

**Sandy Galef**Like me on  
Facebook 2 Church Street, Ossining, NY 10562 • Phone: 914-941-1111 • Fax: 914-941-9132  
Email: galefs@assembly.state.ny.us • Website: www.assembly.state.ny.us

Dear Constituent,

I would like to thank you once again for allowing me the privilege of serving as your assemblywoman for what I hope will be two very productive years in Albany. Those who made it to the polls in November also resoundingly supported two amendments to our State Constitution. One of those started as a bill I introduced to bring our legislature into the twenty-first century by getting rid of so many paper copies of bills under our desks. I anticipate this will reduce paper waste as well as time consumed in producing the volumes of paper that were needed to fulfill this constitutional requirement.

The other significant Constitutional Amendment that passed creates a redistricting commission that will recommend to the legislature how election district lines are drawn. Up until now, the majority party in the State Senate and Assembly determined how these lines were drawn. This process led to gerrymandered legislative districts in which lines were not drawn to fairly represent communities, but rather to maintain the status quo and give more strength to the party in power. The commission will instead include equal numbers of majority and minority party representatives as well as seats for unaffiliated or third party members. The amendment includes other protections as well to ensure a more equitable process for drawing electoral district lines.

The abysmal voter turnout in our gubernatorial election—only about 33% of eligible voters came to the polls—is of great concern to me as it points to an unengaged public. At the same time, I am energized by the Constitutional Amendment results which signal that people are ready for change. Continuing to reform government must be a top priority if we want to bring more of the public into the process and make every vote truly count, which is underscored by the most recent charges against leadership in the Assembly. I have asked you in the past about public financing of campaigns and I will ask you again here. Partial public financing of campaigns can be critical to dampening the impact of big money and making more people feel they are active participants in the process. I am curious to hear about other ideas you have that would bring out more voters on election day.

At the beginning of each new legislative session, we have an opportunity to take stock of our accomplishments and identify our needs. I hope you will help me do this by filling out a questionnaire on some issues that have risen to the surface and that will probably come before the legislature in Albany this session. I also encourage you to join me around the 95th District at the five town meetings I have scheduled so I can hear from as many of you as possible about what is working and what needs fixing in our state. Together, I hope we can continue to push forward on government reform and other critical issues that will make our society the greatest it can be here in New York.

Sincerely,

**Assemblywoman Sandy Galef hosts  
2015 Town Meetings  
in New York's 95<sup>th</sup> Assembly District**

Please join me to hear about what is happening in your State Government and how it impacts you. Bringing your ideas, suggestions and questions.

**Saturday, February 28, 2015****10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.****Croton Free Library**

171 Cleveland Drive

Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520

**1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.****The Field Library**

4 Nelson Avenue, Peekskill, NY 10566

(Senior Nutrition Room on the Main Level)

**Thursday, March 5, 2015****7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.****Ossining Public Library**

53 Croton Avenue, Ossining, NY 10562

(Second Floor Meeting Room)

**Saturday, March 7, 2015****10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.****Desmond-Fish Library**

472 Route 403, Garrison, NY 10524

**1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.****Kent Public Library**

17 Sybil's Crossing, Kent Lakes, NY 10512

*There are no snow make-up dates. If the town meeting you are planning to attend is cancelled due to weather, please feel free to attend another town meeting listed here. If the weather is inclement, please call my district office or you can try the location itself for an update on whether the meeting will be proceeding as scheduled.*



*I have actively opposed the siting of the Algonquin Incremental Market, or AIM pipeline project in the vicinity of Indian Point and in Cortlandt, Peekskill, Buchanan, Verplanck and neighboring communities. I am particularly concerned about the confluence of high volume gas and nuclear power plant operations and spent fuel and the potential health and safety issues that could arise if a rupture were to occur. Here I am at a press conference in October 2014 with advocates and elected officials to oppose the current siting of this pipeline.*

On December 10th, I was so excited to join regional representatives from the Mid-Hudson Regional Economic Development Council in Albany where we learned that we were awarded **Top Performer** status by the New York State Regional Economic Development Council. This status conferred \$82.2 Million to the region, funding many projects in the 95th Assembly District as well as projects that are regional and benefit my district. These projects will help continue the momentum of boosting this region's economic development.



**Historic Hudson River Towns Sing Sing Historic Prison Museum - \$250,000**

For feasibility/planning studies for the development of a museum at the Sing Sing Correctional Facility in the former power house and to explore ways to gain access to the 1825 Cell Block for historical preservation and study.



*I was joined by Tracy Corbitt, Principal Planner for Westchester County Department of Planning, and Jerry Faiella, Executive Director of the Historic Hudson River Towns, on my television show, "Dear Sandy," which brings the public up to date on how the Historic Sing Sing Prison Museum is progressing. If you missed the show and would like a copy, please contact my district office. For more about the museum project, visit Historic Hudson River Towns' website at <http://www.hudsonriver.com/> or send an email to [levenbergd@assembly.state.ny.us](mailto:levenbergd@assembly.state.ny.us).*

**Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art Peekskill Project VI - \$45,700**

Through the Peekskill Project, Hudson Valley Center for the Contemporary Arts (HVCCA) hosts more than 30 separate events during the year and at least 40 education programs occur. The Project's expected outcome is well over 30,000 new visitors, with participation of artists from many countries.

**Historic Hudson Valley Lightscapes Artist Project - \$58,200**

Area artists will be invited to submit a proposal for a sculpture to be integrated into Croton's Van Cortlandt Manor's Lightscapes installation.

**Copland House - \$49,500**

Copland House, a creative center for American music based at Aaron Copland's historic home in Cortlandt, will expand their educational offerings and partnerships by hiring a part-time Manager of Education and Community Outreach to oversee, expand and implement in-school and onsite educational activities and relationships with local and regional school districts, as well as civic, business, cultural, and community organizations.

**Green Chimneys School Expansion - \$750,000**

This grant will support the renovation of two existing vacant buildings to add seven new classrooms to serve special needs and preschool children with high quality early education and specialized and intensive therapeutic education.

**Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail - \$935,000**

For the creation of a nine-mile, off-road route that will connect the train stations and downtowns in Cold Spring, and Beacon, allowing safer access to popular hiking trails along the route. Partners in this project include Scenic Hudson, Hudson Highlands Land Trust, Putnam and Dutchess counties, the four municipalities through which the trail will run, Metro-North Railroad, and several state agencies. In addition, I have secured \$100,000 of discretionary state multi-modal funds to support this project.

**Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival - \$71,600**

Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival's Education and Outreach Department will provide innovative hands-on arts education programs and outreach initiatives, increasing access to and participation in the arts throughout the lower Hudson Valley. Programs include in-school performances, workshops and residencies; Shakespeare Summer Camp; Acting Apprenticeships, Technical Theater and Arts Internships; Shakespeare Institute & Resource Workshops.

**Manitoga Inc. - \$16,700**

Manitoga will receive support for a series of intricate large-scale sculptures by structural artist Stephen Talasnik at Manitoga, in Garrison.

**Hudson Valley Opportunity Fund - \$1,000,000**

Creation of a revolving loan fund by Community Capital, the SBA certified micro-lender for the Hudson Valley.



*On October 17, 2014 members of the Northern Westchester-Putnam Disabled American Veterans Chapter #137 and I celebrated the renaming of The Bryant Pond Road Bridge to the "Disabled American Veterans Memorial Bridge" on the Taconic State Parkway.*



*In August, I enjoyed sharing the afternoon with Senator David Carlucci, County Legislator Catherine Borgia and other local Ossining officials and community members at the Star of Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church Men's Fish Fry & Chicken Dinner.*

# Assemblywoman Sandy Galef's Constituent Questionnaire

(Room for two respondents)

*If you prefer to respond electronically, please go to the "Important Links" tab on my Assembly Web Page at <http://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/Sandy-Galef/>*

1. Would you support requiring that a defensive driving course be taken every ten years (either on-line or in a classroom) to help ensure our roadways are as safe as possible for passengers and drivers alike?

Yes  No

Yes  No

2. Do you believe that New York should join other states to protect our environment by imposing a ban on (a) polystyrene and/or (b) plastic bags, to be replaced by paper, recyclable material, or biodegradable products?

(a)  Yes  No

(b)  Yes  No

(a)  Yes  No

(b)  Yes  No

3. Do you believe we should institute an independent utility consumer advocate at the state level to represent customers and weigh in on rate and policy changes for utility companies?

Yes  No

Yes  No

4. The proposed Education Tax Credit would give a boost to private and parochial schools by allowing tax exempt donations to these schools as well as to public schools. Do you think we should allow this, even if it would reduce the taxable income which supports public schools?

Yes  No

Yes  No

5. In an effort to ensure a well-educated society that can keep up with the demands of the 21st century, do you believe that we should provide financial aid for those trying to get a college education (a) while in prison and/or (b) whose parents may have brought their children into our country illegally?

(a)  Yes  No

(b)  Yes  No

(a)  Yes  No

(b)  Yes  No

6. To begin to address voter engagement, should we allow 16 and 17-year-olds to pre-register to vote with their county boards of elections so that when they turn 18, they will automatically be added to the voter rolls?

Yes  No

Yes  No

7. Should we allow partial public financing of campaigns to help offset the influence of large PACS on campaigns and elections?

Yes  No

Yes  No

8. Should we require that all town and village elections take place in November?

Yes  No

Yes  No

What other steps could we take to increase voter engagement in local and state elections?

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9. Should we increase the minimum wage to \$10.50 an hour statewide, and \$11.50 in New York City, as proposed by Governor Cuomo?

Yes  No

Yes  No

10. Do you believe students' state standardized test scores should make up a significant part of a teacher's performance evaluation?

Yes  No

Yes  No

11. Do you believe we should raise the number of charter schools allowed to operate in New York State?

Yes  No

Yes  No

**Please attach additional paper, if needed, for your responses to any of these questions.**

**Email Address 1:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address 2:** \_\_\_\_\_

If you would like to receive periodic updates from my office via email, please provide your email address above.

↓ **Fill in Name and Address. Fold. Stamp. Include Zip Code for Tallying Purposes.** ↓

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Place  
Stamp  
Here

Assemblywoman Sandy Galef  
2 Church Street  
Ossining, NY 10562-4802



*I was so pleased to learn that Anastasia Friedland, an intern in my office and a senior at Briarcliff High School, was selected by then New York State Education Commissioner John King as one of 10 finalists from New York for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program. My entire district office staff is very proud of Anastasia and wishes her the best of luck.*

*At Ossining's Annual Veteran's Day event, I had the opportunity to recognize Ossining's own highly decorated veteran, Major General Robert Wolf, with a citation. General Wolf is the outgoing commander of the New York State Naval Militia. I also joined Bob with family, friends, and colleagues at the Naval Militia at SUNY Maritime in the Bronx to recognize him for his outstanding service to our state.*



*In late October, my district office at 2 Church Street in Ossining, owned by Diamond Properties, completed repaving the parking lot. I was so excited to coordinate with the property owners and become among the first in the area to see that this parking spot was painted with the new accessibility parking icon following legislation I introduced in the Assembly earlier in 2014 which was signed into law last year.*



News from  
Assemblywoman  
**Sandy  
Galef**

## Town Meetings 2015

WINTER 2015

New York State requires all public institutions and state buildings, including leased facilities, to be equipped with automatic external defibrillators (AEDs). This includes public schools, workplaces, and even dentist offices. An AED is a portable electronic device that can automatically diagnose if there is a failure with a person's heart and help re-establish the heart's normal rhythm through the use of defibrillation. Representatives from Caring Personal Response and Advantage Emergency Devices join me on my "Dear Sandy" TV show to discuss AEDs. Tune in so you can also learn how AEDs are used and how they save lives. "Dear Sandy-Benefits of AEDs" on Cablevision Fridays, 2/27, 3/6, 3/17 and 3/20 at 9:00 p.m. on Ossining & Peekskill Channel 15, and at 8:30 p.m. on Wappingers Falls Channel 21, and on Comcast on Fridays, February 27, March 6 and 13 at 7:30 p.m. on Carmel, Kent, Mahopac & Putnam Valley Channel 8.

**You will know where to find an AED  
by looking for these symbols:**

