



Assemblyman

**Michael  
CUSICK**

*Reports to the  
People*

**SUMMER 2012**

## Assemblyman Mike Cusick: MAKING LIFE LESS TAXING

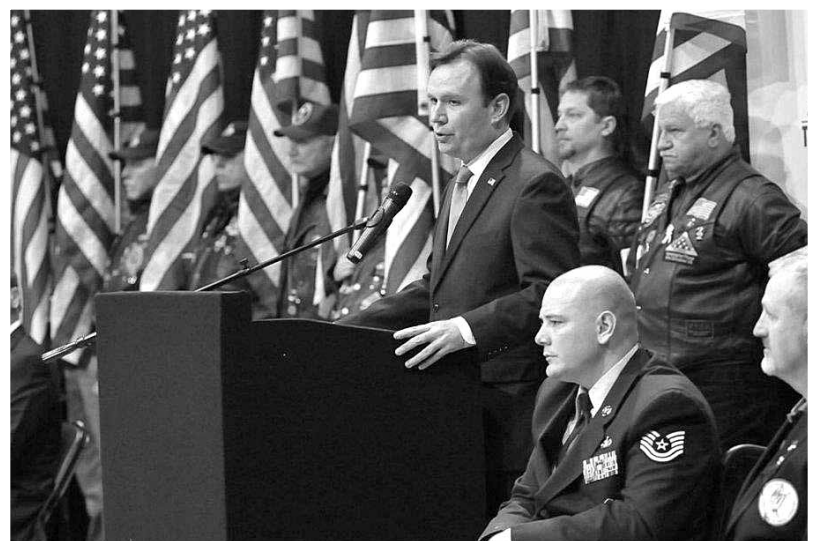
### Lowering Income Tax Rates for Middle Class Families

A moderate-income family making \$40,000 a year paid the same tax rate--6.85%--as a family earning a significantly higher amount. To address this discrepancy, Assemblyman Cusick helped pass legislation to lower the tax rate for middle-class families in New York.

4.4 million families will see a decrease in their tax rate beginning next year, resulting in a New York State income-tax reduction of approximately \$690 million.

Under the legislation pushed by Cusick, middle-class residents will see their tax rate drop from 6.85% to 6.45%. As a consequence of this, tax rates for New Yorkers will be at their lowest in 58 years.

Assemblyman Cusick is also the author of a bill which would control the ever-rising property tax by limiting the amount by which the City of New York may increase property taxes each year (A.4741). Under this legislation, the City would not be able to raise the property tax levy by more than 2%, or the rate of inflation (whichever is less). This measure will limit the City from placing unfair burdens on property owners with outrageous increases while aiding the property owner with a clearer sense of how to budget for their expenses.





*“Assemblyman Cusick has long been a proponent of tax cuts that benefit the middle-class, and his record demonstrates his understanding that the middle-class is the backbone of America.*

*A champion of small-business, Cusick’s resume includes votes for the MTA payroll-tax cut and a vote against the New York City sales tax.*

*Cusick was also instrumental in the reimbursement of CAP money for Catholic, Jewish, and Independent schools.”*

*“For the past several months, Senator Lanza and I have been in steadfast negotiations with Governor Cuomo and the Port Authority to bring toll relief to Staten Islanders. I am pleased we were able to get everyone on board and roll back the tolls to the lowest peak rate in ten years.”*

*– Assemblyman  
Michael Cusick*

## Toll Break Resolution

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Commissioners unanimously approved a plan crafted by Assemblyman Cusick and Senator Lanza that will give E-ZPass holders a reduced toll on their third trip over New Jersey spans (Gothels, Bayonne and Outerbridge Crossings) in a 30-day period.

Once the third trip is taken, the first two trips paid at a peak rate of \$9.50 will be rolled back to \$4.75.

The reduction took effect August 8<sup>th</sup> and will replace the current 10-trip Staten Island Bridges Plan.

Islanders who want to participate in the new three-trip plan will have

to sign up for it when it takes effect, by going to the Port Authority website -- [www.panynj.gov](http://www.panynj.gov) -- or visiting the New York E-ZPass Customer Service Center in Travis, or calling 1-800-333-8655. Those enrolled in the 10-trip plan will be automatically absorbed into the three-trip plan.

“For the past few months, Senator Lanza and I have been in steadfast negotiations with the Governor to bring toll relief to Staten Islanders. I am pleased we were able to get everyone on board and roll back the tolls to the lowest peak rate in ten years,” said Cusick.

## Cusick Proposes Plan to Combat Water Board Fee Increases

A bill introduced in Albany by Assemblyman Cusick would change the membership of the water board to include all five borough presidents. This proposed change would ensure that all New York City boroughs have input in regard to fee increases, and thus could effectively counter the seemingly impetuous raise in rates.

“After attending a public hearing in April, it became clear that the make-up of the Water Board is stacked by city representatives who essentially

control the vote on rate hikes,” said Cusick. “My bill will give fair representation on any future water rate increase by realigning the board to include an elected official from each borough.”

“At least the borough presidents are accountable to the voters at election time,” said Cusick.

He added that “having a say on New York City water rates gives Staten Island residents and business owners a chance to hinder these outrageous yearly hikes.”

## Sales Tax Break on Clothing and Shoes in New York City

Clothing, footwear, and related items that are sold for less than \$110 each are exempt from the state’s 4% sales tax. Combined with the NYC exemption, which I also voted for, shoppers will see a total of 8.875% savings.

## Discount Program for Veterans

Assemblyman Cusick recently initiated a discount program for Veterans of the United States Military who live in Staten Island. This discount program gives veterans reductions on goods and services at participating businesses.

Staten Island veterans who are interested in the program are asked to sign up at Assemblyman Cusick’s office (1911 Richmond Ave, 718-370-1384). Bring your discharge papers (DD214) to receive the Staten Island VETS card. This card gives access to discounts at local businesses who have signed up for the program. Participants receive a listing of participating businesses that offer discounts at their establishments.