



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Pamela Helming

HELMING JOINS COLLEAGUES IN SENATE MAJORITY TO UNVEIL 2018 JOBS AND OPPORTUNITY AGENDA

ARON ASHRAFIOUN - 518-455-2366 February 14, 2018



The New York State Senate Majority today unveiled a broad-based “Jobs and Opportunity Agenda” designed to help the state become more competitive, improve job creation, and make the state more business-friendly. The Senate plan will save small businesses more than \$1.1 billion in taxes, cut red tape, reduce regulatory burdens, invest in workforce development, and strengthen New York’s economic development programs.

“New York continues to be one of the highest taxed, most over-regulated, and least business

friendly states in the nation. It is more important than ever that we foster a business climate that allows private sector companies to create jobs and grow right here in the Wayne-Finger Lakes region. To start, we need to begin untangling the regulatory red tape that is a tremendous burden on our businesses, school districts and local governments so that they can begin to see some real relief. Additionally, we need to partner with local school districts, community colleges, and job creating businesses so that we can properly train our workforce to be ready to meet the demands of an evolving job market and economy,” said **Senator Pam Helming**. “I was proud to stand with my colleagues today to unveil the second phase of our Jobs and Opportunity Agenda to help support our farms and small businesses. This legislation is a step in the right direction to make New York a more competitive and business friendly state. As State Senator, I have made it a priority to visit local farms and businesses and meet with employers to gain a better understanding of the issues burdening them. I will continue my aggressive efforts on behalf of local job creators to create a stronger, more business friendly New York.”

The Senate has advanced a three-pronged “Blueprint for a Stronger New York” that focuses on making the state less costly and more attractive for hardworking New Yorkers. When combined together, the Blueprint’s Affordability, Opportunity, and Security agendas will comprise a powerful and comprehensive plan to give all New Yorkers the opportunity to succeed.

Today’s announcement details the second part: a Jobs and Opportunity Agenda that focuses on comprehensive tax, regulatory, and economic development reforms that will help make New York more competitive and foster job growth. The Jobs and Opportunity Agenda includes:

Strengthening the State’s Economic Development Programs:

Several of New York's economic development programs and strategies are not producing the results that taxpayers expect and lack the transparency needed to help the state be more fair and competitive. The Senate will propose:

- **Shut down START-UP and redirect advertising funding to support more effective economic development initiatives:** The Governor's START-UP program has failed to produce the job-creating results that were promised. The Senate will propose to stop the state from accepting new applications for the program at the end of 2018. In addition, the Senate will redirect the \$44.5 million in advertising money included in the 2018-2019 Executive Budget and support more effective economic development programs.
- **Improve Transparency with a Database of Deals:** Ensure greater transparency and accountability in state contracting by creating a searchable database of all state subsidy and economic development benefits so that individuals, businesses, and public officials can monitor how taxpayer dollars are spent.
- **Promote Additional Oversight:** Create an Independent Oversight Panel for all large public work projects and state procurements of \$50 million or more.

Cutting Taxes on Small Businesses:

To help New York's vitally important small businesses succeed, our plan includes lower business, property, energy, and income taxes. It builds upon existing Senate tax reduction successes, including the \$23 billion in savings by enacting a property tax cap and keeping state spending at two percent the past seven years. Both of these initiatives are proposed to

be made permanent in the Senate Majority's plan. It also continues to support the implementation of the middle-class income tax cuts that is bringing \$4.2 billion in relief to tens of thousands of small businesses. Additional tax cutting initiatives amounting to more than \$1.1 billion in new savings include:

- **New Tax Cuts for Businesses - \$495 million:** Reduce the amount small businesses and farms must pay in taxes by increasing the corporate tax threshold from \$390,000 to \$500,000 and lowering the rate to 2.5 percent. The proposal also expands the small business exemption to all businesses filing the personal income tax regardless of whether they have employees, increases the threshold to \$500,000, increases the exemption to 15 percent, and increases the exemption to 20 percent for farmers.
- **Create STAR for Small Businesses - \$275 million:** Allow real property owned by a small business (100 or less employees) to be eligible for the STAR property tax savings program;
- **Reduce Energy Taxes - \$280 million:** Eliminate the two-percent Gross Receipts Tax on utility bills, resulting in \$190 million in savings. Energy tax cuts would also expand upon the savings achieved when the Senate Majority phased out the onerous 18-A energy tax surcharge enacted by New York City Democrats several years ago. Now that the surcharge has been eliminated, the Senate Majority's Blueprint would go even further by eliminating the base, underlying 18-A assessment tax and have the \$90 million in savings come from the state's general fund.

- **Tax Relief to Boost Manufacturing - \$90 million:** This legislation would extend the zero percent Corporate Franchise Tax parity to all manufacturers in New York regardless of how they are organized. Currently, only approximately 25 percent of manufacturers – those organized as C corps - can receive the zero percent rate on business income.
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Cutting Red Tape and Overregulation

Businesses consistently cite New York's overly burdensome regulatory practices as a major factor that hinders job creation and economic growth. The Senate's agenda includes a *Streamlining for Success* package that will reduce unnecessary red tape, improve our regulatory practices, and give more New York businesses the opportunity to succeed. It includes:

- **Prevent Regulatory Steamrolling:** Curtail state agency overuse of the emergency regulation process to ensure it is only used in true emergency situations when necessary to protect public health and safety. Also, the Senate proposes allowing the Administrative Regulations Review Commission to examine an issue and vote on a 90-day delay prior to the adoption of proposed administrative rules. This will help when businesses raise concerns about possible rulemaking inconsistencies with statutory authority or legislative intent, or could potentially burden taxpayers or local governments.

- **Improve the State Rulemaking Process:** Reform the regulatory, licensing, and permitting processes to make them easier to understand, more responsive to businesses' concerns, increase transparency, improve consistency, and reduce overly burdensome or unnecessary requirements.
- **Remove Speedbumps to Development:** Create a new statutory "Fast-Track" process for certain economic development projects.
- **Advocate for Small Businesses:** Make the state an advocate, not an adversary, by creating a small business liaison to help start-ups navigate the state agency bureaucracy. The advocate would hear concerns, advocate within an agency on behalf of small businesses, and increase education of and outreach to entrepreneurs.

Making New York a Leader in Job Training

Far too many businesses across our state are finding it difficult to locate and hire skilled, trained workers for positions that are available. The Senate's plan includes a *Gateway to Opportunity* package that includes major funding and smart reforms to help make New York a national leader in workforce development. Initiatives include:

- **Connect Veterans with Jobs:** Create a Veterans Career Assistance Program within the SUNY and CUNY system to assist veterans with resume writing and employment placement

services. Another measure would allow the rewarding of high school diplomas based upon military experience to any veteran who has served in active duty and was honorably discharged but was unable to complete their schooling.

- **Strengthen In-School Training Programs:** Expand and make permanent the P-Tech School Programs that prepare thousands of New York students for high-skills jobs in technology, manufacturing, healthcare and finance. The Senate would also increase resources for Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs.
- **Promote Practical Skills and Experiences:** Allow academic credit for high school students who participate in internships and other practical experiences. The Senate also proposes that schools work to encourage participation in apprenticeships.
- **Equip College Students:** Require SUNY and CUNY Board of Trustees to establish a grant program for community colleges to develop or improve training and workforce development programs to prepare the unemployed for jobs in the surrounding regions.
- **Use Better Metrics:** Enhance outreach, education, and reporting by the state Department of Labor on employment and training programs

The Senate Majority Record

The Senate Majority has been responsible for the enactment of 85 tax cuts over the past seven years, saving taxpayers \$12 billion to date. This includes the lowest middle-class tax rates since 1948, the lowest manufacturing rates since 1917, the lowest corporate rates since 1968, a property tax cap for homeowners, and many more.

Senator Helming represents the 54th Senate District, which consists of Seneca and Wayne Counties, parts of Cayuga and Ontario Counties, and the towns of Lansing and Webster. For more information, please visit Senator Helming's [website](#), or follow @SenatorHelming on Facebook or Twitter.

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