



THE 2014 LEGISLATIVE SESSION:  
**Giving All New Yorkers the  
Opportunity to Succeed**



## The NYS Senate Republican Conference: GIVING ALL NEW YORKERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO SUCCEED

Over the past four years, the Senate Republican Conference has worked together in a bi-partisan way to give all New Yorkers the opportunity to succeed.

We've enacted forward-looking policies and reforms designed to ensure:

- Thousands of new job opportunities in every corner of the state
- Great schools that can open the door to a brighter future
- Tax relief to help hardworking families save, invest and pursue their dreams and aspirations
- Clean air and water, green open spaces, and a healthy environment
- Safe, vibrant local communities that offer an outstanding quality of life

For the past two years, we have forged a strong and productive partnership with the Independent Democratic Conference -- a partnership based on bi-partisanship, and putting the interests of New Yorkers ahead of partisan politics.

This booklet provides a brief overview of some of the Senate Republican Conference's key accomplishments over the past four years, as well as some of the major highlights of the recently concluded 2014-15 Legislative Session. Several pages also detail the dramatic contrast between the past several years of Senate Republican Conference leadership, compared to the failed leadership that occurred when Senate Democrats controlled the chamber in 2009-10.

For additional details of the Senate Republican Conference's efforts on behalf of hardworking New Yorkers, please visit our website at [nysenate.gov](http://nysenate.gov).



## Four Years of Smart Fiscal Management: GOVERNING RESPONSIBLY... TO HELP ALL NEW YORKERS SUCCEED

**The Senate Republican Conference knows that responsible fiscal management helps everyone succeed.** That's why we have worked together in a bi-partisan way to control spending, put the state back on solid fiscal ground, and reduce the tax burden on hardworking New Yorkers. And these efforts have produced tremendous results over the past four years:



## The Senate Republican Conference: TOP 10 KEY FISCAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Passed four consecutive on-time budgets that avoid new taxes and fees.
- Capped State Spending at 2% -- saving taxpayers \$16 billion, or \$2,779 per taxpayer.
- Enacted 49 tax cuts in just four years -- saving New Yorkers more than \$5.6 billion.
- Cut taxes across the board: income taxes, property taxes, energy taxes, small business taxes, manufacturing taxes, corporate taxes, and more.
- Approved an historic property tax cap that has saved property taxpayers more than \$4 billion.
- Approved major mandate and pension reforms to save local governments and taxpayers \$4.5 billion.
- Approved new family tax relief checks -- saving families with children \$1.23 billion over three years.
- Enacted a new property tax freeze and rebate program that will save taxpayers \$1.4 billion over three years.
- Closed \$15 billion in budget gaps, putting the state back on a solid financial foundation.
- Helped stabilize and improve New York's economy -- and a record-high 7.5 million New Yorkers are now at work in private sector jobs (NYSDOL).

# A Clear Contrast on Taxes and Spending: SENATE DEMOCRATS VS. SENATE REPUBLICANS

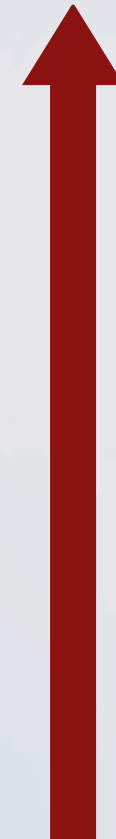
When government is mismanaged -- and when taxes and spending are out-of-control -- it's always hardworking New Yorkers who wind up getting hurt.

Higher taxes make it tougher for families to make ends meet. They also make it more difficult for small businesses and manufacturers to succeed, grow and create new job opportunities. And as costs rise and these job opportunities dry up, many families and young graduates simply choose to pursue their dreams in a more promising and economically vibrant location.

During the two brief years that the Senate Democrat Conference was in control of the house, they went on a reckless taxing and spending binge that had disastrous consequences for taxpayers, the economy and New York State as a whole.

## Senate Democrats Senate Republicans

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|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 124 Tax and Fee Increases</li> <li>✓ \$14 Billion in New Taxes</li> <li>✓ \$14 Billion in New Spending</li> <li>✓ Eliminated STAR Rebate Checks, Costing Taxpayers \$1.4 Billion</li> <li>✓ No Mandate Relief</li> <li>✓ Created \$10 Billion Budget Deficit</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 49 Tax Cuts</li> <li>✓ \$5.6 Billion in Total Tax Cuts</li> <li>✓ Capped Spending at 2% -- Saving Taxpayers \$16 billion</li> <li>✓ Capped Property Taxes – Saving Taxpayers More Than \$4 Billion</li> <li>✓ Major Mandate &amp; Pension Reforms Saving \$4.5 Billion</li> <li>✓ Closed Budget Gap With No New Taxes, Earned Highest Credit Rating in 50 Years</li> </ul> |
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## SENATE DEMOCRATS: 124 New Tax Hikes in Just Two Years \$14 Billion in Higher Taxes (Senate Republicans Voted Against ALL These Taxes and Fees)

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|--|--|---|--|
| 1 Personal Income Tax Increase                                   | 31 Photo Document DMV Fee                | 64 Clean Air Operating Permit Fee                           | 96 Sales Tax on Clothing Purchases       |
| 2 Eliminate STAR Property Rebate                                 | 32 Increase Cigar Tax                    | 65 Establish Promotion Exam Fee                             | 97 Excise Tax on Cigarette Packs Hike    |
| 3 MTA Region Payroll   | 33 Internet Dot-Com Hike                 | 66 Parks Cabin Fee Increases                                | 98 Income Charitable Deduction           |
| 4 18-A Utility Increase  | 34 Remove Cap DMV Surcharges             | 67 Driver's License Reinstatement Fee                       | 99 NYC STAR Income Rate Hike             |
| 5 NY Power Authority Sweep                                       | 35 Auto Rental Fee                       | 68 Retail Food Store License Fee Hike                       | 100 Timothy's Law Reimbursement Cut      |
| 6 Insurance Policy Tax   | 36 Trailer Registration Fee Hikes        | 69 Air Contamination Fees                                   | 101 Make REIT/RIC Provisions Permanent   |
| 7 State / City University Tuition                                | 37 Asbestos Notification Fee             | 70 Motor Vehicle Certificate Fee                            | 102 Increase Tobacco Products Tax        |
| 8 MTA Registration Surcharge                                     | 38 Tobacco Retail Registration Fee       | 71 Parks Empire Passports Hikes                             | 103 Increase Moist Snuff Tax             |
| 9 Shift Healthy NY Direct Pay Stop Loss to Ins. Assessment (DRP) | 39 New Marine Fishing License            | 72 Parks Marina Fee Increases                               | 104 "Little Cigars" Tax                  |
| 10 Hospital Assessment (Tax)                                     | 40 Increase Pesticide Fees               | 73 Security Guard Training Fee                              | 105 Retiree's Medicare Tax               |
| 11 Cut Itemized Deductions for High Income Taxpayers             | 41 Covered Lives Assessment Tax          | 74 Heavy Vehicle Registration Fee                           | 106 Add Back Sales Deduction             |
| 12 Hospital Surcharge (Tax)                                      | 42 Highway Use Fee Increase              | 75 State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) Fee | 107 Consumer Credit Judgments            |
| 13 Health Insurance Tax  | 43 Taxi and Bus Registration Fee         | 76 Local Written Exam Fees                                  | 108 Surplus from Workers Insurers        |
| 14 Enhanced "Bottle Bill" deposits                               | 44 Establish Tax Preparer Fee            | 77 Parks Permit Fee Increases                               | 109 Eliminate Sales Vendor Credit        |
| 15 Empire Zones Business Tax                                     | 45 Certificate of Need Fee Hike          | 78 Food Warehouse Fee Hike                                  | 110 Cut STAR Exemptions for High Incomes |
| 16 MTA Taxi Surcharge  | 46 In-state use of Out-of-state Vehicles | 79 (ATV) Registration Fee Increase                          | 111 Internet Hotel (Expedia Tax)         |
| 17 Surcharge Hike on Auto Ins.                                   | 47 Vehicle Re-Registration Fee           | 80 Open Competitive Exam Fee                                | 112 Eliminate Credit Card Refund         |
| 18 Vehicle Registration Fee Hike                                 | 48 Driver License Suspension Fee Hike    | 81 Motorcycle Registration Hike                             | 113 Banks Bad Debt Deduction             |
| 19 Non-LLC Partnerships Fee                                      | 49 State Pollutant Discharge Fees        | 82 In-transit Permits Fee Increases                         | 114 Treat S-Corp Gains as Taxable        |
| 20 Driver License Renewal Hike                                   | 50 Nuclear Power Plant Fee Hike          | 83 Feed Tonnage Fees-Farms Fee                              | 115 Waste Tire Management Fee            |
| 21 MTA Auto Rental 5% Surcharge                                  | 51 Custom Vehicle Registration           | 84 Security Guard Instructor Fee                            | 116 Criminal History Search Fee          |
| 22 Captive Insurance Corps Tax                                   | 52 Parks Golf Fee Increases              | 85 Increase Education Camp Fee                              | 117 Index Fee for Foreclosures           |
| 23 Impose Sales Tax on Transportation-related Activity           | 53 Double Food Processor License Fee     | 86 H2O Withdrawal Reporting Fee                             | 118 Service Tax for Non-Residents        |
| 24 Commercial Vehicle Reg. Fee                                   | 54 Storm Water Permit                    | 87 Resident Hunting/Fishing Fees                            | 119 Bond Charge on NYC Housing           |
| 25 Real Property Transfer Increase                               | 55 Repeal Credits for Businesses         | 88 Income Definition of NY Presence                         | 120 Registration Fee for Lawyers         |
| 26 MTA License/Permit Surcharge                                  | 56 Lifetime Hunting/Fishing License      | 89 Gains on Nonresident Partners                            | 121 QETC /Biofuel Credit Claims          |
| 27 Home Care Assessment (Tax)                                    | 57 Mine Reclamation Fee                  | 90 DMV Search Fee   | 122 Hazardous Waste Fee                  |
| 28 Hunting & Fishing License Fees                                | 58 Boat Registration Fee Hikes           | 91 DMV Dealer/ Transporter Fees                             | 123 Increase Bar Exam Fee                |
| 29 Increase Beer/Wine Tax  | 59 Establish Bad Check Fee               | 92 DMV Photo Image Fee                                      | 124 Electronic Manufacturing Fee         |
| 30 Scofflaw Termination Fee Hike                                 | 60 New Wetlands Permit Fees              | 93 License Plate Reissuance Fee                             |  |
|  | 61 Parks Camping Fee Increases           | 94 Year 2-Eliminated STAR Rebate                            |  |
|  | 62 Boiler Inspection Fee Increase        | 95 Roll Back All Business Credits                           |  |
|  | 63 Establish Horse Entrance Fee          |   |  |

## SENATE REPUBLICANS: 49 Tax Cuts in Just Four Years

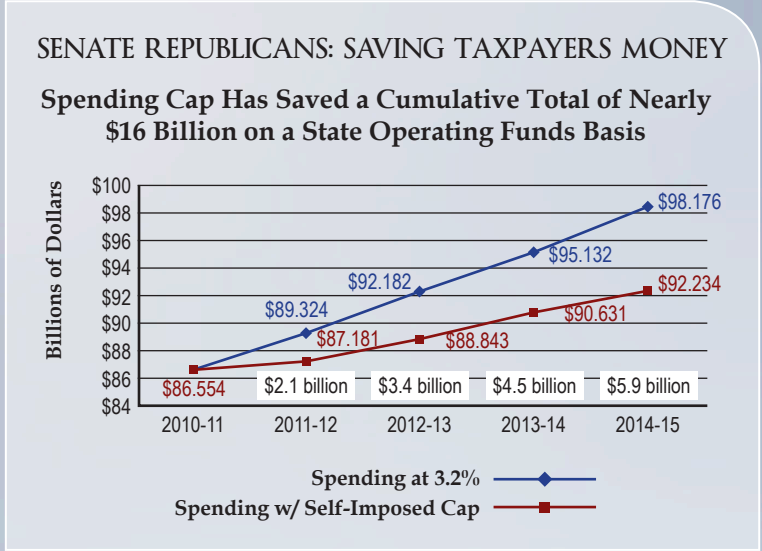
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|---|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| More Than \$5.6 Billion in New Tax Relief | Lowest Middle Class Tax Rates in 61 Years | Lowest Manufacturing Tax Rates Since 1917 | Lowest Corporate Tax Rates Since 1968 |
|---|---|---|---------------------------------------|



# CAPPING SPENDING TO PROTECT TAXPAYERS

**Spending Cap:** The Senate Republican Conference has now passed four consecutive on-time budgets that hold spending growth below 2%. This self-imposed spending cap has brought an end to the skyrocketing spending increases that took place under the leadership of Senate Democrats. *Overall, this 2% cap has now saved state taxpayers nearly \$16 billion on a cumulative basis -- ensuring that hardworking New Yorkers can save more of what they earn.*

**SPENDING CAP HAS SAVED TAXPAYERS NEARLY \$16 BILLION**



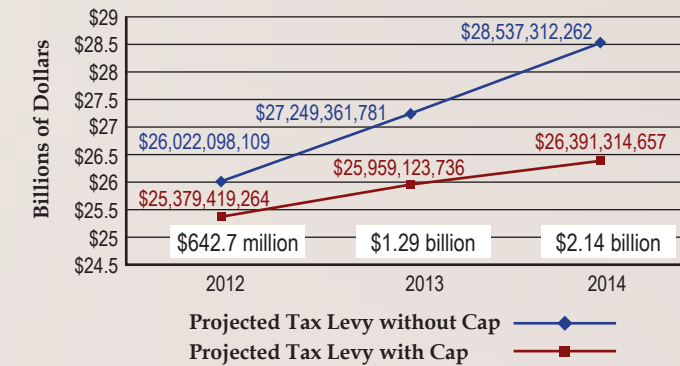


# CAPPING PROPERTY TAXES TO PROTECT TAXPAYERS

**Property Tax Cap:** In addition to holding down taxes and spending at the state level, the Senate Republican Conference has been leading the effort to restrain taxing and spending at the local level. *The landmark property tax cap we enacted in 2011 has been enormously successful -- saving taxpayers more than \$4 billion.*

## SENATE REPUBLICANS: CAPPING PROPERTY TAXES

**The Property Tax Cap Has Saved Taxpayers More Than \$4.07 Billion in County and School Taxes**



**PROPERTY TAX CAP HAS SAVED TAXPAYERS MORE THAN \$4 BILLION**

# NEW PROPERTY TAX REBATES FOR FAMILIES ACROSS NEW YORK

The Senate Republican Conference has always worked together in a bi-partisan way to help reduce property taxes, and to provide real relief for our local families and seniors.

During this year's Legislative Session, we built upon this progress in three important ways:

**1. New Property Tax Rebates** We approved an important new initiative that will encourage local governments and school districts to operate efficiently, and hold the line on tax increases. In return, local homeowners in these communities will receive a new property tax rebate check in the mail.

**2. A \$1.1 Billion School Aid Increase**

This year, the Senate provided a state school aid increase of more than \$1.1 billion. This

major funding increase is not only great news for our local schools, teachers and children across the state – but it will also help to reduce pressure at the local level for property tax increases.

**3. Record Funding for STAR**

This year, \$3.4 billion was provided to help fully fund STAR and Enhanced STAR – two outstanding programs which deliver major tax relief to millions of middle class families and seniors each year.

These steps will ensure that millions of hard-working New Yorkers and their families will see meaningful property tax relief this year -- helping them save, invest in their futures, and pursue their dreams and aspirations.



## HELPING NEW YORK'S FAMILIES SUCCEED

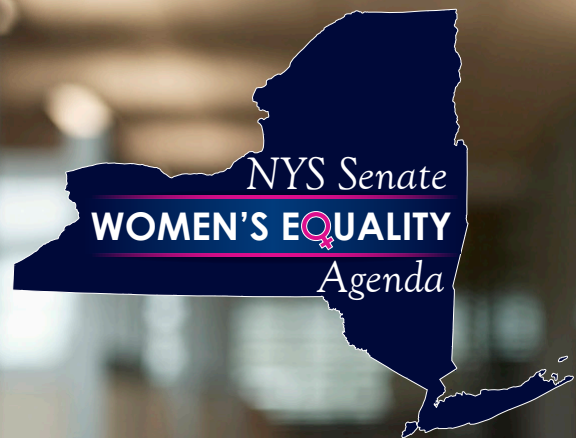
Working together to help families pursue their dreams and aspirations has always been one of the Senate Republican Conference's top priorities.



During this year's Legislative Session, Senate Republicans approved major new investments that will benefit families across New York State. These include:

- An increase in education aid of more than \$1.1 billion -- helping to ensure that our communities have great schools that help our kids learn, grow and succeed;
- A \$92.5 million increase in funding for our local parks, and \$162 million to ensure clean air and water in communities across the state;
- A new \$1.4 billion property tax rebate initiative that will help families across New York State save, invest and pursue their dreams;
- New assistance to help families and young New Yorkers afford college;
- Record funding for new day care and pre-K opportunities statewide;
- A new \$277 million energy tax cut, helping families save on their utility bills;
- Record funding for women and family health initiatives, and an expanded EPIC program to help our seniors afford their prescription medications; and
- More direct aid for local road and bridge improvements, helping to improve the local quality of life in communities all across our state.





## The Senate's Women's Equality Agenda: ENSURING EQUALITY FOR WOMEN

Throughout our nation's history, New York State has always played a leadership role in the fight for women's equality.

And the Senate Republican Conference has worked together in a bi-partisan way to help accomplish even more progress by championing a landmark "Women's Equality Agenda." The package includes new reforms designed to help:

- Ensure that women get equal pay for equal work;
- Prevent women from being sexually harassed in the workplace;
- Protect domestic violence victims from discrimination;
- Protect women from human trafficking;
- Make orders of protection more accessible;
- End workplace pregnancy discrimination;

- Prohibit workplace discrimination because of family status; and
- Allow recovery of attorney's fees in successful sex discrimination cases.

It took a bi-partisan effort in the State Senate to pass these important bills, but we still need the State Assembly to take action so that they can become law. That's why the Senate Republican Conference is now working to encourage the Assembly Democrat leadership to do the right thing, and to stop holding the Women's Equality Agenda hostage to partisan politics.

Women throughout New York have waited long enough: *The time for women's equality is now.*

For additional details on the Women's Equality Agenda, please visit [nysenate.gov](http://nysenate.gov).

# PROTECTING OUR FAMILIES. PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITIES.

In small towns and big cities throughout our state, a scourge of heroin and opioid addiction is taking young lives, destroying once promising futures and tearing apart loving families. Fortunately, help is on the way.



During this year's Legislative Session, the Senate approved a major legislative package designed to help protect our local communities -- and our families -- from these destructive and potentially deadly drugs.

## The new legislation will:

- Enhance treatment options and availability;
- Crack down on the illegal distribution of opioids; and
- Increase educational efforts and public outreach about the dangers of heroin and opioid abuse.

The bi-partisan action on this package follows on the heels of the tremendous work that was conducted by the Senate Task Force on Heroin and Opioid Addiction. The Task Force recently conducted a series of hearings across the state, and issued a groundbreaking report that reflected the testimony and recommendations provided by substance abuse experts, law enforcement officials, and concerned citizens from across the state.

The 2014 Legislative Session was productive in many respects. But given the serious nature of the heroin and opioid crisis confronting our state, the fact that this critical problem is being addressed is particularly important.

## MAJOR NEW INVESTMENTS IN OUR SCHOOLS: PREPARING NEW YORK'S CHILDREN FOR SUCCESS

Every child deserves great schools and a quality education. That's why the Senate Republican Conference fought to secure more than \$1.1 billion in additional State Education Aid during the 2014 Legislative Session.



This new funding, which reflects an increase of hundreds of millions of dollars over the original Executive Budget, will support important programs and services that help educate our children.

This education aid will also help counter the negative impacts of the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA) measure that was imposed by the Senate Democrat Conference in 2010.

In addition, we worked to ensure that these critical education dollars were distributed fairly and equitably to various regions of the state.

Overall, the Republican Conference delivered:

- More funding for our schools;
- Fair and equitable funding for each region; and
- New property tax relief.

We also approved a "Parent's Bill of Rights" to fix the serious problems caused by the State Education Department's flawed roll-out of the Common Core standards.

These are all real positives for our schools, our community, and -- most importantly -- our children.

The Gap Elimination Adjustment, also known as the GEA, was first imposed on New Yorkers in 2010 by former Governor David Paterson and the Democrats who controlled the Senate and Assembly.

The Senate Republican Conference voted against the GEA because we knew that it would result in severe budget cuts that would hurt schools, taxpayers and children all across the state. And since it was first approved in 2010-11, our Conference has been leading the charge to abolish the GEA, and to deliver major funding increases to help mitigate its impact.

This year, the Senate Republican Conference approved a one-house budget resolution that

sought to restore GEA funding by up to \$686 million. Ultimately, the final 2014-15 State Budget negotiated with the Governor and Assembly included \$602 million to help our schools address and overcome the GEA challenge.

This is a whopping 86% more than the \$323 million originally proposed by the Governor, and far more than the modest \$43 million that the State Assembly Democrats proposed adding to the Governor's budget.

While this funding represents another major step forward, we will continue leading the charge in Albany to eliminate the GEA once and for all.



REDUCING  
THE DAMAGE  
OF THE  
DEMOCRATS'  
GEA CUTS

## REFORMING SED'S "COMMON CORE"

The Senate Republican Conference believes that every child deserves a quality education.

That's why we have led the effort to address the problems created by the State Education Department's profoundly flawed roll-out and implementation of the Common Core.

As part of this year's enacted State Budget, we approved major reforms to fix many of these Common Core-related problems.



### Common Core Reforms -- The 2014-15 Enacted State Budget:

#### Holds Students Harmless from High Stakes Testing

- Limits amount of time students can spend on preparing for and taking state and local tests
- Bans annual assessment scores from a student's permanent record for grades 3 through 8
- Prohibits districts from making student promotion or placement decisions based solely on annual assessment scores for grades 3 through 8

#### Eliminates Unnecessary and Inappropriate Testing

- Bans standardized tests for students in pre-K through 2nd Grade
- Requires SED to seek federal waivers to provide testing accommodations for Students with Disabilities (SWDs) and English Language Learners (ELLs)
- Helps districts eliminate unnecessary local testing through an expedited review process with SED

#### Improves Transparency and Communication

- Requires SED to publicly release more test questions from English Language Arts (ELA) and Math assessments for grades 3 through 8
- Creates a Testing Transparency Report that lists all standardized tests for a school district and specifies which ones are federal, state or locally required
- Improves parent access to more tools and materials to assist them with new learning standards

#### Protects Student Data and Privacy

- Severs ties with inBloom
- Creates a "Parent's Bill of Rights" for privacy
- Allows districts to "opt-out" of putting student personal information on state data dashboards



# HIGHER EDUCATION: OPENING DOORS TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE

During the 2014 Legislative Session, we made major new investments in New York's higher education system, ensuring strong support for tuition assistance programs, public and private universities, and community colleges across the state. Specific elements include:

- **Increased Support for Community Colleges:** The new budget increases full-time equivalent (FTE) funding by \$75. Base aid will be \$2,497 per FTE. This represents a \$15.1 million increase for SUNY and CUNY community colleges combined.
- **Tuition Assistance:** Funding for TAP is increased to \$34.2 million in the academic year, helping more New Yorkers afford a quality higher education.
- **Public University Investment:** Total operating investments for the state's public universities were substantially increased in the new budget. It provides \$411 million in new capital funding for strategic initiatives.
- **SUNY and CUNY as Economic Engines:** A combined \$110 million was approved for the SUNY 2020 and CUNY 2020 programs.

In addition to these positive budget measures, the Senate Republican Conference also passed a

comprehensive new Higher Education Affordability Package that would:

- Provide increased TAP awards, while also boosting income eligibility levels from \$80,000 to \$100,000, to include more middle class families and students.
- Create the New York Student Affordable Refinancing for Tomorrow Program (New START), to enable students to convert up to \$35,000 in private student loan debt into a low-interest loan to be managed by the state.
- Provide community college tuition reimbursement to students who meet academic success and financial aid requirements.
- Create a new, lower-cost, accelerated degree program at SUNY institutions, with a total tuition cost of \$12,000.
- Enact new reforms to strengthen job training opportunities at SUNY and CUNY community colleges.

We are now encouraging the State Assembly to take action on these measures, so that we can help thousands of additional New Yorkers achieve their dreams.

## BOOSTING MANUFACTURING TO CREATE JOBS

The Senate Republican Conference wants to help New York manufacturers compete, grow and create new jobs. That's why the Senate took action to enact key elements of our Tax Policy Review and Reform Initiative during this year's session.



These measures include:

- **Lower Taxes on Manufacturers** – Major new tax cuts were approved for manufacturers throughout the state, helping them reduce costs and compete more effectively. We eliminated the following corporate tax calculations for manufacturers:
  - the business income tax (0% ENI)
  - the capital base
  - alternative minimum tax
- **Energy Tax Relief** – The Senate further reduced the 18-a energy surcharge by an additional \$321 million for commercial and industrial users over the next three years, providing our energy intensive manufacturing sector with major savings.
- **Manufacturer's Property Tax Credit** – A 20 percent property tax credit will save manufacturers \$100 million annually. This will reduce their cost of operations -- helping them compete, grow and create new jobs.
- **Additional Reforms** – An additional \$501 million was added in new business tax reforms and simplifications.
- **Job Training Investments** – Increased funding for key job training programs will help to ensure a highly skilled and well educated workforce.

The Senate Republican Conference has always led the effort to help New York's small businesses succeed, grow and create new jobs. Among the positive steps we took to strengthen small businesses during the 2014 Legislative Session are the following:

- We controlled spending and avoided new tax increases;
- We reduced energy taxes by accelerating the phase-out of the 18-a surcharge on utility bills; and
- We reformed the Estate Tax – providing major support for family-run farms and businesses.

In addition, businesses throughout the state are now benefiting from the major Workers' Compensation and Unemployment Insurance reforms enacted in 2013. These reforms will provide businesses with total savings of approximately \$1.2 billion.



HELPING  
OUR  
SMALL  
BUSINESSES  
SUCCEED

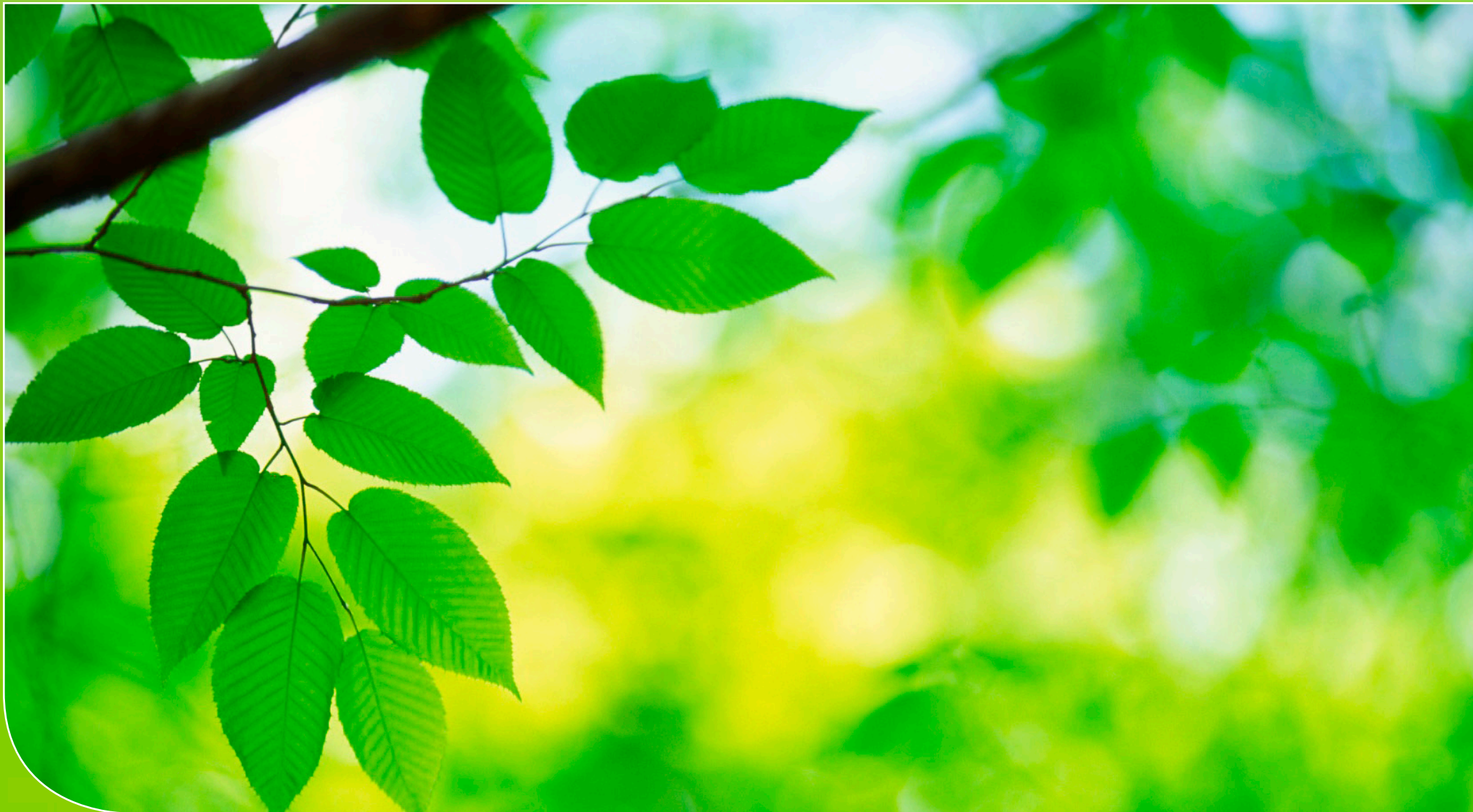


# JOB TRAINING: PREPARING ALL NEW YORKERS FOR SUCCESS

The Senate Republican Conference wants to ensure that every New Yorker -- in every region of the state -- has access to job training services that can help them succeed in a rapidly changing economy. That's why we worked throughout the 2014 Legislative Session to provide strong support for successful job training and workforce development initiatives. Highlights include the following:

- **Next Generation Job Linkage Program:** \$5 million for the Next Generation Job Linkage Program that works with employers to: identify the job; define the skill; and provide the training for it.
- **SUNY / CUNY Workforce Development Initiative:** This initiative provides targeted training to help employers refine the skills of their new hires, and enable more experienced employees to upgrade their skills.
- **Workforce Development Institute (WDI):** The WDI is a not-for-profit that works with businesses and the AFL-CIO to provide focused training for workers, and workforce transition support to help prevent jobs from being outsourced to other states. \$4 million in funding is provided for job training and an additional \$3 million is provided for a new manufacturing initiative.
- **Community Colleges:** A \$15.1 million increase for SUNY/CUNY community college base aid -- a \$75 per FTE increase.





## CLEAN AIR, CLEAN WATER, HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Healthy families and healthy communities depend on clean air, clean water and the quality of our natural environment. The Senate Republican Conference's strong commitment to protecting and enhancing New York's natural resources was evident throughout the 2014 Legislative Session, and we were proud to approve major new investments in key environmental initiatives that will benefit communities throughout the entire state.

These investments include:

- \$162 million for New York's vital Environmental Protection Fund (EPF), a major increase of \$9 mil-

lion. This EPF funding will be used to support a wide array of essential projects that help protect open spaces and ensure clean air and water for millions of New Yorkers.

- \$92.5 million in critical funding for improvements to parks and historic sites was provided -- helping to improve the quality of life in communities across the state.
- \$40 million in "NY Works" funding for additional environmental infrastructure improvements in areas such as flood control, clean-ups and restoration projects.

## ENSURING QUALITY HEALTH CARE FOR ALL NEW YORKERS

Nothing is more important than the health and well-being of our families and loved ones, and New York State is fortunate to have some of the finest health care facilities and programs in the entire nation. During this year's Legislative Session, Senate Republicans approved funding to help keep New Yorkers healthy by providing record support for a wide array of lifesaving health care services in communities across the state.



Critical funding was approved for the following:

- \$25.3 million for Cancer Services Programs;
- \$26.3 million for Nutritional Information for Women, Infants and Children;
- \$2.3 million for the Prenatal Care Program;
- \$4.5 million for Maternal and Child Health;
- \$550,000 for Women's Health Services;
- \$433,300 for the Adelphi Breast Cancer Support Program;
- \$1.8 million for the Prenatal and Postpartum Home Visitation Program;
- \$34,700 for the Safe Motherhood Initiative;
- \$10.6 million for Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention;

- \$1.8 million in increased funding for Rape Crisis Centers, bringing total funding to \$3.6 million;
- \$5 million in additional funding for the Spinal Cord Injury Research Board, bringing total funding to \$7 million; and
- An additional \$2.5 million for the Doctors Across New York Program.

Billions of dollars in support was also approved to ensure quality hospitals and nursing homes in communities across New York, and new legislation was enacted to help eliminate "surprise" out-of-network medical bills for consumers.

# PROTECTING NEW YORKERS FROM LYME AND TICK-BORNE DISEASES

To date in 2014, more than 450 new cases of Lyme disease have been reported in New York alone, and the number is expected to continue rising each year as disease-laden ticks spread to more communities.

The New York State Senate Task Force on Lyme and Tick-Borne Diseases has just issued an important new report and action plan designed to enhance research, prevention, diagnosis and treatments for harmful tick-borne illnesses.

## The report's recommendations focus on the need for:

- additional research and data about past, current and future disease trends;
- increased public awareness as the reach of the diseases spread to new communities;

- implementation of preventive measures such as "4 Poster" devices and bait vaccines for animals to reduce the infected tick population; and
- measures to enhance diagnosis and treatment for those who have the diseases.

This Action Plan – similar in purpose to one created by the state Department of Health in 2001 to address the West Nile Virus outbreak – should serve as a comprehensive roadmap for the state to help prevent additional illnesses by improving research, education, diagnosis and treatment.

Over the past nine months, our bi-partisan Task Force has worked closely with experts to chart a smart, effective course for the state can follow, and we are looking forward to building upon this progress in the days ahead.

To view the full report, go to [NYSENATE.GOV](http://NYSENATE.GOV).



## A GOOD BUDGET FOR OUR SENIORS

After devoting their lives to building up our local communities, and our state as a whole, New York's seniors deserve all the support we can provide.



A number of important measures that reflect the Senate Republican Conference's strong commitment to our seniors were approved during the 2014 Legislative Session. These include:

- **EPIC Program:** New York's outstanding Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage program will be expanded to cover the prescription drug needs of more New Yorkers. Approximately \$4.1 million in increased funding will be used to help expand the program by 10 percent – providing coverage to an additional 25,000 senior citizens across New York. Income eligibility is expanded from \$35,000 to \$75,000 for singles and from \$50,000 to \$100,000 for married seniors.
- **Property Tax Relief:** We approved property tax rebates for seniors, as well as full funding for the Enhanced STAR program which provides

crucial tax relief to tens of thousands of New York's seniors. We also approved more than \$1.1 billion in additional funding for our local schools -- helping to hold down property taxes.

- **Senior Initiatives:** We voted to increase support for a wide array of programs and initiatives that serve seniors, including additional funding for the following:

\$5 million	Community Services for the Elderly Program;
\$875,000	Elder Health / Alzheimer's Programs;
\$200,000	Lifespan for Elderly Abuse, Education and Outreach;
\$86,000	New York Foundation for Seniors Home Sharing and Respite; and
\$31,500	Senior Action Council Hotline.



# EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT FOR FAMILIES (EITC): \$1 BILLION

The combined federal, New York State and/or New York City EITC can be as much as \$4,388 for a single parent with one child, \$7,252 for two children, and \$8,159 for three or more with incomes up to \$51,567. The EITC has also proven to be one of the nation's most effective tools at increasing labor force participation of low skilled workers, as well as an efficient means of supplementing the wages paid to such workers.

- **New York State will invest \$1 billion on the EITC this year, a record amount.**
- New York's own EITC now represents the nation's largest state-level work incentive of its type.

### Combined Federal and State EITC Refund Levels

Number of Children	May be eligible for up to
0	\$633
1	\$4,225
2	\$6,984
3	\$7,857

Through the efforts of the Senate Republican Conference, new measures were approved during the 2014 Legislative Session to help protect taxpayers by cracking down on the misuse of welfare Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) cards.



Under these new rules, EBT cards can no longer be used at:

- liquor stores and beverage centers;
- casinos and racetracks;
- video lottery terminals and OTB parlors; or
- strip clubs.

This will help to ensure that public assistance dollars are used for their intended purpose, instead of being wasted on unnecessary or inappropriate items such as liquor, gambling and adult entertainment.



## PROTECTING TAXPAYERS BY PREVENTING WELFARE ABUSE

New Yorkers are always willing to provide a helping hand to those in need, but they don't like seeing their tax dollars wasted or abused.



# A STATE-OF-THE-ART INFRASTRUCTURE TO MOVE NEW YORK FORWARD

The strength and vitality of our state's economy is directly linked to the quality of our transportation infrastructure. That's why the Senate made unprecedented new investments during the 2014 Legislative Session that will keep New York moving forward, while also creating jobs and improving the quality of life in communities throughout the State.

Highlights include the following:

- A second year of record funding -- \$438 million -- for important local highway, road and bridge repair projects. This funding for the Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) will provide much needed support for key infrastructure projects statewide. These smart investments will benefit counties, cities, towns and villages throughout New York,

and will help create jobs as municipalities undertake new infrastructure repair projects;

- \$40 million in new capital funds to help localities address the unique local infrastructure repair challenges presented by the severe 2013-2014 winter weather;
- Support for the second year of the two-year \$3.7 billion State DOT transportation capital plan -- ensuring a state-of-the-art infrastructure to carry people, goods and services, and to keep our economy moving forward. This funding will be used to improve roads, bridges, rail, aviation and transit; and
- \$4.8 billion will be used to support the operation of public transportation systems across New York State.



# SUPPORTING AGRICULTURE AND THE FUTURE OF FARMING

An \$8 million increase over the Executive Budget was approved, bringing total funding to the highest level in six years.



The Senate Republican Conference worked to successfully enact major elements of our “Young Farmers NY” initiative, which is designed to preserve family farming in New York by encouraging more young people to follow careers in agriculture. Key components of this plan include the following:

- Expanding marketing of NY products like maple, apples and berries;
- Supporting more research, marketing and education;
- Saving lives with tractor rollover protection grants;
- Launching the Young Farmers plan to assist beginning farmers through start-up grants and loan forgiveness;
- \$615K -- new Beginning Farmer Innovation Grant Fund;
- \$100K -- new Young Farmers Loan forgiveness Program;
- \$158K increase to FFA (Future Farmers of America); and
- New Estate Tax reforms raise the exemption threshold from \$1 million to \$5.25 million over 3 years.

#### The Budget also provides funding for the following:

- \$750K Apple Growers Association;
- \$220K Dairy Profit Teams at Farm Viability;
- \$1.5 M Farm Viability Institute;
- \$100K Genesee Agriculture Academy;

- \$20K Island Harvest;
- \$150K Turfgrass Association;
- \$1 M Wine and Grape Foundation;
- \$150K Tractor Rollover Prevention program;
- \$510K Rabies programs at Cornell;
- \$5.4 M Cornell Animal Health Diagnostic Center;
- \$320K Berry Growers Association;
- \$75K Corn and Soybean Growers Associations;
- \$50K Honeybee research at Cornell;
- \$200K Hops and Barley research at Cornell;
- \$105K Cornell Maple Research;
- \$175K EEE program;
- \$500K Horticulture Society;
- \$500K local fair assistance;
- \$25K low-cost vaccine program;
- \$150K Maple Producers Association;
- \$600K Northern NY Agriculture Development Program;
- \$50K the Onion Growers Association;
- \$100K Vegetable Growers Association;
- \$600K Farm Net;
- \$100K Wood Products Council; and
- \$120K Christmas Tree Growers.

The Senate Republican Conference knows that New York's heroic servicemen and women deserve our respect, our gratitude, and as much support as we can possibly provide. That's why we recently worked together in a bi-partisan way to reach agreement on new legislation to help advance educational and professional opportunities for veterans, active servicemembers and their families. This important measure will:

- Ease the transition to a new school for children of military families that relocate as a result of change of duty station;
- Lower the cost of higher education for veterans receiving benefits under the GI bills;
- Offer military family members greater flexibility with professional licenses received from other states or jurisdictions; and
- Strengthen the supplemental burial assistance provided by the state to military families when a servicemember dies in combat or as a result of injuries sustained in battle.

This legislation will build upon the landmark new law we enacted earlier in the 2014 Session to help Service Disabled Veterans pursue successful new business

ventures. Modeled after a highly successful federal initiative, the law creates a new contract preference "set-aside" for service disabled vets -- opening the door to major new business opportunities for these heroic individuals.

The Senate also recently gave final passage to an important new measure that will create a Homeless Veterans Assistance Fund to support military servicemen and women who need help with housing. The bill, S4760A, will allow New Yorkers to contribute to the fund when filing their personal income taxes.

In addition, this year's State Budget included the following:

- \$3.1 million for Veterans assistance programs;
- Expanded eligibility for the Gold Star Parent Annuity, to remove the income requirement to receive this \$500 annual state provided payment; and
- A new measure that will include veteran businesses within the Department of Economic Development's Entrepreneurial Assistance Program.



**HELPING  
OUR HEROES:  
NEW  
INITIATIVE  
HELPS SERVICE  
DISABLED  
VETS**



# THE 2014 LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

GIVING ALL NEW YORKERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO SUCCEED