



News from

Assemblywoman Gina L. Sillitti

Dear Neighbor,

As we continue to face COVID-related challenges and those brought on by sky-high inflation, this year also gave us new opportunities for our district and a renewed sense of hope for what the future holds. I worked hard to ensure that our communities' concerns were heard during budget negotiations in Albany so that we received our fair share of state funding, including \$350 million for transformational projects on Long Island.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact my office.

A handwritten signature of Gina L. Sillitti in blue ink.

Assemblywoman Gina L. Sillitti

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Securing funding in the 2022-2023 state budget

Hometown highlights

From the challenges brought on by COVID-19 to the financial struggles households continue to face, I am committed to delivering funds to my district and Long Island, including:

- ✓ **School funding**
- ✓ **Increased funding for municipalities**
- ✓ **Sewer infrastructure funding**
- ✓ **Funding for roads including Northern Boulevard**
- ✓ **Environmental Bond Act funding**
- ✓ **Hurricane Ida relief funding**
- ✓ **Small business funding**
- ✓ **Property tax rebate checks**



"Long Islanders have already had to deal with enough stress on their wallets, which is why I fought to impose a gas tax holiday through the rest of the year to help families save their hard-earned money."

– **Assemblywoman Sillitti**

Rebuilding our infrastructure

Some of our roads are crumbling, and the potholes just keep getting bigger. That is why I fought for funding to ensure our families can rely on Long Island's roads and bridges to get them where they need to go safely.

- ✓ **\$32.8 billion** for the Department of Transportation's (DOT) five-year capital plan, including funding to commence the Northern Boulevard repaving project
- ✓ **\$538.1 million** for the Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS)
- ✓ **\$200 million** for BRIDGE NY and **\$100 million** for PAVE NY, which both help rehab and replace crumbling bridge infrastructure and repave roads impacted by extreme weather
- ✓ **\$100 million** for the new Pave Our Potholes Program

"We have all had to dodge potholes on the Long Island Expressway and Northern Boulevard. This critical funding will go toward repairing and repaving our local roads, making for a smoother and stress-free ride."

– Assemblywoman Sillitti



Bolstering education funding

Long Island has some of the best schools in the country. The state budget invests in our students, and I am proud to have delivered funding to help our kids succeed:

- ✓ **Nearly \$100 million** in education aid for Assembly District 16, which is a **20.14% increase** over last year
- ✓ Increases Foundation Aid by **\$1.5 billion** statewide
- ✓ **\$99.6 million** for public libraries
- ✓ **\$58 million** for STEM education programs
- ✓ **Eliminates the TAP Gap** - increases Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) awards and expands eligibility to part-time students
- ✓ **\$106 million** in new funds for SUNY/CUNY and community colleges to hire new full-time faculty

Protecting our environment, recovering from extreme weather events and preparing for future storms

One of my top priorities is protecting our community from the effects of climate change. That's why I secured:

- ✓ **\$4.2 billion** for the Environmental Bond Act, which will be on the ballot for voter approval in November. This includes:
 - **\$1.5 billion** for climate mitigation
 - **\$1.1 billion** for restoration and flood risk reduction
 - **\$650 million** for water quality projects
- ✓ **\$400 million** for the Environmental Protection Fund
- ✓ **A \$100 million** increase in municipal stormwater grants
- ✓ **\$41 million** to help homeowners repair Hurricane Ida storm damage above the amount covered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) through the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery



"So many of our neighbors are still feeling the effects of Hurricane Ida all these months later because they have not received the support they need to recover. That's why it was one of my top priorities during budget negotiations to directly secure \$41 million for the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery to help residents access those resources."

– Assemblywoman Sillitti



Addressing hate crimes and boosting public safety

Every member of our community should feel safe and welcomed, but discrimination and violence continue to permeate our daily lives. We must work together to combat these issues and send a message that hate has no place in New York State.

- ✓ **\$10 million** for services to combat hate crime
- ✓ **Provided judges additional discretion** to detain repeat offenders and defendants charged with gun crimes
- ✓ Made changes requested by district attorneys and **established "good faith" discovery exceptions** by clarifying remedies for unintentional errors
- ✓ **\$40 million** for district attorneys' offices to cover the cost of discovery changes
- ✓ **Extended Kendra's Law**, which allows judges to order certain defendants to obtain mental health services
- ✓ **\$110 million** for public protection agencies to support various programs including gun violence prevention, legal services, pre-trial services and alternatives to incarceration
- ✓ **Established sensitive places where guns are not permitted**, such as mass transit, schools, election polling sites and hospitals, and implemented new requirements for concealed carry licensing



Supporting local businesses

Small businesses are the backbone of our communities, and I'm working to ensure they have the support and relief needed to recover, especially those that may have been overlooked by federal funding programs.

- ✓ **\$250 million** for a refundable small business tax credit for COVID-19-related expenses
- ✓ Reopened the **Return-to-Work Credit**
- ✓ **\$5 million** for the Manhasset Sewer Installation Project

"For years, small businesses in Manhasset have struggled with the high cost of antiquated septic tanks. I made this issue a top priority during budget negotiations – not only to support local businesses, but also to protect our bays and the Long Island Sound."

– **Assemblywoman Sillitti**



Legislative updates

- **Ch. 63 of 2022** – I co-sponsored this law to add identity theft into the definition of elder abuse in order to expand support services and programs.
- **Ch. 187 of 2022** – I sponsored and passed a law to extend the deadline for counties, like Nassau, to suspend a portion of the motor fuel and diesel motor fuel tax through the end of the year.
- **Ch. 203 of 2022** – I co-sponsored and passed the Adult Survivors Act to support survivors of sexual abuse and domestic violence.
- **Ch. 204 of 2022** – I co-sponsored and passed a law to require social media companies to give users an easily accessible way to report hateful content.
- **Fair Play Ambulance Cost Recovery Act** – I fought to pass this measure in the state budget so we can better support our fire departments by allowing them to charge insurance companies for costs incurred while providing emergency medical services.
- **Department of Veterans' Services** – I helped pass a state budget that included a measure to elevate the state Division of Veterans' Services to an independent, cabinet-level department with a commissioner.
- **A.472-C** – I co-sponsored and passed this bill to ensure accurate Holocaust instruction in schools.
- **A.3956-A** – I helped pass legislation to increase the income eligibility threshold for the senior citizen real property tax exemption for the first time since 2009, making even more seniors eligible for tax savings.
- **A.6428-C** – I voted to require Long Island Power Authority (LIPA) service providers to reimburse customers for spoiled food or medication caused by a power outage that lasts for 72 hours or more.
- **A.6770** – I co-sponsored and passed a bill to enable families of wrongful death victims to recover compensation for their emotional anguish and loss.



- **A.7728-A** – I helped pass a bill to allow certified service-disabled veteran-owned businesses to access the Excelsior Linked Deposit program, which helps businesses obtain reduced-rate financing.
- **A.9738** – I co-sponsored this bill to extend the 'death gamble' benefit option to fire marshals employed by Nassau County.

Legislative updates *(continued)*

- **A.10155-A** – I co-sponsored this bill to provide greater incentives for New Yorkers to join fire departments and ambulance services by allowing counties to implement a 10% real property tax exemption for volunteer emergency responders.
- **A.10387-A** – I co-sponsored and passed this bill to create a 13-member New York Asian American and Pacific Islander Commission to help celebrate AAPI culture and promote equity.

Assembly Resolutions

I introduced the following resolutions on the Assembly floor, all of which were unanimously adopted:

- **K.821** – Resolution honoring Emma Nadel, the first woman elected to the Office of Captain of Flower Hill Hose Company No. 1 of the Port Washington Fire Department
- **K.877** – Resolution posthumously honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Henry Viscardi Jr., disability advocate and creator of the Viscardi Center and the Henry Viscardi School



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Legislative Update



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