



Assemblywoman
**Aravella
 Simotas**

Putting People First

*Highlights of the
 2016-2017 State Budget*

Working for You in Albany, we passed a historic budget that will:

- **Raise the Minimum Wage to \$15 per hour in New York City by December 31, 2018:** This will help to lift low-wage workers out of poverty and onto a path to the middle class.
- **Provide Paid Family Leave:** This will be phased in gradually and will protect families from job loss when a bread-winner needs to care for a family member.
- **Cut Personal Income Taxes:** Up to 6 million New Yorkers, both married and single, will have their taxes reduced incrementally, until 2025 when taxpayers will realize savings of \$3 billion.
- **Keep College Affordable:** Tuition at The City University of New York (CUNY) and the State University of New York (SUNY) will be frozen and CUNY gets an additional \$12 million for operating costs.
- **Help Our Seniors:** Nearly \$1 million in proposed cuts was restored and another \$700,000 added to support Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORCs), such as Queensview and North Queensview.

Working for You in Western Queens

Astoria resident Luke G. contacted my office about the chronic problem of cars speeding down 43rd St. on their way to the Astoria Blvd South service road leading to the Grand Central Parkway. After many months of persistent phone calls and letters from my office and from Council Member Costa Constantinides, the NYC DOT installed a speed bump and a traffic light.



New mother and Astoria resident Holly R. was having terrible problems with her health insurance company after her daughter was born. She got double-billed for her policy and denied coverage when doctors said she needed to stay hospitalized an extra night after giving birth. My Community Relations Director, Alexia Makrigiannis, was able to straighten out the whole mess.

"It is reassuring to know that you as our representative stand behind the average New Yorker to ensure that injustices like mine do not prevail." ~Holly R.





Like my page on Facebook

www.Facebook.com/SimotasNY

It's a good way to stay informed about Western Queens events & legislative news.

How Can I Help You?

Our office is here to help and listen to you. The best ideas come directly from my constituents. Please indicate on the form below if you have any community concerns and send it to us at [31-19 Newtown Avenue, Suite 401, Astoria, New York 11102](#) or via fax at [718-545-3607](#). You can also call us at [718-545-3889](#) or reach us by email at simotasa@nyassembly.gov.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Issues: _____



Working for You

Assemblywoman



Aravella Simotas