



NEWS

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From Bill Magnarelli

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New Year. New Session

Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie appointed me Chair of the Assembly Transportation Committee earlier this year. This Committee is charged with the responsibility of reviewing legislation and overseeing the State's management of all types of transportation systems within the State. As Chair, I am charged with developing and reviewing legislation covering a wide range of topics affecting the movement of people and goods throughout the State. The committee's jurisdiction includes oversight and analysis of the Departments of Transportation (DOT) and Motor Vehicles (DMV), the Thruway Authority and various regional transportation authorities (such as CENTRO here in Central New York) and commissions. It is an extremely active committee; during the 2017-2018 term there were 773 bills referred to the committee.

The Transportation Committee oversees:

- More than 19,000 bridges
- More than 114,000 miles of highways
- More than 130 billion vehicle miles driven annually
- More than 450 public and private aviation facilities
- More than 1.8 million riders on railways
- Over 130 public transit operators
- More than 2.8 billion transit passengers annually

Also, my legislation allowing for Stop-Arm Cameras on School Buses is one of the many bills I expect to soon be reviewed by the committee. This is a very important piece of legislation concerning the safety of our children. Routinely, drivers ignore the stop sign on school bus arms and pass the bus as children are boarding or exiting. Drivers currently cannot be ticketed unless the violation is witnessed by an officer. Having the cameras on the stop-arm would allow officers to witness the violation and, through this legislation, issue penalties. Among other issues that are expected to be presented to the committee for consideration is legislation addressing limousine safety, additional traffic enforcement cameras, infrastructure and public transit funding and the legality of e-bikes or e-scooters. The committee hears from advocates on both sides of issues and compiles research on legislation before a bill moves on in the legislative process.

Our annual Constituent Survey has been sent to residents in the 129th Assembly District. This survey is an opportunity for residents to weigh in on issues that may be dealt with this session. Surveys must be returned by March 8 and the results will be published in a subsequent newsletter.

Finally, this year I will be hosting three Community Information Nights:

- *6:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 31 at the Geddes Town Hall, 1000 Woods Road, Solvay
- *6:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 7 at the State Office Building, 333 E. Washington St., Syracuse
- *6:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 28 at the Van Buren Town Hall, 7575 VanBuren Road, Baldwinsville

During these meetings, residents will be able to speak with me about the issues on the survey as well as the proposed state budget.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact my office at (315) 428-9651 or by email at magnarw@nyassembly.gov.

2019 Constituent Survey

Every year, Assemblyman Magnarelli's office mails a constituent survey to households in his district. The survey is an opportunity for residents to share their opinions with the Assemblyman on budget and legislative issues that may be deliberated on during Assembly Session. The survey is available online at <https://nyassembly.gov/mem/William-B-Magnarelli/story/84500>. All completed surveys are requested by March 8. Results will be published a subsequent newsletter.

- 1 In general, do you support the legalization of marijuana for recreational use in New York State?**
 Yes No
- 2 In order to reduce plastic pollution in our waterways and protect the environment, should New York enact:**
 a. A total ban on single-use plastic bags
 b. A fee on each single-use plastic bag
 c. No action
- 3 Do you support online sports gambling in New York State?**
 Yes No
- 4 Would you support the Green New Deal, which would make New York State's electricity 100% carbon-neutral by 2040 and could ultimately eliminate the state's carbon footprint?**
 Yes No
- 5 Do you support reforming the State's bail system and guidelines for pretrial detention, including the elimination of cash bail for individuals charged with misdemeanors and nonviolent felonies?**
 Yes No

- 6 Do you support the New York Health Act, a plan to provide universal healthcare coverage to all New Yorkers?**
 Yes No
- 7 In regard to the I-81 Viaduct Project, the State should choose:**
 a. To maintain a high speed north-south interstate through the City of Syracuse (the tunnel or rebuilding the viaduct options)
 b. The community grid option
- 8 Would you support a ban on the sale of flavored e-cigarettes?**
 Yes No
- 9 Do you support a state tax funded, small-donor matching system to finance New York State political campaigns?**
 Yes No
- 10 Since 2011, NYS has had a property tax cap limiting yearly increases to 2% or the rate of inflation (whichever is lower) for local governments and school districts. Do you support making this permanent?**
 Yes No



Chedy Hampson, founder and CEO of TCGplayer, gives Assemblyman Magnarelli a tour of their downtown Syracuse headquarters.

Success is in the Cards

Assemblyman Magnarelli secured \$3 million in funding for office renovations at Syracuse - based TCG Player, an online marketplace for buying and selling new and used collectible gaming cards. TCG Player builds applications and technologies to connect thousands of hobby gaming businesses with customers across the globe. Its e-commerce and data management tools power sales through physical stores, websites, mobile apps and the TCG Player Marketplace. The company's headquarters is located in The Galleries of Syracuse on Warren Street. TCG Player has grown quickly and currently employs over 200 people. The newly renovated space will allow the company to hire additional employees over the next 5 years. Founder and CEO Chedy Hampson, a 1992 Corcoran High School graduate, said he is excited about the company's new offices downtown and he looks forward to the continued growth of Syracuse technology companies in Downtown Syracuse.

Local Student Completes Internship

Mikem Simpson will complete an OnPoint for College Internship in Assemblyman Magnarelli's Syracuse office at the end of January. Simpson is a student at OCC, majoring in Adolescent Education and is a Syracuse native. His interest in government service stems from his long-term career goal of running for public office. In the Assemblyman's office, he researched issues, wrote letters and received a variety of information regarding state government issues.



Legislation to Protect Women's Reproductive Right Passes Assembly

On January, 22nd, the Assembly passed a package of three bills that would protect women's reproductive rights and grant all New Yorkers access to family planning. These bills will update New York State law to reflect the protections for reproductive healthcare recognized by the U.S. Supreme Court, require that insurers provide cost-free contraception coverage and prohibit employers from discriminating against employees based on their reproductive healthcare choices. Assemblyman Magnarelli has been a co-sponsor of the Reproductive Health Act since 2011. He said, "New York is taking this important step to defend the health and rights of women across the state."

Advocating for Cornell Cooperative Extension



Members of the Cornell Cooperative Extension met with Assemblyman Magnarelli in Albany to lobby for increased funding. The Cornell Cooperative Extension focuses on creating economic vitality, ecological sustainability and social well-being. The members bring local experience and help enact research based solutions. With a presence in every County and New York City, Cornell Cooperative Extension puts research into practice by providing high-value educational programs and university-based resources that help solve real-life problems.

David Skeval, Executive Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension in Onondaga County, and Karin Bump, Executive Director, of Cornell Cooperative Extension in Madison County, met with Assemblyman Magnarelli.

Reforming Teach Evaluation Requirements

Assemblyman Magnarelli announced that he helped to pass legislation to remove the mandate that State-created or administered assessments or tests be used for teacher and principal evaluations, allowing local school districts to adopt evaluation systems best suited to their community's needs (A.783). The Assembly passed the measure last year, helping lead the push for local control, but it wasn't taken up by the state Senate. Now, with new Senate leadership, the legislation is poised to become law.

"Every student learns differently, and we need to empower the people who are actually in the classroom to figure out how to meet their needs," Assemblyman Magnarelli said. "The best educators focus on the child in front of them, not the next standardized test. We need to get the emphasis back on learning."

The legislation makes critical corrections to the teacher evaluation system. First, it would eliminate the mandate that students' performance on state-created or administered assessments, including the grades 3 through 8 English Language Arts (ELA) and math tests, be used to determine a teacher's or principal's evaluation. The State mandate, which sparked widespread anger, was put on hold in December 2015 for four years. Assemblyman Magnarelli is hopeful that the bill will help to allow teachers to craft lesson plans that are most effective for their students rather than following a cookie-cutter approach that could leave some of our young learners behind.

Under the bill, the State Commissioner of Education would be required to promulgate regulations providing alternative assessments for districts that choose not to use state assessments. The selection and use of assessments would be subject to collective bargaining. All teachers would be required to have a student learning objective (SLO) consistent with a goal-setting process determined or developed by the Commissioner. The legislation would also make permanent the provision prohibiting grades 3 through 8 ELA and math State assessments from being included on a student's permanent record.

"This change is long overdue," Assemblyman Magnarelli said. "High-stakes standardized tests should not be hanging over the heads of our children or teachers. It's time to truly let teachers concentrate on the young minds they're helping mold and inspire."

Green Light NY Advocates meet with the Assemblyman



Members of the Workers Center of CNY met with Assemblyman Magnarelli to advocate for Green Light NY. The Green Light NY initiative is a campaign to expand access to drivers' licenses to all New Yorkers, regardless of immigration status. There are currently 12 states nationwide that already offer these licenses. The members of the Workers Center of CNY and other groups throughout the State strongly believe that NYS Licensure will improve safety on our roads, help with law enforcement and provide State DMV oversight.

About New York State Assemblyman William B. Magnarelli

Assemblyman William Magnarelli represents the 129th Assembly District, which includes the Northside, Westside, Eastwood Valley and Downtown areas of the City of Syracuse, Syracuse University area, Outer Comstock, as well as the towns of Geddes and Van Buren. He first won election in 1998 for an open Assembly seat and has been reelected since then. During his terms in office, Assemblyman Magnarelli has focused his efforts on bringing more jobs to Central New York, lowering taxes, providing our children a better education at every level, improving our healthcare and keeping our families safe. For more information, contact Assemblyman Magnarelli's District Office at (315) 428-9651 or visit <http://www.assembly.state.ny.us/magnarelli>.