



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR  
Kevin Thomas

## Senator Thomas Fall Newsletter

SENATOR KEVIN THOMAS November 12, 2019

| ISSUE: **FALL NEWSLETTER**, **COMMUNITY UPDATES**, **SENATOR KEVIN THOMAS**



Dear Neighbors,

Can you believe it's November already? In just two months, I will be heading back to Albany for the new legislative session.

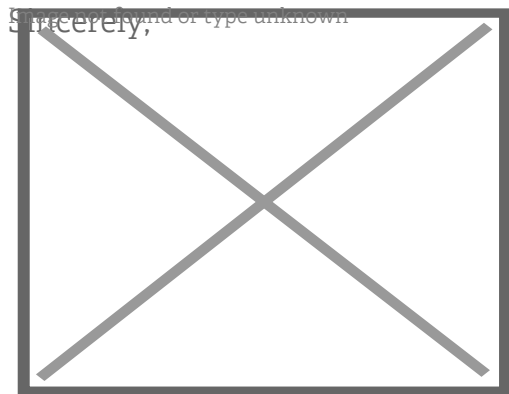
As your representative, your priorities are my priorities. Long Island is a great place to live, work, and raise a family, but the high cost of living here is a challenge. When I go to Albany, I will continue to fight to keep our taxes low, ensure our schools get the funding they deserve, and support policies that keep our communities safe.

Last year, I secured record funding to support our infrastructure, transit systems, environment, and education, including a 2% permanent property tax cap that will save Long Island taxpayers billions. When I head back to Albany, I look forward to building on my record and ensuring that Long Island receives its fair share this year.

Many of you have called my District Office with ideas and feedback on issues that affect your community. I truly appreciate you taking the time to share your views with me, and encourage you to continue to stay in touch. From keeping dangerous vaping products away from our children to protecting our privacy online, my top priority is to be your voice in the Senate.

This Fall Newsletter is a glimpse into what I've been up to around the neighborhood. I hope to see you at one of the many events we have coming up this month. As always, don't hesitate to contact my office with requests for assistance or to share your ideas and suggestions. You can always reach me at 516-739-1700 or [thomas@nysenate.gov](mailto:thomas@nysenate.gov). Your input helps me to serve you better!

I look forward to seeing you around the District.



## Senior Health Expo 2019

I was thrilled to host my first Senior Health Expo this year at the St. Paul's Field House in Garden City on October 2. We had 125 vendors, over 350 attendees, and our wonderful volunteer nurses administered over 150 flu shots throughout the day! Our volunteers and staff put a lot of work and energy into coordinating this important community event. I had a great time meeting with residents and health care providers. Thank you to everyone who made the event a success, and I am looking forward to next year.

[[{"fid":"1821953","view\_mode":"portrait\_inline","fields":{"format":"portrait\_inline","alignment":"left' Thomas greeting a Senior at the Health Expo","field\_file\_image\_title\_text[und][0][value]":"Greeting residents at the 2019 Senior Health Expo"},"type":"media","field\_deltas":{"2":{"format":"portrait\_inline","alignment":"left","field\_file\_im Thomas greeting a Senior at the Health Expo","field\_file\_image\_title\_text[und][0][value]":"Greeting residents at the 2019 Senior Health Expo"},"link\_text":null,"attributes":{"alt":"Senator Thomas greeting a Senior at the Health Expo","title":"Greeting residents at the 2019 Senior Health Expo","class":"media-element file-portrait-inline media-wysiwyg-align-left","data-delta":"2"}}]]

## Addressing Vaping & E-Cigarettes in our Schools

Vaping is a serious public health concern that has reached epidemic proportions in our schools. These products are being branded as 'less deadly' than cigarettes and marketed directly to our children. As Chair of the Consumer Protection Committee, my top priority is to protect our children from unregulated, unsafe, and potentially dangerous products. On November 4, I held a Public Hearing with fellow lawmakers, public health officials, and school Superintendents to examine the dangers of e-cigarettes and develop legislative solutions to keep these products out of our schools. I have also introduced legislation that

aims to ban refillable e-liquid vaping products. Addressing this public health issue will be a priority for me when I head back to Albany in January.

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### **Mobile Legal Help Center at Uniondale Library**

After bringing the Mobile Van to Hempstead in July, I once again partnered with the New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG) to bring the Mobile Legal Help Center van to Uniondale Public Library. Attorneys and staff onboard the van provided free legal assistance for residents in areas such as foreclosure, tenants rights, and family law. We were able to help over 20 residents who stopped by throughout the day.

### **Upcoming Events**

**11/16/19 - Financial Aid Information Session**

**11/17/19 - Free Medicare Seminar**

**11/19 - Enough Abuse: 90-Minute Workshop to Protect Against Child Abuse**

**11/19 - Know Your Rights Student Loan Q&A @Hofstra U**

### **#PicsOfTheSixth Photo Contest**

I am thrilled to officially announce the “Pics of the Sixth” photo contest! High School Students (Grades 9-12) are invited to submit photos that reflect the unique character of their town and celebrate their community. There are five contest categories: Buildings & Landmarks, Hobbies & Passions, Life on the Island, Happiness, and Celebrating Culture. Winners will be recognized and have their work displayed in my District Office and on this website.

Learn more by clicking [here](#).

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### **Legislative News**

In order to promote local coverage, I introduced a [bill](#) requiring cable companies to offer independent local news. Read the New York Times article [here](#).

I recently met with Hempstead School Board and State Officials to review [S6559](#) and develop a plan for the District's long-term success. Read more [here](#).

The SHIELD Act, which I sponsored, was recently signed into law. Learn more about what this law means for the New York business community [here](#).

I earned a perfect legislative score from EPL/Environmental Advocates for my strong environmental record in Albany this year. Read more [here](#).

New York State recently passed my bill that prevents car leasing companies from taking advantage of grieving families. [Read my column on the new law](#).

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#### RELATED LEGISLATION

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## 2019-S6784

[local news](#), [Journalism](#)

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- Introduced
- - In Committee Assembly
  - In Committee Senate
- - On Floor Calendar Assembly
  - On Floor Calendar Senate
- - Passed Assembly
  - Passed Senate

- Delivered to Governor
- Signed By Governor
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Relates to requiring cable television companies and telephone corporations to provide local news programming

October 18, 2019

In Senate Committee [Energy and Telecommunications](#)

Sponsored by [Kevin Thomas](#)

Do you support this bill?

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## 2019-S6559

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- Introduced
  - - In Committee Assembly
    - In Committee Senate
  - - On Floor Calendar Assembly
    - On Floor Calendar Senate
  - - Passed Assembly
    - Passed Senate
  - Delivered to Governor
  - Signed By Governor
  -

Authorizing the commissioner of education and the chancellor of the board of regents, with the approval of the board of regents, to appoint monitors to oversee the Hempstead union free school district

June 16, 2019

Signed by Governor

Sponsored by **Kevin Thomas**

Do you support this bill?

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## 2019-S5642

Consumer Protection, Data Privacy, privacy and data security, Internet and Technology

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- Introduced
- - In Committee Assembly
  - In Committee Senate
- - On Floor Calendar Assembly
  - On Floor Calendar Senate
- - Passed Assembly
  - Passed Senate
- Delivered to Governor
- Signed By Governor
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Relates to enacting the NY privacy act

May 09, 2019

In Senate Committee **Consumer Protection**

Sponsored by **Kevin Thomas**

Do you support this bill?

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## 2019-S4019A

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- Introduced
- - In Committee Assembly
  - In Committee Senate
- - On Floor Calendar Assembly
  - On Floor Calendar Senate
- - Passed Assembly
  - Passed Senate
- Delivered to Governor
- Signed By Governor
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Relates to early termination of motor vehicle lease contracts

February 25, 2019

Signed by Governor

Sponsored by Kevin Thomas

Do you support this bill?

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