



WINTER NEWSLETTER

FROM ASSEMBLYWOMAN

Carrie Woerner

112 Spring St., Suite 205, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
518-584-5493 • WoernerC@nyassembly.gov

112 Spring St., Suite 205
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

PRSR STD.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Albany, NY
Permit No. 75



Legislative Highlights

Along with helping pass this year's state budget, Assemblywoman Woerner penned multiple pieces of legislation that were signed into law.

As a member of the Assembly's Agriculture Committee, Assemblywoman Woerner is always looking for ways to help New York's farmers. She authored a new law **addressing the high cost of liability insurance for agritourism businesses** so that more farms can afford to offer activities like apple picking, winery tours and Christmas tree cutting (*Ch. 338 of 2017*).

To support local wineries, Assemblywoman Woerner passed a law **designating portions of the state highway system as the Upper Hudson Wine Trail** (*Ch. 227 of 2017*). The New York grape, grape juice and wine industry generates more than \$4.8 billion in economic benefits annually for the state.

Assemblywoman Woerner also understands the importance of supporting local tourism and economic growth. That's why she passed legislation that **helps medium-sized facilities like the Saratoga Casino Hotel make capital improvements** (*Ch. 236 of 2017*).

As winter greets us, New Yorkers can look forward to **improved, safer snowmobile trails** thanks to Assemblywoman Woerner's law that will increase revenue to help upgrade the trail system (*Ch. 341 of 2017*).

Assemblywoman Woerner is committed to investing in local schools, communities and farms. She penned a new law that **authorizes Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) and municipalities to purchase food directly from local farm businesses** (*Ch. 90 of 2017*).

Assemblywoman Woerner gave the Malta town board the **discretion to change town speed limits** (*Ch. 356 of 2017*).

Other laws Assemblywoman Woerner authored include measures cracking down on illegal deer hunting by passing a law that increases the fines for killing deer (*Ch. 408 of 2017*), **establishing the New York State Trooper Timothy Pratt Memorial Bridge** (*Ch. 95 of 2017*) and helping local residents take the competitive civil service exam (*Ch. 93/94 of 2017*).

Assemblywoman Woerner also sponsored the constitutional amendment **stripping taxpayer-funded pensions from corrupt officials**, which voters approved on Election Day. She also introduced bipartisan legislation to create term limits for the state Legislature.

Out and About

Community Town Halls

In November, Assemblywoman Woerner hosted four Town Hall meetings, where she provided a review of the 2017-18 state budget and legislative highlights, and constituents had the opportunity to share their thoughts and concerns.

Assemblywoman Woerner shared information she gathered from local health care providers at two roundtables over the summer, and attendees shared their opinions about the potential of a single-payer health care system in New York, which were mixed. The majority of community members in attendance named health care in New York as their most pressing issue. Rising health insurance premium costs and the continued federal mandate to maintain health insurance coverage were among the topics discussed.

The opioid epidemic was another priority topic for attendees. Assemblywoman Woerner highlighted new regulations around opioid prescriptions, as well as new state funding for the development and operation of recovery community centers. The need for more inpatient detox and recovery beds was identified, and Assemblywoman Woerner is drafting legislation to address this.

Community residents also discussed further ethics reforms they would like to see, including term limits and lower limits on campaign contributions. Assemblywoman Woerner will continue to push for more reform.

Career Jam

In October, more than 700 students from schools across Saratoga and Washington counties had an opportunity to engage with several businesses and trade unions during a Career Jam co-sponsored by Assemblywoman Woerner at Hudson Valley Community College's TEC-SMART facility in Malta. The event was in partnership with the Saratoga Economic Development Corporation, the Saratoga-Warren-Washington Workforce Development Board and the Washington-Saratoga-Warren-Hamilton-Essex BOCES.



Assemblywoman Woerner speaks at Greenwich Town Hall



Assemblywoman Woerner at Career Jam



Agricultural Technology Roundtable

Agricultural Technology Roundtable

Assemblywoman Woerner held an Agricultural Technology Roundtable at Cornell University in June. As chair of the Assembly Subcommittee on Agricultural Production and Technology, Assemblywoman Woerner invited founders and directors of startup and early-stage companies in the agricultural technology sector, as well as researchers, private venture capitalists and policymakers, to discuss ways to help companies grow in New York State.

Assemblywoman Woerner will be holding another roundtable on agricultural technology on Feb. 20, 2018, at HVCC's TEC-SMART campus.

Hemp Information Session

Assemblywoman Woerner and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Washington County held an informational session in Greenwich in October alongside Cornell University professor Larry Smart, New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets Policy Analyst Tim Sweeny and Sunstrand LLC's Trey Riddle to discuss the hemp industry in New York State.

Assemblywoman Woerner helped expand the Industrial Hemp Agricultural Research Pilot Program as part of the state budget. New York State has set a goal to grow the number of acres planted with hemp to 20,000, up from the 2,000 acres currently planted, by 2020. As part of the program, the Department of Agriculture and Markets solicited farmers, businesses and research institutions interested in growing and processing industrial hemp. There were four applicants from both Saratoga and Washington counties. The state has also allocated up to \$5 million for grants for machinery and equipment required for the processing of industrial hemp for commercialization.

Constituent Survey

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

1. As government corruption continues to be a concern, which ethics reforms would help restore your faith in state government? (Number your priorities)

- ___ Closing the LLC loophole
- ___ Increased consultant and lobbyist disclosures
- ___ Increased financial disclosures
- ___ Lowering limits on campaign contributions
- ___ Per-diem reforms
- ___ Prohibiting outside income
- ___ Requiring corporations to communicate political expenditures to their shareholders
- ___ Term limits

2. Please mark the programs that are most important to you by numbering them in order of importance from 1 to 5. (Number your priorities)

- ___ Child care
- ___ Economic development
- ___ K-12 education
- ___ Environmental protections
- ___ Health care
- ___ Higher education/college
- ___ Housing
- ___ Libraries
- ___ Mental health/addiction services
- ___ Parks
- ___ Property tax relief
- ___ Public safety
- ___ Road and bridge infrastructure
- ___ Social services
- ___ Tourism programs
- ___ Water and sewer infrastructure

3. Do you think we need to increase access to detox beds in local hospitals?

- Yes No Maybe, but I need more information

4. Do you think the towns and counties are doing enough to save money through shared municipal services?

- Yes No Maybe, but I need more information

5. What issues are important to you that you would like to see addressed in the 2018 session?

6. Would you support a single-payer health care system?

- Yes No Maybe, but I need more information

7. What do you think is the biggest challenge for small businesses? (Circle one)

- a. Access to startup capital
- b. Access to workforce
- c. Complexity of the tax code
- d. Health care costs
- e. Lack of communication from regulatory agencies
- f. Licensing requirements
- g. Other:

If you would like to discuss these or any other topics, please call to set up a meeting with Assemblywoman Woerner at 518-584-5493.

This survey can be found online at: nyassembly.gov/Woerner

HEAP (Home Energy Assistance Program)



As temperatures continue to dip, Assemblywoman Woerner reminds everyone that the **Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)** can help qualifying households heat their homes. HEAP can also help assist with repairing or replacing any damaged or nonfunctioning heating equipment.

This year, a household of four can earn up to \$4,457 a month and still qualify for a one-time benefit of up to \$726 in assistance.

Enrollment for HEAP is now open and operates on a first-come, first-served basis. To apply or learn more, visit www.mybenefits.ny.gov or contact your county social services office.

Washington County

Department of Social Services
383 Broadway, Building B
Fort Edward, NY 12828
518-746-2300

After-hours emergency contact
518-746-2142

Saratoga County

Department of Social Services
152 West High St.
Ballston Spa, NY 12020
518-884-4146

Saratoga County Office for the Aging
152 West High St.
Ballston Spa, NY 12020
518-884-4100

After-hours emergency contact
Saratoga County Sheriff's Department
518-885-6761

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner
112 Spring St., Suite 205
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

**Do you have any questions,
comments or concerns?
My office is here to help!**

I want to hear from you – please take a few minutes to fill out and return the attached survey on the issues that matter most to you.

Fold and
Tape Here