



Assemblywoman

# Michaelle C. Solages

*Reports to the people*

Serving the communities of North Valley Stream, Valley Stream, South Valley Stream, South Floral Park, Floral Park, Bellerose, Bellerose Terrace, North Woodmere, Elmont, Stewart Manor, and parts of Franklin Square.

## 2017-2018 NEW YORK STATE BUDGET ACCOMPLISHMENTS

After months of negotiations, the New York State Budget was approved on April 9, 2017. This year's budget includes funding for many of the projects Assemblywoman Solages has prioritized for the Twenty-second Assembly District, including issues such as clean water initiatives and Foundation Aid for schools.

Below are some of the highlights from the 2017-18 budget:

- Prioritizing property tax relief
- A \$1 billion increase in overall education aid
- Leading the way to college affordability: we've made college tuition-free for middle class New Yorkers
- Funding for the revitalization of the Valley Stream and Stewart Manor L.I.R.R. train stations
- Raising the age of criminal responsibility: removing our youth from the adult criminal justice system
- A \$2.5 billion investment in water quality and infrastructure
- Ride-sharing (Uber/Lyft) services for all New Yorkers
- Increasing operating funds for NICE bus services
- Combating the Heroin Epidemic
- Providing a living wage to direct care workers who support New Yorkers with developmental disabilities
- Increasing funds for local road infrastructure

### GREEN ACRES MALL TAX BREAK REPEAL

The Town of Hempstead Industrial Development Agency has revoked the Green Acres Mall PILOT. The previous Town of Hempstead Industrial Development Agency provided Green Acres Mall with a multimillion dollar tax break on the backs of the homeowners. This sweetheart giveaway has caused financial distress for already burdened families.

The purpose of the tax break was to create local jobs and provide economic security for the community. Green Acres Mall has failed to fulfill its contractual agreement or comply, in a transparent

manner, with simple requests for documents.

This is a first step in the right direction. However, many questions remain, as the results of the New York State Comptroller's audit of the TOH IDA are still pending. The residents of the Twenty-second Assembly District must continue to communicate with local officials to ensure accountable and responsible government. If the local residents who were adversely affected by this situation continue to work together, the taxpayers can eventually be made whole again.



### PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

#### *\$2.5 Billion Fund for Clean Water Infrastructure*

The budget provides \$2.5 billion for water infrastructure to help ensure clean drinking water by repairing and replacing old pipes and water mains throughout the state. This funding is also directed toward preventive measures.

### REVITALIZING OUR LOCAL TRAIN STATIONS

Residents voiced their concerns regarding the need to improve train and transportation infrastructure, and they were heard loud and clear. Assemblywoman Solages secured funding to revitalize Valley Stream and Stewart Manor train stations.

### Assemblywoman Solages Prioritizing Property Tax Cap Relief:

*If Your STAR Check is Late, the State Pays You Back.*

New Yorkers will receive a property tax rebate check in the mail as a provision of this year's New York State Budget. Assemblywoman Solages championed a proposal within this year's budget that provides for this rebate, as well as an interest payment to any School Tax Relief (STAR) check recipient who is not issued their check in a timely fashion.



The new provisions include:

- \$3 billion in property tax relief through the state's STAR program
- Nearly \$500 million for another round of rebate checks

**DISTRICT OFFICE:** 1690 Central Court, Valley Stream, NY 11580 • 516-599-2972

**ALBANY OFFICE:** Room 619, LOB, Albany, NY 12248 • 518-455-4465

**E-MAIL:** solagesm@nyassembly.gov

# 2017-18 NEW YORK STATE BUDGET ACHIEVEMENTS

## Investing in Education

The 2017-18 state budget increases education aid by \$1 billion for a total of \$25.7 billion. This marks a 4.1% increase from last year's budget, reaffirming Assemblywoman Solages' commitment to putting every student on their path to success.

The budget also increases funding for Foundation Aid by \$700 million for a total of \$17.2 billion.

Additionally, the budget provides:

- \$20 million for Teachers Centers
- \$35 million for After-School Programs
- \$2 million for Advance Placement (AP) Test Assistance
- \$3 million for cyberbullying prevention

## LEADING THE WAY TO COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY: *We've Made College Tuition-Free for Middle Class New Yorkers*



The 2017-18 state budget makes a substantial investment in SUNY and CUNY schools and helps expand access to higher education through scholarship and opportunity programs.

“Working families in New York State, and across the nation, are seeing the costs of a college education soar as the need for a college degree to access good-paying jobs has never been greater,” said Assemblywoman Solages.

The state budget provides funding to establish the Excelsior Scholarship, a groundbreaking, first-of-its-kind initiative to make SUNY and CUNY schools tuition-free for New Yorkers who earn less than \$125,000 annually. Students who attend a private college in New York and earn less than \$125,000 annually would also be eligible for a scholarship award of up to \$6,000.

## New Committee Appointments

Assemblywoman Michaele Solages is now a member of the New York State Assembly Health Committee as well as the new Chair of the Legislative Task Force on New Americans.

## IMPROVEMENTS TO NEW YORK STATE HEALTH CARE



## Assemblywoman Solages Passes Legislation in Support of New York's Premies

Assemblywoman Michaele Solages successfully passed a budgetary provision for donor breast milk in the 2017-18 budget. This measure provides Medicaid coverage for donor breast milk for hospitalized, high-risk, preterm infants who are unable to receive breast milk from their mothers.

## Paying a Living Wage to Direct Care Workers Who Support New Yorkers with Developmental Disabilities

Low wages have left direct care workers struggling to get by and provide for their families. Direct care workers and direct support staff will receive a 3.25% percent salary increase on Jan. 1, 2018. Additionally, direct care workers, direct support staff, and clinical staff will receive a 3.25% salary increase on April 1, 2018.

## Combating the Heroin Epidemic

The 2017-18 state budget increases funding by \$43 million from last year – for a total of \$213 million – to fight the Heroin Epidemic and increase access to treatment for New Yorkers struggling with a substance abuse issue. This funding supports a number of treatment and prevention programs, including family support navigators, peer support, recovery clubhouses and community coalitions, as well as \$10 million in additional capital support to increase the number of beds in inpatient treatment facilities.

## Protecting our Libraries



Assemblywoman Solages met with local library directors to discuss the importance of funding our libraries. Public libraries, at the turn of the 20th century, were established as educational institutions, providing equal opportunity in education for all. “Libraries = Education” enforces the importance of funding self-directed learning.

The New York State Budget restores aid to public libraries by \$4 million to ensure they can continue to provide services and resources to residents, for a total of \$95.6 million in funding. In addition, the budget provides an increase of \$10 million in capital funding for a total of \$24 million.

# OUR NEIGHBORS IN THE COMMUNITY

*Assemblywoman Solages met with Many Residents in the Community to Advocate for Various Causes.*



## Grant for Science Programs

Assemblywoman Michaelle Solages was joined by PhRMA, in announcing a \$2,000 grant for Memorial Junior High School in Valley Stream. This educational grant will support the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math programs offered in the school.

Funding STEM programs will provide students with the skills they need to be successful in their career.



## Advocating for Improvements to the Exit and Entrance Ramps on the Southern State Parkway

Assemblywoman Michaelle Solages called on New York State to make improvements along the entrance and exit ramps of the Southern State Parkway. Legislative bill A6291, authored by Assemblywoman Solages, would involve the New York State Department of Transportation evaluating a configuration of signage, as well as entrance and exit ramps to the Southern State Parkway in Nassau County, to determine whether adequate safety measures exist.

## Look Who's in Albany

Assemblywoman Solages meets with numerous advocacy groups in order to address challenges within the Twenty-second Assembly District. Recently, students, teachers, and parents joined the member in Albany for special recognitions during session.



## Valley Stream's Littlest Artists

Assemblywoman Solages was proud to welcome local students during the New York State Art Teachers Association's visit to the state legislature.



## NYSSMA in Albany

Students from the Elmont Union Free School District performed in the Empire State Plaza as part of the New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) 2017, "Music in Our Schools Month," celebration.



## WOMEN OF DISTINCTION CEREMONY

The 2017 Annual Women of Distinction Luncheon was held on Sunday, March 12. Over 300 community members attended as the Assemblywoman recognized and celebrated fourteen women within the Twenty-second Assembly District, all of whom are committed to improving the community through their various fields. All of the event's honorees were touched by the display of support from their neighbors.



## HONORING OUR VETERANS

Polk Street Elementary School's fifth grade class teamed up with Assemblywoman Solages to create over 100 holiday cards to send to American troops to show their appreciation for serving their country.

## LIRR PARK & RIDE AT BELMONT PARK

On June 20th, the MTA and LIRR announced they will provide a discount of 25% to commuters. The discount is considered for those traveling to key transfer hubs and other areas with heavy commuter traffic.

MTA unveiled its plan to cope with Amtrak's long-awaited track work. Under the new schedule, which will begin on July 10th, several trains are slated to be cancelled or rerouted. For passengers who still need to use Penn Station, a bus service will pick commuters up at Belmont Park racetrack and take them directly into the city. For more information regarding MTA's plan or the Park & Ride at Belmont Park, please visit: [www.mta.info](http://www.mta.info).



*Assemblywoman Solages recognized a local Elmont firefighter for his bravery during a major accident on the Long Island Expressway.*

# OUR NEIGHBORS IN THE COMMUNITY



The first Saturday in May marks the annual “I Love My Park Day” event. Hundreds of local community members participate in cleaning the Valley Stream State Park. Park projects consisted of building tables, painting benches, planting flowers, and cleaning the stream.



Assemblywoman Solages, along with local community members collected non-perishable items for the victims of Hurricane Matthew. Haiti Air Ambulance, a non-for-profit organization, assisted in delivering the items to those in need.



Assemblywoman Solages with Jeopardy! Teen Tournament national finalist, Alec Fischthal. This Woodmere resident has made his community so proud!



Assemblywoman Solages and local High School students attended the Holocaust Remembrance (Yom HaShoah) Day at Hofstra University. The program honors Nassau County students and their work to create a more civil society.

## YOU HAVE THE POWER TO SAVE LIVES!

### Sign up to be an organ donor today.

Thousands of names are on the list, but not all will be saved. That's the reality known by far too many people as they wait on New York's organ transplant list.

To become a donor in New York State, you can apply in person at your local Department of Motor Vehicles, online at [LiveOnNY.org](http://LiveOnNY.org), or download the form at [health.ny.gov/donatelife](http://health.ny.gov/donatelife) and mail it in. Additionally, you can sign up when you register to vote at the Board of Elections or by visiting [organdonor.gov](http://organdonor.gov).



New York State Assembly, Albany, New York 12248



## Assemblywoman Michaelle C. SOLAGES

Assemblywoman Solages  
Works for You!

Summer 2017

Budget Newsletter

PRSRT STD.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Albany, New York  
Permit No. 75

## Upcoming events

Assemblywoman Solages will host the following events this summer. RSVP via phone at 516-599-2972 or email at [solagesm@nyassembly.gov](mailto:solagesm@nyassembly.gov)

### Summer Reading Program July – August 2017

Participate in the 2017 Summer Reading Challenge. This year's theme is “Build a Better World,” encouraging readers to think about ways they can improve and transform their own communities. Young readers are rewarded with the Assembly Excellence in Reading certificate to recognize their efforts and dedication. **Please also join our office for our Summer Reading Hour held on Tuesday, July 25th at 11:00 AM at the Elmont Memorial Library.**

### Education Leadership Breakfast Thursday, October 12, 2017

Join Assemblywoman Solages as we recognize exceptional students and educators in the Twenty-Second Assembly District. We are now accepting nominations for students, teachers, or other education leaders to receive awards during the breakfast. **Please submit any nominees to the District Office via phone at 516-599-2972 or email via [solagesm@nyassembly.gov](mailto:solagesm@nyassembly.gov)**

### Business and Entrepreneur Forum November 2017

Assemblywoman Solages will host a small, minority and women owned business forum.

**Please contact our office for more details and to RSVP via phone at 516-599-2972 or email via [solagesm@nyassembly.gov](mailto:solagesm@nyassembly.gov).**

