

# Addie J. Russell

Reports to the people of the 116th Assembly District

Dulles State Office Building, Suite 210  
317 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601

## Delivering for the North Country

### Keeping us safe on the road

North Country families and commuters rely on our streets and highways for safe travel. That is why a record \$438 million was included in this year's state budget for the Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIP), helping keep motorists safe on the road in every village, town and community.

### Preserving our parks

Assemblywoman Russell was instrumental in securing nearly \$3 million to update Wellesley Island State Park's aging facilities and an additional \$735,000 to construct a new bathhouse at Grass Point State Park. The improvements are expected to increase visitor safety, promote local tourism and provide a much-needed boost to the North Country economy.

### Improving our infrastructure

Assemblywoman Russell introduced and helped pass legislation to allow the second phase of the Clayton Riverwalk project to move forward, expanding public access to the St. Lawrence River waterfront all the way to the John Street veterans monument.

Russell also secured a \$500,000 grant from the North Country Regional Economic Development Council to cover a portion of the costs associated with improving downtown Heuvelton's outdated wastewater system, and she is advocating on behalf of Morristown for grant funding to revitalize the village's bay area.

### Aiding local libraries

To help meet the needs of our community and provide full accessibility to patrons with disabilities and children in strollers, Assemblywoman Russell helped secure more than \$350,000 this year for maintenance and renovation of local libraries.



*Assemblywoman Russell tours a local farm.*

### Growing our economy

As chair of the Assembly's Task Force on Food, Farm and Nutrition Policy, Assemblywoman Russell continues to support measures that encourage long-term economic growth for farms in the North Country. This summer, Russell held a roundtable attended by representatives from across the state, including the Commissioner of Agriculture, to discuss strategies to help New York's farmers who produce high-quality beef maintain profitability, and stimulate sustainable growth and job creation for local beef processing facilities. In honor of her continued commitment to ensuring our state's agricultural success, Russell was recently named to the Farm Bureau of New York's Circle of Friends for the fifth time.

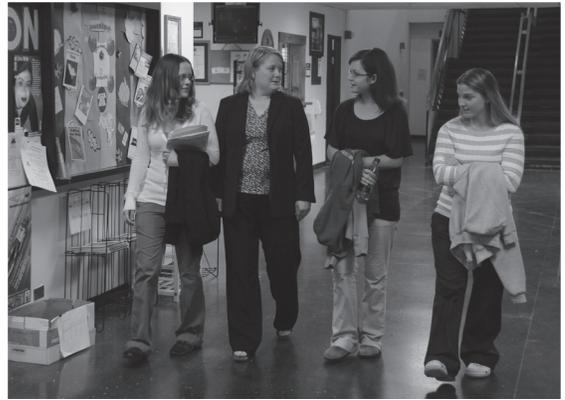
This year's state budget restores more than \$8 million to the Department of Agriculture and Markets and adds to that funding by more than \$12 million. Funding for the New York Farm Viability Institute will also be increased to \$2.12 million, helping support farmers statewide. Russell also fought to restore \$600,000 to the Northern New York Agricultural Development Program, which works to enhance North Country agriculture.

## Supporting students and teachers

Assemblywoman Russell fought to increase state aid for North Country schools in this year's state budget, securing \$250 million more than last year to help ensure our teachers and students have the tools they need to succeed. She also secured \$5 million owed to our schools due to the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA), as well as an additional \$1 million for the North Country schools that need it most.

**“Assemblywoman Russell has been a huge supporter of the district and education and has continually fought, not only for our school, but for schools across the region. She truly understands the needs of North Country schools and has been a determined advocate for children since she entered the Assembly.”**

– Timothy M. Vernsey, Superintendent,  
Ogdensburg City School District



***Assemblywoman Russell will keep fighting to protect students.***

## Spotlight on new Regent Beverly Ouderkirk



Assemblywoman Russell proudly nominated newly elected Regent Beverly Ouderkirk for the Fourth Judicial District of the state Board of Regents. As a former teacher and administrator with firsthand experience in K-12 education, Ouderkirk is uniquely qualified to guide our state's educational policies so they meet the needs of North Country students.

## Protecting our children

Assemblywoman Russell and local school administrators, teachers and parents recently sat down with newly elected Regent Beverly Ouderkirk to tackle education issues affecting North Country children. In response to concerns raised at this meeting, Russell sponsored and helped pass legislation (Ch. 20 of 2015) to:

- delay the implementation of the new teacher evaluation system by one year, giving the Board of Regents time to enact appropriate standards;
- prohibit state aid from being linked to teacher evaluations so all schools have access to the resources they need to provide a top-notch education; and
- ensure standardized test questions are grade-level appropriate to reduce test-related stress for students and teachers.

## Did you know?

New York State recently broke ties with Pearson Education and entrusted development of its English Language Arts and math tests for children grades 3-8 to Questar Assessment, helping ensure fair exams and student success.

**“I am excited to work with Questar's education experts and the state Board of Regents to ensure our children are given appropriate exams – not more of them.”**

– Assemblywoman Addie J. Russell

# is fighting for our schools



*Construction begins on Jefferson Community College's new Collaborative Learning Center.*

## Strengthening higher education

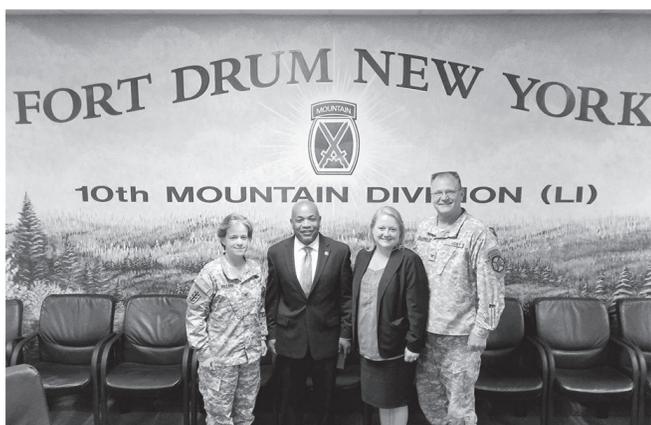
Assemblywoman Russell was joined by faculty, staff and students of Jefferson Community College this spring to celebrate the groundbreaking of the school's new, state-of-the-art Collaborative Learning Center. Russell was instrumental in securing funding for the center, which will help ensure student success by providing increased access to essential academic and library resources, rooms for team projects and group study and a multipurpose gathering space full of natural light to support a positive learning environment.

## Doing what's right for North Country families

### Serving those who serve us

Assemblywoman Russell welcomed members of the 10th Mountain Division of Fort Drum to the Capitol this spring for the fourth annual 10th Mountain Division and Fort Drum Day. Russell opposed a federal plan that could have meant the loss of more than 16,000 of Fort Drum's soldier and civilian positions and, thanks to her support, the movement was defeated and thousands of local jobs were saved.

Russell also authored legislation which passed the Assembly and would ensure veterans who have faced sexual assault can get the assistance they need through the New York State Division of Veterans' Affairs (A.7260). In addition, Russell sponsored and passed two resolutions honoring our men and women in uniform, declaring June 12 to be Women Veterans Recognition Day in New York State and urging New York's congressional delegation to pass a measure ensuring access to high-quality, comprehensive health care for female veterans (K.664, K.562).



*Assemblywoman Russell and Speaker Carl Heastie visit the 10th Mountain Division of Fort Drum.*

### Fighting to raise the wage

No one who works full time should struggle to put food on the table. That is why Assemblywoman Russell fought to increase the minimum wage and index it to inflation in the future. Fair, livable wages would not only help working families make ends meet, but would mean a rise in purchasing power and more money put back into our economy. Russell will continue to fight for a higher minimum wage until all employees have the economic security and opportunities they deserve.

### Keeping government accountable to you

Assemblywoman Russell fought to strengthen campaign finance laws, reform the travel reimbursement system for legislators and require increased disclosure of outside income in this year's state budget. In addition, Russell helped pass legislation in the Assembly to strip pensions from corrupt officials and hold our representatives accountable (A.7704).

Russell also supported legislation to close a loophole in campaign finance law by holding limited liability companies (LLCs) to the same contribution limits as other corporations and preventing them from making nearly unlimited political donations (A.6975-B).

## Visit Russell's North Country Department Store



**North Country Department Store**  
Saturday, Nov. 7, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
Indian River Middle School, Philadelphia

This November, visit Assemblywoman Russell's fifth annual North Country Department Store. The event showcases the many products and services available right here in the North Country, providing the perfect opportunity to stock up on unique gifts before the holiday season.

If you are a small-business owner who would like to participate in this year's North Country Department Store, please contact Assemblywoman Russell's office.

## Combating opiate abuse

Tragically, New York State is experiencing a rise in deadly opiate abuse and addiction, and the North Country is no exception. Assemblywoman Russell has helped pass a number of measures to increase awareness and prevention efforts statewide.

Fortunately, a potentially lifesaving antidote called naloxone has now been approved for widespread use. To learn how to recognize the symptoms of overdose, what to do during an overdose and how to administer naloxone properly, you can attend a free training session at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 25 at Hamilton Hall, 1 Chimney Point Drive, Ogdensburg.

If you or someone you know is struggling with addiction, please call the Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services' toll-free HOPEline at 1-877-8-HOPENY (1-877-846-7369). Help is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



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Reports to the people

## Questions? Concerns?

### Assemblywoman Addie J. Russell wants to hear from you.

You can contact either district office by email or telephone.

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