



New York State Senator  
**MALCOLM A. SMITH**  
14<sup>th</sup> Senate District



## Spring/Summer Newsletter 2013-2014

Dear Friend,

I am delighted to provide you with the latest edition of my Spring/Summer Newsletter, which is filled with enlightening information about the 2013-2014 budget, highlighting services and funding which will benefit the district.

I would like to thank all of my constituents for their feedback and input about the pertinent issues affecting the community as well as what they would like to see changed or improved. This new fiscal budget contains provisions that will benefit economic development, healthcare, education, public safety and more.

In addition to budget victories, I have held a number of notable events so far this year, including three Sandy Aid Town Hall discussions in Far Rockaway to hear from constituents how federal assistance funding should be spent and to monitor the progress of the storm recovery effort.

For Send-A-Vet-A-Valentine, I stopped by the St. Albans VA to thank veterans for their service to our country and gave them gift bags with toiletries and other items. I hosted a Clergy Breakfast on February 21 at the Harvest Room in downtown Jamaica to gain a better understanding of community needs from ecumenical leaders.

The District Office has also been out and about interacting with constituents in other ways. I joined Pastor Michael Corley for a Black History Month celebration at Gethsemane Baptist Church

in Hollis, and gave a presentation on the State Budget at York College. I brought a group of youth from Southeast Queens up to Albany with me for Democratic Caucus Weekend, so they could get a closer look at how government works.

In April, I filmed a segment on gun control for a documentary called "2nd Amendment," by UK filmmaker James Dann. The 45-minute interview covered a myriad of topics including the Safe Act, Kendra's Law, the NRA and gang culture.

Inside this newsletter, you will find a list of upcoming events, including the monthly meetings of Operation Safe Southeast Queens, a program that enables residents to interact with the commanding officers of precincts in the district and find out how they can protect themselves from becoming the victim of a crime.

As always, my staff and I are here to assist you with important matters. Please do not hesitate to call my district office at (718) 454-0162 if you have any questions or concerns.

Most Sincerely Yours,

Malcolm A. Smith  
State Senator, 14th District

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



### Minimum wage increase

Workers will receive a gradual, but vital, increase in salary. The minimum wage will be raised to \$8.00 an hour by December 31, 2013; to \$8.75 an hour by December 31, 2014; and to \$9.00 an hour on December 31, 2015. Raising the minimum wage slowly eases the burden on small businesses and allows them to account for the rising cost of their employees' salaries over a longer period of time.

### Funding to benefit Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (MWBE)

Some \$3 million has been allocated to fund a study examining the net worth thresholds required to qualify as an MWBE. Raising the limit, which Senator Smith favors, would allow more businesses to take advantage of the tax credits, benefits, and opportunities for state contracts that come along with MWBE status.

## HEALTHCARE

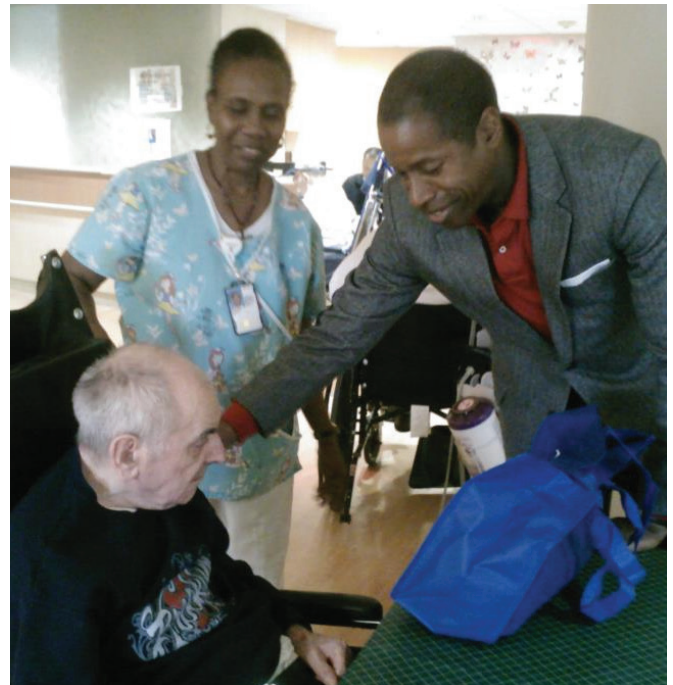
### Health Insurance Coverage for former employees of New York City Off-Track Betting

Many of these individuals worked for years in order to gain coverage, only to see it disappear after NYCOTB was shut down. The \$5 million in funds allocated in the budget will those who are not eligible for Medicare to fill in the gap until the Affordable Care Act takes effect.

### School Based Health Centers

Created in 1981 in recognition of the need to improve primary and preventive healthcare for children in high-risk, low income communities, these centers risked being consolidated under a proposal by the governor, who would have combined them with 88 separate health awareness and prevention programs into six

competitive areas. The 2013-14 enacted budget rejected this plan and provides \$557,000 for School Based Health Centers.



### \$200,000 in Funding for Substance Abuse Program (J-CAP)

The money will help facilitate its Veteran's Enhanced Treatment Services program. J-CAP occupies two buildings at the St. Albans VA campus, which accounts for 226 of the program's 418 treatment beds, and they have helped many service members over the years. The newly acquired funding will go to address the educational, vocational, housing and residential needs of the veteran population as well as to facilitate substance abuse and mental health services designed specifically for service members.

## TAX CREDITS

### "Hire a Vet Tax Credit"

Businesses who hire a veteran for a full time job for one year without displacing another worker, can claim a 10% tax credit on the veteran's wages. The tax credit is capped at \$5,000. Should a business hire a disabled veteran, the tax credit increases to 15% and is capped at \$15,000.

### Middle Income Tax Credit

A New York family with at least one dependent child and a household income between \$40,000 and \$300,000 can qualify for a \$350 Family Tax Relief Credit beginning in 2014. The budget also extends the middle

class personal income tax rate reductions put in place in 2011, providing \$707 million in tax relief to more than 4 million New Yorkers.

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE



### Funding to Restart Existing SNUG Chapters and Add New Ones

SNUG – “GUNS” spelled backward – is a state-sponsored program established to address gun violence. \$3 million in funds will allow SNUG to continue offering a multitude of services, including mentoring, anger management, anti-aggressive therapy, individual and family counseling, educational and vocational training, drug and alcohol counseling, parenting skills and case management.

## YOUTH SERVICES

### Funding For Youth Employment Restored

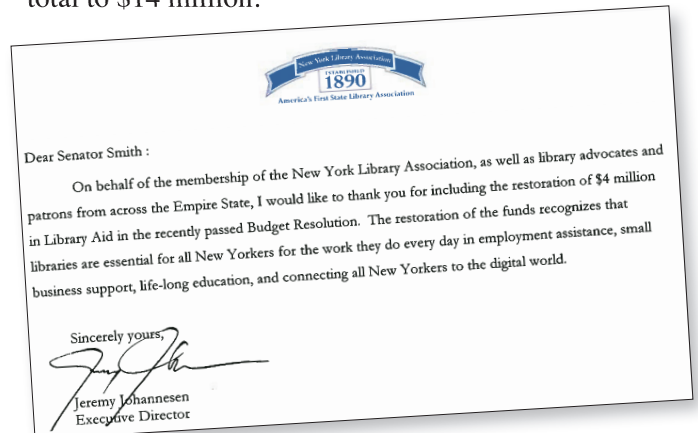
In March, Senator Smith sponsored a public hearing on summer youth employment and heard from specialists in the field, who were concerned that funding cuts would impair the services offered by much needed programs. The senate restored \$1.3 million to the Youth Delinquency Prevention Program and the Special Delinquency Prevention Program bringing their budget total to \$15 million. The Summer Youth Employment Program had \$25 million restored, the same amount as last year.

## EDUCATION

### Restored Funding for Teacher Centers

New York State Teacher Resource and Computer Training Centers can be found statewide, providing professional development to educators in public, non-public and charter schools, at any stage in their career. The 2013-14 enacted budget restores \$10.2 million in funding that would have been cut by the governor and

increases it by an additional \$3.8 million, bringing the total to \$14 million.



### Increased Library Funding

New York’s 755 public libraries serve over 19 million people statewide, with over 1,100 outlets. The Executive Budget proposed level funding totaling \$81.63 million for libraries and library systems across the state. The Senate and Assembly were successful in providing an additional \$4 million in aid in the 2013-14 enacted budget.

### Charter School Transition Aid

An additional \$1.62 million has been allotted for Charter School Transition Aid, bringing the total appropriation to \$36.22 million. CSTA is for school districts whose charter school enrollment exceeds 2% of resident public school enrollment or whose charter school payments exceed two 2% of total general fund expenses.

### \$25 million for Full-Day Pre-Kindergarten programs.



This money is intended to expand existing pre-k programs and establish new programs for high need students in low wealth districts.

### Upcoming Events

- **Operation Safe Southeast Queens**  
June 5 from 7 - 8 p.m. at the District Office 205-20 Jamaica Avenue, Hollis.
- **MAS Community Walk and Health Day**  
June 15 from 10 a.m. to noon at St. Albans Park
- **Jump And Ball**  
Saturdays, August 4 - 25 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Daniel M. O'Connell Park
- **Senior Appreciation Lunch**  
September 9 from 12 noon to 3 p.m. - Location to be announced

For more information about any of these events, call the District Office at 718.454.0162



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New York State Senate  
Albany, NY 12247

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*Malcolm A. Smith*

## 2013-2014 Spring/Summer Newsletter

New York State Senator  
**MALCOLM A. SMITH**  
14<sup>th</sup> Senate District

**Albany Office:**  
918 Legislative Office Bldg.  
Albany, NY 12247  
(518) 455-2701

**District Office:**  
205-20 Jamaica Ave.  
Hollis, NY 11423  
(718) 454-0162

**E-Mail:** [masmith@nysenate.gov](mailto:masmith@nysenate.gov) **Website:** [smith.nysenate.gov](http://smith.nysenate.gov)

