



Assemblyman Ken Zebrowski



SPRING 2019 UPDATE

Dear Neighbor:

Now that we are well into the 2019 legislative session, I wanted to provide an update on some of the things that I've accomplished so far, and what I've fought against.

There have been some significant legislative wins, and some disappointments, especially in this year's enacted state budget. However, I will continue to stand up for our community and push back against measures that aren't in the best interest of Rocklanders.

Here's what we've been able to accomplish so far and I am looking forward to the work ahead.

Sincerely,

Ken Zebrowski



Fighting Against Congestion Pricing

Assemblyman Zebrowski voted against the 2019-2020 Budget Revenue bill for many reasons that shortchanged Rockland residents. One major factor was the implementation of congestion pricing.

- The budget enacted a plan that failed to take Rocklanders into consideration.
- It ignores the fact that Rockland taxpayers already pay much more in taxes to the MTA than it receives back in service.
- Due to lack of transit options, Rockland commuters are often forced to drive into the city.
- Now, residents will face a fee, in addition to the tolls to get into midtown or downtown Manhattan.
- To address this, Assemblyman Zebrowski introduced a bill to provide tax credits to Rockland drivers to offset the cost of the congestion toll.

Ken will continue to fight against this unfair plan and demand better service from the MTA - something he has repeatedly called for over the last decade.

Requiring IVF Coverage

- Ken and the Legislature passed a major update to insurance law that will support New Yorkers trying to have children.
- Beginning in 2020, Large Group markets must provide coverage for in-vitro fertilization (IVF).
- This provides three cycles of IVF for individuals that struggle with infertility and cancer patients that want to protect their fertility.
- Removing this cost barrier will allow more New Yorkers to have the families they've always wanted.

Other Budget Fights

In addition to congestion pricing, Ken also voted against the budget bill that:

- Allows the State to unfairly collect a portion of additional internet sales tax receipts which cuts off needed revenue for Rockland and all our counties.
- Makes unnecessary changes to the STAR program by forcing some households to switch from a direct reduction on their tax bill, to a rebate check.
- Under-funds Rockland schools and once again ignored the North Rockland debt crisis. However, Assemblyman Zebrowski and Senator Skoufis have secured a written and verbal commitment to address North Rockland post-budget.
- Creates another unelected panel that can make major policy decisions related to public campaign financing; circumventing public input.

Funding Early Voting

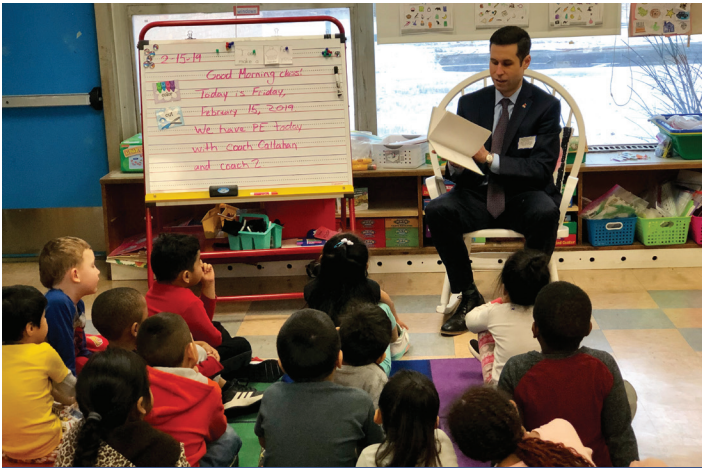
- Earlier this session, Assemblyman Zebrowski voted in favor for early voting in NYS.
- Although increasing voter accessibility is incredibly important, Ken was also concerned how this would financially impact counties.
- Assemblyman Zebrowski successfully advocated for \$10 million to localities to offset the cost of additional poll hours.

PROTECTING OUR MOST VULNERABLE



MUST BE 21 TO PURCHASE TOBACCO PRODUCTS

Many counties across the State, Rockland included, already have local laws that increase the purchasing age for tobacco products and electronic cigarettes from 18 to 21 years old. Ken and the Assembly have approved legislation that would bring the entire state on the same page, creating a healthier New York. Tobacco is still the nation’s number one preventable cause of death, killing 480,000 Americans and 28,200 New Yorkers annually. Raising the age is the best way to reduce the likelihood that young people will ever start using tobacco products or e-cigarettes.



REFORMING TEACHER EVALUATIONS

Assemblyman Zebrowski has been a long-time advocate and has fought for years to decouple teacher evaluations from state standardized tests. The legislature finally passed legislation that reforms teacher evaluation requirements; allowing school districts and teachers to come up with a fair and effective evaluation system that works for their community. Ken has always pushed for local control and input and these reforms ensure that there is no longer a one-size-fits-all formula. The legislation also serves as a rebuke to high stakes testing and will prevent grades three through eight from being included on a student’s permanent record.

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CRIMINALIZING REVENGE PORN

The legislature recently passed legislation that Ken supported that criminalizes the unlawful publication and dissemination of intimate images, also known as revenge porn. Individuals who distribute these images do so without consent and to cause emotional, financial, or even physical harm to the other person. The bill also creates an avenue for victims to pursue damages including a court order to permanently remove the images from a website. No one should be subjected to this type of invasion of privacy or harassment. Assemblyman Zebrowski is proud to have advocated for New York to finally get this done and give victims the legal recourse that they deserve.

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