



Community Update

from Assemblywoman
Ellen Jaffee

December 2010

Dear Neighbor,

With the 2011 legislative session about to begin, New York State is slowly recovering from the national recession. Even so, unemployment remains high, as does the number of Rockland businesses that are struggling. We must take bold steps to speed up our state's economic recovery.

I will continue to advocate for measures to revitalize Rockland's businesses. This past year, I have collaborated on a variety of events with business development organizations including Rockland Economic Development Corporation, the Women's Forum of the Rockland Business Association, and the Rockland Women's Business Network. A highlight was a panel discussion on services the state offers to help women-owned businesses. In addition, I am meeting with business leaders to form an advisory board to help me respond to the needs of local businesses.

In order to achieve a healthy economic climate, we must act on the urgent need for property tax reform for New York families. Several options are being discussed; I remain committed to solutions that balance the financial strain on taxpayers with the need to protect vital services.

As we head into 2011, I will be scheduling additional business opportunity forums. Please contact my office if you wish to be notified about those events, or if you have questions or need information about any state program. Call me at 845-624-4601 or email me at jaffeee@assembly.state.ny.us.

Best wishes for a healthy and happy new year.
Sincerely,

Ellen C. Jaffee
Member of Assembly

Jaffee Meets with Small Business Owners in the 95th District



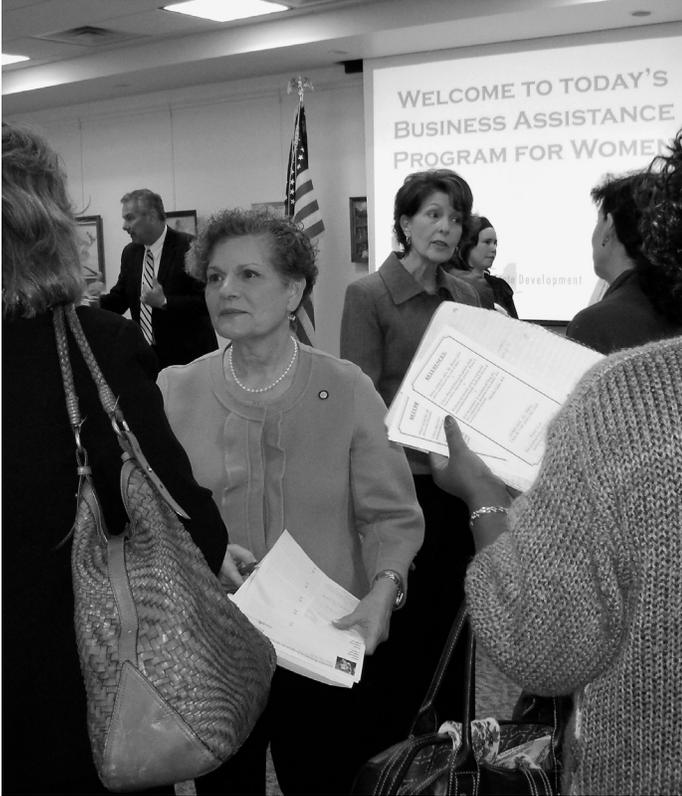
Joining Assemblywoman Jaffee in Pearl River, from left to right, were Kevin Brady, President of Pearl River Chamber of Commerce, Michelle Worob, Co-Owner of Madelyn Rose, Senator-Elect David Carlucci, and Susan Jaffe, Regional Director for Empire State Development.

Assemblywoman Jaffee arranged a tour of various retail outlets for the Empire State Development Corporation's new regional director, Susan Jaffe. They were joined by Senator-elect David Carlucci.

The group visited Madelyn Rose, the children's apparel store in Pearl River where they discussed challenges facing the downtown area. Chamber President Kevin Brady said that shoppers are rediscovering downtown Pearl River, in what he hopes represents a reversal of the exodus of shoppers to local malls.

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Dozens Attend Women's Business Forum Co-Hosted by Ellen Jaffee and REDC



Over 50 women gathered at Suffern Library last October to get the latest information from Assemblywoman Jaffee and Rockland Economic Development Corporation (REDC) on programs the state offers for women-owned businesses.

"The fact that so many women joined us at 8:30 on a workday morning showed me how vital it is to provide this information on a continuing basis," said Assemblywoman Jaffee. "I am pleased that we were able to provide funding in the 2010-11 budget for small businesses. I will continue to advocate for aid to businesses. The only way New York can sustain a healthy, on-going recovery is by supporting business owners."

Those who attended learned about local counseling services, business plan assistance, financial assistance, special certification for women-owned businesses, and how to secure government contracts. Among the attendees were several established business owners who shared success stories along with suggestions on how the state can best respond to small businesses.

Keynote speaker, Susan Jaffe, Regional Director of the Empire State Development Corporation (ESD) recounted her personal journey with a start-up agricultural business in nearby Sullivan County. Ron Hicks, CEO of Rockland Economic Development Corporation said, "We thank Assemblywoman Jaffee for reaching out to women business owners so that they are fully aware of the assistance that is available to them." Ellen Jaffee replied, "REDC has been very responsive to our community. Their expertise has been pivotal in producing events such as this."

Jaffee Meets with Small Business Owners in the 95th District *continued from page 1*



Joining Assemblywoman Jaffee in Spring Valley, from left to right, were Senator-Elect David Carlucci, Mayor Noramie Jasmin, Village of Spring Valley, and Susan Jaffe, Regional Director for Empire State Development.

Spring Valley Mayor Noramie Jasmin discussed strategies for filling the vacant retail space at the new senior housing complex on Main Street. The hope is that the renewal of Spring Valley will be a step toward economic development. The group also visited Elegant Party Rental on Commerce Street.

Upcoming Neighborhood Assemblies

Ellen will continue to hold community meetings throughout the 95th District to provide information on matters of importance to constituents.

Please come and share your thoughts.

For last-minute cancellations due to inclement weather or emergency legislative session scheduling, please check local listings or call the district office at 624-4601.

ORANGEBURG

Thursday, January 27th, 7pm-8:30pm
Greenbush Auditorium
20 South Greenbush Road, Orangeburg, NY 10962
(Behind Orangeburg Library)

SUFFERN

Thursday, February 17th, 7pm-8:30pm
Suffern Library
210 Lafayette Avenue, Suffern, NY 10901

SPRING VALLEY

Saturday, March 12th, 3pm-4:30pm
Finklestein Library
24 Chestnut Street (and Route 59)
Spring Valley, NY 10977

To receive updates on events sponsored by Assemblywoman Jaffee send an email to jaffee@assembly.state.ny.us with the subject line "Add my name to mailing list"

If you do not use email, call the District Office at 624-4601 to leave your phone number.

Quick Guide to State Services that Can Help Your Business

Here is a list of helpful agencies that provide programs that may benefit your business. For more details on what they can do for you, call or visit their websites.

1. The Empire State Development Corporation (ESD)

ESD offers many options to help your business, including loans, grants, and tax credits. Programs include the Investment Tax Credit (ITC), and the Research and Development Tax Credit.

For more information, contact:

Mid-Hudson Region office
33 Airport Center Drive - #201
New Windsor, NY 12553
Phone (845) 567-4882
Fax (845) 567-6085

<http://www.empire.state.ny.us/BusinessPrograms.html>

ESD provides the following comprehensive guides on their website:

Small Business Center: A one-stop shop for small business, which outlines initiatives, incentives, and a host of how-to's.

For more information, visit: <http://www.empire.state.ny.us/SmallBusiness/Data/DirectoryofSmallBizPrograms.pdf>
New York First: Everything from start up assistance to guidance on state regulations.
For more information, visit: <http://www.nyfirst.ny.gov/ResourceCenter/SmallBizMenu.html>

Or call New York State's Small Business Division at (800) 782-8369.

2. Rockland Economic Development Corporation (REDC)

REDC offers programs as well as on site services. The PTAC Program instructs small businesses on how to effectively sell products

and services to government agencies.

For more information contact:

Liz Kallen, PTAC Program Manager
(845) 735-7040
lizk@redc.org
www.redc.org

3. New York State Department of Labor

This page gives the facts on incentives for training and skill upgrades. Programs include: On-the-job Training (OJT) and Apprenticeship Training.

For more information on the Labor Department's programs contact:

Thom Kleiner, Department of Labor Regional Office
(914) 997-9540 <http://www.labor.ny.gov/businessservices/BusinessServicesIndex.shtm>

4. New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA)

NYSERDA's provides resources for businesses from low cost energy audits to Green Energy Building tax incentives.

For information on energy audits contact:

Frank Lauricella at Daylight Savings
Phone: (845) 291-1275 Ext. 302
Fax: (845) 291-1276

lauricella@daylightsavings.us

For information on

Green Energy Building contact:

Charle-Pan Dawson
(518) 862-1090, ext. 3244

Craig Kneeland
(518) 862-1090, ext. 3311

If you need assistance in reaching any of these agencies call Ellen Jaffee's District Office: (845) 624-4601.

Jaffee Continues Support of Fair Property Tax Reform

“The people of the 95th District deserve a plan that will control property taxes. We must work to find a solution that will balance the needs for a quality education with the economic reality Rockland taxpayers face.”

-Assemblywoman Ellen Jaffee



Assemblywoman Jaffee traveled to Orange County for a talk on how New York State and local property taxes are structured. Frank Mauro, from the Fiscal Policy Institute focused on the Circuit Breaker, which lowers taxes for middle-income families and seniors on fixed incomes. Ellen says, “The people of the 95th District deserve a plan that will control property taxes. We must work to find a solution that will balance the needs for a quality education with the economic reality Rockland taxpayers face.”

Jaffee Casts her Vote for Jobs and Economic Recovery

During the 2010-2011 legislative session a number of laws passed that will encourage economic development in New York State. Here are a few:

Power for Jobs (A11523)

The law extends the Power for Jobs and Energy Cost Savings Benefit Programs through May 15, 2011, assuring the businesses participating in these programs that their benefits will continue through next year. This extension allows the government to develop an even better long-term, low cost power program.

High Speed Rail (A11553)

The law sets up a planning board to pave the way for high speed rail in New York State. High speed rail promotes economic development while cutting greenhouse gases and dependency on foreign oil. The Federal government has awarded the state some funding for the project. Definitely a win-win!

Business for Vets (A7093B)

Requires the Division of Veterans' Affairs to provide information to veterans on how to start a veteran-owned business. This would be supplied on the department's website.

Opportunities for women and minorities (A11526)

This law increases competition and diversity in procuring state contracts, correcting past disparities that a state study found. (“2010 Disparity Study” April 29, 2010)

Assemblywoman Ellen C. Jaffee

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