



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

James L. Seward

## Seward Starts Fine Tuning State Budget

JAMES L. SEWARD February 13, 2014

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**ALBANY, 02/13/14 --** State Senator James L. Seward (R/C/I – Oneonta) has been named to four key senate budget sub-committees which will review the governor's budget proposal and offer recommendations for modifications. Senator Seward will serve on the education, general government/local assistance, health, and higher education & arts sub-committees.

**“State finances as they relate to education, local government, and health play a vital role in the daily lives of all New Yorkers,”** said Senator Seward. **“These segments of the budget form the foundation for the overall state spending plan and wise decisions must be made in these areas to ensure a fiscally responsible final product that meets real needs.**

**“Ensuring fair distribution of education aid is always a balancing act. Last year my advocacy helped direct most of the new state aid to the neediest schools. Continuing in that vein, I will be working to eliminate the gap elimination adjustment (GEA) which has plagued so many area districts.**

**“The higher education portion of the state budget has become even more vital with the advent of START-UP NY and the new role our SUNY schools are playing in our state's economic development future. It is also imperative that our facilities and programs are top-notch so our graduates are equipped to succeed in an increasingly challenging job market.”**

The sub-committees are an early step in the budget process and a precursor to joint senate/assembly conference committees which, in concert with the governor, develop a final spending plan.

The senate and assembly recently released a joint budget development schedule that sets deadlines that lead to an early adoption of a state budget. The legislative budget schedule for 2014 is as follows:

On or before

February 25 Senate/Assembly Fiscal Committee Economic & Revenue Reports Released

February 26 Joint Revenue Forecasting Conference

March 1 Revenue Consensus Report

March 12 Joint Senate & Assembly budget actions

March 12 Joint Senate/Assembly budget conference committees commence

March 19 Final Report of Joint Conference Committee

March 24-27 Joint Legislative budget bills taken up by Senate & Assembly

**“Enacting a state budget that meets real needs, and getting the job done on time for a fourth consecutive year, will be my priorities in the coming weeks,”** Seward concluded.