



A Message from Assemblywoman

Sandy Galef

Winter 2017

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Dear Constituent,

I would like to thank you yet again for allowing me the privilege of serving as your representative in the New York State Assembly for what promises to be another two productive and intriguing years in Albany.

There is a lot of buzz in the news and in Albany about proposed legislation and issues that our state may face going forward. It should be a busy session. The Governor and my colleagues have introduced proposals on various topics, some controversial, some not, which will require me to cast a vote that I feel best represents those who live in my district. I have gotten phone calls and emails from constituents about issues from Ridesharing to Single-Use Bag Legislation to the Electoral College. As always, I encourage you to continue reaching out to me with your thoughts and opinions. I have also attached a few questions in this newsletter so that I may be better informed of your wishes on topics that may be up for discussion in the coming months.

I am ready yet again to fight for funding for the programs that keep our communities vibrant. Many constituents are reaching out to me about their funding-related concerns, including aid for libraries, education aid, and budget support to help industries like home health care adjust to the increasing minimum wage. I hope to continue our dialogue about the issues that matter most to you.

With the announcement of the agreement to close Indian Point Energy Center, I know that there is a good amount of insecurity and concern about the impact of the lost funding, loss of employment, as well as the cost for new replacement power. Many conversations as a community and with the Governor's office have begun to develop strategies to mitigate the challenges the community may face.

I also encourage you to join me around the 95th district at my town meetings so I can hear about what is working and what needs fixing in our state. Together, I hope we can continue to push forward on government reform and other critical issues to benefit all of us in New York.

Sincerely,



Assemblywoman Sandy Galef hosts

2017 Town Meetings

in New York's 95th Assembly District

Please join me to hear about what has been happening in your State Government and how it impacts you. Bring your ideas, suggestions and questions.

Thursday, March 2nd

7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Field Library

4 Nelson Avenue, Peekskill, NY 10566
914-707-1212

Saturday, March 4th

10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Desmond Fish Library

472 NY-403, Garrison, NY 10524
845-424-3020

1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Kent Library

17 Sybils Crossing, Carmel, NY 10512
845-225-8585

Thursday, March 9th

7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Briarcliff Community Room

1 Library Road, Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510
914-941-7072

Saturday, March 11th

10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Hendrick Hudson Library

185 Kings Ferry Road, Montrose, NY 10548
914-739-5654



Assemblywoman Galef took her oath of office both in Putnam County on December 30 and Ossining on January 1. In Putnam County, she was sworn in by Maureen Fleming, Supervisor of the Town of Kent and James Shearwood. In Ossining, she was sworn in by her grandchildren, Sarah, Dan, and Jud.

The Electoral College and the National Popular Vote

On January 12, nearly 200 people came to my panel discussion on the topic of the Electoral College and the various avenues to move toward electing a president via the popular vote. I decided to have this discussion because my office had received so much correspondence on this topic.

There are many understandings of why the Electoral College came to be, but many election law experts agree that it is no longer as effective as it was originally intended to be. Rather, they say, it gives 10-12 so-called “battleground” states, the states that do not consistently lean one way or another, an unhealthy advantage over the other states. These are the states in which the majority of campaign dollars are spent, the destination of the majority of campaign events and visits, and the states that receive the majority of government funding during the terms of the presidents. Essentially, it leaves the 40 pre-determined states out of the conversation.

After the most recent election there has been a large amount of discussion in the media about the Electoral College, from pushes for and against “faithless” electors (who would deviate from the candidate they are assigned to vote for), to calls to dismantle the Electoral College altogether. However, because the Electoral College is a part of the Constitution, it would require a Constitutional Amendment to discontinue it.

In 2014, the New York State legislature voted to join the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, an agreement between states to dedicate their electors to the winner of the National Popular Vote. The compact goes into effect when



Assemblywoman Galef sponsored a panel discussion about the Electoral College and the National Popular Vote at the Croton Library.

states representing 270 Electors have passed the law. To date, 165 Electors have joined the compact. The compact is not perfect, and relies on a certain understanding of the Compact Clause in the Constitution, but is an option for making change in the system that we have without the challenge of passing an amendment.

I have received emails for years asking that my colleagues and I consider an option for New York State to recognize the popular vote. In the wake of our most recent election and in the division currently felt by our nation, the calls to end the power of the Electoral College may seem partisan in nature. But it is not a matter of party or big versus small, but a matter of making battleground and non-battleground states equal in the eyes of the candidates and the public.



New Laws You Should Know About

Move Over Law

Presently, drivers are required to slow down and move over one lane when approaching police or law enforcement vehicles that are in the shoulder of the road. This law has been extended to require drivers to do the same when approaching a vehicle with flashing blue or green lights that are operated by volunteer firefighters or ambulance workers involved in a roadside emergency.

Operating a boat while intoxicated

A judge can now consider previous Driving While Intoxicated offenses when sentencing an individual for Boating While Intoxicated.

Tinted windows and car inspections

Tinted glass will be one of the items inspected during a car's yearly state inspection, requiring it to be removed or altered if it is above 27% of light transmittance.

Saving for college

Taxpayers can directly transfer their income tax refund into a college savings account such as the New York

State 529 College Savings Program in a move to offset the high costs associated with higher education.

Combating Lyme disease

The Department of Health will design a Lyme and tick-borne disease prevention program to promote awareness and prevention methods such as including the safe use of recommended insect repellents, best practices for tick removal, and recommendations for reducing exposure to ticks.

Access to EpiPens in public venues:

Public venues such as restaurants, youth organizations, sports leagues, theme parks, sport arenas, day care and educational facilities are allowed to stock and administer epinephrine auto-injectors (EpiPens) in an emergency to individuals who appear to experience anaphylactic symptoms brought on by an allergic reaction.

Feminine Hygiene Tax Repeal:

Feminine hygiene products, such as tampons, will now be exempt from local and state taxes.

Assemblywoman Sandy Galef's Constituent Questionnaire

(Room for two respondents)

If you prefer to respond electronically, please go to the "Important Links" tab on my Assembly Web Page at <http://nyassembly.gov/mem/Sandy-Galef/>

1. In his State of the State address, Governor Cuomo unveiled a plan to provide students going to New York State Universities and Colleges and City University of New York and coming from families with annual incomes below \$125,000 with free tuition. Do you support Governor Cuomo's proposal for free tuition to SUNY schools for students coming from middle-class families?

Yes No

Yes No

2. There has been a lot of publicity regarding an attempt to allow ridesharing services, such as Lyft and Uber, to spread outside of New York City. Do you support expanding these transportation services statewide?

Yes No

Yes No

3. New York has a very low voter turnout rate. In the 2016 Presidential Election, only 56.2% of eligible voters in the State of New York voted either in person or by absentee ballot, ranking 42nd in the country. Do you support efforts to increase voter participation, such as:

(a) early voting?

Yes No Yes No

(b) automatic voter registration through the DMV?

Yes No Yes No

(c) same day voter registration?

Yes No Yes No

(d) compulsory voting with a penalty for not voting, similar to the system in place in Australia?

Yes No Yes No

4. Some states have laws that terminate parental rights upon conviction of rape, if the child is conceived as a part of the assault. Do you generally support the termination of parental rights for those convicted of rape resulting in a child?

Yes No

Yes No

5. There is a proposal before the legislature to create a living organ donor support program to provide a certain amount of funding for reimbursement of some costs incurred in the process of donating an organ, only to be used when all other forms of funding are not available. Would you support this sort of support for living organ donation in an effort to encourage organ donation in New York State?

Yes No

Yes No

6. Many municipalities (and even some states) have passed laws banning or charging an additional cost for the use of a single-use shopping bag. Would you support measures such as a fee or an outright ban on the use of single-use shopping bags?

Fee/ Ban/ Neither

Fee/ Ban/ Neither

7. Currently, seatbelts are required for front seat passengers and children in the back seats of cars, but are not required for adults seated in the back seats. Would you be in favor of a law that would require all passengers in the front and back seats to buckle-up?

Yes No

Yes No

Do you have any other thoughts or concerns? Please add other comments here or on an attached sheet _____

↓ **Fill in Name and Address. Fold. Stamp. Include Zip Code for Tallying Purposes.** ↓

Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____

Place
Stamp
Here

Assemblywoman Sandy Galef
2 Church Street
Ossining, NY 10562-4802



Sandy attended a discussion about stopping child marriage with H.R.H. Princess Mabel van Oranje of the Netherlands.



Sandy gives a proclamation at the Kent Public Library to Jim Baker at an event honoring his late wife, Wilma for her lifelong dedication to the library and the community.



Sandy met with Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul and various community leaders in Cold Spring this past fall during the Lieutenant Governor's tour to promote tourism in the area.



Sandy attended an event held by the Westchester County Volunteer Firemen's Association to honor Briarcliff Manor Volunteer Fire Department Chief Dennis L. Reilly as its "Firefighter of the Year." We recognize and deeply appreciate the work of all our local firefighters.



Sandy gives a statement at a press conference publicizing Organ Donor Enrollment Day in Ossining.



Sandy poses with students and faculty at Croton Harmon High School's new Television Studio, which was built using a grant she assisted the district in securing.



Sandy at the 2016 Peekskill Irish Festival with constituents celebrating their heritage.



A message from Assemblywoman **Sandy Galef**

Town Meetings 2017

Winter 2017

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Ethics Update ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Last year, to continue my efforts toward ethics reform and a better government, I introduced a package of 15 good government reform bills aimed at tackling the problem of corruption in Albany. This year, they remain a top priority because I believe that my colleagues and I owe you a government that you can trust implicitly and assure that we will only act in your best interests and for the good of the state. My ethics package, which I have re-introduced and will continue to champion, includes bans on state-funded nonprofits employing legislators' family members, political fundraisers during the legislative session in Albany and political consultants lobbying state lawmakers for special interests. Recently, both houses of the legislature voted to strip state pensions from convicted corrupt politicians, a move that would require

a change to the state Constitution, which I first introduced as legislation in 2011. As a result of this legislation passing both houses both this year and last year, New York voters will see the matter before them in the voting booths this November.

The Governor has also proposed his own 2017 government ethics agenda, including a pay-to-play measure closely resembling the one I introduced last year barring campaign donors from receiving state contracts. It also includes a constitutional amendment to limit outside income and create a full-time legislature, a move to institute public financing for campaigns, requiring local elected officials to complete financial disclosures, reforms to the State Freedom of Information Law, and increasing oversight of the state's procurement process.