



A Message from Assemblywoman

# Sandy Galef



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## LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP AUGUST • SEPTEMBER

Dear Constituent,

We ended our legislative session on June 20th after a very busy six months in Albany. By passing an on-time budget again this year, we were able to focus on our legislative priorities. The Assembly passed 1,113 bills, 641 of which were also passed by the Senate. These bills will be sent to the Governor for him to sign into law or to veto. In this newsletter I have highlighted some of the legislation that I think may be of particular interest to you. If you have any suggestions for new state laws, please let me know. I am eager to hear ways we can make our state even better.

Additionally, the federal government has passed new laws that have impacted our state. We are addressing these changes as best we can. Securing our healthcare market places, protecting our environment and dealing with the changes in the federal tax code regarding deductions for state and local taxes have proved to be challenging issues we are now confronting head on.

This is a wonderful time to get out and explore our beautiful state. It is also a great time to think about our environment and how we interact with it and work to keep it healthy and vibrant. With growing concerns about our environmental stewardship, many of the bills that were discussed in Albany dealt with environmental concerns. These ranged from promoting clean energy, to the use of plastics in our everyday lives. I have had many meetings in my office about environmental issues and I think it is a great topic to discuss in greater depth. As a part of this effort I have included a questionnaire focusing on some of the proposals in Albany. I look forward to your responses and, as always, thank you for your input.

Sincerely,

Sandy Galef

## LEGISLATION

### Significant Legislation 2018

We passed 641 bills in both the Assembly and the Senate. These are a few of the bills that will be going to the Governor to be signed into law or vetoed. They cover many topics of importance to New Yorkers.

#### Maintaining Health:

- **A9019A:** Amends the public health law to provide a study on the mental health impacts of people infected by tick borne diseases
- **A7218A:** Prevents anyone under the age of eighteen from using tanning facilities
- **A2857D:** Authorizes trained and registered pharmacy interns to administer immunization injections under the supervision of a licensed pharmacist
- **A2381:** Allows the commissioner of health to create grants to cover the costs of conducting local blood drives
- **A11011B:** Allows physicians to certify patients for medical marijuana as an alternative to prescribing opioids for pain management
- **A8014 (Signed by Governor):** Prohibits the free distribution or sale of electronic cigarettes to minors
- **A330B:** Prohibits smoking within one hundred feet of entrances or exits of any public library

#### Safeguarding the Environment:

- **A10863:** Extends the authority of the Department of Environmental Conservation to manage deer and black bears
- **A4956:** Allows any companion animal to be permitted on public transportation services in the event of an emergency
- **A10301B (Signed by Governor):** Enhances the existing farmland protection grant program and increases the likelihood of keeping farmland in active use after its sale to a new owner

#### Advocating for Public Safety:

- **A8401C:** Provides the establishment of a Sexual Assault Victim Bill of Rights by the Department of Health allowing rape victims to receive information on their sexual evidence kit from the police
- **A6823C:** Establishes sex trafficking of a child as a crime
- **A10272 (Signed by Governor):** Ensures that domestic violence offenders do not have access to firearms
- **A1992:** Creates a toll-free hotline and website where motorists can report potholes

## Legislation (cont'd from page 1)

- **A11121:** Ensures the safety of pedestrians and drivers by authorizing the commissioner of the DMV to require an examination of a person involved in a crash which was caused by loss of consciousness

### Investing in Education:

- **A8382B:** Requires immediate notification by law enforcement if there has been an arrest of a school employee alleging a sex offense
- **A5200:** Addresses the issues of hazing and reckless conduct that causes physical harm to students during the initiation or affiliation ceremonies of fraternities and other student organizations
- **A208B:** Ensures that all school bus drivers are subject to random drug and alcohol testing regardless of their commercial driver's endorsement and to increase the pool for random testing to 100% of the school bus drivers employed by a motor carrier. It increases the ban on consuming alcohol prior to operating a school bus from six to eight hours
- **A4426:** Establishes a New York State Physical Fitness and Activity Education Campaign to encourage physical activity which will improve the fitness of the people of NYS, develop and promote nutrition and wellness activities
- **A3210A:** Requires the office of mental health to develop educational materials for educators regarding suicide prevention
- **A9868A:** Amends the public health law to establish screening tools and guidelines for autism spectrum disorders in children three years of age and younger
- **A8485B:** Relates to the reporting of child abuse in a private school educational setting as is required in public schools

### Protecting Consumers:

- **A9576B (Signed by Governor):** Establishes a statewide drug take back program where drugs are brought to police stations and major pharmacies for safe disposal to eliminate drug misuse and abuse
- **A10827 (Signed by Governor):** Authorizes the sale of beer and hard cider ice cream similar to wine ice cream to be sold to individuals over the age of 21
- **A10157A:** Requires the department of financial services to study consumer protection issues associated with chip-enabled ATMs, which includes the persistent and reoccurring issue of individuals leaving their cards in the machines
- **A9805A:** Enacts a Toll Payers' Bill of Rights to improve the process for notifying drivers about tolls and fines incurred; to ensure that fines are fair; and that motor vehicle registrations are not suspended because of an outstanding bill for a cashless toll fee



*I held a press conference with Ossining Superintendent of Schools Ray Sanchez and other school officials and community members to advocate for my bill A8382B to require immediate notification to a school district if a school employee has been arrested for a sex offense.*

### Plastic Pollution Facts:

- Americans use approximately 100 billion plastic bags a year, each bag takes about 500 years to break down, all the while emitting toxins into the environment.
- Much of our plastic finds its way into the ocean where it kills hundreds of thousands of marine animals.
- The average plastic bag is used for 12 minutes.
- One gallon of oil is required to produce 240 single-use plastic bags.



*I attended the unveiling of a new electric car charger at the Ossining Train Station. This charger provides a way to encourage people to be environmentally conscious.*

### Actions Taken Around the Country Regarding Plastic Bags:

- **Washington, D.C.** has placed a 5-cent tax on plastic bags. This has reduced plastic bag use 85%.
- **California** has banned plastic shopping bags.
- **Boston, MA** will soon ban single use plastic bags while charging 5-cents for reusable bags, encouraging customers to bring their own reusable bags.
- **Seattle, WA** in 2012 banned all retail and grocery stores from providing plastic bags at checkout. There has been a 78% reduction in plastic bag use.
- **Maine** in 1991 was the first state to enact legislation requiring recycling efforts at retail stores.

In Albany there were a number of bills relating to the issue of plastic bag pollution. With so many proposals, I wanted to ask you for your input on what action we should take regarding plastic bags and other single-use containers. Please see page 2 for more information about plastic bags and what other states and cities are doing about this issue.

## Assemblywoman Sandy Galef's Environmental 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://nyassembly.gov/mem/Sandy-Galef/>

1. Do you consider the issue of single use plastic bags to be a concern for our environment?

Yes  No

Yes  No

2. Do you find yourself using: (a) the plastic and brown bags provided to you in stores (b) your own reusable shopping bags?

A  B

A  B

3. Would you support implementing a nominal fee on all carry-out single-use plastic bags?

Yes  No

Yes  No

4. Would you support a ban of single use plastic bags, with limited exceptions (e.g. produce, home delivered newspapers, and raw meat), and a minimum charge of 10-cents on paper carry out grocery bags?

Yes  No

Yes  No

5. Would you support a ban on plastic bags with no fee on paper bags?

Yes  No

Yes  No

6. If the state was to require a 5-10 cent fee on all single-use plastic bags would you prefer the funds to be used to support (a) Environmental Protection Fund (b) Pennies for Parks Program, or (c) General State Funds?

A  B  C

A  B  C

7. When it comes to Styrofoam carryout packages, do you feel it is the state's best interest to (a) begin to take steps to limit them (b) place an outright ban, or (c) other?

A  B  C

A  B  C

8. If a state law is passed to limit the use of plastic bags/Styrofoam do you support our local government's ability to pass stronger legislation on these environmental issues?

Yes  No

Yes  No

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

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↓ **Fill in Name and Address. Fold. Stamp. Include Zip Code for Tallying Purposes.** ↓

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Place  
Stamp  
Here

Assemblywoman Sandy Galef  
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Ossining, NY 10562-4802



*This July, I hosted my annual Senior Forum which covered a variety of topics of importance to seniors. If you were unable to attend contact my office for a copy of the program.*



*I joined Sustainable Westchester to help celebrate the installment of solar panels on a manufacturing company on 9A in Montrose.*



*I spoke at the Hudson Highlands Land Trust Sustainability Forum in Garrison. We discussed land use, the impact that it can have on our drinking water, and how to best protect our water supply.*



*I joined Teatown officials and other elected officials to celebrate Teatown's acquisition of 245 acres of land for preservation. This land comes from the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens and is important to help us maintain our wonderful natural environment.*



**A message from  
Assemblywoman  
Sandy  
Galef**

New York State Assembly  
Albany, New York 12248

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*Legislative Wrap-Up*  
**AUGUST • SEPTEMBER**



*I attended the ribbon cutting for Route 9A and North State Road. This project will help to ease congestion and improve the flow of traffic. I am accompanied by officials from the Village of Briarcliff Manor, the Town of Ossining, Westchester County, and the NYS DOT.*