



Assemblymember
**SHELLEY
MAYER**

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Spring 2015

Community Newsletter

New York State Budget

On March 31, the NYS Assembly and Senate passed the 2015-16 NYS Budget. The enacted budget was far from perfect, and I share many parents' and teachers' frustrations with the educational policy changes included in the budget. I was pleased with the additional funding we were able to secure for our public schools, particularly the Yonkers Public Schools, but I knew then we had more to do. School aid for Yonkers will increase \$19.6 million, an increase of 8.09% over last year's school aid. The budget restores more than 50% of the District's Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA) and adds to Foundation Aid. In addition, Assembly Speaker Heastie has allocated \$20 million in capital funding for the Yonkers Public Schools. The Assembly also added \$2 million in "bullet aid," to help address structural shortfalls in our school budget. Yet, the Yonkers Public Schools still anticipate a significant shortfall this coming fall and I continue to seek additional funding from the Governor and every other source of funding to avoid layoffs and cutbacks. The Assembly did what it could to push back on some of the most egregious proposals in the budget, and I am encouraged by the early efforts by Chancellor Tisch and the State Education Department to delay implementation of new teacher evaluations. I assure you I will continue to work to ensure your voices and concerns are heard in this process.



Speaking about the New York State Budget and the impact on Yonkers late on March 31, 2015.

Equal Pay Day



With colleagues and advocates, including Assemblymembers Sandy Galef and Amy Paulin, and Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson.

I was proud to join fellow lawmakers and advocates at a National Equal Pay Day rally in front of White Plains City Hall. April 14 represents just how far into the year women must work to earn the same amount of money their male coworkers made during the previous year.

Statewide, women earn 84 cents for every dollar earned by men. While this is more than the national average of 78 cents, the gender wage gap costs New York's women and their families \$8,275 annually in lost income. This disparity has enormous effects on women, their families, and our economy as a whole.

I am a sponsor of the Equal Pay Bill, A.6075/S.0001, which passed the Assembly on April 27th, and support legislative and other efforts that allow us to address pay disparities.

If you would like to receive my e-newsletter or information about events I am organizing, please send your name and email address to: mayers@assembly.state.ny.us.

ASSEMBLYMEMBER SHELLEY MAYER

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Yonkers Thrives Partnership



Signing the Yonkers Thrives statement of shared commitment.

It was wonderful to be a part of the kickoff of the Yonkers Thrives Partnership, a public-private community-wide effort to improve education for the children of Yonkers and prepare them for lifelong success. Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano and Superintendent Dr. Michael Yazurlo hosted the launch event and released the partnership's Baseline Report at the Hudson River Museum. I am proud to be an active member of the Leadership Council of the partnership.

More than 50 Yonkers Thrives partners attended the kickoff event, including parents, students, and representatives from government, business, education, and nonprofit sectors. The Baseline Report identifies and prioritizes the challenges our students face from birth through college and careers and identifies ways all the partners can work in a more concerted way to serve our students.

Wage Theft



With Geovanna Giraldo, Chief Labor Standards Investigator, New York State Department of Labor; Jordan El-Hag, Esq., Business Manager, IBEW Local Union 1430; Andrew Elmore, Section Chief, Labor Bureau, NYS Attorney General's Office.

Along with IBEW Local 1430, I hosted a forum on wage theft and workers' rights at the Riverfront Library. Representatives from the NYS Attorney General's office, NYS Department of Labor, and IBEW Local 1430 provided important remedies for workplace violations. New York State has been the national leader in helping employees recover lost and stolen wages, and I will continue to work with labor, community groups, and my colleagues to ensure our strong laws are effectively enforced. We must also continue to educate and encourage workers to come forward and to work with our partners in business, government, and labor to create a level playing field for employers and workers alike.



A terrific young soldier stationed at Ft. Drum, Pfc. Sealey showed me the cold weather uniforms they use during the winter at Ft. Drum Day in Albany.



With Andalusia School Students and Administrators at Yonkers Park Clean-up Day.

Protecting Consumers from Harassing Phone Calls

I am pleased that a bill I am sponsoring, A.4615, recently passed the New York State Assembly. This bill prohibits businesses from "spoofing" or providing false caller identification information with the intention of misleading or harassing the recipient of the call.

Many of you have told me about your frustration with persistent telephone scams and frauds, particularly perpetrated against seniors. This legislation seeks to end the indefensible practice of intentionally altering caller identification information to mask the true identity of the caller. The minimum effect is that the end user is deceived—the person making the call is not the person identified on the screen—and the person being called is "spoofed." In some cases, these calls are an inconvenient nuisance and in too many cases residents are defrauded of hundreds or thousands of dollars. This legislation seeks to end this indefensible practice authorizing the attorney general and private parties to seek relief. I am optimistic this bill will pass the New York State Senate and be signed by Governor Cuomo.

2015 Rental Housing Survey

Many Yonkers residents have raised concerns about living in housing that is affordable. I know this is a persistent problem for many of you, and the renewal of NYS's laws that protect tenants provides me an important opportunity to learn more about your experiences.

If you would like your survey to remain anonymous, please blacken your name and address on the newsletter.

Please mail, fax, or email your completed survey to:

35 East Grassy Sprain Road Yonkers, NY 10710; Fax: 914-779-8859; or mayers@assembly.state.ny.us.

The survey can also be found on my webpage: assembly.state.ny.us/mem/Shelley-Mayer

Do you own your home or do you rent? Own Rent Neither

If neither, please explain: _____

How long have you lived there? _____

What type of building do you rent?

- Single Family Home Multi-family home Apartment Co-op Condo
 Other _____

How many units/apartments are in this building? _____

How many bedrooms are in your unit? _____

If you rent, do you live in an apartment where the rent is stabilized or rent controlled?

- Yes No Don't know

If you live in a rent-stabilized unit, has your rent increased due to major capital improvements (MCIs)? _____

If so, how much? _____ **Over how many years?** _____

Do you rent in a senior housing project? Yes No

How much is your rent each month? _____

How much has it increased in the past 5 years? _____

What is your household's monthly income?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Less than \$1,000 per month | <input type="radio"/> Between \$8,000 and \$10,000 per month |
| <input type="radio"/> Between \$1,000 and \$2,000 per month | <input type="radio"/> Between \$10,000 and \$12,000 per month |
| <input type="radio"/> Between \$2,000 and \$4,000 per month | <input type="radio"/> Between \$12,000 and \$14,000 per month |
| <input type="radio"/> Between \$4,000 and \$6,000 per month | <input type="radio"/> Between \$14,000 and \$16,000 per month |
| <input type="radio"/> Between \$6,000 and \$8,000 per month | <input type="radio"/> More than \$16,000 per month |

Comments:



Yonkers Girl Scouts Troops 1802, 1814, and 1815.

2015 Rental Housing Survey

See Page 3 For Details...

Youth Theatre Interactions

I was humbled to be the honoree at the annual Youth Theatre Interactions' (YTI) "Broadway Comes to Yonkers" event. YTI provides a variety of dance, theatre, and music classes for young people in Yonkers. I was pleased to provide them a grant to help offset the costs of their annual recital.



With Yonkers City Council Minority Leader Michael Sabatino, Yonkers City Councilman Christopher Johnson, New York State Senate Conference Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, YTI Board President Elliott Black, Executive/Artistic Director Donise C. Lyons, YTI Board Vice President Genia Flammia and County Legislator Ken Jenkins.



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Yonkers Interns Spend the Day in Albany



I am fortunate to have terrific interns in Albany and in my district office. Two of my interns—Tobias Geisler Mesevage and Alex Lipton—have come through Sarah Lawrence College, and this year, as in the past, I have been fortunate to mentor a talented high school student, Luisana Herrera from Saunders High School, through Her Honor Mentoring.

With interns Tobias Geisler Mesevage, Alex Lipton, and Luisana Herrera, as well as my District Office Manager, Robert Voorheis.