



Dear Friend,

Our region is home to some of the greatest recreation and culture in the state; between visits to the track, parades, cookouts, and county fairs, there's nothing quite like a summer in Saratoga and Washington counties. With summer coming to a close, it's a great time to get out and support our local businesses as they keep their doors open later for the warmer weather.

The summer provided the opportunity to reflect on all the legislative accomplishments we made this year. During the 2019 session, I was able to pass seven bills, five of which also passed the Senate and await the governor's signature to become law. These bills are the products of collaboration with local community groups and individuals who asked for legislative solutions to unresolved issues – each of which will have positive impacts for our communities and some for the entire state. In this newsletter, you can read more about these bills and how they reflect the needs of our diverse region.

I am looking forward to visiting your neighborhood this fall. If you are interested in hosting me for a business tour, library visit, or community event, please don't hesitate to reach out to my office. And, in the meantime, I hope to see you at the next picnic or street fair!

Sincerely,

Carrie Woerner
Member of Assembly



Legislative Highlights

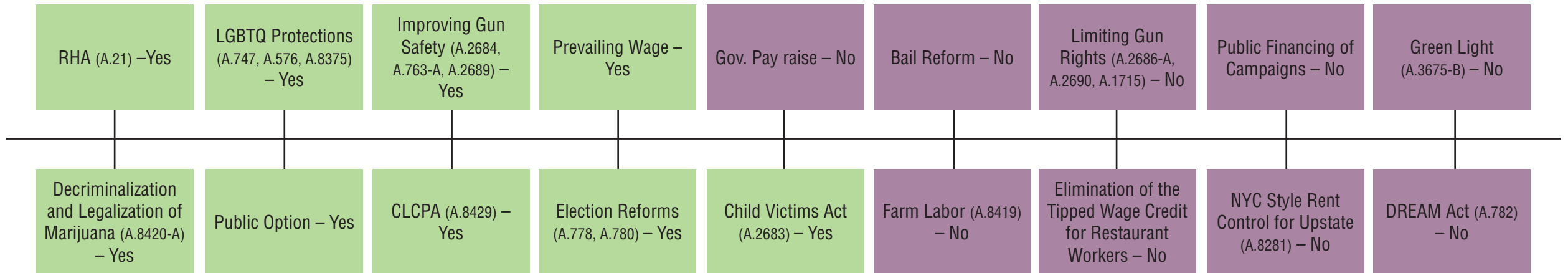
Many of the ideas for legislation come from constituents and local organizations. Working with the Local No. 773 of the United Association of Plumbers and Steamfitters, Assemblywoman Woerner authored and passed legislation that requires that information about wage supplements be provided to employees on a public work contract by the employer (A.2101).

At the request of locally elected officials in Washington County, Assemblywoman Woerner authored A.6737 to waive residency requirements to hire an assistant district attorney, which has passed both houses, as well as A.6357, which came at the request of the City of Mechanicville and which will also waive residency requirements for hiring a city attorney. Another bill, A.8109, authorizes Saratoga and Washington counties to waive certain permit fees for repairs and new construction for our local veterans' organizations. These three pieces of legislation all provide our local officials more flexibility to make decisions for the communities that they represent, and all three will now go to the governor for his signature.

Under current law, only the National Rifle Association (NRA) can certify shooting instructors. Assemblywoman Woerner authored and passed a bill in the Assembly that would also allow 4-H certified shooting sports instructors to supervise and instruct New Yorkers at shooting ranges, as well as certify instructors (A.8078). This will give New Yorkers a second choice of instructor to learn how to handle a firearm safely.

She also sponsored a bill to allow custodial parents of adult children with developmental disabilities to pursue support orders up to the age of 26 (A.6658). This is a bill that was brought to her by her colleague, Assemblywoman Walsh, and by the end of session had 55 bipartisan co-sponsors, which is a true testament to the relevance of this proposal, and to the effectiveness of bipartisan collaboration. Assemblywoman Woerner will continue to work with her colleagues on this important legislation and is confident it will pass the Senate next year.

Balanced Representation for the 113th Assembly District



Reproductive Health Act

The New York State Academy of Family Physicians said this bill was necessary to protect a woman’s right to make personal reproductive decisions related to pregnancy and contraception. Assemblywoman Woerner voted in favor of this legislation to support a woman’s right to make medical decisions in consultation with her doctor (Ch. 1 of 2019).

Legalization of Marijuana

Assemblywoman Woerner supports the legalization of adult-use marijuana. In anticipation of the legalization of recreational adult-use marijuana, Assemblywoman Woerner voted in favor of a proposal to decriminalize marijuana possession (Ch. 131 of 2019).

LGBTQ+ Protections

This session, the Legislature passed a series of new protections for the LGBTQ+ community, including GENDA (Ch. 8 of 2019), a ban on conversion therapy (Ch. 7 of 2019), and a ban on the “Gay and Trans Panic” defense (Ch. 45 of 2019). Assemblywoman Woerner voted in favor of each of these long overdue policies to ensure that everyone feels safe and welcome in New York, regardless of their gender identity or sexual orientation.

Public Option (Health Care)

Assemblywoman Woerner supports a plan that would allow individuals the option to participate in a publicly run health care program or to keep their private health insurance policy.

Public Financing

While Assemblywoman Woerner strongly supports expanding access to voting and removing barriers for those seeking to run for office, she does not support the proposal to use tax dollars to fund political campaigns. This proposal does not address independent expenditures by political action committees, which are difficult to combat with limited resources. Beyond that, the money that our citizens pay in taxes for government services should never be used for the political campaigns of candidates that they do not support.

Governor’s Pay Raise

In the context of a \$2.3 billion budget shortfall, Assemblywoman Woerner believed that a pay raise for the governor was inappropriate, and she voted accordingly.

Green Light

Assemblywoman Woerner believes that there are a number of benefits that come with being a citizen of this state and country, one being the ability to obtain a driver’s license. We have people who want to come here to work, we have employers that would like to hire them, and we have a state that welcomes diversity. However, the pressing issue is the lack of action taken at the federal level to address the deficiencies in our immigration system, along with the lack of public transportation in Upstate New York. Assemblywoman Woerner voted against this proposal.

Prevailing Wage

When any business, organization, or individual seeks private funding to help finance a project there is always a term sheet detailing the conditions of that financing. Entities that choose to rely on public monies from the state of New York should also expect to comply with specific terms and conditions. As stewards of taxpayer dollars, the Legislature has stipulated that when public funds are used to support a project, that project will be expected to create good-paying, local jobs.

Election Reforms

Turnout in the state of New York is among the lowest in the country, so this year the Legislature passed laws to allow any New Yorker to vote using an absentee ballot (A.778), as well as legislation to expand early voting (Ch. 6 of 2019). Assemblywoman Woerner voted in favor of both of these pragmatic proposals, which make it easier for New Yorkers to exercise their right to vote. Assemblywoman Woerner also supports automatic voter registration, and will vote in favor if the proposal comes to the floor.



Improving Gun Safety

Assemblywoman Woerner supported a number of proposals this year that aimed to address gun violence. She voted in favor of a ban on bump stocks (Ch. 130 of 2019), which allow a semiautomatic rifle to fire more rapidly, as well as a ban on the possession and manufacturing of undetectable firearms (Ch. 134 of 2019). She also voted in favor of legislation permitting a court to issue an order to temporarily seize firearms from a person who presents a severe safety risk to themselves or others (Ch. 19 of 2019). This bill balances safeguards to ensure that no firearm is removed without due process, while ensuring that safety concerns are taken seriously when law enforcement is informed that a person may be disturbed or dangerous.

Addressing Climate Change

Assemblywoman Woerner supports the ambitious clean energy and greenhouse gas reduction goals laid out in the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (Ch. 106 of 2019). While this legislation would have been strengthened by the inclusion of bio-gas and bio-mass as viable tools to reduce greenhouse emissions, Assemblywoman Woerner voted in favor of the legislation because she believes that setting ambitious goals will stimulate the innovation necessary to address climate change.

Supporting Gun Rights

Assemblywoman Woerner voted against a number of proposals that infringed on local control and the rights of responsible gun owners. The first of these bills would limit a school district's ability to determine how best to keep students safe by limiting who is permitted to possess a firearm on school grounds (Ch. 138 of 2019); Assemblywoman Woerner voted no on this legislation because she unequivocally supports all school boards' authority to make determinations about their school when they are duly elected to serve. She also voted no on legislation mandating responsible gun owners purchase storage lockers for their firearms (Ch. 135 of 2019). While the Assemblywoman agrees with the notion of promoting, encouraging and incentivizing safe storage, this legislation is only enforceable after a crime has been committed and thus does not accomplish its intended purpose. Lastly, Assemblywoman Woerner voted no on legislation to extend waiting periods for background checks from 10 days to 30 days (Ch. 129 of 2019).

Bail Reform

Approximately 80% of felonies in Saratoga and Washington counties are committed by those who live outside the counties, and 75% of those are not from the region. The bail reform proposal included in this year's budget ignored this situation and failed to address extradition costs placed on our counties. For that reason, Assemblywoman Woerner opposed the proposal.

The Farm Laborers Fair Labor Practices Act

Assemblywoman Woerner represents over 1,400 family farms and has listened carefully to feedback from those constituents on the proposals in the Farm Laborers Fair Labor Practices Act. While the bill has good intentions, there were serious flaws that the Assemblywoman simply could not support. On family farms multiple generations frequently work together. This bill restricts the definition of family to immediate family members and must be amended to include extended family members like nieces and nephews. Secondly, the composition of the wage board excludes the Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets, whose expertise will be critical to ensure that the nuances of this unique industry are recognized. Furthermore, requiring the wage board to convene before sufficient time has passed to understand the impact of the 60-hour workweek will minimize the feedback pertaining to the effectiveness of the law. For those reasons, the Assemblywoman voted in opposition to this legislation.

DREAM Act

There are many families in the 113th Assembly District, and throughout Upstate New York, who struggle with the cost of higher education. Assemblywoman Woerner agrees that providing tuition assistance to New Yorkers is critical to improving economic mobility, but we must prioritize resources effectively to assist the families of Saratoga and Washington counties. For this reason, the Assemblywoman voted against this proposal.

Balanced Representation for the 113th Assembly District

Child Victims Act

Assemblywoman Woerner voted yes on long overdue legislation to protect victims of child sexual abuse (Ch. 11 of 2019). The law extends the statute of limitations to the victim's 28th birthday for felonies and 25th birthday for misdemeanors. It also allows civil litigation to be brought until a victim's 55th birthday, and creates a one-year window for survivors to commence civil action even if the statute of limitations has expired.



Elimination of the Tipped Wage Credit

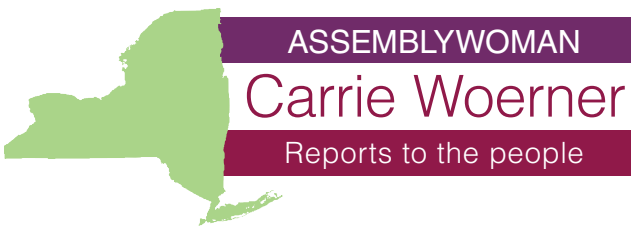
Assemblywoman Woerner continues to oppose proposals to eliminate the tipped wage credit in New York. When this idea was first proposed, thousands of restaurant workers across the state and the vast majority of restaurant workers in the 113th Assembly District were loud and clear in their opposition. According to restaurant workers, eliminating the tipped wage credit would result in lower wages and potentially fewer jobs, as many small businesses would be forced to raise prices on consumers or eliminate jobs in order to absorb the additional costs.

NYC Style Rent Control for Upstate

Assemblywoman Woerner opposed a proposal to bring New York City rent control policies to Upstate New York this year (Ch. 36 of 2019). The expansion of NYC rent policies to the rest of the state came without any significant advocacy from our region, and some legitimate concerns. This legislation has the potential to disincentivize or prevent landlords from making necessary improvements to their properties.

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

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



"As a state legislator, I take very seriously the responsibility to accurately represent the prevailing viewpoints of my district. Before I vote, I research each bill and I speak to constituents and stakeholders on all sides of an issue. I often use surveys to get input from as broad a cross section of constituents as I can reach, then I cast votes in accordance with the input I receive. The votes and positions on issues that I took this session are a reflection of that input."

– Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner

