



ASSEMBLYMEMBER PATRICIA A. FAHY



Legislative & Community Report to the 109th Assembly District

Dear Neighbors,

As your new representative in the New York State Assembly, I wanted to share with you highlights from my first few months representing you in the Assembly, as well as news and events from our communities and inside the Capitol.

My legislative focus continues to be on improving education and job creation, in addition to supporting legislation that helps to grow our economy, ensures equal protection, supports workers, promotes safer neighborhoods, and protects our environment.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office if we can be of assistance or if you'd like to sign up for our regular email updates by emailing us at fahyp@assembly.state.ny.us.

Assemblymember
PATRICIA A. FAHY

2013 BUDGET SUMMARY

My colleagues and I in the New York State Assembly voted on several significant pieces of the state budget that provide for more aid to our schools and institutions of higher education, business tax credits, aid to our state's health services, and increases the minimum wage.

Omnibus budget bills are a mix of trade-offs and hard-fought compromises to provide vital services, while keeping taxes in line to protect low-income and middle class families.

http://www.budget.ny.gov/pubs/press/2012/pressRelease12_enactedBudgetRelease.html

BUDGET UPDATE

Tax Credit

A key provision of the budget was the extension of the **New York State Historic Homeownership Rehabilitation Tax Credit**, which will cover 20% of qualified rehabilitation costs of structures, up to a credit of \$50,000. For more information, visit nysparks.com/shpo/tax-credit-programs.

Education

One of the more crucial areas of the budget that has been a top priority for me has been restoring education cuts from four years ago. The final budget increases school aid by \$436 million over the executive's budget proposal, or a \$936.6 million increase over last year.

Minimum Wage

I'm proud to have supported increasing our state's minimum wage to \$9.00 per hour by 2016 to provide increased purchasing power for low-income residents. While the full increase will take longer and not include indexing, it remains a significant and necessary increase.

Support for OPWDD

One of the most troubling parts of the budget was the Governor's cuts to the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD). I opposed these cuts for our most vulnerable citizens and they were thankfully restored in the final days of session. \$590 million in additional Medicaid funding is available over the next two years for new and expanded services but not to fund existing programs.

Tax Relief

Included in the budget is the Family Tax Credit to provide a \$350 tax rebate in October 2014 to families earning \$40,000 to \$300,000 for a total cost to taxpayers of \$410 million. While I support the need to provide tax relief to middle-income earners, I strongly opposed the timing and the politicizing of this rebate – especially for high income earners. The \$350 tax rebate, however, was a part of a much larger revenue package I supported to increase revenue by \$1.9 billion from an extension of the "Millionaire's Tax" and the middle-class tax cut for three additional years.

Supporting Families Through Human Service Programs

The budget provides for human service programs for New York families, including child-care assistance, emergency assistance for the homeless and support for unemployed workers trying to get back on their feet.

Job Creation

The budget establishes the NYS Innovation Venture Capital Fund, the NYS Business Incubator and Innovation Hot Spot Support Act, which are programs designed to assist the start-up and growth of newly established business and technology companies.

Library Increase

The budget increased funding for public libraries by \$4 million, which is encouraging news given that libraries have been level funded for the last few years.

NY SAFE Act

The Assembly passed technical amendments to the state's new gun violence prevention law, the SAFE Act, by suspending the ban on purchasing eight, nine, and ten-round ammunition magazines and clarified that active duty law enforcement officers are exempt from the new crimes and penalties created by the SAFE Act. In addition, the budget provides \$27.7 million for an electronic gun permit database. A helpful fact sheet and a link for more information can be found at www.governor.ny.gov/nysafeact/gun-reform.

Assemblymember Fahy

serves on the following committees:

Banks
Children & Families
Environmental Conservation
Higher Education
Tourism, Parks, Arts & Sports Development

Legislation to Watch

Fair Elections Act

The Assembly passed the Fair Elections Act again, which establishes optional public financing of elections, creates a new enforcement agency for Fair Elections, and increases disclosure of independent expenditures. While this bill address some but not all of the recent campaign abuses, it is still a major step forward in making our election process more transparent and accountable to New York voters and hopefully will be a start in restoring the confidence that has been lost by too much abuse in the current system.

Women's Equality Act

Governor Cuomo, joined by members of the Women's Equality Coalition, introduced legislation to end discrimination and inequality based on gender and to restore New York as a leader in women's rights. The Women's Equality Act will:

- Achieve Pay Equity
- Stop Sexual Harassment in All Workplaces
- Allow for the Recovery of Attorneys' Fees in Employment and Credit and Lending Cases
- Strengthen Human Trafficking Laws
- End Family Status Discrimination
- Stop Source-of-Income Discrimination
- Stop Housing Discrimination for Victims of Domestic Violence
- Stop Pregnancy Discrimination Once and For All
- Protect Victims of Domestic Violence by Strengthening Order-of-Protection Law
- Protect a Woman's Freedom of Choice

National Popular Vote

The Assembly approved the National Popular Vote bill on June 12th which would guarantee the Presidency to the candidate who receives the most popular votes in the entire United States. The bill preserves the Electoral College, while ensuring that every vote in every state will matter in every presidential election.



Assemblymembers Fahy, McDonald, Santabarbara, and Steck tour the SUNY College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering.



Assemblymembers Fahy and McDonald tour Tech Valley High School at UAlbany's East Campus.



Urging the next generation of public servants to get involved in their community, Assemblywoman Fahy joined Assemblyman Steck and Senator Breslin for a Meet the Legislators Night hosted by Rockefeller College.



Along with Albany County Executive Daniel P. McCoy, Albany Mayor Gerald D. Jennings, Assemblywoman Fahy joined U.S. Senator Charles E. Schumer in promoting support for the American Opportunity Tax Credit at the College of St. Rose.



Assemblywoman Fahy, alongside members of the Capital Region state delegation, stressed the importance of increased education funding in public schools across the state, especially those in Albany, Bethlehem, Guilderland and New Scotland.



Assemblywoman Fahy honored the late Governor Hugh Carey at April's monthly Honor a Vet ceremony hosted at the Zaloga Post 4 on Everett Road.



Assemblyman Jack McEneny swears in Assemblywoman Fahy as part of the Capital Region Legislative Delegation's swearing-in ceremony on December 28, 2012.



Each month, Assemblywoman Fahy meets with neighbors and constituents at Community Coffee events, which highlight local businesses in the 109th District.

BEST THING THAT HAPPENED IN 2012

Obama reelected, Trader Joe's opened, marriage equality law, RPI curling qualified for the U.S. College Curling Championships, "not sure," Bacon Brothers at Alive @ 5, "Bootsy," canonization of Kateri Tekakwitha, Pearlpalooza, Pat Fahy elected, *Creeping Crawling* premiere at the Madison Theater, the Beekman boys on *The Amazing Race*, the world didn't end in December, Romney lost, "lost my

Assemblywoman Fahy was named as one of the "Best Things to Happen in 2012" by readers of local newsweekly *Metroland*.



Highlighting National Bike to Work Day, Assemblymembers Fahy and McDonald bike through the City of Albany on their way down to the State Capitol and Legislative Office Building in Downtown Albany.



Assemblywoman Fahy at a forum on fair elections at the University at Albany, where she reinforced the need to be more vigilant and aggressive in enforcing ethics laws in our state government.



Assemblywoman Fahy speaking on the NY SAFE Act from her personal experience of being held-up at gun point while working as a Congressional staffer in Washington, D.C.

Local News & Opportunities

Capital Region Education Forum on Testing & Mandates

I was delighted to co-host the Capital Region forum on testing and mandates on June 5th. Teachers, administrators, students, and community education leaders spoke about their serious concerns regarding testing and mandates in K-12 classrooms at the forum. Sen. Cecilia Tkaczyk, Assemblymembers McDonald, Steck, Tedisco, McLaughlin, Lopez, and I heard compelling remarks and look to continue the conversation with the State Education Department on these matters.

Business incentives for youth employment available

The New York Youth Works program is designed to combat high unemployment among inner-city youth (ages 16-24) in target areas by providing funding through 2018 to qualified organizations, tax incentives to business and stipends to youth who participate in work readiness training. A business must still have an employee start on or after January 1 of the program year to qualify for a tax credit in that program year. For more information, please visit www.labor.ny.gov/formdocs/factsheets/pdfs/P428.pdf

The Green Thumb Program

provides meaningful and fulfilling work for senior citizens to play a vital role in maintaining and preserving the natural and man-made resources of New York State. Green Thumb work is part-time and payment meets or exceeds State & Federal minimum wage. Participants must be at least 55 years old and fall within the income guidelines provided within state law. For more information, call 518-435-2471, or email albany@nygreenthumb.org

Plumeri Summer Camps

is a free day camp program for boys and girls ages 5-10 who live in the City of Albany. The program runs Monday to Thursday, 8am-12pm, at the Plumeri Sports Complex in Hoffman Park. Five week-long sessions begin July 8th - August 8th. Registration forms are available at 7 Hoffman Avenue or by calling 434-5699.

Assemblymember Fahy has sponsored or co-sponsored a variety of significant legislation, including bills that:

- provide for residential buildings to be eligible for the green building tax credit;
- would allow for undocumented immigrants to receive financial aid for higher education through the enactment of the New York State DREAM Act;
- would provide state aid payment to the City of Albany where the majority of property is tax-exempt;
- prohibit discrimination based on gender identity or expression through the passage of the Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act (GENDA);
- would provide for public financing for state elections that will level the playing field for candidates;
- extend a two-year moratorium on the issuance of permits for drilling wells for natural gas extraction;
- would enforce fair pay in the workplace for women;
- support the restoration of the State Capitol.

Art of the 109th

Thank you to the Albany Center Gallery for hanging artwork from the 109th in Pat's Legislative office. Seven paintings by Tony Iadicicco are currently on display through June.
www.albanycentergallery.org.

Women's History Documentaries Not to Miss!

This year's Women's History month celebration in March highlighted several important documentaries on the history of the women's rights movement in this country and around the world. They include:

► **Makers: Women Who Make America**

features outstanding women whose extraordinary stories have made important strides for women in America. Albany Common Council Member Barbara Smith is included as one of "Makers," alongside Gloria Steinem and Marlo Thomas.
<http://www.pbs.org/makers/home/>

► **Half the Sky:** Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide is an international broadcast, shot in 10 countries, highlights women and girls who are oppressed but manage to create opportunity under the most challenging conditions.
<http://www.halftheskymovement.org/>

► **GirlRising** is an innovative film that spotlights the stories of nine girls who live in countries throughout the world and are born into difficult circumstances.
Visit their website for more information.



Assemblymember
**Patricia A.
Fahy**

Reports to the People

Assemblymember Patricia A. Fahy

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