

THE 2013 LEGISLATIVE SESSION: FOR A BETTER LONG ISLAND

Legislative Missions Accomplished

- Enacted Third Consecutive On-Time Budget
- Overhauled The Long Island Power Authority (LIPA)
- Extended Middle Class Tax Cuts for Three Years
- Increased The Minimum Wage
- Passed Toughest Gun-Safety Law in Nation



Capitol Update

Assemblywoman

Michelle Schimel

16th Assembly District • Summer 2013



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Restored Cuts to Programs for the Developmentally Disabled

Due to the efforts of Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel and her colleagues, the State Legislature passed legislation (A.6692-C) restoring up to \$90 million in budget cuts to the

Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD). This funding will be used to provide essential services to the developmentally disabled.

Schimel's Bill Will Enhance Veterans' Access to Benefits



Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel, a member of the Assembly Veterans' Affairs Committee, sponsored a bill (A.6221-C) that will help make the claims process for veterans' benefits more efficient. The measure requires directors of county and city veterans' service agencies to become accredited veterans service organization (VSO) representatives.

Currently, no such requirement exists under state law. This is problematic because a person must be accredited in

order to access pertinent data from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). This information is used to process benefit claims. Agency heads without this accreditation cannot effectively supervise personnel who process claims and are unable to review claims that come before them. This bill will enhance the ability of veterans to get the state and federal benefits to which they are entitled in a more efficient and timely manner.

Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel and the Colette Coyne Melanoma Awareness Campaign Sponsor Skin-Telligence



Location	Date	Time
Harbor Hills Pool	Tuesday, August 6	2-5 PM
Manorhaven Pool	Wednesday, August 7	2-5 PM
Clinton G. Martin Pool	Wednesday, August 14	2-5 PM
Lake Success Pool	Thursday, August 15	2-5 PM
North Hempstead Beach	Monday, August 19	10 AM-2 PM
Parkwood Pool	Wednesday, August 21	2-5 PM

AROUND THE COMMUNITY



In the days following Super Storm Sandy, Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel volunteered her time answering distressed calls at the Town of North Hempstead's 311 call center and delivering food to communities throughout the district. Pictured here (left to right) sorting through boxes of food and personal care items are Councilwoman Lee Seeman, Councilwoman Anna Kaplan, Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel and Spinny Hill residents.



Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel is holding a series of skin cancer awareness events at public pools across the district this summer. The Assemblywoman kicked off her Skin-telligence program at Harbor Hills Pool. Pictured (left to right) Sandy Portnoy, Director of Constituent Services, summer interns Cayla Gold and Breanna Small, and Assemblywoman Schimel.



Pictured (left to right) Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel, Rabbi Avrohom Hecht, Congresswoman Grace Meng, North Hempstead Councilwoman Lee Seeman, and former Assemblyman Mike Cohen at the Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty's 37th Annual Legislative Breakfast.



During an interview with Shirley Ann Bruno of PATV for Access Spotlight on Teen TV, local high school students asked Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel questions on a variety of topics including electronic waste recycling, women in government, and state efforts to combat gun violence. Seated (left to right) at the table is Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel and Shirley Ann Bruno of PATV.

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State Legislature Passes On-Time Budget



Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel was the featured guest speaker at Manhasset SEPTA's Ladies Night Out Fundraiser. Schimel briefed attendees on the state budget and legislative issues pertaining to special education. Pictured from left to right are Amy Morse, SEPTA Co-President, Kelly Fu, SEPTA Co-President, Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel, and Allison Rushforth, the Director of Special Education for the Manhasset School District.

The final state budget closes a \$1.4 billion budget gap while increasing the state's minimum wage and providing additional funding for schools. Due to Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel's efforts, schools in the 16th Assembly District will receive nearly

\$2 million dollars more in school aid than what was originally proposed in the Governor's budget. Local governments will also receive a significant increase in state aid as well as Nassau County's bus service, NICE.

The State Legislature & Governor Reform LIPA



Schimel delivers impassioned remarks in the Assembly Chamber during the floor debate on the LIPA reform bill.

In response to the Long Island Power Authority's (LIPA) poor performance in the days and weeks following Super Storm Sandy and long-term structural and service issues, the State Legislature passed legislation (A.8073) to restructure the Long Island electric utility.

The legislation would turn over day-to-day operations to PSEG, the service provider, stabilize electric rates, improve customer service, refinance LIPA's higher interest debt, and strengthen oversight of the entity.

Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel, a co-sponsor of the legislation, was at the forefront of negotiations, demanding stricter oversight of the new electric utility. Schimel worked to ensure that the final agreement required the State Comptroller's prior approval for LIPA contracts over \$50,000 and included a provision requiring the service provider to semi-annually post contracts over \$250,000 online. Schimel also helped safeguard LIPA's current renewable energy programs.

Fighting for Campaign Finance Reform

This session the New York State Assembly passed the Fair Elections Act (A.4980-C), which would establish optional public financing of elections for statewide and state legislative offices, and increase the disclosure of independent expenditures. The State Senate did not pass the measure. Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel, a co-sponsor of the legislation, vowed to continue fighting for public financing at a Campaign Finance Forum sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Port Washington-Manhasset.



Pictured (L to R) at the Port Washington-Manhasset League of Women Voters Campaign Finance Forum. Pictured (L to R) are Ian Vanderwalker of NYU's Brennan Center for Justice, Carol Mellor of the LWV of New York State, Jane Thomas, President of the Port Washington-Manhasset LWV, Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel and Senator Jack Martins.

Assembly Passes Women's Equality Act

Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel is a proud co-sponsor of the Women's Equality Act (WEA), which includes 10 points that address issues faced by women today such as sexual harassment in the workplace, domestic violence and the discrimination of pregnant women in the workplace. The legislation (A.8070) also strengthens human trafficking laws and gives women equal pay for equal work by prohibiting employers from basing an

employee's salary on gender. The bill also protects the deeply personal decision that some women are forced to make in choosing between protecting their own health or continuing a wanted, but risky pregnancy. The State Senate did not vote on this omnibus bill, rather they passed nine separate bills, which excluded the reproductive health provision regarding abortion.

Advocating for Small Businesses



Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel discussing how Main Street Businesses can receive equal access to capital at a meeting she had with members of the Nassau Council of Chambers of Commerce and representatives from Empire State Development.

Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel recently met with members of the Nassau Council of Chambers of Commerce (NCCC) and representatives from Empire State Development to discuss financial issues facing small businesses. One issue discussed at the meeting was creating a new category of small businesses under state law called, “Main Street Businesses.” Currently under state law, a small business is defined as a business with one hundred employees or less. However, many businesses located near downtowns, only employ twenty people or less. These businesses are not able to access the amount of capital needed to flourish. By creating a new category of small businesses, these Main Street Businesses would no longer have to compete with larger businesses for certain types of capital and state grants. The idea was well received and more meetings are planned to address this issue in the coming months.

Schimel Demands Relief from Air Traffic Noise

In response to constituent concerns about increased air traffic noise, Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel co-sponsored legislation (A.7697) requiring the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to conduct a noise and land use compatibility study. The legislation, which recently passed the Assembly and Senate, also requires the Port Authority to hold public hearings on the identification of aircraft noise issues.

“The rapid growth of air travel in our region has clearly impacted our environment. The changes in flight patterns continue to affect the quality of life of many residents on Long Island in terms of noise and air pollution. This legislation will help ensure that aircraft noise is given appropriate consideration by airport operators when determining the use of different runways and approach paths,” said Assemblywoman Schimel.

Schimel Marches in Israel Day Parade



Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel and North Hempstead Councilwoman Lee Seeman marched in this year’s Celebrate Israel Parade in New York City. Assemblywoman Schimel (left) and Councilwoman Seeman (right) are pictured with Israeli Scouts from Tzofim Garin Tzabar.

Schimel Collects 300 Pounds of Food for Sandy Relief

Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel partnered with Long Island Cares to sponsor the second annual Legislative Food Drive to help meet the needs of over 300,000 food insecure Long Islanders. Thanks to generous donations from the community, Assemblywoman Schimel’s Office collected 347 pounds of food for those affected by Super Storm Sandy.



Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel thanks students and Principal Christopher Shields from South Salem Elementary School after collaboration on a very successful food drive.