



# Assemblyman **Andrew Hevesi**

*Reports to the People*

**SUMMER 2012**

*Dear Neighbor,*

*The 2012 Assembly legislative session has adjourned, and it has proven to be one of the most productive sessions in recent decades. Along with my colleagues in the Assembly and Senate, we passed an early budget that ensured funding for vital programs while also strengthening New York State's economy. This budget will assist hardworking families in our community, and will greatly increase education and public transportation funding for New York City.*

*This year's budget closed the state's \$3.5 billion budget deficit without adding any new taxes. The new tax brackets, which we implemented last December, are the lowest for middle-class families in almost 60 years. Education funding was increased by \$292 million for New York City schools, which means more teachers in the classrooms throughout our community. The Metropolitan Transportation Authority was given \$4 billion to help assist in finishing their 2010-2014 Capital Plan. Seniors will see co-payment assistance restored to the EPIC program, and the newly-developed Foreclosure Prevention Program will help struggling homeowners become financially stable once again. These are only a few of the many ways the 2012 New York State budget will benefit our community.*

*The Assembly also passed a number of landmark bills this session. For the first time, schools will now be required to have an established protocol to address and prevent recurrences of cyberbullying. Another important piece of legislation established the new Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs. This independent oversight body will ensure that the most vulnerable New Yorkers receive the care and protection they deserve.*

*As always, I am honored to serve as your elected representative in the State Assembly, and will continue to advocate on behalf of our community. My office is always available to assist with any issues or concerns that you may have. Please feel free to stop by or call (718) 263-5595.*

*Sincerely,*

A blue ink handwritten signature of Andrew Hevesi.

*Andrew Hevesi  
Assembly Member, 28th AD*



Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi joined local elected officials in Juniper Valley Park to honor our country's military service members and veterans at the Moving Vietnam Memorial Wall.

## Hevesi Bill to Boost Renewable Energy Production Signed Into Law

Assemblyman Hevesi's highly significant sustainability bill, A.6114-C, which requires the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority to establish a Generation Attribute Tracking System, to monitor energy creation, attributes, and trade within the state was signed into law by Governor Cuomo on August 20, 2012. This requirement is a pivotal step in developing the infrastructure necessary to successfully supervise the trade and use of renewable energy as a commodity.

As New York continues to encourage growth in the renewable energy industry, this legislation will ensure accountability between the energy producers and utility suppliers. This law details that for each megawatt of electricity generated in the state, a system will assign a unique tracking number that will display ownership and characteristics of the energy until the wattage is traded and the certificate number retired. This legislation will help ensure future energy independence for New York State.

A.6114-C requires the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority to establish a structure, known as a Generation Attribute Tracking System, to monitor energy creation, attributes and trade within the state.



Assemblyman Hevesi was honored to join Abe Miller and other local elected officials to throw and opening day pitch for the Forest Hills Little League.

## Chairman Hevesi Holds Hearing on the State of New York's Information Technology

Assemblyman Hevesi held an Oversight Committee hearing on Tuesday, May 22, 2012 focused on the state of New York's information technology infrastructure, government usage, and civilian accessibility. Several expert panelists, including two state agency commissioners, internationally recognized academics from multiple institutes of higher learning, and good government groups, including Citizens Union, Reinvent Albany, Common Cause NY, and NYPIRG, testified. It was made clear that progress has been made in New York State toward achieving the goal of using information technology to enhance government services; however, a number of suggestions were made in several areas that will be reviewed for efficiency improvements.

At the hearing, Office of General Services (OGS) Commissioner RoAnn Destito highlighted an initiative her agency is undertaking at the direction of Governor Andrew Cuomo. In order to streamline fundamental administrative tasks, such as payroll and attendance, among others, OGS is in the process of creating a Business Services Center, which will centralize these transactions, which are currently being done by individual state agencies. Assemblyman Hevesi's Oversight Committee will make recommendations and introduce necessary legislation based upon the hearing findings in the next legislative session.

## 2012 Budget Increases Education Funding

A successful legislative session in Albany has resulted in a momentous increase in New York City's education coffers. The 2012-13 budget provided an increase of approximately \$805 million in statewide education spending. Of these funds, New York City received a sizable \$292 million to spend on schools, after-school programs, and libraries. A portion of this funding will also help city schools cover the costs associated with standardized tests, after-school programs, school buses, heating and cooling for school buildings, safety, and school lunches.

The increase in funding has also, for the first time in over half a decade, allowed CUNY and SUNY schools to have an increase in their base aid from the state.

This increase in education funds from the state comes at a time when New York City schools and after-school programs are in particular need of support. Ensuring that the city's schools are fully equipped to prepare the students for a successful future will continue to be a top priority for the Assembly as New York State's fiscal strength continues to recover.



Assemblyman Hevesi joins local elected officials, parents, and students to rally against the closure of the Queens Community House Beacon Program at Russell Sage Junior High School. The program's budget was eventually restored.

## Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption Program (SCRIE)

The Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption program helps seniors maintain a manageable rate on their rent controlled and subsidized apartments by freezing annual rental rates for enrollees. Requirements to receive SCRIE benefits include:

- Be 62 years of age or older
- Have an annual income of \$29,000 or less
- Rent an apartment that is regulated by the Division of Housing and Community Renewal (DHCR)
- Pay more than one-third of the household's aggregate disposable income for rent

Upon application and admittance to the program, the city will contact your landlord to notify them of the change. Future rent adjustments will be paid to the landlord by the city in the form of a Tax Abatement Credit, and will not appear on lease renewals.



Assemblyman Hevesi co-hosts the third bi-annual Jewish Leadership Breakfast with local elected officials.

## EPIC Funding Restored

After the partial restoration of funding to the Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage (EPIC) program in the 2011 legislative session, it was found that this level of funding was still insufficient in ensuring that the program recognized its intended goals for New York's senior citizens. Legislators worked diligently during the 2012 legislative session to ensure that the program received full funding, and were successful in including a fully restored EPIC program in the current budget.

The EPIC program is a free New York State program that helps income-eligible seniors aged 65 and older to supplement their out-of-pocket Medicare Part D drug plan costs. The cuts during previous years had been devastating to many fixed income senior citizens. Close to 300,000 older New Yorkers rely on the EPIC program. The program has had \$30.6 million restored to its budget for its co-payment program, which ensures seniors will pay no more than \$20 for their pharmaceuticals. The current changes will provide significant positive financial relief for seniors that have had no co-payment assistance since the beginning of the year.

## Serving Our Communities

- ✓ Helped a disabled constituent obtain a reduced fare MetroCard from the MTA when the vending machine failed to work.
- ✓ Assisted a constituent by contacting the Department of Environmental Protection and having an inspector install a water meter on their property.
- ✓ Helped a constituent understand their rights as a tenant to apartment repairs and scheduled a Department of Buildings inspection.
- ✓ Assisted a homeowner in obtaining homeowner's insurance from a New York State insurance carrier.
- ✓ Helped a constituent apply for the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP).
- ✓ Assisted in scheduling an in-home Medicaid social worker assessment interview for a limited-mobility constituent.



Assemblyman Hevesi joins the Glendale Civic Association for a "Love Your Neighborhood" cleanup day.

## Contact My Office

As the representative for the people of the 28th Assembly District, my top priority is to address the needs of my constituents. I encourage residents to contact my office with any complaints or suggestions they have regarding the wellbeing of our community. My staff and I are here to serve you, and no problem is too small. Please contact my office any day of the week at (718) 263-5595, or stop by and visit us at 70-50 Austin Street, Suite 110, in Forest Hills.

## Legislative E-mail Program

In addition to my office's ongoing programs, I encourage you to participate in our **Legislative E-mail** program. This program allows you to interact with me and my staff concerning current and proposed New York State policies. You may request bill information and register support or opposition to legislation. The feedback constituents provide me through this program is greatly valued in the decision making process. If you would like to join, please contact my office at:

[hevesia@assembly.state.ny.us](mailto:hevesia@assembly.state.ny.us)

## Internships Available

Assemblyman Hevesi's district office is seeking interns for the fall semester. Internships provide a great opportunity for high school and college students to experience first hand the dynamics of a legislative office. Interns will be responsible for helping assist in constituent cases, doing legislative research, and aiding in the communications efforts of the district office. Interested candidates can fax or email a resume and cover letter detailing their interest to (718) 263-5688 or [hevesia@assembly.state.ny.us](mailto:hevesia@assembly.state.ny.us). If you would like more information you can contact the district office at (718) 263-5595.

ASSEMBLYMAN  
**ANDREW  
HEVESI**

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