



Assemblymember PATRICIA A. FAHY

109th Assembly District

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Summer 2020

In New York State and the Capital Region, we are finally emerging from the worst of the global COVID-19 pandemic, and beginning to navigate and understand what has become our ‘new normal.’ Across the nation, a wave of demonstrations and protests, spurred by the killing of George Floyd presents us with an opportunity to seize what is a historic moment of change to root out systemic inequalities faced by people of color in this country for too long. Only halfway through 2020 – this year is already proving to be a watershed moment and year in American history.

The New York State Legislature continues its work of responding to the COVID-19 pandemic through passage of rent relief for tenants, and public hearings to assess the impact of COVID-19 on the state economy, health care, long-term residential care, and more. Additionally, we’ve seized the moment of change and enacted a

series of historic policing reforms in New York State, including the repeal of section 50-a. I’ve introduced two major pieces of legislation to help New York’s economy recover by creating a New Deal-style jobs program similar to the original Works Progress Administration (WPA), and through comprehensively expanding and transforming New York’s Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) to make more households eligible.

I continue to be inspired by our community’s resilience and unity throughout what has been a challenging year. I am honored to represent each of you in the New York State Assembly, and I am working to ensure the Capital Region and our local economy emerges from this crisis stronger and more vibrant than ever.

Sign up for our weekly email-blasts that we have on each newsletter by visiting: nyassembly.gov/mem/Patricia-Fahy/enews.

Remember: Don’t forget to complete your **2020 Census** questionnaire!
See back for more information.

New York Tough & Capital Region Strong – The Path Forward

New York State’s rapid response to the arrival of COVID-19 beginning in early March has helped ensure that numbers have dramatically fallen. While we remain vigilant in continuing to wear masks and socially distance, focus now falls to the state’s recovery. In May, the Legislature authorized \$100 million in rental assistance as a first step towards providing rent relief to New York tenants and renters hardest-hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, major sectors of the economy, will require a large commitment from the federal government to provide a financial lifeline to states like New York who’ve been hit the hardest by the economic slowdown.

As we continue to adjust our new normal accordingly, I’ve joined several colleagues to advocate for increased flexibility in certain reopening guidelines and other sectors of the economy where appropriate and necessary. Moreover, the preference given to big box stores in comparison to locally-owned small businesses will continue to be a focal point of my advocacy moving forward – small businesses and ‘Main Streets’ are the lifeblood of our communities.



Packing Meals for the 518: In early June, I joined the Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany in handing out prepared meals for our neighbors and broader Capital Region community.

Visitation of Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities

Families have had to wait numerous months before seeing their loved ones in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Joining my colleagues in the legislature, we urged the state to reconsider this policy and in early July, permitted facilities authorized limited visitation given that there have been no new cases for 28 days. Still, more needs to be done and flexibility is needed for residents and families.

Childcare

In June, I was proud to sign onto a joint letter among Upstate Assembly colleagues urging an increase to the limit of 10 children per classroom in childcare and summer camps, a critical program and service for countless working families in New York State. Guidance has since been revised to increase that number to 15. Child care affordability and accessibility continues to be one of the most critical issues in the state and a top priority of the Legislative Women’s Caucus and I look forward to addressing this with my colleagues during the legislative session.

The Legislature’s Recent Response to the COVID-19 Crisis

In May, the state legislature passed a package of bills aimed at dealing with some of the most immediate effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. This included measures to help keep New Yorkers in their homes through rental and mortgage assistance and to prohibit evictions for the duration of the crisis, authorize benefits for families of employees lost to COVID-19 on the frontline, improve mobile voter access, and expand New Yorkers’ access to telemedicine and telehealth services (which have now become essential to our healthcare system).

Highlights of these bills include; legislation to ensure audio-only and video-only telehealth and telemedicine services will be eligible for reimbursement, legislation providing financial and budgetary flexibility to local governments as they continue to operate and provide essential services, and legislation enabling New Yorkers to apply for absentee ballots through an electronic application.

Reopening Malls

Many locally-owned small businesses in malls throughout New York State were adversely impacted by the decision to delay reopening originally slated for Phase 3 until early July. As major drivers of revenue and jobs in local and regional economies, hundreds of workers depend on these establishments for income, and I was proud to host my legislative colleagues in urging that malls be allowed to reopen safely and responsibly in a limited manner.



At Crossgates Mall to urge the state to reopen malls and businesses: On June 11th, I was joined by Assemblymember John McDonald, Albany County Legislator Dustin Reidy, Town of Guilderland Supervisor Peter Barber, and local business leaders from the Capital Region Chamber, Guilderland Chamber of Commerce, including representatives of Spa Mirbeau - Albany, Laced Up, and The Standard, to urge that the state reopen malls and businesses.

Ensuring Our Recovery Works for All New Yorkers New Proposals

Expanding NY's Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) (A.10775/S.8670)

In July, I introduced legislation to address income inequality with state Senator Anna Kaplan (A.10775 Fahy/S.8670 Kaplan) to expand New York's Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). At both the federal and state levels, EITCs have been proven to be one of the most effective economic and social equalizers, lifting millions of Americans and their families out of poverty every year. In the United States, 39% of working people earning less than \$40,000 either lost their jobs or were furloughed due to COVID-19 pandemic in March of 2020 alone. Expanding New York State's Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) would significantly raise the maximum income thresholds to include hundreds of thousands of working NYers not previously eligible.

Struggling workers and families need cash now to afford necessities and pay bills. Low-income NYers have been hit the hardest by the #COVID19 pandemic. Expanding NY's EITC eligibility would ensure that we're supporting some of our most essential workers and injecting badly-needed dollars into our economy. The 'bottom-up' recovery is needed to combat the ever-growing wealth gap between the ultra-wealthy and middle/lower classes.

Stay tuned for more about expanding the NY EITC, and read more about the push to transform the credit here: <https://tinyurl.com/ExpandNYEITCLearnMore>

Please join...

Assemblymember Patricia Fahy AND Senator Rachel May

FOR A

Works Progress Administration- Pandemic Recovery (WPA-PR)

VIRTUAL TOWN HALL
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2020
11 A.M. -- 12 P.M.

LEARN MORE ABOUT ASSEMBLYMEMBER PATRICIA FAHY'S AND SENATOR RACHEL MAY'S RECENTLY INTRODUCED LEGISLATION CREATING THE NY WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION-PANDEMIC RECOVERY (WPA-PR).

HEAR FROM OUR PANELISTS

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|---|--|--|---|--|
| Greg Michel, Director, Onondaga Earth Corps | Tom Nardacci, Director, Upstate Communications | Maureen Sager, Alliance for the Creative Economy | David Bennett, Professor Emeritus of History, Maxwell School, Syracuse University | Trudy Goldberg, Chair, National Jobs for All Coalition |
|---|--|--|---|--|

JOIN US ON ZOOM OR FACEBOOK LIVE

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81622338588>
Zoom Meeting ID: 816 2233 8588
@AssemblymemberPatriciaFahy | @RachelMayNY

New Legislation Alert

Assemblymember Patricia Fahy

Expanding New York State's Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) A.10775

Makes the following households and individuals eligible for the first time:

- Young adults under age 25 who have no children
- Immigrants who do not have a social security number but pay taxes

Increases the phase-out start point to make more NYers eligible:

- \$8,790 to \$24,960 for childless adults and single parents
- \$14,680 to \$29,960 for joint filers

CREATES FLEXIBILITY FOR WORKING FAMILIES THROUGH AUTHORIZING ADVANCE PAYMENTS IN THE FORM OF INSTALLMENTS FOR THE FIRST TIME

Raises the value of NY's EITC from 30 to 35% of the federal EITC in 2020, and to 40% of the federal EITC in 2021+, while doubling the phase-out rate from 7 to 15-percent for single or married households with 1 or fewer children.

FOR EXAMPLE

A CHILDLESS SINGLE ADULT would see the maximum credit value increase from \$464 (current) to \$1,587

Almost 40% of workers in American households making less than \$40,000/year have either been furloughed or laid off since March 2020, while the ultra-wealthy have become \$585 billion richer since then.

The Push for Jobs: A New Works Progress Administration Recovery Act (NY WPA) [A.10480 Fahy/S.8440 May]

I've introduced legislation alongside Senator Rachel May (D - Syracuse) to create a state-level New Deal-style public jobs and works program to create good-paying jobs fast and get New Yorkers back to work, described in an op-ed published by The Altamont Enterprise ('The Case for a 21st-Century WPA - We Must Be Bold As Well As Practical') and the Albany Business Review ('It's Time for a New Works Progress Administration'). Almost 2 million NY workers are out-of-work due to #COVID19, with many of those jobs potentially lost for good. We need a statewide, short-term #NewWPANow to unleash the potential of New York State's workforce, restart and reinvigorate the economy. The United States economy is in disarray on a scale that our nation has not seen since the Great Depression. Let's secure funds for a new WPA in the next federal stimulus package and focus on low-wage workers, families, and millennials as they are bearing the brunt of the economic fallout.

Black Lives Matter – Seizing the Moment of Change & Passing Historic Policing Reform



Fahy Pictured in Blue on Left: Assembly Passes Historic Criminal Justice and Policing Reform: The New York State Legislature responded swiftly to the call for justice following the murder of George Floyd earlier this year by passing a historic package of legislation to dismantle inequities that persist within our broader society.

I was proud to join my colleagues in the Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic, and Asian Legislative Caucus, Assembly, and State Senate to pass historic police reform legislation aimed at reforming and transforming policing in New York State. The below package of legislation passed by the Assembly is a critical first step in addressing the longstanding, systemic inequalities that adversely impact too many communities and people of color in New York State.

- **Public Right to Record Police:**
A.1360-A (Perry)/S.3253-A (Parker)
- **Criminalizing False Police Reports Motivated by Bias:** A.1531-B (Richardson)/S.8492 (Parker)
- **Banning Police Chokeholds:**
A.6144-B (Mosley)/S.6670-B (Benjamin)
- **Requiring Body Cameras for State Police:**
A.8674-A (Walker)/S.8493 (Parker)
- **Police Weapon Discharge-Mandatory Reporting:**
A.10608 (Perry)/S.2575-B (Bailey)
- **STAT Act – Transparency in Minority Arrest Rates:** A.10609 (Lentol)/S.1830-C (Hoylman)
- **Repealing Article 50-A:**
A.10611 (O'Donnell)/S.8496 (Bailey)
- **Require Medical Response for Arrestees:**
A.8226-B (Fernandez)/S.6601-B (Benjamin)
- **Mandatory Appointing of A Special Prosecutor for Deaths Caused by Police:** A.1601-C (Perry)/S.2574-B (Bailey)

New Legislation to Improve Accountability of Police Misconduct (A.10630)

In an effort to hold law enforcement agencies and police departments more accountable to the public, I've introduced legislation with state Senator Robert Jackson (D – NYC) granting immunity to police officers and law enforcement employees who intervene in or report instances of police misconduct. Currently, officers who report or intervene in police misconduct or attempt to prevent violence or misuse of force face professional retaliation and in many cases, termination, stifling any voices seeking to do what is just.

We have more work to do in advancing justice through combatting persistent, rising income inequality, creating jobs and more, and I am anxious to continue work to address these challenges.

Making Juneteenth A State Holiday

Celebrated on June 19th of every year since 1865, this day commemorates the end of slavery in the United States over 150 years ago, when the last slaves in the rebelling states were freed by Union troops at the end of the Civil War. The Legislature passed and the Governor signed legislation to make it an official state holiday by 2021. While we know that inequalities in our state are pervasive and require real policy solutions, it is critical we better integrate the story and history of Black Americans into our nation's broader and collective historical narrative.

COVID-19: State Resources

Unemployment Insurance Updates

To apply for UI benefits, call 1-888-209-8124 or visit labor.ny.gov/unemployment-tassistance.htm. If you have questions or need help with your UI claim, please don't hesitate to reach out to my office.

New Sick and Paid Leave Benefits

As part of the state's response to COVID-19, I was proud to vote on a new state law that extended paid sick leave and benefits to isolated or quarantined workers as a result of COVID-19 infection. To learn how much you might qualify for, visit paidfamilyleave.ny.gov/COVID19.

COVID-19: Critical Resources

New York State Department of Health:

888-364-3065 | www.ny.gov/coronavirus

NYS Mental Health Hotline:

For free and confidential emotional support, consultation and referral to a local provider, call: 1-844-863-9314

New York State Domestic Violence Hotline:

1-800-942-6906

Child Care Resources for Parents and Providers:

www.ocfs.ny.gov/programs/childcare

Election Information and Updates: elections.ny.gov

COVID-19: Local Resources

Childcare:

<https://cdymca.org/resources/brightsideup.org>

School Meals:

<https://www.bgccapitalarea.org/covid-19-update>

Food Insecurity:

thefoodpantries.org

CDTA Updates:

<https://cdta.org/news/>

Free Legal Resources:

<https://lasnny.org/coronavirus-information/>

<https://legalproject.org/>

Job and Career Opportunities:

<https://tinyurl.com/rssxokv>

Housing and Eviction FAQ:

Utalbany.org

Small Business Assistance:

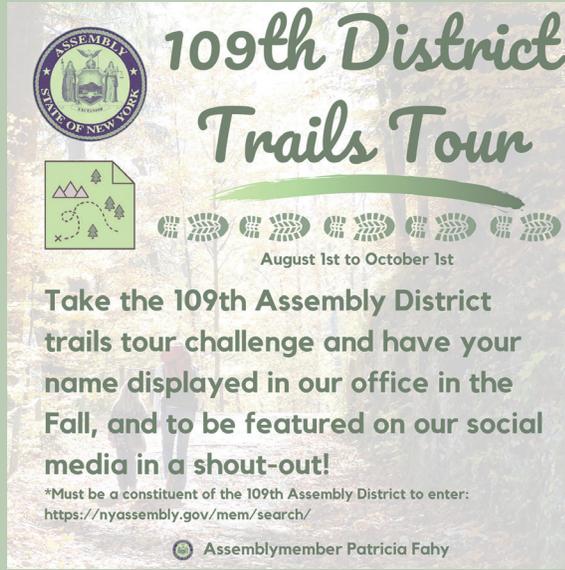
Albany Small Business Development Center

<http://www.nyssbdc.org/centers/centers.aspx?centid=10>

518-380-5077

Feature: Complete the 109th Trails Tour!

The Safest Place to Be During A Pandemic is Outdoors! In conjunction with our partners the Albany Pine Bush, Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, and the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy, we're launching the 109th District Trails Tour, aimed at connecting constituents (you) with the many parks, preserves, and trails in our District. Find out how to complete the tour below, and submit your photos or drawings at: tinyurl.com/109thTrailsTour



109th District Trails Tour
August 1st to October 1st

Take the 109th Assembly District trails tour challenge and have your name displayed in our office in the Fall, and to be featured on our social media in a shout-out!

*Must be a constituent of the 109th Assembly District to enter:
<https://nyassembly.gov/mem/search/>

Assemblymember Patricia Fahy



109th District Trails Tour
ELIGIBLE TRAILS

- ALBANY COUNTY RAIL TRAIL
- ANY CITY OF ALBANY PARK
- JOHN BOYD THACHER STATE PARK
- NORMANSKILL PRESERVE
- ALBANY PINE BUSH
- FIVE RIVERS ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER
- VAN DYKE PRESERVE
- HOLLYHOCK HOLLOW SANCTUARY
- MOH-HE-CON-NUCK NATURE PRESERVE
- LAWSON'S LAKE COUNTY PARK
- SWIFT WETLAND PRESERVE
- PHILLIPIN KILL PRESERVE
- SCHIFENDECKER FARM PRESERVE
- TAWANSENTHA PARK
- BOZEN KILL PRESERVE
- BENNETT HILL PRESERVE
- KELEHER PRESERVE
- HANNACROIX RAVINE PRESERVE



109th District Trails Tour
HOW TO COMPLETE THE TOUR

VISIT ANY **THREE (3)** OF THE PRESERVES, PARKS, OR TRAILS LISTED ON THE ELIGIBLE 109th TRAILS LIST AND MAP BY SEPTEMBER 30TH!

WALK, RUN, HIKE, BIKE AND TAKE A PICTURE (ARTWORK, DRAWING ALSO ACCEPTED) OF YOURSELF AT EACH OF THE THREE TRAILS YOU CHOOSE TO VISIT

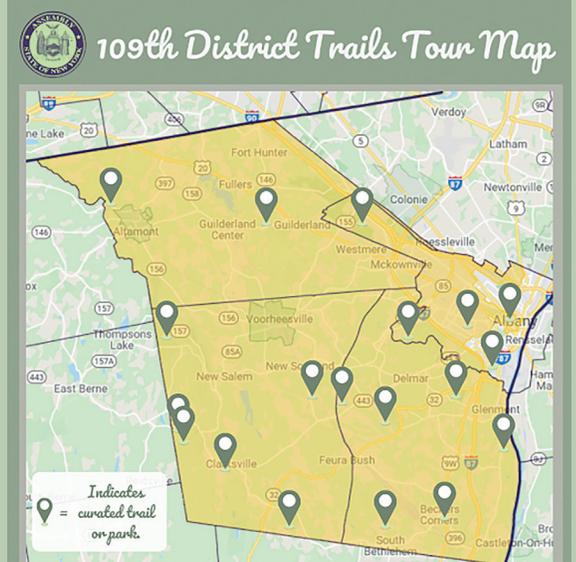
USE THE HASHTAG #109TrailsTour IN YOUR POSTS TO BE FEATURED ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

UPLOAD YOUR PICTURES AT:
<https://tinyurl.com/109thTrailsTour>

OR FIND THE LINK ON OUR FACEBOOK + TWITTER PAGES

AFTER COMPLETING THE TOUR; HAVE YOUR NAME(S) DISPLAYED IN OUR OFFICE IN THE FALL, AND RECEIVE A 'SHOUT-OUT' ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA ALONG WITH OTHERS WHO COMPLETE THE TOUR

@PatriciaFahy109 @AssemblymemberPatriciaFahy



109th District Trails Tour Map

Indicates curated trail or park.

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Assemblymember
Patricia A. FAHY

Summer 2020

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Census 2020

The Capital Region and New York needs a complete census count so we get our fair share of federal funding for everything from hospitals to our public schools. **The 109th Assembly District currently has a response rate that is below the national response rate average – please remember to fill out your census questionnaire.** The national deadline to complete the census is approaching! Respond by mail, by phone or online. Visit my2020census.gov to fill out the questionnaire online, learn more, or contact my office with any questions.