

THE MONTESANO MONITOR

Spring 2016

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A Special Report from
Michael Montesano

THE MONTESANO MONITOR

Your Voice, Your Neighbor, Your Assemblyman

What's New:

- ◆ 2016-17 New York State Budget
- ◆ Securing Middle-Class Tax Cuts
- ◆ Fighting for Ethics Reform
- ◆ Improving Our Infrastructure
- ◆ Aiding the Developmentally Disabled
- ◆ Combating the Heroin Epidemic

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

The 2016-17 New York State Budget:

This year, the Legislature delivered many great things for New York. The middle class will experience a substantial tax cut, the irresponsible GEA education cuts were restored, and education was made a priority over blind cost-saving efforts. Schools will now receive an increase in funding of \$1.4 billion, which will mean improved staffing, higher quality athletic and after school programs, and smaller class sizes. The investment in education doesn't end with our schools, as public libraries will also receive an increase in spending to give the residents of our communities greater access to resources to learn and grow.



"The tax cuts for the middle class were very important to our agenda. The middle class is going to see more of their hard-earned paychecks, and New Yorkers can justifiably have greater hope for a healthier economy. A strong middle class equates to a strong New York," said Montesano.

Over an 8-year period, families making less than \$300,000 per year will receive a modest tax cut. During the first year, taxpayers will save an average of \$52 and receive a total savings of \$236 million. When fully implemented, the total savings will reach \$4.2 billion and taxpayers will save an average of \$700.

Montesano: Making Long Island Better

Fighting for Ethics Reform:

Montesano has been a strong advocate for legislation that ends the business-as-usual approach in Albany. New Yorkers deserve better than being pawns in self-promotional political games. Despite the former Speaker of the Assembly being hauled away in handcuffs and sentenced to federal prison, common-sense, comprehensive ethics reform has yet to be passed.

"We need to start with the basics: close LLC loopholes, enforce term limits for legislative leaders, and ensure that politicians convicted of felonies forfeit their cushy pensions. In addition to adopting these measures, we must eliminate the corruption from the ground up. Leaders have fallen, but many of their confidants, supporters, and financial advisors remain in the picture, and that's something we can't overlook," said Montesano.



Improving our Infrastructure:

New York State is often regarded as having one of the worst infrastructure rankings in the U.S. This is shameful and dangerous. Assemblyman Montesano believes our infrastructure is in dire need of improvements, from our roads and bridges to the sewer systems. Increased funding for major projects and programs, like the Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) and the recently-introduced Safe Water Action Program (SWAP), is an essential first step toward ensuring safety for Long Islanders.

"It is critical to rebuild our infrastructure from the ground up. Our pipes, roadways, and bridges are extremely outdated and dangerously fragile. I am not willing to allow the roadways that guide our children's buses to school every day, the pipes that carry our drinking water, and the bridges that connect our district from shore-to-shore to crumble beneath us while we stand by. Let's rebuild our infrastructure, prevent disasters, put safety first, and ensure that the next time we repave a road, everything underneath it is in excellent condition as well," said Montesano.

Combating the Heroin Epidemic:

"I am thrilled that this year's budget included an additional \$25 million for heroin and opioid substance abuse services. Over the past few years our communities have been plagued with tragedy due to the rampant heroin epidemic. This funding allows us to secure quality services to help families and individuals who have been affected by addiction," said Montesano.



Aiding the Developmentally Disabled:

With the phasing out of sheltered workshops, the lives of many developmentally disabled New Yorkers and their families will be dramatically impacted. When deep cuts to funding for the Office of People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) occurred in the past, Assemblyman Montesano helped restore the lost funding and is ready to fight once again.

"It is unacceptable that there has been no plan to address how we can improve the transition process for these families or how we can best support them as they adapt to their new lives. My colleagues and I will not stand for that. We have created the Assembly Minority Task Force on Protecting the Rights of the Developmentally Disabled to gain input from stakeholders around the state about how to best provide the necessary assistance and options to those who need it most," said Montesano.