

THE MONTESANO MONITOR

Winter 2015

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A Special Report from
Michael Montesano

THE MONTESANO MONITOR

Your Voice, Your Neighbor, Your Assemblyman

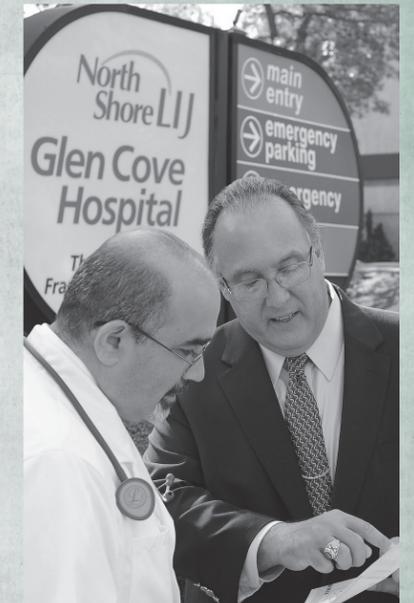
Upcoming Events

Please join Assemblyman Michael Montesano for his Mobile Office Hours in your neighborhood! Come ask questions and learn more about state issues that are important to you on:

- ◆ **May 7, 7:00 - 8:45 p.m.** at the Oyster Bay/East Norwich Library, 89 East Main Street, Oyster Bay
- ◆ **May 21, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.** at the Locust Valley Library, 170 Buckram Road, Locust Valley
- ◆ **June 4, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.** at the Bayville Library, 34 School Street, Bayville

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Your Voice, Your Neighbor, Your Assemblyman

CARLE PLACE FARMINGDALE GLEN HEAD LATTINGTOWN BETHPAGE OLD BROOKVILLE BAYVILLE EAST NORWICH HICKSVILLE LOCUST VALLEY MUTTONTOWN OYSTER BAY WESTBURY

Montesano: Making Long Island Better

Fighting for the Middle Class

With the 2015-16 Legislative Session underway, Assemblyman Montesano is keeping his priorities in order and hoping that the Assembly leadership and his colleagues do the same. According to the executive budget proposal, areas of Long Island will be receiving fund-

ing to improve airports and infrastructure. These repairs will greatly benefit New York's businesses and travel. The governor's proposed agenda also highlighted education, criminal justice and small businesses. Many of the ideas outlined must be modified to properly provide change for New York.

"The 2015 budget proposal and agenda was a mixed bag," said Montesano. "While there was some mention of Long Island, I will be strongly advocating that we receive more adequate funding to support our financial needs and advancements. As budget negotiations continue, I hope we will be able to solidify proposals to deliver tax relief to our homeowners and provide our schools with the funding they need to flourish."



Bringing Transparency Back to Albany

Following the recent events that put the Assembly into disarray, Assemblyman Montesano and his colleagues are calling for real ethics reform to be implemented in New York State. In 2013, the Assembly Minority introduced The Public Officers Accountability Act (Assembly Bill 4617). This legislative package calls for term limits for legislative leaders, campaign finance reforms, and replacing the Joint Commission on Public Ethics (JCOPE) with a truly independent integrity panel.

"I proudly stand behind measures that address the corruption that has wrongfully infiltrated the legislature," said Montesano. "I believe the Public Officers Accountability Act is exactly what we need to ensure our representatives are held to the highest standard. The people of New York deserve to be represented with honor and integrity, not corrupt agendas."

Protecting Our Criminal Justice System

While there has been much discussion regarding the need to reform the grand jury system, Assemblyman Montesano has said any dramatic changes to the process must be done with caution. Montesano believes that any proposed reforms must be vetted by experts in both constitutional and criminal law and discussed at hearings conducted by the Codes and Judiciary Committees of both houses of Legislature.

"If important changes are going to be made to the criminal justice system they must be done vigilantly," said Montesano. "A patchwork reformation of the grand jury system would be detrimental to the process and the public. The secrecy of grand jury proceedings is intended to prevent political tampering. The grand jury system is enshrined in both the U.S. and New York constitutions and NY state criminal procedure law. While a change of times and attitudes may dictate a revamping of the grand jury process, I believe it must be done with serious deliberation. I will be working with my colleagues to ensure that while we seek fairness and transparency in the process, any reforms will continue to uphold the integrity of the grand jury system."



Providing Solutions for Our Schools

As a new year begins, Assemblyman Montesano is ready to improve New York's education system for our children, families and school districts. He is advocating that qualified education professionals make decisions about curriculum and policy, with recommendations from the legislative and executive branches.

"Fixing the flaws that have plagued our education system must remain a priority," said Montesano. "I am encouraging the new leadership in the legislature and education department to restructure education in New York with a fresh perspective. Our schools have been suffering from insufficient funding and strict requirements for far too long. It is time to address concerns by returning local control and moving forward with measures that will ensure our children are provided with the education they need to succeed."

