

***Dear Neighbor,***

Earlier this year, I sent out my 2014 legislative survey, and I am thrilled that so many of you responded! Thank you for participating and giving your input to help me make decisions on important issues that affect our state.

In this mailing are the results of the survey, which I hope you will find interesting and informative.

Whether by email, social media, scheduling an appointment or running into me at a local event, I hope you will continue to share your views with me. As always, if my staff or I can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to call us at (315) 946-5166 or email me at [oaksr@assembly.state.ny.us](mailto:oaksr@assembly.state.ny.us).

Sincerely,



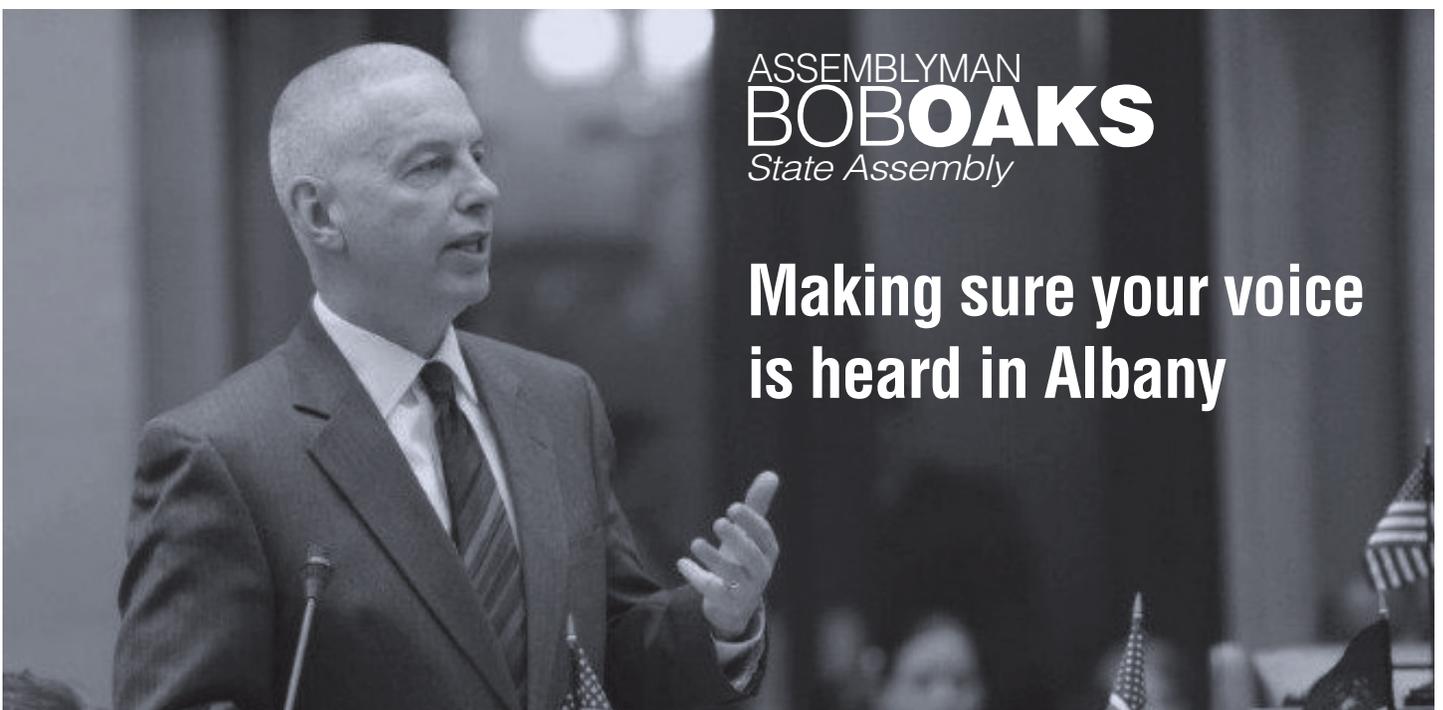
Assemblyman Bob Oaks

***PS: Want to stay updated but go green? Email my office to sign up for our e-newsletter or "like" me on Facebook!***



ASSEMBLYMAN  
**BOBOAKS**  
*State Assembly*

Over 2,000 people responded, and  
**THE RESULTS ARE IN!**



ASSEMBLYMAN  
**BOBOAKS**  
*State Assembly*

**Making sure your voice  
is heard in Albany**

# The Results

## Making New York More Affordable for Families

New York's hardworking families continue to struggle with our state's heavy taxes, fees and high cost of living. What do you think would be the best way to make our state more affordable for families? (Check all that apply)

- 24.2% Make basic services like energy more affordable
- 20.5% Fund schools based on income and not property taxes
- 34.9% Eliminate unfunded mandates on local governments**
- 20.3% Cultivate our natural resources, like natural gas in the Marcellus Shale region

## Job Creation

New Yorkers continue to face a stagnant economy and slow job growth. What steps do you think government needs to take to invigorate our economy and get us working again? (Check all that apply)

- 25.8% Provide assistance to existing small businesses
- 8.2% Expand the governor's tax-free zones on college campuses to include additional private and public universities
- 36.6% Provide more vocational (career) skills training to unemployed workers
- 55.2% Lower taxes for all businesses and reduce Albany's rules, regulations, and red tape**

## Hydrofracking

The process of hydrofracking has led to an increased availability of natural gas nationwide, thereby, reducing energy costs for businesses and individuals. New York has not yet made a decision on approving high-volume hydrofracking in our state. What best describes your position on hydrofracking? (Check one)

- 22.1% I support hydrofracking without any major limitations in NYS
- 34.1% I support hydrofracking provided it is not permitted within critical watershed areas of the state**
- 28.5% I think hydrofracking should be banned in New York
- 15.3% I do not know enough to have a position on hydrofracking

## New York SAFE Act

The state hastily and without proper review passed gun control legislation that changed, among other things, the definition of an assault weapon. Do you believe reducing the types of guns and the amount of ammunition people can own will help make our communities safer?

- 18.8% YES
- 81.2% NO**

If no, do you support one of the following options as a way to correct the law and protect the rights of legal gun owners?

- 86.5% A full repeal of the NY SAFE Act**
- 7% Reverting to prior definitions of assault weapons and large-capacity, ammunition-feeding devices
- 6.5% Allowing all legal firearms to be inherited by an immediate family member (child or spouse) following the death of a legal gun owner

## Common Core

Our young people face monumental challenges as our schools adjust to the new Common Core curriculum. How do you think we can ensure our students receive the best possible education? (Check one)

- 13% Continue implementation of the Common Core curriculum
- 29% Place a 3-year moratorium on the Common Core curriculum, allowing our schools to adjust to the new system
- 58% Opt out of the Common Core curriculum**

## What Matters to You

When asked to rank the importance of the following issues likely to be discussed in Albany, with 1 being most important and 6 being least important in terms of their relevance to you and your family, here are the results:

- 1 Reducing unfunded mandates**
- 2 Reducing the personal income tax rate
- 3 Welfare reform
- 4 Lowering taxes for businesses
- 5 Increasing school aid
- 6 Agriculture Aid

I have long supported reducing the unfunded mandates on our local governments and schools, as they are the leading cause behind our state's high property taxes. Fighting to include mandate relief in the state budget is still one of my highest priorities, but I know more has to be done. That's why I've sponsored a bill requiring a moratorium on any new state-imposed unfunded mandates – if the state finds a policy or program is important enough to adopt, it should be important enough for the state to provide funding.

Ninety-eight percent of business in New York is small business. I am fighting to give businesses the support they need so they can focus on expansion and job creation. I support the Small Business Improvement Act and I have worked to reduce the cost of doing business in our state by lowering taxes on job creators and cutting unnecessary regulations.

Our number one natural resource in New York State is fresh water. We need to be vigilant in protecting our lakes, bays and rivers. At the same time, energy independence is a legitimate goal of our state and nation. The Marcellus Shale provides an opportunity for expansive supplies of natural gas for years to come. If we can extract natural gas safely, while protecting our fresh water, then New York should move ahead now with targeted development.

I voted against the NY SAFE Act. I am a sponsor of legislation to repeal the law. The NY SAFE Act was rushed through the legislature without public hearings or input from key people in law enforcement and the mental health field. The NY SAFE Act isn't making New York safer. Guns are still falling into the wrong hands. This misguided legislation targets responsible, law-abiding gun owners. They are not the problem and should not have their Second Amendment rights violated.

My fundamental belief has always been that high-quality schools are not the result of implementing the latest educational theory developed by the state or federal bureaucracy. Rather, student achievement and educational success is more the result of the commitment of the local community, families and students in that community, and the culture of learning created by the teachers and administration in the local schools.

I responded to the challenges of Common Core by joining with my colleagues in the Assembly Minority Conference and by participating in a statewide tour of public forums. We brought together educators, parents, and concerned citizens to shed light on the impact Common Core's standardized testing is having on our children and how its mandates affect our state's education system. The result? The APPLE Plan, a comprehensive proposal that includes measures to safeguard student data, reduce testing pressure, ease our schools into transition and ensure children with special needs are not penalized. Learn more about the conference's APPLE Plan and read the full report at: [bit.ly/educationalcrossroads](http://bit.ly/educationalcrossroads).