

Sandy GalefLike me on
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Dear Constituent,

As a new legislative session starts in Albany, we have many opportunities before us. The Governor will be introducing his budget with his proposed initiatives. Unfortunately, leadership in Albany has been implicated in a number of unethical practices which make all of us look bad. One of the most important issues when we return to Albany is to address the underlying causes of these behaviors and put stronger measures in place to prevent future abuses of power which impact our entire state.

At the same time, I would like to hear from you about your ideas for important issues you feel we should be focusing on this year. Please join me at Town Meetings around the district and/or respond to the questionnaire on the back of this newsletter.

Once again, we will take a look at ways to fund education to take the burden off of the property taxpayers. We made some traction towards a circuit-breaker style of help with legislation passed in last year's state budget and were able to offer a number of tax give-backs. I will be working to make that even more helpful this year so that those who pay a disproportionate amount of their income to property taxes can get additional support.

This will also be a significant year in education as the chancellor has announced she will not seek another term, so our Regents, including our newly selected Regent Judith Johnson representing schools in my assembly district, will have the opportunity to choose a leader they believe will embrace their ideals, regarding testing, standards, evaluations, and other significant topics in education that impact our children and their future.

In October, I hosted a well-attended and robust panel discussion on Death with Dignity with pro and con speakers offering differing positions. I have included a review from the participants at the forum, and I hope that you will share with me in the questionnaire on the back your feelings on this controversial subject.

I continue to push back against the siting of Spectra Energy's high-pressure AIM gas pipeline near Indian Point. In November, I visited the Westchester County Executive to deliver a letter urging him to rescind the license he granted to Spectra to clearcut over 1,000 trees at Blue Mountain Reservation for this project without having asked for alienation of parkland legislation from New York State.

As you know, I count on your responses to my questionnaires to guide my actions. Please share your opinions and ideas with me so I can continue to have a clear understanding of what you believe is important and we can make progress together.

Sincerely,

**Assemblywoman Sandy Galef hosts
2016 Town Meetings
in New York's 95th 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, January 16, 2016**10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.****Julia L. Butterfield Library**

10 Morris Avenue, Cold Spring, NY 10516

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

17 Sybil's Crossing, Kent Lakes, NY 10512

Thursday, January 21, 2016**7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.****Ossining Public Library**

53 Croton Avenue, Ossining, NY 10562

(Second Floor Meeting Room)

Saturday, January 23, 2016**10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.****Hendrick Hudson Free Library**

185 Kings Ferry Road, Montrose, NY 10548

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

4 Nelson Avenue, Peekskill, NY 10566

(Senior Nutrition Room on the Main Level)

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 was joined by some of my summer interns to attend a press conference held by US Senator Kirsten Gillibrand to support health care and financial help programs for Sept. 11 responders. If you are interested in an internship at my district office please call 914-941-1111 or complete an intern application on my website at: <http://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/Sandy-Galef/story/46712>.

Women's Equality

This year we voted on new laws to help women and families in New York State including protecting victims of sexual harassment, such as bill A. 5360, of which I was the prime sponsor in the Assembly. The following are the eight new laws signed by the Governor:



Achieving Pay Equity

(S.1/A.6075) This bill strengthens New York's laws to further restrain employers from paying women less than men performing the same tasks. This bill will close the loophole that allows employers to prohibit employees from discussing their salaries under suspicion of being suspended or terminated. Now employees can freely discuss wages with each other, and the amount of damages employers face when violating the law is increased.

Protecting Victims of Sexual Harassment

(S.2/A.5360) This bill protects employees from sexual harassment within the workplace regardless of employer's size. Currently businesses with fewer than four employees are not considered employers, barring employees from filing sexual harassment complaints to the Division of Human Rights. This bill would cover all businesses in New York and allow employees to file sexual harassment complaints when necessary.

Removing Barriers to Remediating Discrimination

(S.3/A.7189) This bill allows plaintiffs to recover attorney fees after a successful trial in employment or credit discrimination cases based on gender. This would allow victims the opportunity to maintain their rights and be made whole in cases where the plaintiff is successful. Currently in New York, state law prohibits plaintiffs from recovering attorney fees at trial for employment cases due to high trial costs.

Ending Family Status Discrimination

(S.4/A.7317) This bill prohibits employment discrimination

based on familial status. New York state law only prohibits discrimination based on familial status in areas of housing and credit. This often stereotypes employees that are parents or guardians of children under the age of eighteen. Women are most affected by stereotypical views of parents in the work place and are less likely to be recommended for hire or promotion. This new law bars employment agencies, licensing agencies, or labor organizations from discriminating against workers based on familial status.

Protecting Victims of Domestic Violence from Housing Discrimination

(S.5/A.6354-B) This bill bans landlords from discriminating against victims of domestic violence. Currently New York state law states an individual could be denied housing based on his or her status as a victim of domestic violence. The new bill would protect victims of domestic violence from discrimination when attempting to rent or lease housing, as well as provide them with affirmative defense in eviction proceedings and a private right of action.

Protecting Victims of Domestic Violence by Strengthening Order of Protection Laws

(S.6/A.6262) This bill creates a pilot program that allows domestic violence victims to seek temporary orders of protection through electronic means rather than having to appear in person. Currently, domestic violence victims can face vicious hardships when securing protection from their abusers.

Strengthening Human Trafficking Laws

(S.7/A.506) This bill strengthens current laws in New York State against human trafficking. It eliminates the constraint that coercion be proven in a sex trafficking prosecution when victims are minors, increases penalties for the crime and creates affirmative defense in prostitution prosecutions if the defendant was a trafficking victim.

Protecting Women from Pregnancy Discrimination

(S.8/A.4272) This bill requires employers to provide reasonable accommodation for pregnant employees. Due to certain medical conditions some pregnancies may require that accommodations be made in the workplace. Current protections for pregnant women are unclear and often misinterpreted. A reasonable accommodation analysis must be conducted for pregnant employees.



For over a year now, I have been actively voicing my deep concerns about the development of the Algonquin Incremental Market Project throughout my district in Verplanck, Buchanan, Cortlandt and Peekskill, near the Indian Point Nuclear plants. Here I am pictured at two press conferences held on October 15th in Albany (l.) and on November 13th in White Plains (r.).

Death with Dignity Forum Update

As you know, on October 14th, I sponsored a Death with Dignity Forum – a pro and con discussion to consider New York State’s approach to physician assisted suicide. We had over 125 in attendance and sought opinions from the attendees as to how they felt coming into the forum, how they felt after listening to the panelists and if they changed their opinion on this very sensitive issue.

Of those that responded, 55.6% came to the forum supporting physician assisted suicide, 33.3% opposed, and 9.5% had no opinion. After the panel discussion 74.6% said they learned new information about physician assisted suicide that they did not know before. When asked if any of this new information changed their opinion on physician assisted suicide, 14.3% said yes and 74.6% said no with 4.8% not sure. Some attendees did not answer every question.

I am reaching out to you now to answer my questionnaire below so I can gain even more information about how you feel about physician assisted suicide, along with other issues. If you would like a DVD copy of the Forum, please call my office or email me with your address and we will send it to you or you may wish to visit my YouTube channel to view the Forum at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U-6smK6hwNQ>.

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. Do you support or oppose physician assisted suicide for terminally ill adults?
 Yes No Yes No
2. Should we require police to strip firearms from anyone convicted of a misdemeanor domestic violence incident?
 Yes No Yes No
3. NYS has recently legalized medical marijuana for patients with serious medical needs. Should we expand this further to allow for legalization of all marijuana in NYS as has been done in Colorado?
 Yes No Yes No
4. Do you support those who receive a driver’s license to be automatically registered to vote unless they decline the registration on the form?
 Yes No Yes No
5. Should we ban e-cigarette usage in any indoor place where smoking is banned?
 Yes No Yes No
6. Should NY adopt paid family leave for several months to care for a new child or seriously ill family member?
 Yes No Yes No
7. Should we have full-time state legislators with an increase in pay as well as a ban on any outside income?
 Yes No Yes No
8. Should we adopt a single-payer health care system in NY modeled after Medicare?
 Yes No Yes No
9. Do you support a red light camera program in our communities to identify and fine automobile speeders?
 Yes No Yes No
10. Do you believe that the NYS Property Tax Cap program is working well? Please offer your comments.
 Yes No Yes No

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

Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie Tours Part of the 95th Assembly District



Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie and I met with key decision makers of the Ossining School District to share information about its accomplishments and future needs.



Elected officials and members of the Friends of the Sing Sing Museum planning group joined Speaker Heastie on a tour of the former power house, the proposed location of the historic museum.



Deb Milone, Executive Director of the Hudson Valley Gateway Chamber, and Bill Powers, Executive Director of the Peekskill Business Improvement District joined us and artist Wilfredo Morel to learn more about the Peekskill artist community.



Louie Lanza of Hudson Hospitality Group shares his vision of reconstructing the abandoned Peekskill train station with Speaker Heastie, Executive Director of the Hudson Valley Gateway Chamber, Deb Milone and myself.



News from
Assemblywoman
**Sandy
Galef**

Town Meetings 2016

WINTER 2016

Little Fills Causeway in Kent Reopened

I was glad to be able to work with local and county officials by securing a \$100,000.00 grant to help fund the repaving and guardrail replacement of this road which greatly improved its safety. This project was an example of how working together and sharing services can get the job done.

Here I am pictured from left to right, with Kent Councilwoman Penny Osborn, County Legislator Toni Addonizio, Kent Supervisor Maureen Fleming, County Executive MaryEllen Odell, Kent Highway Commissioner Richard Othmer, members of the highway department and other supporters at the ribbon cutting.

