



# Assemblywoman Michaelle C. Solages

## 2021 Constituent Questionnaire

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

As your elected representative, I want to gauge your priorities and advocate for the issues that matter most to our communities. This annual survey is an opportunity for you to provide feedback regarding your concerns. Whether it's a comment on social media, a phone call, or filling out this survey, your input is essential as I represent you in Albany. There are two ways to submit your survey: electronically online or return the enclosed survey to our district office. Individuals interested in the results of the 2020 Constituent Survey can visit my Assembly webpage.

Sincerely,

Hon. Michaelle C. Solages

**1. What do you think are the most pressing issues that the New York State Legislature should address in the 2021 legislative session?**

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**2. All in all, do you think things in New York are generally headed in the right direction, or do you feel things are off on the wrong track?**

- Generally heading in the right direction.
- Off on the wrong track.
- Unsure

**3. The State of New York is facing a severe budget deficit. How do you want to see the state address the financial crisis? Would you support or oppose:**

**a. increasing the state's income tax on any income over one million dollars?**

- Support
- Oppose

**b. new tax on luxury homes and apartments in New York that are worth over \$5 million**

**and are not a family's primary residence?**

- Support
- Oppose

**c. raising state income tax rate on income over \$5 million per year?**

- Support
- Oppose

**d. reinstating stock transfer tax – also known as the financial transaction tax?** The stock transfer tax is a sales tax on stock purchases. The underlying stock transfer tax rate should be linked to a person's trading volume: The lower the trading volume, the lower the tax.

- Support
- Oppose

**e. imposing a tax of one-half of one percent on all corporate stock buybacks of issued shares?** Following the 2017 federal corporate tax cuts, corporations in the United States spent a record \$1 trillion in corporate stock buybacks.

- Support
- Oppose

**4. The effects of COVID-19 go beyond numbers of cases and deaths.**

**a. During the pandemic have you or a family member experienced any of the following? Check all that apply.**

- Loss of employment income
- Food scarcity
- Delayed medical care
- Housing insecurity
- K-12 or higher educational changes
- Seeking access to mental health services

**b. With regards to COVID-19 testing, do you feel that there is accessible diagnostic testing in our community?**

- Yes
- No

**c. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) can give emergency authorization for the use of a COVID-19 vaccine if its phase III clinical trial results show that it is safe and effective and the benefits outweigh the risks.**

**If an FDA-approved vaccine to prevent coronavirus/COVID-19 was available at no cost, would you agree to be vaccinated?**

- Yes
- No

**d. With so many students dependent on remote learning during the pandemic, State Lawmakers are proposing a bill that would allow parents to take up to 12 weeks of paid family leave to assist their kids with remote learning at any point during the pandemic, whether their child participates in a full-time distance learning program or their kids' schools are closed for in-person learning.**

**Do you support or oppose this legislation?**

- Support
- Oppose

**5. What do you believe the Legislature should do to support small businesses in 2021?**

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**6. Name a business in the community you deem:**

**a. struggling and in need of assistance.**

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**b. despite the circumstances, this business is creative in an effort to make ends meet.**

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**7. Along the Southern State Parkway between exits 13 and 14 are two vacant buildings. They are currently in a state of disrepair.**

**Would you support converting those buildings into a Taste NY Welcome Center, which promotes regional tourism and food?**

- Support
- Oppose

**8. The eastbound ramps of the Southern State Parkway at exit 13 is a location prone to accidents. Currently, there is a six-way convergence of roads, including one entrance and two exit ramps for the parkway.**

**Do you support an infrastructure improvement project that would redesign exit 13 and upgrade traffic control measures on North Central Ave in North Valley Stream? If so, what are your suggestions?**

- Support
- Oppose

Suggestions for improvements:

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**9. Do you support classifying drivers for app-based transportation (i.e. Uber, Lyft) and delivery companies (i.e. Uber Eats, Door Dash) as "independent contractors," not "employees"?**

- Support
- Oppose

**10. The New York State Legislature is proposing utility-reform legislation which includes a feasibility study of New York American Water, a private water providing entity that has been criticized by ratepayers and officials for high billing and poor performance. Officials say the review could result in a public takeover of New York American Water's Nassau County infrastructure.**

**Would you support the conversion of New York American Water to a publicly owned water authority?**

- Support
- Oppose

**11.** Due to recent events, the impact of implicit, explicit, and systemic racism on the lives of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) is now amplified. Statistically, BIPOC communities face not only disproportionate numbers of underlying health conditions, including shorter life expectancy, but also inequitable access to health insurance, testing, treatment, and care.

**Do you believe that racism is a public health crisis?**

- Yes       No

**12.** According to the Center of American Progress, over the past three years, the demographic divide between teachers and students of color has significantly increased. Today, students of color make up almost half of the public school population. However, teachers of color are just 18 percent of the teaching profession.

**a. Is it important to you and your family for schools to increase diversity in their teaching staff?**

- Very important  
 Important  
 Moderately important  
 Slightly important  
 Not important

**b. Do you support incentives by local school districts that would increase teacher diversity?**

- Support       Oppose

**13.** Qualified immunity is a judicial doctrine created by the Supreme Court in the late 1960s that shields law enforcement from liability for their misconduct, even when they break the law. For decades, qualified immunity has enabled government officers ranging from irresponsible tax collectors to violent police officers to violate people's rights, many times with little to no consequences. Coincidentally, there are multiple cases the Supreme Court is currently considering that—if taken—have the power to reform and eliminate qualified immunity altogether.

**Would you support an end to qualified immunity for law enforcement officers?**

- Support       Oppose

**14.** Currently, localities are aiming to reduce the number of mental health crises that result in 911 calls by expanding the number of mental health teams who can intervene before crises occur, while also stabilizing individuals after a crisis.

**Do you support the practice of dispatching**

**Emergency Medical Services (EMS) health professionals and mental health crisis workers to respond to mental health emergencies instead of law enforcement officers?**

- Support       Oppose

**15.** Currently, New York has a legalized medical marijuana program in place. However, it has not legalized cannabis for adult recreational use. To date, fifteen states, including neighboring Massachusetts and New Jersey, have legalized cannabis for adult use.

**a. Do you support the full legalization of cannabis in New York?**

- Support       Oppose

**b. If cannabis was legalized for adults aged 21+, would you support establishing recreational dispensaries within Nassau County?**

- Support       Oppose

**c. Would you support the practice of home cultivation of cannabis?**

- Support       Oppose

**d. Do you support the use of cannabis revenue towards restorative justice for communities that have been disproportionately affected by cannabis prohibition?**

- Support       Oppose

**16.** The Enhanced School Tax Relief (STAR) program offers property tax relief to senior citizens who are eligible New York State homeowners. To be eligible, the homeowner would have to be 65 years and older, with a yearly income of less than \$90,550, and the home must be the primary residence of at least one age-eligible owner.

**Are you or anyone you know eligible for this tax relief program?**

- Yes       No

If yes, please check the box and write your phone number if you'd like more information:

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**17. A new legislative session welcomes the opportunity to introduce new legislation. If you could propose a new law or modify existing law, what would you recommend?**

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**18. Do you have any additional thoughts or comments?**

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1690 Central Court  
Valley Stream, NY 11580



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## **Assemblywoman Michaelle C. Solages**

### **2021 Constituent Questionnaire**

Assemblywoman Michaelle Solages is in the exploratory phase of creating a new community garden within the 22<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District. Would you like to become a member of our community garden coalition?

If yes, please check the box and write your phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you also like to subscribe to our eNewsletter?

If yes, please check the box and write your email: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **THERE ARE TWO WAYS THAT YOU CAN SUBMIT THE SURVEY:**

By returning the enclosed survey by mail to our District office:

**Assemblywoman Michaelle Solages, 1690 Central Court, Valley Stream, NY 11580 OR**

Complete the survey online: <https://nyassembly.gov/mem/Michaelle-C-Solages>

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_