



*Assemblywoman*

# Michaelle C. Solages

*Reports to the People*

Serving the communities of Bellerose, North Valley Stream, Valley Stream, South Valley Stream, South Floral Park, Floral Park, Bellerose Terrace, North Woodmere, Elmont, Stewart Manor, and parts of Franklin Square.

Fall 2016

## Assemblywoman Solages Takes Action to Combat Climate Change and Promote Renewable Energy

Assemblywoman Solages helped pass legislation to fight climate change, protect communities from its impacts, and preserve the environment.

- The Assembly has passed The New York State Climate and Community Protection Act. This legislation would help slow climate change by requiring the State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to establish statewide greenhouse gas emissions limits, as well as report requirements and regulations to achieve the reductions. The bill would encompass the adoption of a state energy plan, establishing clean energy goals for the year 2030 aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emission levels by 40% from 1990 levels, producing 50% of electricity from renewable sources, and increasing energy efficiency from 2012 levels by 23%.



*“50 percent of electricity should be produced by renewable energy systems by 2030.”*

## No Dumping in the Long Island Sound

Assemblywoman Solages signed on to a letter opposing a proposal to dump dredge material in the Long Island Sound. The letter was administered by Governor Cuomo and sent to President Obama and Environmental Protection Agency Administrators. Assemblywoman Solages called for legal action against creating disposal sites in the eastern Long Island Sound.

## Seeking Employment?

Members of the general public seeking state employment can apply for a number of vacant positions throughout New York State Government. Assemblywoman Solages encourages all individuals interested to apply. For more information, please contact our District Office at 516-599-2972.

## The New York State Assembly Implemented Increased Safety Measures to the New York State Rail System

In recent years, we've experienced too many tragedies where families have lost loved ones to railroad accidents. New Yorkers deserve improved safety to make sure these incidents never happen again. The Assembly Majority will always put safety first, and do what it takes to improve and strengthen the state's transportation.

The agreement the Assembly reached establishes a state coordi-

nation of inspections by railroads and local officials of grade crossing warning systems connected with traffic lights, aligning state law with federal railroad bridge inspection standards and requirements. This increases penalties for motorists who repeatedly fail to comply with laws governing driving across railroad crossings, and establishes penalties on railroad companies that ignore safety laws and regulations.

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# Assemblywoman Solages Fights For Our Community



## Zombie Property Legislation Passed

Zombie properties have had a devastating impact on our community as the homes fall into disrepair, attracting crime and lowering property values. Assemblywoman Michaelle Solages helped pass a law encouraging banks to do their part in protecting our neighborhoods, because everyone deserves to have a sense of pride in their homes and communities. The legislation holds lenders accountable for maintaining vacant “zombie” residences, and better protects homeowners’ rights.

The new law will force banks to take responsibility for maintaining abandoned homes—even when a foreclosure action is pending—which will help reduce the number of dangerous and

dilapidated properties. It also requires the banks to conduct periodic inspections to determine where vacant properties exist, while creating a statewide registry of a toll-free hotline to report zombie homes. Additionally, the state Department of Financial Services and local governments will have the power to enforce the law to make sure lenders are maintaining these properties. If lenders fail to do so, they can be fined up to \$500 per property per day.

## Haitian Unity Day

The New York State Legislature introduced for the seventh consecutive year the Haitian Unity Day Resolution, dedicating May 23rd as Haitian Unity Day in the State of New York. On Haitian Unity Day, we recognize Haiti and Haitian-Americans throughout New York State. This resolution commemorates Haiti’s legacy of liberty and justice throughout the world and the significant contributions of Haitian people.



Assemblywoman Solages is the prime sponsor of the Haitian Unity Day Resolution and luncheon celebration. She invites all constituents to participate in next year’s celebration. To reserve a seat, please call our District Office.



## Hearing Aid Awareness Day

Access to sound is critical for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing. Many families struggle to afford the cost of hearing aids. When Debbie Meyfohrt learned that insurance companies in New York State do not cover the cost of hearing aid devices, she prompted Assemblywoman Solages to draft legislation that would mandate insurance companies to cover the cost of these devices for children and adults. The Village of Floral Park, Debbie Meyfohrt, and the Andrew Burrous family celebrated the first Hearing Aid Awareness Day on Sunday, May 29th, in Floral Park’s Centennial Gardens. The ceremony recognized a State resolution -- sponsored by Assemblywoman Solages -- that establishes May 29th as Hearing Aid Awareness Day in New York State.

## Safe Drinking Water in Schools

Lead is a cumulative toxicant that affects multiple body systems. It is particularly harmful to young children. Assemblywoman Solages strongly advocated for legislation that would require the State Health and Education Departments to create statewide guidelines for school districts and Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) to test drinking water for lead. Under the measure, costs associated with testing and remediation will be eligible for reimbursement by the state.

This law will:

- Require lead testing in schools with older pipes on a periodic basis
- Help school districts pay for testing and remediation to ensure the water is safe
- Provide safe drinking water and notify parents in a timely manner if lead is found

New York will become the first state in the nation to adopt such stringent practices and standards to keep our schools and our children safe from lead contamination. Assemblywoman Solages was proud to vote for this important public health and safety legislation, and she looks forward to Governor Cuomo signing it into law.

## Assemblywoman Solages' District Events



*On June 4, 2016, Assemblywoman Solages and 2,000 volunteers participated in Hope Day. Bethlehem Assembly of God and other local churches coordinated a massive effort to provide resources to families in need. More than 35,000 pounds of free groceries were distributed along with medical and dental screenings, a job fair, haircuts, games, activities for children, and live entertainment.*



*Assemblywoman Solages honored the Raza family. One daughter was honored for her artistic talents, and the other daughter was recognized for her resiliency and positive influence on the community!*



*Assemblywoman Solages stood strong with local veterans from Elmont American Legion Post 1033 and Lady Auxiliary on Memorial Day.*

### 2016 Forest Road Field Day Sponsor

Assemblywoman Solages was a proud sponsor of the 2016 Field Day at Forest Road Elementary School in Valley Stream. It was wonderful to see all the children working together and cooperating at the Forest Road Field Day.



### Long Island Cares Grant

Long Island Cares received a \$12,000 state grant secured by Assemblywoman Michaelle C. Solages. The funds will further the organization's mission of providing emergency food relief and eliminating the underlying root causes of hunger on Long Island. New York State Assemblywoman Michaelle C. Solages presented the grant to Paule Pachter, Chief Executive Officer, and Michael Haynes, Chief Government Affairs Officer. Rosann Coppola, President of the Saint Vincent De Paul Society at the Holy Name of Mary Roman Catholic Church, and volunteers joined to congratulate Long Island Cares.

## Zika Virus Tele-Town Hall Meeting

Assemblywoman Solages hosted a Tele-Town Hall meeting to raise awareness about the Zika virus epidemic. The Zika Virus is mostly spread by Aedes mosquitoes. It can also be spread from one person to another through sexual contact or blood transfusion. However, according to the limited research that is available, Zika is not spread from person to person through casual contact. Most people who are infected experience a mild infection with few or no symptoms. However, the virus is linked to health problems in some individuals. It is a serious concern for pregnant women, for their partners, and for couples planning a pregnancy, because it can lead to serious birth defects.

Public health officials are working hard to learn more about the Zika virus. There have been several outbreaks of Zika around the world, including in the Americas. Recently, a small number of Zika infections have been discovered in southern Florida. As of August 23, 2016, New York State public health officials identified the virus only in individuals who traveled to Zika-affected areas, or acquired the illness through sexual transmission from someone who traveled to those areas. Currently, there is no known vaccine to prevent the Zika virus.

The New York State Department of Health strongly encourages people to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes and help to control mosquito populations.

**New York State Zika Information Line:**  
**1-888-364-4723**  
**Monday through Friday**  
**9 a.m. to 5 p.m.**



To eliminate mosquito breeding sites, the New York State Department of Health is distributing 100,000 mosquito dunk starter kits (larvicide tablets) to residents and business owners to use in water in containers that can be emptied on their property and to municipalities to support the initiation of local mosquito control days. Each dunk (or tablet) lasts 30 days.

**Free Mosquito Dunks (larvicide tablets):**  
**Call 1-888-364-4723 to receive a free starter kit of mosquito dunks, or email your name and mailing address to [b0019w@health.ny.gov](mailto:b0019w@health.ny.gov).**



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### Upcoming Events:

#### **Homeowners' Informational Forum**

Attendees will learn how to reduce their property taxes.

To RSVP, call 516-599-2972 or email [solagesm@nyassembly.gov](mailto:solagesm@nyassembly.gov).

#### **Senior Citizens' Informational Forum**

Elmont Memorial Public Library, Thursday, October 27, 2016.

Attendees will acquire knowledge on various topics, including changes to Medicare and scam prevention.

Light refreshments will be provided.

Registration required; 516-599-2972 or email [solagesm@nyassembly.gov](mailto:solagesm@nyassembly.gov).