



Assemblywoman **Ellen Jaffee**

Spring Valley Community Update

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Dear Neighbor,

This update is to let you know about the latest news in New York State and the New York State Assembly that is affecting our communities here in Rockland County. I hope you find this of interest, and if you have questions or would like to share any ideas, or concerns, please give me a call.

Ellen



Ellen Jaffee Hosts Haitian Consul General & Rev. Demosthene in Albany

Consul Hopes to Set Up Office in Spring Valley

On May 16th, Assemblywoman Jaffee hosted the Haitian Consul General to New York, the Hon. Charles Forbin, in Albany for high-level meetings with government leaders. Ms. Jaffee said, "It's a top priority to strengthen ties between Haiti and New York State."

Prior to the Consul General's May visit, Assemblywoman Jaffee traveled to New York City earlier in the year to meet with Mr. Forbin and discuss issues important to so many constituents. She then arranged for the Consul General to meet with many Albany lawmakers, including Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, along with a top aide to Governor Cuomo, who promised to help the Consul General.

Among the many issues discussed was the possibility of arranging for the Haitian consulate to open a satellite office in Spring Valley, which will be further explored in the coming months.

In addition to hosting Mr. Forbin in Albany, Assemblywoman Jaffee arranged for the Rev. Nathan Demosthene of the First Timothy Christian Church in Spring Valley to offer the opening prayer of the Assembly session. Rev. Demosthene impressed the lawmakers with his heartfelt message of working together to serve our state more effectively.

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New York State Assembly Honors Haitian Unity Day for 3rd Year in a Row

On the same day the Consul General visited Albany, Assemblywoman Jaffee passed in the Assembly, for a third year, a resolution that designates May 16th as Haitian Unity Day in New York. This resolution cites Haiti's tradition as a nation that rose to freedom from a slave rebellion, and it notes the many important contributions of Haitians and Haitian-Americans to New York State.

Ellen Jaffee Helps Cut Income Taxes for 99% of All New Yorkers

In a major victory for our families, Assemblywoman Jaffee passed a middle-class tax cut that will benefit up to 4.4 million New York tax-payers—more than 99 percent of those who file taxes statewide. The plan cuts \$690 million from taxes paid by middle-class and working families, whose tax rates will drop to the lowest rate in 50 years.

Ellen Jaffee Promotes DREAM Fund for Children of Immigrants

Assemblywoman Jaffee believes a college degree should be possible for every student who works hard, plays by the rules, and dreams of a brighter future. That's why she co-sponsored and voted for a bill to establish the DREAM Fund, which would award privately-funded scholarships to college-bound children of immigrants, helping to make a college education more affordable and accessible. This act makes it possible for funding to come from private sources only in order to fund the scholarships.



Assemblywoman Jaffee Gets Additional Money for the East Ramapo School District

Assemblywoman Jaffee fought for and passed a state budget that increases funding for East Ramapo schools by 4% over the previous year, in addition to securing several hundred thousand dollars in additional aid for the district. A former teacher, Assemblywoman Jaffee said, "Investing in education puts our children on the path to opportunity and success. The East Ramapo School District is in dire need of increased funding, and I will continue to push to fully fund the district."

Ellen Jaffee Votes to Raise Minimum Wage from \$7.25 to \$8.50 an Hour

Assemblywoman Jaffee joined her Assembly colleagues in passing legislation to increase the minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$8.50 per hour beginning next year, while also increasing the minimum wage for food-service workers who receive tips from \$5.00 to \$5.86 per hour. She has repeatedly called on the State Senate to pass this

legislation now, saying, "Working families who are barely making ends meet cannot wait a moment longer to start receiving a fair wage." Ellen Jaffee was a co-sponsor of this bill.

Assemblywoman Jaffee Saves Spring Valley Families Money with Sales Tax Exemption

With so many households struggling to pay their bills, Assemblywoman Jaffee says, "Our families deserve a break. I fought to cut the state sales tax so New York families don't have to pay the 4% state tax on clothes, shoes, and some other items that each cost less than \$110. It's about time that our families can save some money."

Ellen Jaffee Says No More Fingerprinting for Food Stamps

Assemblywoman Jaffee was happy about Governor Cuomo's recent decision to stop the State's practice of fingerprinting people who use food stamps. "This reform makes it easier for New Yorkers to get food stamps," Ms. Jaffee said. "Families who need food stamps must be treated with respect. They should never face this kind of humiliation."

Jaffee Fighting for Historic Designation of Hillburn School

The Brook School in Hillburn stands as a landmark to the civil rights movement, where the late Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall advanced the cause of freedom and equality right here in our community. Marshall won one of the earliest victories in the fight against segregation. Assemblywoman Jaffee said, "We must honor and protect this legacy. I am working with local activists to have the state Historic Preservation office add the Brook School to its official registry of historic places." This effort to preserve the Brook school comes after Assemblywoman Jaffee's earlier and successful effort to have May 17th designated as Thurgood Marshall Day in the State of New York.



Jaffee Brings State's Foreclosure Prevention Unit to Spring Valley

Assemblywoman Jaffee knows how difficult it is for many Rockland homeowners in this tough economy. That's why she requested the state government bring its Mobile Foreclosure Prevention Unit to Spring Valley, where staff from the state Department of Financial Services gave advice to local homeowners on how to avoid foreclosure. Ms. Jaffee said, "I am making sure the state does everything it can to help families stay in their home."

The next visit will be Sept. 27 in the Airmont Shoprite parking lot. For more info call district office, 624-4601.