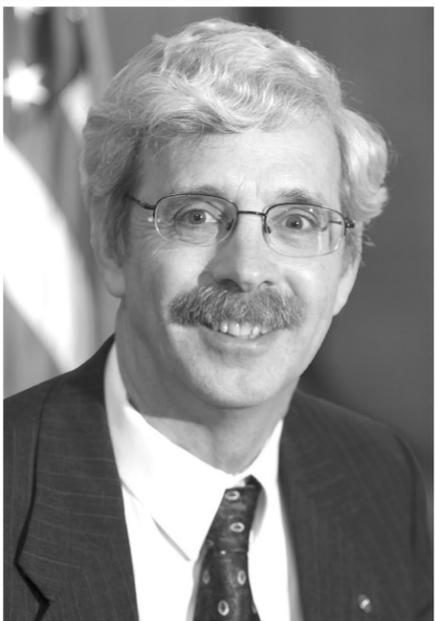




Assemblyman  
**Andy Goodell**  
Putting You First!

Assemblyman Andy Goodell ■ Legislative Report



Putting You First!

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## LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Considerable progress was made during the last two years to help put New York State back on the right track. The runaway tax and spending increases from prior years were stopped, and the State Legislature adopted two on-time budgets without any tax increases. State agencies were cut by 10%, middle class tax rates were cut to the lowest level in 58 years, certain business taxes were cut, and job-creating incentives were enacted.

As the result of its fiscal discipline, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce recently ranked New York State in the top 10 States for growth, productivity, and livability, a tremendous improvement over New York's previous dismal ranking.

Even though the State budget was very tight, we were able to increase funding for our local schools, add funding to help maintain Chautauqua Lake, provide \$4.5 million for local roads and bridges, and restore the EPIC program for senior citizens.

I also cosponsored several key pieces of legislation to help grow our local economy, cut taxes, reduce utility costs, reform welfare, and make health insurance much more affordable. The key legislative initiatives are outlined in this newsletter.

Thank you for your help and support as we fight for the issues that matter the most to Chautauqua County!

Sincerely yours,

Assemblyman Andy Goodell

**Andy Goodell discusses road concerns with local highway superintendents.**



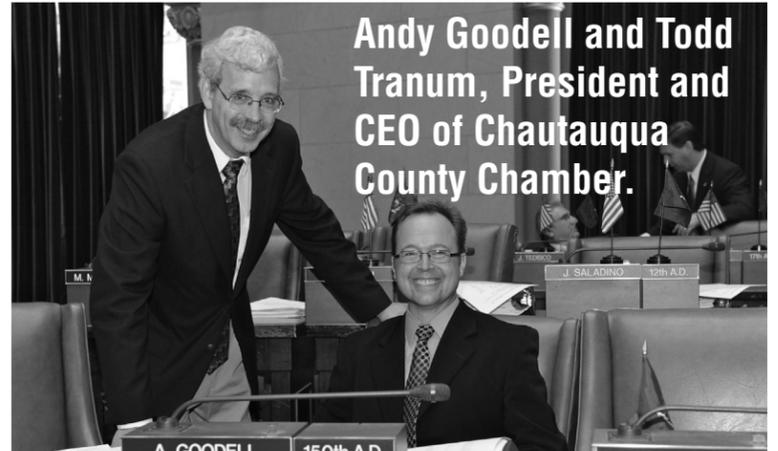
## Andy Goodell: Legislative Report

### Budget Summary:

- Adopted an on-time budget for the second year in a row, while cutting middle class tax rates to the lowest level in 58 years.
- Restored EPIC funding for senior citizen prescription drug program.
- Increased education aid by over \$805 million, with Chautauqua County schools receiving a significant increase in funding.
- Provided additional funding for several critical agricultural programs that are important to Chautauqua County.
- Allocated special funding to help improve Chautauqua Lake.

### Job Creation:

- Enacted the NY Works program and improved the business climate.
- Restructured the regional economic development programs to provide critical funding for Chautauqua County.
- Supported efforts to keep NRG open and operating in Dunkirk.
- Reduced certain business taxes to make New York more competitive.
- Enacted legislation to reduce regulatory fines on small businesses.
- Introduced important unemployment insurance bills to help businesses and workers by allowing more part-time employment and a fairer allocation of expenses.



**Andy Goodell and Todd Trantum, President and CEO of Chautauqua County Chamber.**

**Andy Goodell urges mandate relief with other Assembly members.**



### Mandate Relief:

- Reduced local Medicaid growth by one-third, saving taxpayers millions of dollars.
- Cut overall Medicaid spending by more than \$2.3 billion a year.
- Enacted meaningful pension reform for future employees, saving an estimated \$27 million in Chautauqua County during the next 10 years,
- Cosponsored comprehensive mandate relief bill, which was defeated by the Assembly majority.
- Created a Mandate Relief Council to identify and eliminate more mandates.

### Welfare Reform:

- Opposed the 10% increase in welfare cash benefits, which makes New York the 2nd highest in the nation, in welfare cash benefits.
- Successfully lobbied to streamline and improve the welfare-to-work program.
- Introduced legislation to allow random drug testing for welfare recipients.
- Co-sponsored legislation to prevent welfare benefits from being used at casinos and liquor stores.



**Andy Goodell opposes 10% welfare increase.**

**Andy Goodell discusses healthcare reform.**



### Health Care Reform:

- Enacted the Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention law to curb the explosion of prescription drug abuse in Chautauqua County and across New York State.
- Sponsored an Affordable Small Business Health Insurance Act to cut health care fees, taxes and assessments and allow more flexibility in health care coverage options to dramatically cut the cost of health insurance.
- Supported statewide insurance exchange to provide means for individuals to obtain affordable health insurance coverage.

### Other Initiatives:

- Enacted comprehensive new ethics bill for the State Legislature.
- Supported Regional High School legislation in the New York State Assembly.
- Authorized an expansion of the DNA databank to assist local enforcement officials.

**Andy Goodell encourages students to exceed expectations.**

