

**WINTER
2017**

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- Thank You to All Those Who Serve!
- Protecting Your Tax Dollars: The State Contracts Sunlight Act
- Join the Team: Internship Opportunities with Mike
- Around Town with Mike



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

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ASSEMBLYMAN **Mike
NORRIS**

Dear Neighbors:

The new legislative year is upon us and I am ready to tackle some new and important issues at our state Capitol. We accomplished so much last year, and I am hopeful that by working together and focusing on the people's business we can deliver more this year. Some of my top priorities for the 2018 Legislative Session include:

- Fighting for accountability and transparency in how our state spends billions of taxpayer dollars to create jobs with the State Contracts Sunlight Act (A.5857). Learn more about my landmark bill inside;
- Working to stop domestic violence by creating a statewide public database of convicted violent felons through Brittany's Law (A.404/A.6609);
- Advocating for term limits for legislative leaders and committee chairs (A.5864);
- Making sure that local communities receive their fair share of road, infrastructure, and winter relief funding to help keep our roads safe; and
- Cutting taxes to make our entire state – particularly Western New York – a more affordable place to call home and a more competitive place to do business.

I am also passionate about ensuring the men and women who serve or have served in our military are supported and protected. I believe Albany can do more to support the families of active service members and support our veterans. You can learn more about my efforts inside, and I welcome your ideas and suggestions for how our state and community can better support active military, veterans and their families.

Additionally, there are other local issues that I am working on with our federal officials and will continue to monitor. For example, the IJC Plan 2014, which contributed to the devastating flooding across Lake Ontario's southern shore, is an issue that I will continue urging our federal officials to reverse. Though last year, I worked passionately to help deliver an emergency state relief package, flooding may continue until our nation and Canada change their course.

As always, I look forward to sharing my progress with you and welcome your ideas and suggestions as I continue working hard every day on your behalf.

Working for you,

Michael J Norris

THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO SERVE!

Serving as your state Assemblyman is the greatest honor of my life, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have served our community and nation in ways most of us cannot begin to imagine. Our veterans and active military work every day to keep the rest of us safe and on behalf of all the constituents of the 144th District, I would like to sincerely thank our active military and veterans for their bravery and dedication to protecting our national and individual freedoms.

While I work to protect and better the lives of all those I represent, veterans and active military members have a special place in my heart. There is never enough we can do to show our gratitude for their service, but at our state Capitol I have been working on a legislative package that I hope will make life a little easier for veterans, active military and their families.

- Allow any veteran to use public campgrounds, parks or places of recreation free of charge (A.5286).
- Assist more veterans in succeeding in business by creating the Veteran Owned Business Enterprise Act (A.6142).
- Encourage more employers to hire members of our National Guard (as well as volunteer firefighters) (A.1693).
- Protect the Second Amendment rights of our active military (A.4564).
- Allow our military to hunt and fish for free throughout New York State (A.4991).
- Allow veterans' organizations to obtain capital improvement funding through the state and Municipal Facilities Program (A.8052).
- Let veterans obtain SUNY or CUNY college credit for certain military training (A.7879).

Resources for help:

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Crisis Line
1-800-273-8255 (extension 1) or **www.ptsd.va.gov**

The NYS Division of Veterans' Affairs
www.veterans.ny.gov

Find support and social comradery at a local veterans' organization, such as a VFW or American Legion, Gold Star Mothers, or the Wounded Warrior Project. Learn more:
www.va.gov/vso/VSO-Directory.pdf

PROTECTING YOUR TAX DOLLARS: THE STATE CONTRACTS SUNLIGHT ACT

One of my top priorities as I first headed to our state Capitol was to do everything in my power to reform state government so that taxpayers, particularly those in Western New York, were better protected. In my opinion, elected officials – from state legislators to the governor and his appointees – are stewards of the public trust and their money.

Here in Western New York, we have seen the influence of that money spent, and while we are thrilled that Albany has, at long last, turned its attention to the need to support economic development in our region, there have been too many reports of potential corruption and misuse of the public's money when it comes to job creation. Also troubling are accounts of job reports filed late, missing deadlines, or even worse, lack of jobs being created altogether. We have to ask who is keeping track of the state's spending and ensuring that the investments made on the public's behalf using public money produce dividends for the people? Where are these jobs and how is this significant taxpayer-funded investment improving the lives of citizens in our region?

That's why I introduced legislation known as the State Contracts Sunlight Act (A.5857). This landmark bill would help protect taxpayer investment in job creation programs across the state by requiring the state comptroller to establish a public, searchable, statewide database of all contract bids and final contracts. Specific requirements of each bid or contract include job creation and investment, project timeline, funding sources, return on investment to the state, and claw back provisions for when projects do not meet deadlines or fulfill requirements. Furthermore, the bill calls for an open public comment period prior to the approval of a contract by the comptroller or attorney general.

Accountability and transparency are the only ways to ensure that Albany spends tax dollars in the best, most productive manner without bid rigging or conflicts of interest. The State Contracts Sunlight Act would also help businesses become more competitive in applying for state grants or economic development funding.

It has been famously said that sunlight is the best disinfectant. Let's bring sunlight to the way our state spends taxpayers' dollars, while ensuring real jobs are being created by enacting the State Contract Sunlight Act.



JOIN THE TEAM: INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES WITH MIKE

I was so fortunate to have some great interns helping out last year, and we are looking to expand our team again this year! If you are a high school or college student looking to gain real, practical experience in government, please e-mail me your resume and a cover letter at norrism@nyassembly.gov.

Ideal internship candidates should have a positive attitude, strong work ethic and an interest in government, political science, public or community service or event planning. Candidates should be sure to highlight specific skills such as writing, photography or videography, research skills and any experience working with community organizations. Internships can start immediately throughout the year to accommodate students' academic calendars and hours can be tailored around other employment or obligations.



"It was great to have Margo Henley & Eliza Papke, two seniors from Akron High School who participated in the Erie 1 BOCES Legal Academy, intern in my district office over the fall semester."

Assemblyman Mike Norris

WINTER 2017-18 Legislative Newsletter

WORKING FOR US!



ASSEMBLYMAN **Mike NORRIS**

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Albany, NY 12248

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Assemblyman Mike Norris: Working for Us!

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

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