



# NEWS from Assemblymember Jonathan Jacobson



## Albany Update

### Dear Neighbor,

I am honored to serve as your representative in the Assembly and equally proud to report that we hit the ground running in January, passing numerous historic reforms.

I was appointed a member of the Election Law Committee and was also made **Chair of the Subcommittee on Election Day Operations**. Expanding voter rights is very important to me, so I **co-sponsored bills implementing early voting and consolidating the federal and state primaries** to spare taxpayers the costs of two primaries.

I am also a member of the Cities, Insurance, Local Governments, and Transportation committees.

The 2019 legislative session was one of the most productive in history. We passed laws bolstering and securing **women's reproductive health rights**, protecting our communities with **commonsense gun safety laws**, and **preserving our environment**.

**Child abuse victims** will have a new chance to seek justice in the courts. **Education aid increased** and we **made the property tax cap permanent**.



Addressing the Assembly during legislative debate.

While statewide legislation is important, I did not forget to act on local needs. I was the prime sponsor of a bill that the governor signed in June **waiving a \$12.5 million penalty against the Newburgh Enlarged City School District**. I helped secure increased school and library aid, including **an extra \$50,000 to replace broken and contaminated water fountains in the Poughkeepsie City School District**.

To better serve residents throughout the district, I moved my **Newburgh** office to a more accessible location and opened a **Poughkeepsie** office. Both my district offices offer **Spanish-language assistance** by appointment.

If you'd like to discuss any issues or need help resolving a problem, my staff and I are here to get the job done – for you.

Very truly yours,

## Bills sponsored by Assemblymember Jacobson that were signed into law by the Governor

### A.7056 (Jacobson)/S.1777 (Skoufis)

- Saved the taxpayers of the Newburgh Enlarged City School District \$12.5 million by waiving a penalty levied against the district for a late filing.

### A.7123 (Jacobson)/S.5129 (Myrie)

- Enables county Boards of Elections to fully take advantage of new, on-demand printer technology, saving taxpayer money and allowing for greater efficiency at the polls.



With Dutchess County Elections Commissioner Beth Soto at a League of Women Voters forum on early voting in Poughkeepsie.



With State basketball champions, the Poughkeepsie Pioneers, Assemblymember Didi Barrett and members of my staff in the Assembly Chamber.

### A.8228B (Jacobson)/S.6532A (Kavanagh)

- Significantly extends the window in which registered voters can change their political party ahead of a primary election.

### A.7080A (Jacobson)/S.2848A (Breslin)

- Adds motor vehicle keys and key fobs to the list of items included in service contracts. This saves consumers who break or lose a key fob \$250 to \$1,000.



Meeting in Newburgh with members of Let NY Vote and the New York Civic Engagement Table.

## VOTING REFORMS

**Voting should be simple and easy.** Period. In pursuit of that goal, the Legislature passed sweeping voting reforms this year.

**New York now has nine early voting days**, including two full weekends, prior to Election Day and all primaries.

To minimize voter confusion and save taxpayers money, **State and federal primaries have been consolidated** and will now be held on the same day in June.

**Young people age 16 and 17 can now pre-register to vote.** Inviting young people into the democratic process early will make them more likely to vote and increase turnout in the years to come.

This year, we took the first step toward instituting **“no excuse” absentee voting and same-day registration.** Both changes require amendments to the State Constitution and passage by two separately elected Legislatures. If the 2021 Legislature passes both amendments, New York voters will decide if they should become law.

## SECURING REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

On the 46th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision, we passed the **Reproductive Health Act (RHA)**, codifying a woman’s right to choose into State law.

We also passed the **Comprehensive Contraception Coverage Act (CCCA)**, mandating that insurance companies cover FDA-approved contraceptive drugs, products and devices while also eliminating co-pays and deductibles.

Finally, we passed the **Boss Bill**, which protects employees’ right to make reproductive health decisions without fear of discrimination or retaliatory action from their employers.

After passing this long-blocked legislation, New York now leads the country on reproductive rights.



Speaking in support of women’s reproductive rights at Planned Parenthood, Poughkeepsie.

## COMMONSENSE GUN SAFETY LAWS

New York State is working to end the current epidemic of gun violence. That’s why I am proud to have co-sponsored a package of commonsense gun safety legislation that became law this year.

The **Red Flag “Extreme Risk Protection Orders” Law** enables family members, law enforcement, or school officials who believe someone is likely to harm themselves or others to seek a court order requiring that person to relinquish their firearms and preventing them from buying new ones.

Prior to the passage of the **Effective Background Check Act**, gun permits were granted if a background check was unable to be processed within three days. This law establishes an extension of up to 30 days.

The **Ghost Gun Law** bans the possession of 3-D printed guns, which are made of plastic and not visible to metal detectors.

The **Safe Storage Act** requires owners to store their firearms safely if a child under age 16 is present or lives in the household.



Meeting with Moms Demand Action in Albany.

## PROTECTING LGBTQ RIGHTS

This year, we acted swiftly to pass the **Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act (GENDA)**, prohibiting discrimination based on gender identity or expression and adding transgender New Yorkers to those protected under the State’s Hate Crimes Law. We banned the “gay panic” defense, which was used by defendants claiming that their violent actions were a reaction to their victims’ sexual orientation or gender identity.

The Legislature further protected LGBTQ minors by **banning the widely discredited practice of conversion therapy.**

## PROTECTING WORKERS FROM SEXUAL HARASSMENT

New York’s outdated laws and loopholes allowed for a culture of silencing survivors and protecting offenders. This new legislation changes that and provides equity and protection to its workers.

In 2019, we passed **landmark sexual harassment legislation.** In addition to removing the “severe or pervasive” standard from discriminatory and retaliatory harassment cases, we extended the statute of limitations to three years for sexual harassment complaints, prohibited non-disclosure agreements that bar someone from speaking out against discrimination, and required employers to provide employees with a notice of sexual harassment prevention policies.

## PFOA/PFAS Contamination

Too many communities in New York State, including the City of Newburgh, are dealing with drinking water contaminated by PFOA/PFAS and other chemicals. This year, we passed significant **legislation combating PFOA/PFAS, including banning its use in firefighting foam**, which caused the contamination of Newburgh's Washington Lake.

After repeatedly urging the Department of Health (DOH) to help stem this crisis and adopt new standards recommended by the New York State Water Quality Commission, Senator James Skoufis and I held a joint press conference at the city's Water Filtration Plant in July. We were joined by Maureen Cunningham from Environmental Advocates of New York and representatives from other local and statewide environmental groups. That week, the DOH moved to adopt stricter standards on PFOA/PFOS and 1,4-dioxane levels in drinking water.



Urging (successfully) for the adoption of tough, new standards for PFOA/PFAS and 1,4-dioxane with State Senator Skoufis and environmental advocates.

## Around the District



With New York Attorney General Letitia James at an opioid crisis roundtable at SUNY Orange, Newburgh.



Testifying at the Senate Hearing on Code Enforcement at the Newburgh Armory.



Visiting Hudson River Housing's River Haven in Poughkeepsie.



Touring Safe Harbors of the Hudson's Ann Street Gallery in Newburgh.



Marching in Beacon's Memorial Day Parade.



In Marlborough to see Troop 640174's Silver Award Projects.



Backstage at the Bardavon Theater, Poughkeepsie.



Attending the Highland Harvest Festival.



Speaking against proposed Medicaid payment cuts at Valley View Nursing Home with Senators Jen Metzger and James Skoufis and Assemblymember Aileen Gunther.

## PUTTING STUDENTS AND TAXPAYERS FIRST

I voted to make the **2% property tax cap permanent** and supported legislation that authorized the use of **school bus safety cameras** to keep our kids safe on the way to and from school.

I secured additional aid that helped to fund the **Newburgh** Enlarged City School District's anti-bullying program, new water fountains in the **Poughkeepsie** City School District, theater renovations in the **Beacon** City School District, a 3-D printer station in the **Highland** School District, and a STEM hub in the **Marlboro** Central School District.

## NEW DISTRICT OFFICES

I share my Newburgh office with **New York State Senator James Skoufis**. This gives constituents "one-stop shopping" to meet with their state representatives and also demonstrates our joint commitment to the revitalization of the **City of Newburgh**.

It's been decades since an Assembly office has been in the **City of Poughkeepsie**, so I opened one to better serve residents in the northern part of the district.

Since many people work 9-5 Monday through Friday and can't take time off their jobs to visit my offices, I have launched "**Pop-up**" **weeknight and weekend office hours** throughout the district. Follow "Assemblymember Jonathan Jacobson" on Facebook to find out when I'll be in your part of the 104th.

### Environmental Advocates of New York REPORT CARD

Category	Score
2019 Voting Record	<b>100%</b>

I was proud to co-sponsor the **New York State Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act**. This landmark legislation sets aggressive goals to fully transition to 100% renewable energy within the next 30 years.

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