



Assemblyman
**Fred W.
Thiele, Jr.**

**2012 Legislative Session
Summary Newsletter**

Dear Constituent:

Under the leadership of Governor Andrew Cuomo, the State Legislature has established a record of significant accomplishments for New York State over the last two years. We have eliminated \$12 billion in State budget deficits. For two years in a row, New York has had an on-time, balanced State budget. The State now spends less money than it did two years ago.

Further, by cutting taxes, we have improved the business climate in New York State. New York State income tax rates are the lowest they have been in 58 years. Taxes have been reduced for 4.4 million taxpayers, totaling \$690 million in tax savings. We have also eliminated the MTA payroll tax for 700,000 businesses as well as schools, totaling more than \$250 million in tax savings. Finally, the institution of the 2% Real Property Tax Cap has stabilized property taxes for overtaxed New Yorkers.

In addition, mandate relief, such as \$80 billion in savings to local governments over the next 30 years through pension reform and \$1.2 billion in relief over the next 5 years to counties through a cap on local Medicaid costs, will also improve the State's ability to create new jobs.

At the same time, we have been able to increase State aid to local school districts by 4% and maintain funding for the Environmental Protection Fund at \$134 million.

Locally, we have successfully begun to restore programming at the Southampton Campus of Stony Brook University, including the construction of a new \$10 million state-of-the-art Marine Sciences Facility. I have fought for our local commercial fishermen by successfully obtaining a State Inspector General Investigation of DEC enforcement practices, such as warrantless searches. I led the fight to eliminate a costly state filing requirement for our local wineries. Finally, I've continued the fight for stronger laws to prohibit unfair zone pricing of gasoline.

Still, there is always more to be done. However, there is no doubt that finally New York State, after years of dysfunction, job losses, and population decline is now headed in the right direction.

I hope this report provides you with an inside look at the accomplishments of the 2012 State Legislative Session.

Please feel free to contact me if I can be of any assistance to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fred Thiele, Jr." The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Fred W. Thiele, Jr.



Thiele Fights for Local Fisherman

Assemblyman Thiele fights to protect the rights of fishermen. He is joined by East Hampton fishing family, the Lessters, and their attorney, Daniel Rodgers, to protect commercial fishermen from warrantless seizures and illegally seized product and gear. At the request of the Assemblyman, the New York State Inspector General has initiated an investigation into the State Department of Environmental Conservation's administration and enforcement of the State's fishing laws.

Summary of 2011-2012 Tax Law Changes

Income Tax

Reduced NYS income taxes to the lowest rates in 58 years. 4.4 million taxpayers will see more than \$690 million in annual savings. The average taxpayer will see a decrease in state tax liability of between \$300 and \$400.

MTA Payroll Tax

Exempted more than 700,000 small businesses and all schools from the unfair, job-killing MTA Payroll Tax. This will save more than \$250 million a year.

Sales Tax on Clothing and Footwear

Repealed the state portion of the sales tax on clothing and footwear up to \$110 per item. This will save the average consumer \$210 per year.

Recreational Saltwater Fishing License Fee

Eliminated the license and fee for recreational fishing. It has been replaced with a free registration.



New York State Public Library Construction Grant

Assemblyman Thiele joins Cathy Creedon, John Jermain Memorial Library Director, and Pat Trunzo, general contractor, at the construction site on Main Street to congratulate the Library on a recent \$157,023 New York State Public Library Construction Grant.

Thiele Spearheads Tougher Law Against Gasoline Zone Pricing

Over the last 14 months, I have completed 17 surveys on gasoline prices on Long Island. I have submitted every single one to the State Attorney General, who is charged with protecting consumers from unfair business practices. My surveys have shown that gasoline pricing practices have improved under the first-in-the-nation zone pricing law. However, there are still too many incidents of unfair prices based on geographic location, not real costs. The current summer season has seen the most unfair prices in nearly four years.

In December 2011, the State Attorney General issued a report on gasoline prices, including a recommendation to improve the zone pricing law. In January, I introduced the Attorney General's recommendation and on June 18, the bill passed the State Assembly by a vote of 142-1.

If we are to see true fairness in gasoline prices, the bill must still pass the State Senate. Hopefully, final action will be taken before the session adjourns in December 2012. This bill will give the Attorney General the tools he needs to end unfair gasoline pricing.





Marine Sciences Center Groundbreaking

Assemblyman Thiele (center) joins (from left to right) Christopher Gobler, Director of Academic Programs for SoMAS at Stony Brook Southampton, Dennis N. Assanis, Provost and Sr. Vice President for Academic Affairs, Stony Brook University, State Senator Kenneth P. LaValle, Samuel L. Stanley Jr., MD, President, Stony Brook University, and Minghua Zhang, Dean, School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences to break ground on a new multi-million dollar Marine Sciences Center being constructed at the Stony Brook Southampton campus.

Thiele Promotes Alternative Energy and Energy Conservation

LIPA Enacts Thiele Solar Proposal

In 2009, I proposed legislation directing LIPA to enact a “feed-in tariff,” to promote the creation of renewable solar energy on Long Island. Under a feed-in tariff, LIPA must purchase all power generated by a solar producer for a fixed term at a fixed price, insuring a reasonable and reliable return. In other parts of the country, such as Gainesville, Florida, the result has been a surge in capital investment that means both clean energy and new jobs.

I am pleased to report that in June LIPA enacted my concept, providing for the first solar feed-in tariff program in the State. LIPA will purchase 50 megawatts of electricity under the new program for 20 years at a rate of 22 cents per kilowatt hour. This marks another step towards clean, affordable domestic power for Long Island.

Property Tax Break For New LEED Certified Buildings

The Governor has signed my legislation that would permit local governments and school districts to provide property tax relief for up to 10 years for new residential and commercial buildings that meet LEED silver, gold, or platinum standards for green buildings. The higher the certification, the greater the tax savings will be. This will provide a major incentive to construct energy efficient buildings in our state. Again, this means not only a cleaner environment, and energy efficiency, but also a catalyst for new construction jobs.



Thiele Legislation Aids the East End Wine and Grape Industry

The State Legislature has given final approval to my legislation eliminating a costly and burdensome paperwork requirement for local farm wineries. Under the old law, wineries were treated like liquor wholesalers and had to report all sales to the State Tax Department. This needless requirement was costly and time consuming and duplicative. Our local businesses can better use their time and money to grow their businesses and create jobs. This paperwork reduction initiative will also apply to craft breweries. The bill must be signed by the Governor.



Suffolk County Delegation

Assemblyman Thiele joins Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone and fellow members of Long Island's State Delegation to reflect on 2012 Legislative Session accomplishments which will increase State funding for County programs and reduce Suffolk County spending.

Assemblyman
Fred W. Thiele, Jr.

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