



Assemblymember

PATRICIA A. FAHY

Legislative Updates – 109th Assembly District



FALL 2017

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Dear Neighbors,

I am honored to represent you in the New York State Assembly and to continue to work for each of you in Albany, Bethlehem, Guilderland, and New Scotland. This autumn edition of the Legislative and Community report includes updates on legislation I've introduced recently, tips and news for Capital Region seniors, and information about the upcoming women's suffrage centennial.



Upcoming Events and Exhibits to mark Women's Suffrage Centennial in NYS

The right to vote is a shining example to the world of what democracy means and why it's so important. Voting is one of the strongest, most direct ways we can effect change. It's our chance to influence, inspire, make our voices heard, and hold our leaders accountable. Not long ago, women were denied the right to vote. This year marks the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage in New York State – three years before the ratification of the 19th Amendment. We're lucky in the Capital Region to have so many historical resources and opportunities to reflect right in our backyard. Here are a few events and exhibits happening soon:

Exhibits. One unusual and interesting exhibit is the Albany and Anti-Suffrage Exhibit at the Albany Institute of History and Art at 125 Washington Ave. The exhibit highlights the untold story of the women in the Capital Region who organized against the voting rights for women. The important exhibit reminds us all that progress never comes easy and always encounters resistance – a lesson we should all remember in these times.

Another exhibit opening soon is "Votes for Women: Celebrating New York's Suffrage Centennial" exhibit at the State Museum located at 222 Madison Avenue in Albany highlights the struggle for women's suffrage and equal rights in New York State from the 1848 Seneca Falls Convention through 1917 when New York granted women the right to vote. The exhibition will also address the nationally significant role of New York leaders in regards to women's rights and the feminist movement through the early 21st century. **The exhibit opens Nov. 4th and runs through May 13, 2018.**

Suffrage Forum. On November 4th, at the opening of the State Museum, Assemblymember Fahy will be joining the *Women's Suffrage Conference – "2020: Commitment to the Vision,"* a day-long series of workshops, conferences, and lectures on women's history and carrying the legacy of the suffragettes into the 21st century.

More information can be found at: <http://newyorkculturalheritagetourismnetwork.com/>

Capital Region Senior News

Local Resources for Seniors. New York State and Albany County help connect seniors to services like home delivered meals, transportation, respite care, home care, insurance information, and options counseling through *NY Connects*. The service is a point of entry into the long-term services and support system for older adults and people of all ages with disabilities. *NY Connects* programs are locally based where anyone – individuals, concerned family members or friends, or helping professionals – can go for help in finding the information, services, and supports that they need. Find out more about Albany County Connects by calling (518) 447-7177.

RSVP Connects Seniors to Volunteer Service. RSVP is a program designed for seniors 55+ with a broad variety of volunteer positions available. Seniors choose the hours they put in, where they serve as a volunteer, and the type of work they do. The program, which is managed by Colonie Senior Services, currently has matched 440 seniors at 54 sites around Albany, Schenectady, and Rensselaer Counties. By donating their time and skills, they help nonprofit organizations' funds go farther so they can meet the critical needs of our community. For more information about volunteering, call Susan Napierski at (518) 459-2857.

Guardian Society has Programs for Seniors. The Albany Guardian Society is one of the Capital Region's oldest charities. Their mission is to improve the quality of life for older adults, and they hold extensive regular programming on topics like navigating senior services, cooking healthy meals, legal advice, and using the latest technology. Learn more about available classes and sign up at: <http://www.albanyguardiansociety.org/fall17catalog.php>

Transforming CMOST

The Children's Museum of Science and Technology (CMOST) started in Troy more than 50 years ago and until last year was slated to relocate to SUNY Poly. With the changes at SUNY Poly, the museum is at a crossroads. As one door closes, another opens up, presenting a tremendous opportunity for CMOST and the region. As Albert Einstein so aptly noted, "Imagination is more important than knowledge. For knowledge is limited to all we know and understand while imagination embraces the entire world." Location matters and CMOST could best serve the region by being located in the region's urban core, enabling all children to benefit while stimulating further revitalization. There is much more work ahead on this project, and updates on development will be forthcoming.



Assemblymember Fahy poses with Harry Rosenfeld, the former Times Union editor-in-chief who worked for the Washington Post and oversaw coverage of the Watergate scandal as assistant managing editor.

NYS Writers Institute

The New York State Writer's Institute at UAlbany has been a cultural gem in our region since the 1980s, sponsoring many free events throughout the academic year that are open to all. They continue to bring in some of the most talented writers from around the globe and promote the art of writing. This year, they have featured writers as diverse as Watergate journalists, children's authors and breakout rappers, as well as free films. Their Visiting Writers Series runs year-round and more information on free upcoming events can be found at <http://www.albany.edu/writers-inst>.

Legislative Updates

Bipartisan Bill to Ban the Bump Stock. We cannot be vigilant enough in preventing the types of horrific gun mass shooting we witnessed early this October in Las Vegas. Assemblymember Fahy, with Senator Lanza, introduced bipartisan legislation to ban bump stocks in NYS, which are assault weapon accessories that enable semiautomatic weapons to function as machine guns. It is currently illegal under the NYS Penal Code to use a bump stock, but they are perfectly legal to own, purchase, manufacture or possess. These accessories contributed to making the shooting in Las Vegas the most deadly in American history. This bill would ban these and similar accessories in NYS – immediately criminalizing the sale and manufacture and phasing in the ban on possession and transport to give those who currently possess these devices time to dispose of them.



Fair work schedules matter for families. Assemblymember Fahy testifies before the NYS Department of Labor about her bill to ensure fair scheduling in NYS. The bill helps families by curbing 'on-call' scheduling and compensating employees for the time that they spend available or 'on-call.'

Equifax Breach Bill Addresses Cyber-Security Disasters.

Lloyd's of London reported earlier this year that major cyber-attacks could trigger massive economic losses on par with natural disasters. In less than two years, the global cost of cybercrime is anticipated to reach over \$2.1 trillion annually, or more than 13 times the 2017 New York State Budget! That's why Assemblymember Fahy and Senator David Carlucci introduced legislation to expand the definition of what constitutes "private information" in response to recent exposure of the private data of millions of Americans by Equifax. This critical provision expands the circumstances under which state data breach protections can be triggered. Under current law "private information" has to be disclosed by a company to trigger these provisions. Presently, private information is defined only as social security numbers, driver's license or state ID card numbers, credit card, debit card, or bank account numbers only when leaked along with a password or security code that would give access to an individual's account. This bill will expand the definition of personal information by defining birthdays, home addresses, and telephone numbers as private information.

Election Day this Year is Tuesday, November 7th.

This year there are a number of ballot questions to consider in addition to candidate selection. Please consider these proposals before voting: Proposal 1 would call for a constitutional convention to explore proposals for changes to the state constitution. Proposal 2 would allow judges to reduce or revoke the state pension of a public officer convicted of a felony related to his or her duties. Proposal 3 would create a 250-acre land bank, which would allow local governments to request forest preserve land for small projects in exchange for the state acquiring 250 acres for the forest preserves.



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**Patricia A.
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Environmental and Disaster Relief

Reconsidering Plastic Bags. As we grapple with the news of recent repeated environmental disasters, it bears reconsidering how we approach our climate and environment. Experts estimate that discarded plastic bags can linger in our waterways and environment for 1,000 years! When placed in landfills, they're more likely to mummify than to ever decompose. As a state legislator, Assemblymember Fahy is committed to addressing climate change and many of the other substantial environmental challenges facing upstate New York. Tackling our environmental challenges requires using the tools we have today to stop catastrophe tomorrow. Rethinking current habits at the grocery store should be one of the first steps towards greener future. Encouraging New Yorkers to use fewer plastic bags through a small bag fee, one suggestion considered by the state's Plastic Bag Task Force, may be one way to eliminate these billions of bags from our environment.

Hurricane Maria Relief.

So many have been devastated by the stories coming from Puerto Rico and the suffering caused there by Hurricane Maria. To learn about how you can help with relief efforts, please visit <https://www.ny.gov/programs/empire-state-relief-and-recovery-effort-puerto-rico-and-us-virgin-islands>.



Assemblymember Fahy works the phones at the Red Cross telethon to raise funds for victims of Hurricane Harvey.