



A Message from Assemblywoman

END OF YEAR 2017

Sandy Galef

Like me on Facebook



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Dear Constituent,

As the new legislative session starts and the Governor introduces his budget and proposed initiatives, I am preparing to vote on a wide range of issues and to hear from many of you on the issues that matter most to you. As in past years, I would like to hear from residents around my district about what you think we should focus on this year in Albany. To kick this off, I hope you will join me at Town Meetings around the district and/or respond to the questionnaire on the back of this newsletter.

Last year, I made it a priority to have a number of learning opportunities on topics that I think hold a wide appeal. In January, I held a meeting on the Electoral College, and had an unexpectedly large audience. In October, I invited experts on the proposal for a New York State Single Payer system to give an insight on the pros and cons of such a system (details about that meeting are later in this newsletter). Additionally, I had open office hours and a screening of the documentary "She's Beautiful When She's Angry" in October and December. If you have ideas of other topics that you think I should consider a panel discussion on, I invite you to share those thoughts with me and my staff to help us brainstorm ideas of what you want to learn more about.

I am very excited about some of my legislation that passed in the 2017 session. Chief on my list of priorities was ensuring that children are safe in the situations they are in every day. My bill, which is now a new law requires that children be in rear facing seats until they are two years old, or until they meet the weight and height requirements for the seat they are in. This, along with passing a resolution in the Assembly to recognize Drowsy Driving Prevention Week in November, are among steps that we in the legislature are taking to keep New Yorkers safe on the road.

The first few months of session are instrumental in setting up our priorities for the year, and I look forward to meetings with a variety of advocacy groups who will present their ideas and arguments. I am also anticipating a lot of conversations with my colleagues and task forces about supporting Cortlandt and Buchanan taxpayers as they prepare for Indian Point's closure, and will fight to ensure that the area does not suffer excessive economic hardships.

As you know, I count on your responses to my questionnaires to guide my votes and sponsorships on bills. I hope you will 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,

Sandy Galef

Assemblywoman Sandy Galef hosts

2018 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. Bring your ideas, suggestions and questions.

Thursday, January 25, 2018

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Ossining Public Library

53 Croton Avenue, Ossining, NY 10562
(Second Floor Meeting Room)

Saturday, January 27, 2018

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

Thursday, February 1, 2018

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

The Field Library

4 Nelson Avenue, Peekskill, NY 10566
(Senior Nutrition Room on the Main Level)

Saturday, February 3, 2018

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Hendrick Hudson Free Library

185 Kings Ferry Road, Montrose, NY 10548

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.



2017 Legislative Accomplishments

This past legislative session, I was joined in Albany by members of the Peekskill NAACP and many other groups for meetings about important legislation. I often receive visits from individuals and community leaders to discuss their support or opposition to existing bills, or to bring my attention to an issue that may benefit from a legislative solution. This year, the State Legislature passed 606 bills, among them important measures to ensure access to quality education for students of all ages and laws to protect youth. Below are some highlights of legislation signed into law:

- **FREE COLLEGE TUITION:** The Excelsior Scholarship will make public college tuition free to in-state students from families making up to \$100,000. The student must stay in the state to work for the equal length of time they receive this financial help, or else must pay the money back. The income threshold will rise to \$125,000 over three years.
- **RAISE THE AGE:** The state will end its practice of prosecuting and incarcerating 16- and 17-year-old offenders as adults.
- **END CHILD MARRIAGE:** The state will increase the legal age to marry from 14 to 17 years old. Anyone under 17 will not be allowed to wed, but 17-year-olds will need both parental and judicial permission to tie the knot.
- **SCHOOL AID:** The state budget increased total spending on public school education by \$1.1 billion to \$25.8 billion overall, a record growth in aid that is expected to be reflected on homeowners' property tax bills.
- **UPSTATE RIDE-SHARING:** The ride-hailing apps, Uber and Lyft, are now allowed to legally pick up passengers in all points outside of New York City.
- **OPIOID ADDICTION:** The state budget also includes more than \$200 million for prevention, treatment, and recovery programs to battle heroin and opioid addiction.
- **CLEAN INDOOR AIR ACT:** Electronic cigarettes are banned in public places, including schools, workplaces, bars and restaurants, as well as certain outdoor areas.



This year I was joined by many groups advocating for a variety of causes, including the Peekskill NAACP.



In October, Peekskill hosted their first Vintage Grand Prix. It was so much fun to watch the variety of old cars racing along and hearing the engines of these older vehicles.



I was proud to join Westchester County Legislator Catherine Borgia as she, and other members of the county board, introduced the county Wage History Anti-Discrimination bill on September 20, 2017. This bill would prohibit employers from asking job candidates about their salary histories during the job hiring process. This is a crucial step in the fight for equal pay. We are joined by advocates from community and labor groups, including CWA Local 1180, Westchester Women's Agenda and the Westchester Chapter of the National Organization for Women.



I had the opportunity to chat with a few members of the Cub Scouts of Philipstown, Pack 137 (and some leaders and parents) about the New York State Assembly and how a bill goes from an idea to law. It was a wonderful conversation with these bright, capable, and engaging young scouts.



The Hendrick Hudson Library in Montrose opened their new Children's room at the beginning of October. I was excited to join the library in celebrating this new and improved space for children to learn and to develop a love for literature.

Assemblywoman Sandy Galef's Constituent Questionnaire

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

1. Have you been asked your previous salary as part of a job interview?

Yes No

Yes No

2. Should Election Day be made a Federal/State Holiday?

Yes No

Yes No

3. Would you support legislation to allow alcohol to be sold in movie theaters?

Yes No

Yes No

4. A number of states have allowed law enforcement officers to use a so-called "textalyzer" during traffic stops and while investigating an accident. This allows the officer to see the phone's activity and assess whether the driver was using the phone while driving. Would you support such a measure in New York State?

Yes No

Yes No

5. A bill has been introduced to require parents to take a drivers' education class before teaching their children to drive so that parents are up to date on the current rules of the road before teaching them to their children. Would you support such legislation?

Yes No

Yes No

6. Have your employers, past and/or present, always made clear what their policy is for reporting and addressing sexual harassment claims?

Yes No

Yes No

7. Currently, seatbelts are required for front seat passengers and children in the back seats of cars, but are not required for adults seated in the back seats. Would you be in favor of a law that would require all passengers in the front and back seats to buckle-up?

Yes No

Yes No

8. Would you support legislation to create a citizen committee to oversee the safe storage of spent fuel rods on the Indian Point property?

Yes No

Yes No

Do you have any other thoughts or concerns? Please add other comments here or on an attached sheet

↓ **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

School Districts Need Notification of Employee Arrests

On October 3, 2017 I was joined by Ossining School District Superintendent Dr. Ray Sanchez, Ossining Police Chief Kevin Sylvester and concerned Ossining PTA parents to announce legislation that I have introduced with Senator Sue Serino that



would protect children from possible dangerous sex offenders working in their schools. Our bill (A.8382/S.6597) would amend the Education Law by requiring local law enforcement to immediately notify school superintendents of any employee's arrest for a sex crime.

Earlier this year, a longtime Ossining school custodian was convicted of rape involving a minor, taking many in the community by surprise. During the course of the criminal case against him, the employee continued to work in the school, in direct contact with students. Because of a loophole in current state law that does not require schools to be provided with arrest notifications of employees hired before 2001, the Ossining school district had no idea of the sex offense charge against the employee. Dr. Sanchez's office was only made aware of the situation through an anonymous handwritten letter after a jury found the school custodian guilty of rape. The legislation I have introduced would close this gaping hole and ensure that notification of arrest for a sex offense applies to all employees – regardless of the year they were hired.

Single Payer Forum

On October 10th, I held a Pro and Con discussion on the Single Payer Health Care bill introduced by Assembly Member Gottfried in the Assembly. This bill has been the topic of many of the emails and phone calls that have come into my office in the recent past. Panelists Assembly Member Richard Gottfried and Dr. Betsy Rosenthal supported the measure, and Dr. Thomas Lee and Bill Hammond were in opposition. I was glad to see about 150 of my constituents in attendance, and thank you for coming and for completing the survey we conducted there.

I was interested to learn that 66% of the attendees who completed the survey were in favor of a single payer plan, and 13% were in opposition. Our current system of healthcare meets approval from only 7.4% of the attendees at the event, and 60% of the respondents believe that the system could be better.

continued below



A message from
Assemblywoman
**Sandy
Galef**

Town Meetings 2018

END OF YEAR 2017

New York State Assembly
Albany, New York 12248

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continued from above Single Payer Forum

If you missed the event but want to see what happened, it is available on YouTube (<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=ucaf-celf3W4>) and we do have DVDs available. If you would like a DVD copy, please call (914-941-1111) or email (galefs@ny-assembly.gov) my office with your name and mailing address and one will be sent to you as soon as possible.

