

Dear Neighbor,

I hope you and your family are healthy and well. While this past year has had its share of challenges as we continue to bounce back from the pandemic, it's also been filled with many successes that I would like to share with you in this newsletter. You'll also find my annual constituent survey inside, which I hope you'll fill out so I can better address your needs and concerns.

I look forward to building on these accomplishments in 2022 and creating a brighter future for our community. I wish you and your loved ones a happy and safe holiday season.

Sincerely,



Assemblywoman
Carrie Woerner



Youth Advisory Board

This November, I hosted our first Youth Advisory Board meeting, which is a group I formed to connect with the next generation of leaders and learn what issues they care about most and discuss solutions. Students from high schools across the district as well as from Skidmore College and SUNY Adirondack were nominated to attend. The meeting was a resounding success and proved just how capable, intelligent and passionate our young minds are about the community and world around them. I look forward to meeting with them several more times during the school year and hearing their ideas and opinions.

Libraries

Once again, I took a summer tour of the libraries across our community. These tours give me the opportunity to see firsthand how much kids enjoy reading as well as talk directly with librarians about the challenges they might be facing. This was especially important following COVID-19, as many libraries temporarily shut down and saw fewer visitors. But, without fail,



librarians found ways to keep people engaged with reading by heading outdoors, and I greatly admire their dedication and creativity. I also offered my Summer Reading Challenge again to kindergarten through third grade students at participating schools, which even took on a life of its own and made its way to younger and older generations of students as well.

Food security

Food insecurity remains a concern for families and seniors across our region. I fought to secure funding in the state budget for the Comfort Food Community to expand their food hub and Pitney Meadows Community Farm to create “pop-up” food pantries. Many of these pop-ups are located near senior apartment buildings and popular gathering spots, making this healthy produce more accessible to the community. I got to see the value of this program firsthand when I visited the Malta and Mechanicville pop-ups to help pack boxes of produce.



Important legislation

I sponsored several bills this past legislative session to help make our community a better place to live. I secured a four-year extension of a waiver our small school districts depend on to participate in the small group health insurance market, saving money for both our schools and taxpayers. To support those suffering from addiction, I sponsored a new law requiring funds from opioid settlements to go solely toward prevention, treatment and recovery programs for opioid addiction. I also sponsored a law requiring child support for dependent disabled children until age 26. Several other bills I championed are awaiting the governor’s signature, including legislation to improve broadband access, permit blood transfusions on air ambulances and include vascular rupture as a covered condition under the Volunteer Firefighters’ Benefits Law.

Trades

As chair of the Skills Development and Career Education Commission, I’m committed to promoting the building trades as a valuable career track for young people. I participated in several events to educate individuals about these stable and well-paid jobs. This includes the Women in Trades Luncheon at the Washington County Fair and the opening of the Multi-Craft Apprenticeship Preparation Program (MAPP) in Albany, which encourages young people in minority communities to consider a career in the building trades and provides hands-on learning experiences in all trades. I’m also working with representatives from Capital Region Building Trades to set up a panel discussion in local schools highlighting successful women in all stages of their trades careers, from apprenticeship to business owner.



Transportation

One of my top priorities has been strengthening our public transportation system. That’s why I’m pushing for the Capital District Transportation Authority (CDTA) to expand their new “FLEX” bus service program to Saratoga County. This on demand, app-based service just launched in September and helps residents in smaller communities get to where they need to go, including Albany Medical Center, Albany International Airport and other popular stops in the FLEX service area.



Constituent Survey

See back for return instructions

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

1. Do you support the creation of a government-run single-payer health care system as the solution to the rising cost of private health insurance?
 Yes No Unsure / Need more info
2. Do you have access to basic health care services in your town or the neighboring town? Basic health care services are defined as a primary care physician, dentist, OBGYN and pediatric care.
 Yes No Yes, via telehealth services
3. Do you have access to adequate broadband service at your home to meet the needs of your family?
 Yes No
4. Do you want the state to invest in expanding adequate broadband service to all households across the state?
 Yes No Unsure / Need more info
5. The Clean Slate bill (A.6399-A Cruz/S.1553-C Myrie) would allow for the automatic sealing of certain criminal convictions. People with pending criminal charges who are on probation or parole for the conviction in question or who are required to register as a sex offender would be ineligible for this program. In addition, no records would be sealed for the purposes of background checks for potential law enforcement officers, gun license applicants and other fingerprint-based background checks required by law.
 - a. Are you familiar with the Clean Slate legislation?
 Yes, I am familiar with the Clean Slate legislation
 No, I have not heard of the Clean Slate legislation
 - b. Do you support or oppose passing the Clean Slate bill into law? Why or why not?
 Support Oppose Undecided

Comments: _____
6. The New York Medical Aid in Dying Act would allow a mentally competent, terminally ill patient to choose to self-administer medication to end his or her life with additional protective measures in place. Do you support passing the Medical Aid in Dying Act into law?
 Yes No
Why? _____
7. Advocates are pushing for legislation that would allow elderly inmates who are 55 years of age and older out of prisons and onto early parole. Do you support allowing the parole board to evaluate all inmates who are 55 years old and older for early release from prisons? Note: The proposed bill does not mandate release but gives the Board of Parole the discretion to make the decision
 Yes No
Why? _____
8. Which, if any, of the following do you believe would be the most beneficial in addressing the student loan crisis?
 Tax credits to parents and borrowers
 Low-interest loans
 Expanded loan forgiveness programs
 Better refinancing options
 Government subsidies for education
 Increased consumer protections for borrowers
 Increased apprenticeship opportunities
 Other: _____
9. Many families struggle to find affordable and reliable child care and child care centers struggle to retain staff due to salary constraints.

What do you think would be helpful to address the current child care crisis?

10. When considering how to allocate the state's financial resources, which categories are your highest priorities? (Rank highest priority as 1 - lowest priority as 13)
 - a. Education (K-12) _____
 - b. Higher Education/College _____
 - c. Housing _____
 - d. Health Care/Opioid/Heroin _____
 - e. Environment _____
 - f. Local Governments/Property Tax Relief _____
 - g. Bridge and Road Infrastructure _____
 - h. Water and Sewer Infrastructure _____
 - i. Parks _____
 - j. Workforce Development (Trades, Apprenticeships, Nursing, etc.) _____
 - k. Resources for the Aging community _____
 - l. Nutrition and Healthy Food _____
 - m. Child Care _____
11. The pandemic has created significant issues for many individuals, families, businesses and organizations. Which issues do you think are critical priorities that New York must address?
 Frequent quarantines in schools stemming from positive COVID-19 tests
 Learning deficits in students
 Worker shortages in businesses
 Staffing issues in health care, i.e. hospitals, nursing homes
 Housing instability
 Loss of income from rental properties
 Lack of child care, particularly affordable child care
 Rising costs for heat/electricity, gas, food
 Other: _____
12. Climate change, shifting to cleaner fuels/renewable energy, land conservation, recycling and composting are topics that many constituents have raised with me. For you, how high a priority is addressing climate change and reducing our carbon footprint?
 Highest
 Moderately high
 Neutral
 Moderately low
 Lowest
 Not a priority at all
13. Which of the following policies would you support or oppose?
 - Investing in farmland conservation Yes No
 - Investing in open space conservation Yes No
 - Expanding bottle deposits to include noncarbonated beverages Yes No
 - Requiring producers to recycle packaging Yes No
 - Incentives for installing electric vehicle charging stations in public locations Yes No
 - Incentives for shifting to lower carbon fuels, including electric vehicles Yes No
 - Implement permit fees and emissions taxes to pay for environmental programs Yes No

Fold and
Tape Here

**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 my
survey or visit [www.nyassembly.gov/
woerner](http://www.nyassembly.gov/woerner) to complete the survey online.

Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner
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**2022 constituent
survey inside!**

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Reporting to the people of the 113th Assembly District

Carrie Woerner

ASSEMBLYWOMAN

FALL/WINTER NEWS FROM

