create a government-rated health care that would increase middle-class family income taxes by \$1,600 per month?



Assemblyman  
**MIKE NORRIS**

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Assemblyman Mike Norris

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Assemblyman  
**MIKE NORRIS**

## Assemblyman Mike Norris: Working for Us!

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

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