



Assemblymember PATRICIA A. FAHY

Budget Update – 109th Assembly District
SPRING 2018



Dear Neighbors,

I'm proud to represent you and the Capital Region in the New York State Assembly. After months of hard work, I'm pleased to report another on-time budget. While a recently unprecedented budget deficit led to significant tradeoffs, this is a solid, forward looking spending plan that makes serious investments in our Upstate economy and the future of Capital Region communities. The enacted budget includes new programs and funding to help working families, seniors, and to grow jobs and protect the environment. This newsletter includes some of the highlights of this year's budget on some of the most pressing issues facing our region.

Patricia A. Fahy
Member of Assembly, 109th District

2018 Budget Highlights

Municipal Priorities and Economic Development

Capital City Funding. Albany residents rely on dependable city services. For the second straight year, the Assembly included capital city aid for the City of Albany in the budget resulting in a final allocation of \$12 million this year. Once again, this is new funding that is not borrowed against future payments to the city through 19-A payments. In the most difficult budget year in our tenure in the Assembly, this is a tremendous achievement, and Assemblymember McDonald and I are grateful for the advocacy and leadership of Speaker Carl Heastie, along with the strong support of Governor Cuomo and Senator Neil Breslin.

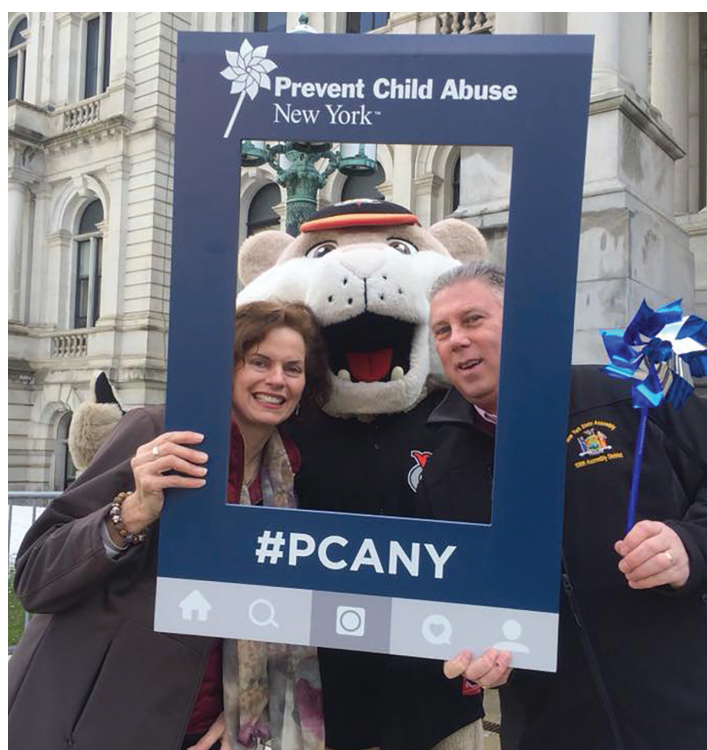
Wadsworth and Public Health Labs. The Wadsworth and public health labs are critical public health research facilities, responsible for combatting infectious diseases, testing newborns for preventable illnesses, and testing public water supplies among many more essential functions. The newly passed state budget will invest another \$600 million to consolidate and upgrade the state health science labs, combined with a \$150 million investment last year. This marks one of the largest economic development projects with public support in the Capital Region in recent history, and I will continue to push for these labs and the 800 jobs tied to them to remain in Albany.

Historic Preservation Tax Credits. Language in the adopted budget extends the NYS Historic Tax Credit for 5 years and decouples the credit from the Federal Tax Credit. These tax credits are critical urban revitalization and economic development tools for New York's historic villages, towns and cities. Additionally the adopted budget rejects the proposal to delay the payment of Brownfield Tax Credits for three years so that this critical funding can be used to revitalize our communities.

Upstate Transit Funding. Access to transit is critical for economic growth Upstate and is essential for connecting people to economic opportunity. The spending plan budget allocates \$16.8 million for operating funds as well as a \$20 million increase for transit capital projects. This marks another significant win for the Capital Region, and signals continued progress for transit funding for Upstate New York.

Education

Foundation Aid/ K-12 Funding. Education is fundamental to a future of success. The spending plan includes \$26.7 billion in school aid, which is an increase of \$1 billion or 3.6 percent over the 2017-18 school year. Within the spending plan also is \$618 million for Foundation Aid to help fund the State's obligation to our neediest schools. The plan also includes \$22.3 million for Advantage After-school. This includes \$15 million in additional funding for Pre-K.



More than 65,000 kids are abused or neglected in New York each year. Pat joined her colleague Assemblymember John McDonald at the Prevent Child Abuse New York Capitol Day to support efforts for early intervention so children can lead happy, healthy lives.

2018 Budget Highlights *Continued*

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Domestic Violence and Guns. More than 50% of homicides against women are committed with a gun. The budget will require domestic abusers to surrender all guns, including both handguns and long guns, closing a loophole in New York State law. To ensure all domestic violence offenders are held to the same standard, the legislation adds domestic violence misdemeanors to the list of prohibited offenses, which upon conviction, requires the loss of a gun license and surrender of guns. This was one of the most important pieces of gun legislation to be adopted in years.

Sexual Harassment. The scourge of sexual harassment injures victims personally, financially and professionally. The legislation adopted in the final budget bans confidentiality clauses in any settlement involving a claim of sexual harassment, except at the election of the victim. It would also allow any state entity or local government that has paid out an award to a victim for an adjudicated sexual harassment claim to recover payment from the responsible officer or employee.



The scourge of gun violence threatens the safety of our communities and our students. Pat joined student activists at the Albany Academies for a planned walkout to call for common sense gun laws.

Senior Savings Plan Adopted in the Budget

Secure Choice Savings Plan. Saving for retirement can be a challenge, which is why New York State is expanding options to encourage more workers to save. A major highlight of the budget is the new New York State Secure Choice Savings retirement program for private-sector employees. The program, administered by a seven member program board and chaired by the Commissioner of Taxation and Finance, will allow New Yorkers to better prepare and save for retirement through an automatic enrollment payroll deduction IRA, a major win for seniors and small businesses.



Immigrants enrich our communities, bring new businesses to our neighborhoods and make the Capital Region a more diverse place to live. Pat spoke at a naturalization ceremony as new Americans from all over the world took their oath of citizenship.

Health and Human Services

Opioid Drug Crisis. Opioid addiction has touched every community in New York. The approved budget also establishes the Opioid Stewardship Fund to raise \$100 million in funding for heroin and opioid treatment, prevention and recovery services. The program would require manufacturers and distributors licensed to sell or distribute opioids in the State of New York to deposit an amount of money based on their eligible opioid sales in the state into the Opioid Stewardship Fund and ensure that the cost is borne by the manufacturers and distributors, not just the consumers.

Refugee Resettlement. Immigrants and refugees are a valued segment of New York's rich heritage, adding diversity to our neighborhoods. The Capital Region and Upstate New York have been major economic beneficiaries of resettlement programs. The final budget proposal also includes \$2 million to aid refugee resettlement programs to assist with job placement and education.

You're Invited: Run, Bike, Hike: Capital Region Trails Summit

Run, Bike or Hike. Soon you'll be able to get to places throughout New York in your running shoes, on two wheels, or in hiking boots. The Empire State Trail now underway will be a groundbreaking project for New York, while the Capital Region's rapidly growing network of trails is also more than recreation, packing a serious economic stimulus.

Thursday, May 10, 2018

Run, Bike, Hike

Capital Region Trails Summit
NYS Capitol – Assembly Parlor, Room 306
8:00 to 10:30 a.m.

Panelists will include state and local leaders, and pedestrian and bike advocates highlighting walking and biking trail expansion and development across the region, including the Empire State Trail, Albany County Rail Trail and numerous on and off-road bike and pedestrian paths in between! Panelists will discuss the serious economic impact, tourism and health benefits of the present and future multi-use trails; share information on financial and regulatory barriers, and promote and coordinate the efforts underway. **Coffee and check in at 8:00 a.m., presentations and roundtable begins at 8:30 a.m.**

Higher Education Budget

SUNY Higher Ed Increases. Higher education and the SUNY system are critical for economic growth and mobility in the Capital Region. The adopted budget includes \$200 million in critical maintenance funds for SUNY's 64 campuses.

Educational Opportunity Programs. A student's background should not affect their ability to get a higher education. The budget includes \$32.2 million for the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP), a \$5.4 million restoration. The Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP), is funded at \$35.5 million, a \$5.9 million restoration.

Bundy Aid. The final budget includes \$35 million for Bundy Aid, which is used to support private non-profit colleges. This state aid is often used for scholarships and is determined by the number of degrees conferred and help make choosing one of New York's many world-class private colleges and universities a viable option for middle-class families.



A solid K-12 education is the foundation for a successful future. Pat met with Albany High students advocating for increased aid for Advanced Placement testing so they can get a head start on college.

More to Do Beyond the Budget

The budget is an expansive piece of legislation, which is a product of negotiation and compromise. Many of these issues listed below were addressed in the Assembly "one-house" budget proposal, but failed to make the final budget. I am hopeful these issues will be dealt with by the close of the year's legislative session, and I will continue to strongly advocate for these proposals.

Gun Violence Prevention. The Assembly proposal would have enacted commonsense gun legislation, including a bump stock ban, extreme risk protection orders (red flag laws), extend background checks to close the "Dylan Roof" loophole, taking guns away from domestic abusers, and enforcing mental health components in background checks.

Internet Fairness and Conformity Act. This measure would have required online marketplaces with more than \$100 million in annual sales, such as Amazon, eBay and Etsy, to collect sales tax on sales coming into New York. Currently, the state's outdated tax collection system does not require out-of-state Internet-based competitors to collect sales taxes – giving them an unfair competitive advantage over small, local businesses, who bare an outsized sales tax burden. This sales tax funds vital county health services and programs.

Land Banks. Land Bank programs have been incredibly successful in reducing vacant homes in the Capital Region. Unfortunately, funding for these programs was not included in the final budget. The Assembly budget provided \$20 million for land bank funding which have been instrumental in neighborhood revitalization.

Ethics Reform & LLC Loophole. Ethics in the legislature has dominated the news for months. While I am proud of the reforms



Students from across the country have been rising up and demanding answers on gun violence. Pat joined students from around the region at the Albany March for Our Lives to call for action on gun violence. Photo Credit: Cindy Schultz

undertaken by the legislature in recent years, there is certainly more work to be done. In particular, I strongly support closing the LLC Loophole, which allows certain corporations to avoid disclosing their donations to political candidates, and I will continue to vocally advocate for these reforms.

Early Voting. The right to vote is a fundamental pillar of democracy and should be as accessible as possible. The Assembly budget included expanded early voting to give New Yorkers more opportunities to cast their ballot. While this was not included in the final budget, I will continue to advocate that this measure be revisited in the near future.



Conservation of our natural resources is critical to ensure we can leave our natural heritage intact for our children. Pat joined parents from Bethlehem to discuss legislation to mitigate plastic pollution in our waterways.



The growing threat of climate change requires innovative solutions to secure the future of New York State. Pat stands with her Assembly colleagues to call for the passage of the Community and Climate Protection Act which would invest in a clean energy future.

Fire Safety

Become a Volunteer Firefighter. Volunteer firefighters work tirelessly to keep our communities safe. In many towns and villages in the Capital Region however, these departments are in serious need of volunteers. Consider giving back to your community and protecting your neighbors by signing up to become a volunteer firefighter.

Altamont Fire Department	(518) 861-8171
Delmar Fire Department	(518) 475-7310
Elsmere Fire Department	(518) 439-9144
Guilderland Fire Department	(518) 456-5000
Guilderland Center Fire Department	(518) 861-8871
McKownville Fire Department	(518) 489-4340
New Salem Fire Department	(518) 765-2244
North Bethlehem Fire Department	(518) 489-6556
Selkirk Fire Department	(518) 436-0534
Slingerlands Fire Department	(518) 439-4734
Voorheesville Fire Department	(518) 765-4048
Westmere Fire Department	(518) 456-6734



Volunteer firefighters are eligible for community college tuition reimbursement for up to 80 credit hours through FASNY HELP. Phone: 855-367-6933 Email: HELP@fasny.com

Smoke Alarm Safety. Everyone knows to change their smoke alarm batteries twice a year, but did you know that the American Red Cross of Eastern New York provides free smoke alarms, complete with home installation?

To request a smoke alarm at any time go to www.soundthealarm.org/eny or call the smoke alarm hotline at (518) 694-5121.



Join My Email List!

Are you interested in receiving legislative updates and information about news and events? Join my weekly email list for updates about what's going on in the Capitol and in the Capital Region!
<http://nyassembly.gov/mem/?ad=109&sh=enews>

New York State Assembly • Albany, New York 12248



Assemblymember
**Patricia A.
 FAHY**

Budget Update
 Spring 2018

PRSRT STD.
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 Albany, New York
 Permit No. 75

Assemblymember Patricia A. Fahy

Chair, Subcommittee on Oversight of the Department of Environmental Conservation

Albany Office Staff

Cathy Fahey – Chief of Staff • Dawn Reddy-Dugan – Legislative Aide •

Elissa Kane – Scheduler • Jake Egloff – Communications Director

Room 452, Legislative Office Building
 Albany, New York 12248 • 518-455-4178 • Email: fahyp@nyassembly.gov

Facebook: www.facebook.com/AssemblymemberPatriciaFahy

Twitter: www.twitter.com/PatriciaFahy109

Web: www.nyassembly.gov/mem/Patricia-Fahy

