



# A Message from Assemblywoman **Sandy Galef**



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## *Upcoming Community Forum* *• Spring 2018 •*



Dear Constituent,

The new legislative session is in full swing with adopting a state budget and establishing our legislative priorities. One area that I have heard a lot about, through emails and meetings, is election law reform. In the 2016 election New York State had just 57% of eligible voters vote, ranking 41st in the country. New York is currently considering a number of proposals to increase voter turnout and to make voting accessible for everyone. Therefore, I thought this was an important topic to discuss in more depth. In order to really engage in this issue I will be hosting a Community Forum on Election Law Reforms on April 10th at 7 p.m. at the Croton Free Library 171 Cleveland Drive, Croton-On-Hudson, NY 10520. I hope to see you there.

We will be discussing Early Voting, Automatic Voter Registration, No Excuse Absentee Ballot, Electronic Poll Book, and other proposals. The dialogue will highlight these proposals, their financing, and how they would be implemented. This forum will bring together many of the prominent voices involved in election reform – providing all of us with a strong foundation for understanding the issues going forward. My panelists, listed just to the right, come from varied backgrounds, each of whom can add to our conversation with unique insights from their vantage point. I look forward to a lively and robust conversation about these measures and what they would mean for New York State moving forward. This is of the utmost importance as we think about the power elections have in all levels of government and in our communities. Ensuring everyone eligible has the opportunity to vote is a central tenet of our society and many of the proposals on the table will make it easier for people to vote and allow more people to be brought into participating in our elections.

Expanding the opportunity to vote will not only bring New York into line with the majority of states, but will also help to make our elections more representative of the population of the state. I look forward to seeing you on April 10th and hearing your views on changing the electoral process.

Sincerely,

Sandy Galef

### Assemblywoman **Sandy Galef**

*Invites you to attend her*

## *Community Forum* *on Election Law* *Reforms*

A conversation on a variety of proposed changes including Early Voting, Automatic Voter Registration, No Excuse Absentee Ballots, and Electronic Poll Books

**April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018**  
**7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

**Croton Free Library**  
**171 Cleveland Drive**  
**Croton-On-Hudson, NY 10520**

#### **Panelists Include:**

**Joanna Zdanys**

*Counsel for the NYU's Brennan Center's Democracy Program*

**Jeanne Zaino**

*Professor of Political Science at Iona College*

**Jennifer Wilson**

*Program and Policy Director for The League of Women Voters of New York State*

**Catherine Croft**

*Election Commissioner for Putnam County*

**Anthony Scannapieco Jr.**

*Election Commissioner for Putnam County*

I encourage you to bring your friends, family, neighbors and anyone else you think would be interested in this complicated issue that affects all of us.

# Newsletter Questionnaire Update

I want to take a moment to thank those of you who participated in the survey that I sent out in my last newsletter. I received 683 responses, and it is contributions like yours that help me in my efforts to understand where my constituents stand on important issues. There was an error in putting the survey online, where one question about seatbelts in the back seat was replaced by a question about renaming the Bear Mountain Bridge. We decided that, as there were 107 people who responded online, it was an interesting chance to get an idea of people's thoughts. The results of the survey are as follows:

Assemblywoman Sandy Galef's 2018 Newsletter Survey Results		
Question:	Yes	No
Have you been asked your previous salary as part of a job interview?	36.2%	63.8%
Should Election Day be made a Federal/State Holiday?	56.8%	43.2%
Would you support legislation to allow alcohol to be sold in movie theatres?	19.6%	80.4%
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?	71.8%	28.2%
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?	53.7%	46.3%
Have your employers, past and/or present, always made clear what their policy is for reporting and addressing sexual harassment claims?	42.1%	57.8%
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? (Paper Only)	75.0%	25.0%
Would you support renaming the Bear Mountain Bridge as the "Purple Heart Veterans Memorial Bridge?" (Online Only)	19.8%	80.2%
Would you support legislation to create a citizen committee to oversee the safe storage of spent fuel rods on the Indian Point property?	77.9%	22.1%

## February Town Meetings in Peekskill and Kent



# Organ Donation in New York

We have an organ donor registration problem. The average percentage of adults registered to be organ donors around the country is 52%, but New York only has 30% of our population over 18 years of age registered. We are 50th out of 50 states, and the counties I represent are not leaders in our own state, either. Westchester County comes in behind 51 other counties at 27%, and Putnam Counties is tied with 7 other counties with 37% of their population registered and 23 counties ahead of it.

As a legislator, I of course want to see New York succeed and improve wherever we can. As a person, I want to see my constituents, my neighbors, and my friends live longer, healthier lives. I think that it is easy to avoid the issue when it is not directly affecting you, but we are here today to tell you: this is not a far-away issue. People need organs in your communities, people you know and love, and people who never expected to be in this position any more than a currently healthy person may.



Press Conference in Ossining to boost organ donation registration.



Press Conference at the Hendrick Hudson Library to highlight our neighbors in Cortlandt who need organs.

16, when they get their driver's permits, rather than needing to wait to be 18 was passed and made law last year, and I hope to see an increase in organ donors as it gets easier to register from a young age. I encourage you to join me in being a registered organ donor.

Organ donation is a life-saving decision that touches people in our community. I know a number of my constituents who are on waiting lists for organs, and a number who have received organs already. In the United States, 120,000 people are waiting for organs, and nearly 10,000 of them are in New York State. These lists, which add a new name every 18 minutes, are not a guarantee that patients will survive until an organ is available for them, every 18 hours a New Yorker dies waiting.

The bill to allow young people to register at

## Organ Donor Registration by State

89%	Montana
86%	Alaska
85%	Washington
76%	Utah
75%	Oregon
74%	Missouri
72%	Indiana
71%	North Dakota
70%	Alabama
69%	Colorado
67%	Louisiana
66%	Iowa
63%	Maine, North Carolina, Wisconsin
62%	Arkansas, Georgia
61%	Minnesota, Ohio, South Dakota, Virginia
60%	Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, New Hampshire
59%	Maryland
58%	Wyoming
57%	Massachusetts
56%	Hawaii, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Rhode Island
55%	Delaware, Florida
54%	Michigan, Nebraska
53%	Arizona
48%	Kentucky
46%	Pennsylvania
44%	Connecticut, Vermont
43%	California, South Carolina
41%	Nevada
40%	Tennessee, Texas
39%	West Virginia
37%	New Jersey
32%	Mississippi
26%	<b>New York</b>

You can become an organ donor when you renew your driver's license, or online at <https://www.donatelife.net/register>. If you would like a paper copy of the form to register, please contact my office at 914-941-1111 or [galefs@nyassembly.gov](mailto:galefs@nyassembly.gov) with your name and address and one will be sent to you.

## NYS Organ Donor Registration by County (Information as of December, 2016)

48%	Tompkins
47%	Saratoga
45%	Jefferson
44%	Cattaraugus, Ontario
43%	Chemung, Niagara
42%	Lewis
41%	Columbia
40%	Chautauqua, Essex, Genesee, Hamilton, Schenectady, Steuben, Tioga
39%	Erie, Schuyler, Wyoming
38%	Cortland, Herkimer, Madison, Yates
37%	Allegany, Broome, Clinton, Greene, Livingston, Onondaga, <b>Putnam</b> , Schoharie
36%	Franklin, New York, Otsego
35%	Cayuga, Rensselaer
34%	Dutchess, Monroe, Oswego, Ulster
33%	Chenango, Washington, Wayne
32%	Albany, Fulton
31%	Delaware, Montgomery, Suffolk
30%	Orange, Saint Lawrence, Sullivan
29%	Warren
27%	<b>Westchester</b>
24%	Nassau, Rockland
23%	Oneida
20%	Kings, Richmond, Seneca
17%	Bronx
15%	Queens
12%	Orleans

# Internship Opportunities



Every year, I have had high school and college aged volunteer interns from around my district in my office to help in the summer, as well as after school. Intern projects include tracking constituent opinions, writing press releases, researching topics to potentially become legislation, and attending press conferences, among other projects. Interns in the summer of 2017 drafted letters to the editor, attended a press conference with Senator Gillibrand, toured West Point, and helped to organize and run a Senior Forum.

*I am now accepting applicants for internships this summer and during after school hours this spring. Any interested parties may contact my office at [galefs@nyassembly.gov](mailto:galefs@nyassembly.gov) for information.*



A message from  
Assemblywoman  
**Sandy  
Galef**

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Albany, New York 12248

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**Upcoming Community Forum**  
• Spring 2018 •



*I joined many of my colleagues on a local, county, and state level at Bedford 2020's Climate Action Summit to discuss a variety of ways to protect the environment and slow down climate change.*



*I attended both a press conference to announce Teatown's 2018 Eaglefest, and Eaglefest itself. Eaglefest is a fantastic annual event to increase awareness and appreciation for our feathered neighbors, especially eagles, as they migrate through our region.*