

ASSEMBLYMAN
WILL BARCLAY
2012 BUDGET UPDATE

2012 BUDGET SUMMARY

- Impact of the 2012-2013 Budget
- Session Highlights
- Future Priorities



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Dear Neighbor,

At the end of March, we successfully concluded budget negotiations and passed the earliest state budget since 1983. From the process itself, which was done during daylight hours and in a timely fashion, to the actual budget itself, there is a great deal for New Yorkers to be proud of.

The 2012-13 budget keeps our fiscal constraints, financial times and taxpayers in mind. Coming in at a total of \$132.6 billion, it does not raise taxes and actually decreases spending from last year while increasing aid in several vital areas. While there are aspects that I would have changed, overall it moves our state forward and better represents the taxpayers than past budgets.

This newsletter highlights some of the most important aspects of the 2012-13 state budget and some additional proposals for which I advocated. As always, feel free to contact me with your concerns at my office or via e-mail.

Your Assemblyman,

Will Barclay

Putting the Financial House in Order

This year's budget held the line on spending, which is expected to come in under two percent growth from last year. This mirrors my past proposal for a state spending cap. On top of keeping spending from spiraling out of control, the budget closed a projected \$3.5 billion deficit with no new taxes or fee increases. Here are some quick facts on the 2012-13 state budget:

- Reduces overall state spending by \$127 million
- Cuts government waste by eliminating or merging 24 defunct commissions and agencies
- Authorizes state takeover of the growth of local Medicare costs, helping to lower property taxes

REAL ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE 2012-13 BUDGET

On top of getting the state's financial house in order, the 2012-13 budget creates several initiatives to create jobs and repair our crumbling statewide infrastructure and parks system. I was pleased to drive more school aid to higher-need school districts. Although the additional aid provided to schools this year won't close all the budget gaps, it will help low-wealth districts a great deal. Overall, the 2012-13 budget includes the following initiatives to make our communities even better places to live, work and raise our families:

REBUILDING NEW YORK'S ROADS AND BRIDGES

- The New York Works Program creates jobs and fixes our crumbling roads and bridges at an accelerated pace, using \$247 million in state funding and \$917 million in federal funds for new investments, \$212 million to address bridge deck and structural replacement or rehabilitation on 115 bridges.
- \$250 million for over 2,000 miles of low-cost pavement preservation.
- \$700 million for transportation projects of regional or statewide significance across the state.

STRATEGIC GROWTH

- \$220 million for continuation of Regional Economic Development Councils to implement plans and provide a second round of awards.
- Tax incentives and funding available for locally-significant economic projects.





Much was accomplished this session; however, more needs to be done to get New York back on a prosperous path.

More Real Achievements in the 2012-13 Budget

STRENGTHENING OUR SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES

- 4 percent increase in education spending
- \$20.3 billion in school aid (an increase of \$805 million), with the bulk going to high-need districts
- \$50 million provided for competitive grants
- \$400.2 million in school aid restorations
- \$111.5 million for foundation aid
- An extra \$31 million for community colleges

SUPPORTING OUR LOCAL FARMS

- \$3 million for the creation of an Agricultural Economic Development Program for farm-viability projects
- \$1.2 million for the Farm Viability Institute

PROTECTING OUR RIGHTS

- Elimination of New York's Combined Ballistic Identification System (CoBIS)

SAVING TAXPAYERS MONEY

- Elimination of 4 defunct commissions and agencies
- Creation of a New York State Gaming Commission merging the Division of Lottery and the Racing and Wagering Board

SMART SOLUTIONS TO MAKE NEW YORK BETTER

While the 2012-13 state budget contains a great deal of items that I personally support, there was definitely still room for improvement. Here are a list of solutions I offered to make the budget better and will continue to fight for to make our communities even better places to live, work and raise our families:



- Enact a true spending cap to ensure future budgets limit spending growth
- Eliminate the Wage Theft Prevention Act's redundant annual notice requirement
- Place a moratorium on Albany's unfunded mandates to prevent local property tax hikes
- Reduce the tax rate for manufacturers by 50 percent
- Enact the Small Business Relief Act to reduce the tax rate, lower energy costs and provide other savings to job creators

