

New York Passes Toughest Gun-Safety Law in Nation

Following the mass shooting in Newtown, Connecticut, Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel, Co-Chair of the New York Chapter of State Legislators Against Illegal Guns (SLAIG), worked to assemble a broad coalition of support among state legislators for an eight-point plan to reduce gun violence. Many of these measures were included in the NY SAFE Act.

This January, the state legislature passed the NY SAFE Act in an effort to curb gun violence. The new law bans military-style assault weapons, outlaws high-capacity magazines that hold more than seven rounds, requires background checks on all gun sales and ammunition purchases, increases criminal penalties, and will help keep guns away from the mentally ill.



Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel, Co-Chair of the NY Chapter of State Legislators Against Illegal Guns, attended the Governor's bill signing ceremony for the NY SAFE Act. This new law has been hailed as one of the toughest gun-safety laws in the country.



Capitol Update

Assemblywoman

Michelle Schimel

16th Assembly District • Spring 2013



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A CAPITOL UPDATE FROM ASSEMBLYWOMAN MICHELLE SCHIMEL

State Legislature Passes On-Time Budget

For the third year in a row, the New York State Legislature passed an on-time, balanced budget. The final state budget closes a \$1.4 billion budget gap while increasing the state's minimum wage and providing additional funding for schools.

Due to Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel's efforts, schools in the 16th Assembly District will be receiving nearly \$2 million dollars more in school aid than what was originally proposed in the Governor's budget. Local governments will also receive a significant increase in state aid as well as Nassau County's bus service (NICE).

Assemblywoman Schimel's biggest disappointment was the budget shortfall pertaining to individuals with developmental disabilities. While the state legislature was able to restore \$30 million of the \$120 million cut in the Governor's budget, the Assemblywoman feels that this restoration is inadequate. She will not let the matter be put to rest just because the budget was



adopted. Looking to the future, New York is expected to receive a \$600 million dollar federal Medicaid grant. Assemblywoman Schimel will fight to ensure that some of these funds are used to support new and expanded services for the developmentally disabled.

Schimmel Helps Unemployed Residents Find Work

Assemblywoman Michelle Schimmel has teamed up with the Port Washington Library to provide **Job Search Boot Camp**, a program for area residents who are unemployed or underemployed. This eight-week intensive program, which is run by Maria Frey of Executive Consultants of New York, helps individuals acquire the skills they need to successfully obtain employment. Training focuses on developing social networking, messaging and interviewing skills.

The first Port Washington Job Search Boot Camp, which ended in December, yielded significant results with over 40 percent of participants securing employment and the rest actively interviewing. Job Search Boot Camp recently ended its second cycle, and a third one will be offered at the Port Washington Library in May.



Professionals from local businesses and organizations recently participated in a Job Search Boot Camp speed interview session to help program participants fine-tune their interviewing skills. Job Search Boot Camp, which is sponsored by Assemblywoman Schimmel and the Port Washington Library, helps unemployed or underemployed individuals obtain employment.

Assembly Passes Moratorium on Hydrofracking



The New York State Assembly recently passed legislation (A.5424a), co-sponsored by Assemblywoman Schimmel, that would place a moratorium on hydrofracking until 2015.

The moratorium will allow for additional time to examine the potential public health risks and environmental safety concerns associated with hydrofracking. The measure also requires the completion of a comprehensive health impact assessment by a SUNY school of public health.

Schimmel Visits Fracking Site

An outspoken opponent of hydrofracking, Assemblywoman Michelle Schimmel recently traveled to Dimock, Pennsylvania to witness the devastating impact that hydrofracking has on local communities.

"I had to see the hydrofracking process and the landscape with my own eyes. My visit to Dimock confirmed what I suspected from listening and attending four years of public hearings and debates on the subject. I did not see a boom in commerce in that region. I saw few, if any, infrastructure improvements in the community. Rather, I saw families struggling as they always have, but now many residents also feared for their families' health and safety because of impacts on water, noise, air quality and heavy industrial use," said Assemblywoman Schimmel, a member of the Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee.

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-Assemblywoman Schimmel

Assemblywoman Michelle Schimmel

District Office:

45 North Station Plaza, Suite 203
Great Neck, New York 11021
516-482-6966



Albany Office:

Room 702
Legislative Office Building
Albany, New York 12248
518-455-5192

E-mail: schimelm@assembly.state.ny.us