



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Kenneth P. LaValle

## Senator Ken LaValle: “Cautiously Optimistic” of Measures Proposed by Governor

[KENNETH P. LAVALLE](#) January 22, 2015

Release date: January 21, 2015

“In today’s State-of-the-State/Budget address, I was cautiously optimistic of some of the fiscal measures being proposed by Governor Cuomo to save taxpayers money.”

“While my preferred methods differ in many instances from the Governor’s proposals, we generally agree that we need to make New York more affordable for families. I would like to see the ceiling raised so additional Long Island families would benefit by having their taxes limited.”

“By keeping state spending low, we can generate tax savings that should be passed directly to families and businesses. We should enact a 2% state budget cap and as well as make the 2% property tax cap permanent. I would also like to see personal and corporate tax rates cut to enable people to keep more of their hard-earned money, and create new jobs. I look forward to reviewing the details of the Governor’s proposals so we can produce results for Long Island families.”

**Environmental Issues**

“Preserving the environment has been one of my top priorities throughout my career. With the support of individuals, legislators and many environmental organizations, we have been able to preserve thousands of acres in the Pine Barren and across the East End. Keeping our lands and waters pristine is critically important for all of us.”

“Now that we are well on our way to preserving land, we need to turn our attention to ensuring clean water. It’s with that thought that I have been working with environmental groups, the agricultural community, business groups, elected state and local government officials to develop a strategy for a comprehensive clean water plan.”

### **Higher education Issues:**

#### **Governor's debt forgiveness plan**

“College affordability has always been a priority of mine. The Governor’s added focus today is much welcomed, but I have some concerns on the manner in which this particular solution attempts to resolve the issue.”

“The Governor's debt forgiveness plan would take millions of dollars from New York's taxpayers and transfer it to the federal government. Most of the approximate \$1.2 trillion in student loan debt is either guaranteed or held by the federal government.”

“While student loan debt is a very serious problem this is not the best way to tackle it. We need to focus on creating the type of programs and jobs that enable students to enter the workforce and help them manage a responsible loan payment plan.”

### **College Sexual Assault**

“This is a very important issue that requires additional research, discussion and involvement of stakeholders at every level to reach a workable consensus. I look forward to working with the Governor on legislation to protect all of our college students.”