



Albany Capitol Update from...

Assemblywoman **Michelle Schimel**

16th Assembly District • Spring 2015

The State Legislature Passed an On-Time Budget for the Fifth Consecutive Year

Highlights include:

- **Secured a \$1.6 billion increase in education aid over last year, for a total of \$23 billion:**
 - **School aid increase of \$1.3 billion, which includes \$428 million more for Foundation Aid.**
 - **\$603 million to cover more than 50 percent of the remaining Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA).**
- **Increased support for SUNY and CUNY community colleges.**
- **\$15 million increase in funding for the Environmental Protection Fund – for a total of \$177 million.**
- **\$200 million is provided in grants for municipalities to improve wastewater and drinking water infrastructure.**
- **\$400 million over five years for a new Regional Significant Infrastructure Program.**

Assemblywoman Schimel Appointed Chairwoman of Majority Conference



Assemblywoman Schimel speaking in the Assembly Chamber.

“I am honored to be recognized by Speaker Heastie for this leadership position to serve my conference and my constituents.”

–Assemblywoman Schimel

Assemblywoman **Michelle Schimel**

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Dear Friend,

This year's state budget was a hard-fought battle between the Legislature and the Governor over his education agenda.

In an unprecedented move, the Governor used the state budget to push his extreme education policy initiatives and held school funding hostage in the process. In addition, his proposed "reforms" failed to take into account important factors outside of the classroom that affect the success of our students and teachers.

The Legislature's ability to change an executive's budget proposal is limited by the New York State Constitution; it was impossible to remove everything we disagreed with. Further, voting NO on the budget would have put much-needed school aid, environmental protections, health care, road and bridge infrastructure funding and other vital programs in jeopardy.

The Assembly Majority fought for and won major concessions. We put the evaluation system into the hands of the Board of Regents, who will work with experts to develop teacher evaluations that place less emphasis on state test scores. In addition, the Legislature fought hard to secure funding for the Regents so that they will have the resources to undertake this important task. And, we also secured a significant increase in funding from what the Governor proposed ensuring \$23 billion in education aid – an increase of \$1.6 billion over last year.

This year's budget is certainly far from perfect, but the alternative – the Governor's original proposal – would have been much worse for our schools. And the fight isn't over, I will continue to work to limit high-stakes testing and ensure that input from local schools and parents are heard.

Sincerely,



Michelle Schimel
Member of Assembly

Assemblywoman Schimel Interviewed on "Meet the Leaders"

Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel met with Hon. Patrick Halpin on Cablevision's **Meet the Leaders** to discuss the recently enacted 2015-2016 New York State Budget and the Attorney General's Program Bill, **The Microbeads-Free Waters Act**, that Michelle is sponsoring in the New York State Assembly.

To watch this episode of **Meet The Leaders**, please visit <http://www.meettheleaders.com/2015/04/new-york-state-assemblywoman-michelle-schimel/>.



Assemblywoman Schimel and Hon. Patrick Halpin on *Meet the Leaders*.

Schimel Attends National Caucus of Environmental Legislators

Assemblywoman Schimel attended the **National Caucus of Environmental Legislators'** (NCEL) National Legislative Summit in Minneapolis, Minnesota. For the fourth year in a row, Schimel was selected to represent New York State at NCEL. State legislators from across the country met to discuss the top environmental issues impacting our regions including climate change, clear air, clean water, and chemical policy.

Schimel Nominates Regent Roger Tilles for a Third Term

Assemblywoman Schimel had the honor to nominate and elect Roger Tilles for a third term to the New York State Board of Regents.

"Roger Tilles has served as Regent for Long Island with distinction. He is respected by parents, teachers, and school administrators across both Nassau and Suffolk counties. He is accessible, diligent, dedicated and smart. I know he has visited all the schools in my district and has held numerous forums on education throughout Long Island," said Assemblywoman Schimel during her nomination speech.

To view the video of Assemblywoman Schimel nominating Regent Tilles for his third term, please visit her Assembly website.



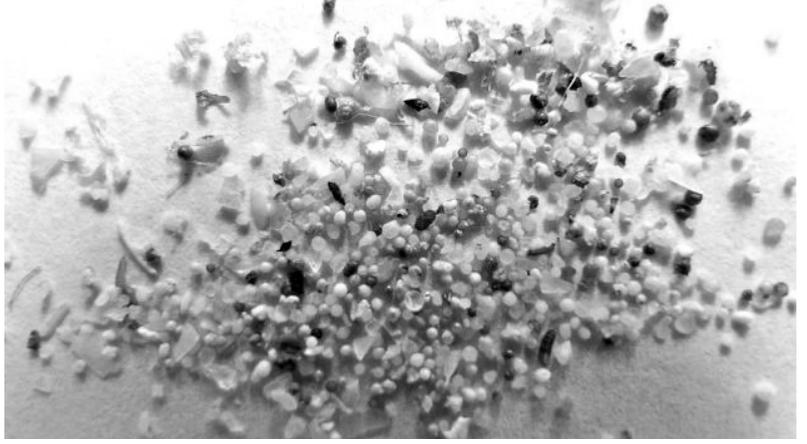
Members of the Assembly Long Island Delegation, Speaker Carl Heastie, and Regent Roger Tilles in the Assembly Chambers after electing Regent Tilles for a third term.

Assemblywoman Schimel Introduces A.G. Schneiderman's Program Bill to Ban Microbeads in NYS

Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel introduced Attorney General Eric Schneiderman's program bill, The Microbead-Free Waters Act (A.5896), which would prohibit the production, manufacture, distribution and sale of any beauty product, cosmetic or other personal care product containing tiny plastic beads, commonly marketed as microbeads, in New York.

Microbeads are small plastic particles that are less than five millimeters in size, buoyant, and often spherical. These small plastic beads are generally used as abrasives in cosmetics and personal care products, such as facial scrubs, soaps, shampoo, and toothpaste.

Recent studies have shown that there are high levels of microbeads in the Great Lakes and other New York waterways. Microbeads travel from your bathroom sink to New York's waters through wastewater treatment plants. Due to their small size and buoyancy, many of these plastic beads are not captured by wastewater treatment plant filters.



Microbeads can persist in the environment for decades, and once they are in our waters, these plastic beads can accumulate toxic chemicals on their surface. Microbeads then can be eaten by small creatures. Those tiny creatures may starve to death because their digestive systems were clogged with plastic, or they can be eaten by larger fish and end up on the human food chain.

Michelle Secures Funding for the Henry Viscardi School

In the recently enacted 2015-2016 New York State Budget, Assemblywoman Schimel was able to secure funding for essential health aide personnel for the Henry Viscardi School located in the 16th Assembly district.

The Henry Viscardi School serves students from Long Island, New York City, Westchester and its northern suburbs, who have severe physical disabilities and/or chronic medical conditions. Some of the students' medical conditions require that a health aide accompany him or her to school each day. Without these aides, these students could not continue to attend school, and likely would be homebound. The funding secured by Michelle will assist the Henry Viscardi School with the cost for these vital aides. The funding will allow the school to directly hire the aides rather than continue to have them paid for by school districts.

Assemblywoman Schimel invited Assembly Education Committee Chairwoman Catherine Nolan to tour the Henry Viscardi School, meeting with students, teachers, and administrators.



Assemblywoman Schimel, Chairwoman Catherine Nolan with Diana DeVivio, Superintendent/Principal, Christian Hrubes, a teaching assistant, and Chris, a student, at the Henry Viscardi School during their visit there.

Schimel Secures \$2 Million for Nassau County to Transition from Lever Voting Machines

Michelle secured \$2 million for the Nassau County Board of Elections to help successfully transition from lever voting machines to optical scan voting machines used in villages, special districts, and school elections.

A New York State Board of Elections report, which was mandated by Assemblywoman Schimel and Senator Martins' Lever Voting Machine Law, specifies recommendations and guidance to localities on how to ease the transition to electronic voting machines mandated by New York State and Federal Law.

Schimel continues to work with Nassau County Board of Elections, New York Conference of Mayors, Nassau County Village Officials Association, New York State School Boards, New York School Superintendents, among others, to ease this transition to enable everyone to vote in a uniform, consistent manner as dictated by law by January 1st, 2016.

SAVE THE DATE

Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel Hosts Informational Forums with Department of Public Service – Long Island (DPS-LI)

What to do when the lights go out?

- *Emergency Response Plan*
- *Who is DPS-LI and what services do they provide?*
- *How to prevent scams*

**Thursday
June 4, 2015**

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Port Washington Public Library
1 Library Drive
Port Washington, NY 11050

**Friday
June 12, 2015**

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Great Neck Social Center
80 Grace Avenue
Great Neck, NY 11021



CLIP OUT AND SAVE!



Capitol Update

Assemblywoman

Michelle Schimel

16th Assembly District • Spring 2015

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Assemblywoman Schimel Participates in Public Service Commission Oversight Hearing



Assemblywoman Schimel joined her colleagues as part of a panel hearing covering increased **Public Service Commission (PSC)** oversight of gas and electric utilities, including **PSE&G Long Island**. The hearing was set to improve the utility's response to natural disasters in the wake of Hurricane Sandy.

Among the topics discussed by the panel members and PSC Chair Audrey Zibelman were \$700 million in federal money directed towards improving Long Island's infrastructure. Ms. Zibelman also discussed how **PSC** would work with **PSE&G Long Island's Utility 2.0 Plan**. The plan proposes a number of targeted and programmatic investments with a focus on improving energy efficiency and developing renewable energy sources to reduce peak load demand across Long Island.