



Assemblyman  
**JOSEPH D.  
MORELLE**

Reports to the People

**SUMMER 2010**

**Opposing the state budget – and moving New York forward**

Dear Neighbor,

New Yorkers watched this year’s state budget impasse with justifiable frustration, a frustration I understand and share. Beyond the failure of process there continues to be a failure of will in Albany, a failure to make hard choices today that will prevent similar crises in the future.

As I did last year, I voted against the spending and tax increases included in the new budget because I believe that excessive spending and taxation are largely responsible for New York’s deplorable fiscal and economic conditions.

At a time when so many state residents are struggling to support their families and weather the worst job market in 70 years, I cannot in good conscience add to their burden. I will not support spending plans that fail to bring spending into line with revenue projections and raise taxes on hard-working families.

Yet even in times as difficult as these, it is possible to make progress on the issues that I believe matter most to New Yorkers, such as jobs, health care and education.

I hope this newsletter will be informative with respect to my 2010 legislative agenda. As always, I urge you to contact me at 585-467-0410 or [morellej@assembly.state.ny.us](mailto:morellej@assembly.state.ny.us) with any questions or concerns you have about the many critical issues facing our community and state.

Warmest regards,

Joe Morelle

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# Creating Jobs, Fighting for Upstate

## Morelle helps bring 250 new Jobs to Our Region

On June 1, I announced that three high-tech businesses which will create at least 250 new jobs over the next three years are coming to Rochester. This is thanks to a months-long effort by the Empire State Development Corporation, Greater Rochester Enterprise and the New York State Assembly. The new firms will locate at the Eastman Business Park.

This cooperative partnership between the private and public sectors is a model we must follow as we work to rebuild our local and state job markets. As I noted in my economic report, *Creating a State of Innovation: Unleashing the Power of New York's Entrepreneurial Economy*, state government must

lower taxes, reduce regulation and join with business leaders and academic institutions to make New York a center of innovation for the 21st Century economy. This will be the key to spurring new jobs for our region in the future.



*Joe announces 250 new jobs with Mark Peterson of Greater Rochester Enterprise.*

## Upstate must not shoulder cost of Power for Jobs program

For decades upstate utility customers have received a hydroelectric power credit on their bills, largely because customers of power companies such as Rochester Gas and Electric, National Grid and New York State Electric and Gas helped finance the construction of hydro plants at Niagara Falls and Messena.

This savings was threatened when the governor and state Senate unveiled a plan to use the hydropower credit to fund a state-wide economic development

program called Power for Jobs, which provides reduced power rates to firms that add new jobs. While I believe strongly in the Power for Jobs initiative, it is fundamentally unfair to place the burden of funding it on area residents.

I successfully fought for a measure in the Assembly that preserves both the upstate hydro credit and the Power for Jobs incentive. It is my hope that the governor and the Senate will agree to this more fair and balanced approach to economic development.

## Morelle proposal preserves Regional Market Authority

When the governor announced plans to abolish the Genesee Regional Valley Market Authority in Henrietta and capture its fund surplus to reduce the state budget deficit, I intervened with a plan that preserves the Authority, provides greater public oversight of its

operations and distributes some of its surplus to the area agricultural community. This will ensure the continuation of a great local institution and the more than 2,000 jobs it has helped create and sustain over its many decade of service to our community.

# Reforming government, reforming New York

## Mayoral control measure approved by Assembly

The historic fight to reform the Rochester City School District reached a major milestone in June with Assembly approval of a bill placing control of the district in the hands of the mayor and City Council.

The bill assigns accountability for educational outcomes to those who are already responsible for funding the RCSD and provides a greater role for parents in the

development of district policies.

I am proud to have supported Rochester Mayor Robert Duffy in working to achieve the most significant change in local governance in nearly a generation. With city graduation rates consistently falling below 50 percent, we can no longer afford to ignore the city school district's record of failure or its implications for the future.

## Nonpartisan districting will level political playing field

Public faith in Albany has been shaken this year by a budget stalemate and the growing sense that entrenched political interests have too much influence over state government.

That is why I have cosponsored legislation establishing a citizens commission to draw new legislative districts in a fair and nonpartisan manner. Currently, members of the legislature appoint their own task force to redraw districts following each federal population census.

The commission would hold hearings open to the public and be held to new standards with regard to the shape, size and political composition of districts. This will lead to more open and competitive elections and end an approach to reapportionment that often amounts to little more than incumbent protection.

This is one of the fundamental steps we must take if we are to change the way Albany does business and regain the trust and confidence of the citizens we are here to serve.



## In the Community

### A new day for Sea Breeze



*In May, Joe announced \$250,000 in state capital funds to complete the Sea Breeze Drive-590 improvement project, providing safer access to the Sea Breeze community and more parking for visitors.*

### Brighton hails new police chief



*Joe celebrates with Brighton Supervisor Sandra Frankel at the swearing-in ceremony of new Chief of Police Mark Henderson, who succeeds retiring Chief Thomas Voelkl. Congratulations and best wishes to both these fine officers!*

## ***Working for a Healthier New York***

### **Landmark bill means better care for children with autism**

For too long, families of children with autism have been denied insurance coverage for a wide range of treatments and therapies. A bill I sponsored to end this disparity was approved by the Legislature in June, and I am hopeful that the governor will soon sign it into law.

It is estimated that as many as 1 in 110 children are affected by autism or a related disorder. We must provide these children with the care they need, and protect their parents from the financial consequences of paying the entire cost of that care. My bill requires insurers to cover treatment regimens that are clinically approved, and also allows parents to dispute insurance denials more effectively.

As chairman of the Assembly's Committee on Insurance I am proud to have played a role in moving us forward on this issue, and grateful to my colleagues in the Legislature and to the parents and advocates who helped make this victory possible.



*Joe calls for passage of his autism insurance bill at a press conference in Albany.*

## ***You're invited to the annual Morelle health fair***



*Joe has met with seniors at numerous neighborhood meetings this year and listened to their views on a wide range of issues.*

As I do every year, I will be hosting a senior health fair this summer. Free cholesterol, blood pressure, hearing and eye tests will be available, as will representatives from dozens of local agen-

cies dedicated to helping seniors live longer, better lives than ever before.

*I hope to see you there!*

### *Annual Health Fair*

**When: 9 a.m. to Noon  
Thursday, July 29, 2010**

**Where: Eastridge High School  
2350 East Ridge Road**

**For more information,  
contact us at 585-467-0410.**