

Assemblyman

TOM ABINANTI

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FLOODING: One Win, One Loss



Abinanti and other Westchester officials at Kensico Dam supporting passage of inland waterway legislation.

The Governor signed into law three bills, co-sponsored by Assemblyman Abinanti, that designate the Saw Mill, Bronx, and Pocantico Rivers as inland waterways—allowing municipalities surrounding these rivers to access waterfront revitalization grants.

The Governor vetoed legislation, co-sponsored by Assemblyman Abinanti, to establish a mitigation and flood prevention task force within State DEC including representatives from local governments to identify and prioritize mitigation efforts and funding in regions most affected by flooding.

When he was a Westchester County legislator, Abinanti drafted and shepherded to passage the Westchester storm water management law which, for the first time, established watershed advisory boards and required that the county develop regional storm water mitigation measures.

MEDICAL MARIJUANA

As the Health Department and the medical profession prepare to provide medical marijuana under a 2014 law, some of our most seriously ill continue to suffer. The Legislature passed and the Governor signed a bill, co-sponsored by Assemblyman Abinanti, which would speed up the availability of medical marijuana for those patients who need it most.

ROCKEFELLER STATE PARK



Abinanti with Dr. Lucy Rockefeller Waletzky and members of the Open Space Institute and NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

The Legislature passed and the Governor signed Assemblyman Abinanti's bill to ensure increased revenues for the Rockefeller State Park Preserve in Mount Pleasant.



Abinanti met with nurses in his Albany office to discuss single payer legislation.

2015 LEGISLATION

ENVIRONMENT

Climate change is real and it's here. Today's actions impact tomorrow.

2015-16 Budget

The new budget provides \$1.3 billion in All Funds appropriations for the Department of Environmental Conservation, \$213.9 million more than the Governor's proposal and a little more than 2014-15.

- **Environmental Protection Fund:** \$177 million—a \$15 million increase.
- **Brownfield Cleanup:** to redevelop previously contaminated properties—extended for 10 years.
- **Oil Spill Fund:** \$40 million increase—in response to increase in crude oil transported through New York.
- **Clean Water:** \$300,000 for drug disposal program to keep toxic materials out of water supply; \$200 million for municipal wastewater and drinking water infrastructure.



Abinanti and other Assemblymembers urging passage of pro-environment legislation.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The Assembly passed legislation, co-sponsored by Assemblyman Abinanti, requiring the Department of Environmental Conservation to establish limits on greenhouse gas emissions to achieve 80% reduction by 2015. Under this bill, New York would join seven other states in adopting laws establishing greenhouse gas emission standards. The bill is pending in the Senate.

Statewide Idling Ban

NO IDLING



**OVER
3 MIN**

As a county legislator, Assemblyman Abinanti passed a county law to improve air quality by prohibiting motor vehicle idling for more than 3 consecutive minutes. Abinanti has introduced a similar bill to ban passenger vehicle idling statewide.

*It works in Westchester.
It can work statewide.*

Fracking Ban

New York has banned high volume hydraulic fracturing ("fracking"). Assemblyman Abinanti—an outspoken critic of fracking—applauded the administrative decision as "a huge step toward protecting public health and the environment." Abinanti sponsors several related bills, including A.211—to ban the use of hydrofracking wastewater from other states on New York highways.

Styrofoam

Assemblyman Abinanti introduced two bills to reduce the use of polystyrene (Styrofoam) which doesn't decompose and is difficult to recycle: A.8408—to ban restaurants and food vendors from using Styrofoam containers to package leftover food ("doggy bags") and A.5232—to ban them from using Styrofoam for any purpose.

LED Lighting

In a letter to the Thruway Authority, Assemblyman Abinanti commended the Authority's planned use of LED lighting but urged the Authority to comply with state lighting standards and preserve the unique qualities of the nighttime sky over the Hudson.

REVAMP THE RAMPS

With trucks and wrong-way drivers making our parkways dangerous, Assemblyman Abinanti is insisting that the State DOT act. Abinanti wants an independent review panel to redesign parkway entrances/exits and add clear signage. Abinanti also wants "Boston-style" height barriers installed across parkway entrances most frequently used by oversized trucks.



"Boston-style" height barrier.

TIVE SESSION

PUBLIC HEALTH

We need to make our communities healthier and safer.

Emergency Notice

Often during emergencies—especially health emergencies—there can be a breakdown in communication and notification procedures among officials from different levels of government. The Assembly passed Assemblyman Abinanti's legislation to require county health commissioners to notify appropriate local officials in the event of a health emergency. The bill is pending in the Senate.

Planned Parenthood

Assemblyman Abinanti recently repeated his support for Planned Parenthood when a small group of Congressmembers tried to defund Planned Parenthood in the federal budget. Surveys show a supermajority of Americans support a women's right to choice in health-care and oppose government interference with women making their own medical decisions.



Abinanti joined with other Westchester elected officials to stand with Planned Parenthood.

Legionnaires' Disease

After reports of legionella bacteria in Westchester, Rockland, and Bronx counties, Assemblyman Abinanti introduced legislation to require periodic inspection and maintenance of both heating and cooling systems statewide.

Safe Storage

The Assembly passed a bill co-sponsored by Assemblyman Abinanti requiring safe storage of all firearms when the weapon is not in the possession of its owner. The bill is modeled after Westchester County's safe storage law, which then-county-legislator Abinanti passed to keep guns out of the hands of those who would misuse them. The bill is pending in the Senate.

Student Suicide Prevention

The federal Centers for Disease Control documents that teen depression and suicide is on the rise, but schools are not required to have a formal plan to respond when a student expresses intent to commit suicide. Assemblyman Abinanti has introduced legislation to require school districts to formulate policies and procedures when a student expresses suicidal intent including notifying a parent or guardian. The bill passed the Senate.

Domestic Violence

Intimate partner homicide is the most frequent type of domestic homicide. Assemblyman Abinanti voted for legislation passed by the Assembly to require those convicted of a domestic violence crime to immediately surrender their firearms. The bill is pending in the Senate.

Undetectable Firearms

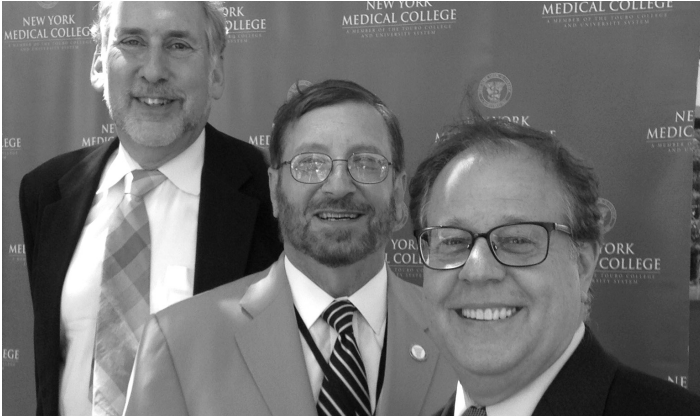
In response to 3D printing and other modern manufacturing techniques, Assemblyman Abinanti introduced a bill to ban the manufacture, sale, transport and possession of firearms that cannot be detected by an x-ray machine or metal detectors. The bill is pending in the Assembly.

Managed Care

Assemblyman Abinanti recently participated in two Mental Health Committee hearings. In a hearing on the adequacy of supports and services for people with developmental disabilities, Abinanti echoed advocates' concerns that the state has failed to provide sufficient supportive housing. In a hearing on the State's efforts to transition supports and services for those with mental illness covered by Medicaid to managed care, Abinanti questioned whether there were a sufficient number of behavioral health care professionals participating to support this transition.



AROUND THE COMMUNITY



Abinanti with NY Medical College's Chancellor Edward Halperin & Dr. Robert Amler at "walkable campus" ribbon cutting.



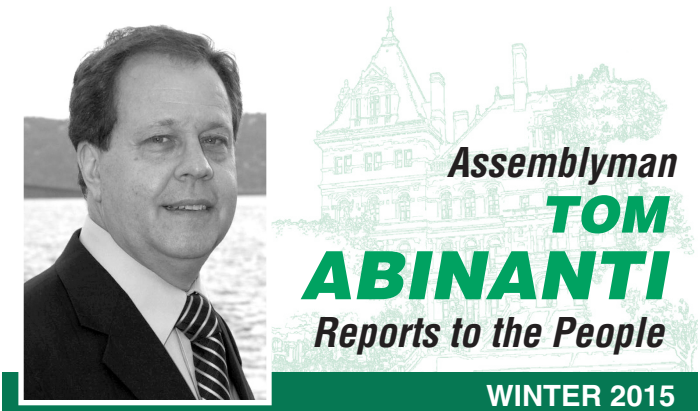
Abinanti with Rep. Nita Lowey & Kensico Little League President Robert Candra on opening day.



Abinanti with Senator Gillibrand, Rep. Lowey & Greenburgh veterans.



Abinanti speaking to communications workers.



Dear Neighbor:

This is my second report to you since our 2015 legislative session concluded.

In my first newsletter, I discussed some of my efforts to strengthen the education system and improve library services.

In this newsletter, I highlight efforts to protect our environment and advance public health. We made some progress in these areas, but have so much more to do. I look forward to our next legislative session which begins in January.

In the meantime, I continue to work here in Westchester for our community. If I may be of any assistance to you, please don't hesitate to contact my office.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas J. Abinanti".