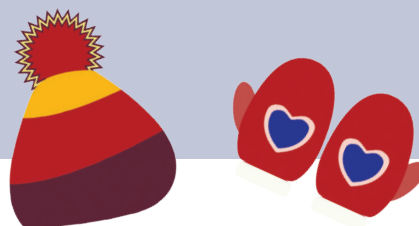


WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE

As a reminder, my office is still collecting winter clothing items to donate to our neighbors in need this winter. Please consider donating your gently-used items at my office in Clarence or call us at (716) 839-4691 for a list of participating donation sites throughout our community.



Assemblyman Mike Norris

**Fall 2017
Legislative Newsletter**

WORKING FOR US!



**ASSEMBLYMAN
Mike
NORRIS**

New York State Assembly
Albany, NY 12248

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Assemblyman Mike Norris: Working for Us!

Learn more about Mike's accomplishments and legislative priorities inside!

In this edition:

- 2017 Legislative Update: Accomplishments for You
- New Breast Cancer Screening Option
- Agriculture is the Backbone of Our Economy
- Winter Clothing Drive
- Around Town with Mike



**ASSEMBLYMAN
Mike
NORRIS**

NEW BREAST CANCER SCREENING OPTION

An important issue that is close to the hearts of many residents in our community is breast cancer awareness. While statistics compiled by the American Cancer Society show that breast cancer mortalities have decreased in recent years, there are still too many people we love affected by this disease. With today's medical advances and a variety of new treatment options available, the prognosis for many early-detected cancers has greatly improved.

While we need to continue focusing on understanding why cancers develop and how we can prevent them, it is also important for each of us to make the best use of the tools available to us, and that's why I encourage women, and men, to talk to their doctors about getting screened for breast cancer.

According to the National Cancer Institute, there are roughly 252,000 women and 2,500 men diagnosed with breast cancer every year. Though traditional mammography does not prevent you from getting breast cancer, it is still widely regarded as a valuable tool in early detection— and early detection of any cancer is key.

I am proud to have voted in support of legislation (A.5677) that would require the 3-D mammography screening process known as tomosynthesis to be covered by insurance companies. Statistics show that traditional mammograms are very reliable in terms of detecting irregularities, with 84 percent of mammograms providing accurate diagnosis for breast cancer. However, for those with dense breast tissue concerns who may experience mixed results with traditional mammography, tomosynthesis may be key to early detection. In my opinion, this technology should be embraced and encouraged to help save lives. I hope the bill will be signed into law shortly, so this lifesaving technology can be affordably utilized by more women across our state.



AGRICULTURE IS THE BACKBONE OF OUR ECONOMY

As we are enjoying the bountiful harvest of local fruits and vegetables this holiday season, we need to take a moment to thank our local farmers and remember proudly that agricultural is still the number one industry within our great state.

An abundant pride of New York State is the nearly 36,000 family-run and small farms that produce some of the finest foods and products in the nation, ranking in the top ten nationally in the production of 30 different agricultural commodities such as apples, cabbage and snap beans, grapes and wine, and dairy. With 7-million acres of farmland in our state there is never a better time to visit a local farm stand, farmers market, farm, vineyard, microbrewery, or winery to enjoy the bounty produced in our state.

While there is nothing better for our local economy than to support local food producers, I am proud that this session my colleagues in state government and I were able to deliver on some measures that will ensure the tradition of farming in our state. We created the Young Farmer Advisory Board to help new farmers get more established (A.6042). We also created incentives to help support the growing industries of local vineyards, wineries, craft breweries, and beverage makers.

Working together with the New York Farm Bureau, the National Young Farmers Coalition, and many other agricultural organizations, as well as groups that are working to combat hunger in our state, such as the Hunger Action Network of New York State, we passed the Farm to Food Bank initiative. This program allows farms that donate to food banks to receive tax benefits and also helps protect against excess crops going to waste, while ensuring fewer New Yorkers go hungry. This was an important bipartisan effort and I am very proud it has become a reality.

We are so fortunate to live in a part of the state where agriculture is front and center, and as harvest season gets into full swing, I encourage everyone to get out there to experience the plethora of fresh foods and food products grown and produced in our region. In addition to finding locally-grown or produced foods at farms and farmers markets in our community, you can also find many New York State products at stores by visiting www.taste.ny.gov to locate your favorite wine, cheese, condiment, and produce.



**FALL
2017**

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Want to learn more?
E-mail Mike Norris at
norrism@nyassembly.gov
to sign up for his
e-newsletter.

Contact Assemblyman
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Clarence, NY 14221

(716) 839-4691

Dear Neighbors:

The 2017 Legislative Session was full of hard work and accomplishments that I know will improve the quality of life in Western New York. I worked together – across party lines – with my colleagues to deliver:

- Pension forfeiture for elected officials who break the public trust (A.1749);
- Emergency aid package for homeowners, farms, businesses, not-for-profits, and municipalities affected by Lake Ontario flooding (A.8013-A/A.40001);
- Extending the Volunteer Firefighter Benefit Law to ensure our volunteer firefighters have coverage for diseases like cancer (A.711-B);
- Ride-sharing services for our entire state – not just New York City (Budget);
- Supporting our local not-for-profit organizations with the Charitable Gaming Act of 2017;
- Wage increase for direct-care workers, those who take care of our state's disabled, elderly, and homebound (Budget);
- The opportunity for more New Yorkers to become first-time homeowners (A.5616);
- An additional \$65 million for local road repair after last winter's extreme conditions (Budget); and
- \$200 million to combat the state's heroin and prescription drug abuse epidemic (Budget).

I also signed up to become an organ donor and helped make it easier for more New Yorkers to do so. Please consider joining me by registering at www.donatelife.ny.gov or next time you renew or update your driver license.

While I am very pleased to have been able to deliver so much in my freshman year, I know there is more work that needs to be done and I look forward to sharing my progress with you in these newsletters as well as my e-newsletter. To sign up for my e-newsletter, please email me at norrism@nyassembly.gov.

I am so proud to be your Assemblyman and deliver so much for you. Please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff for assistance on any state issue.

Working for you,

Michael J Norris