



Assemblyman
**JOSEPH D.
MORELLE**

Reports to the People

DECEMBER 2012

Dear Neighbor,

I want to take this opportunity to reflect upon another year in which New York continued to make progress toward fiscal stability, greater economic growth and renewed public confidence in state government. I also want to talk about some of the significant issues and events that I have been involved with as 2012 draws to a close.

In 2012 we adopted a second consecutive balanced, on-time budget and a new round of sweeping reforms aimed at saving billions in tax dollars and making Albany accountable to taxpayers. As Chairman of the Assembly's Committee on Insurance, I'm also pleased that my landmark autism healthcare insurance law went into effect this year, paving the way for better treatment for thousands of children and adults on the autism spectrum, and that the Legislature passed a bill I sponsored providing greater insurance protection for volunteer firefighters and other first responders.

Yet New York still faces serious obstacles. We must continue working to make this a more welcome place for businesses, and we now face a long period of recovery in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy.

I hope you find this newsletter informative, and that you will contact me at any time with your thoughts and concerns. Please accept my wishes for a wonderful holiday season and a happy New Year!

Warmest personal regards,

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Balanced budget and reform defined 2012 session in Albany

No greater challenge faces state government than the need to spur new private-sector business expansion through reduced spending and taxes.

The 2012-2013 state budget was another step in that direction. For the second year in a row, we adopted an on-time budget and eliminated a projected deficit with no tax increases. The budget marked the first budget-to-budget spending decrease in a generation.

At the same time, we created the foundation for future fiscal stability by reforming the state's pension system, saving taxpayers nearly \$80 billion over the next 30 years.

Governor Cuomo and the Legislature also came to an agreement on a new standard for teacher accountability in our public schools and an expansion of New York's criminal DNA database, making it the largest and most inclusive in the nation.

Other reforms this year include movement toward a constitutional amendment to make legislative redistricting fairer while reducing the role of party politics in deciding who represents you in state government.

I look forward to another session in which we continue to justify New Yorkers' restored faith that Albany is working hard on their behalf.



Dedicating the "diverging diamond" I-390-Winton Road intersection in Brighton.

Brighton's "diverging diamond" first of its kind in New York State

Investment in infrastructure is key to New York's future economic growth and prosperity.

A great example of this is the new "diverging diamond" highway exchange at Interstate 390 and Winton Road in Brighton, which opened in October.

This cost-effective, cutting-edge highway design will reduce traffic

congestion in the heart of Monroe County, making this a more attractive corridor for the employers of today and tomorrow.

I am proud to have partnered with the Department of Transportation and Brighton town government to help bring this glimpse of what the future holds for our community and our state.

SUNY Empire State College finds a new home in Brighton

It was an honor to join Brighton Supervisor Bill Moehle and SUNY officials earlier this year to announce a new 33,000 square-foot campus for Empire State College (ESC) on South Clinton Avenue in Brighton. This was the culmination of discussion between myself, Brighton and SUNY officials and the Office of People With Developmental Disabilities, which provided the property for the new campus complex.

This is a win-win for all involved. It will create more than 70 construction jobs and another 80 per-

manent positions when the campus opens, and the agreement includes land for Brighton's Highland Canal Trail project.

ESC is a great institution that allows older, part-time students the chance to pursue their degrees and the opportunities that higher education can bring, and we welcome it to Brighton.

RIT, hi-tech firm create innovative partnership

In 2010 I joined Greater Rochester Enterprise and state officials to bring three high-tech firms to Rochester, creating 250 well-paying jobs over the next several years. The hope was that these employees would uphold this area's tradition of innovation and entrepreneurial vision.

In November, it was announced that one of those companies, Intrinsic Materials, has partnered with Rochester Institute of Technology's College of Engineering, affirming RIT's position at the vanguard of US universities and opening new possibilities for our economy.

This is precisely the kind of partnership between academia, the private sector and government that I believe will lead to a new era of entrepreneurship and job creation for greater Rochester and the entire Upstate region.

Irondequoit High School students learn the dangers of distracted driving



Cell phones and other distractions are responsible for one of every 11 highway deaths in the US, a fact brought home for Irondequoit High School students in October when I joined with Nationwide Insurance for a distracted drivers demonstration.

Thanks to IHS and Nationwide for a great event – and for helping us all learn an invaluable lesson that may save lives.

IN THE COMMUNITY



Clockwise: Presenting an American flag to Irondequoit's Mike Orsini for use at McAvoy Park; with State Education Commissioner John B. King, Jr. on a tour of Rochester's Robert Brown School of Construction and Design in support of a Career and Technical Education diploma curriculum; and celebrating a beautiful new Veterans Memorial in Brighton on Veterans Day, made possible by the hard work of Brighton Councilman Jim Vogel and renowned sculptor Mary Taylor.