

From: "Senator Daphne Jordan" <jordan@nysenate.gov>

Date: Friday, May 29, 2020 02:36PM

Subject: Weekly Wrap: Lending a Helping Hand, Remembering America's Heroes, Restoring Checks and Balances in State Gov't & More!



Dear Friend:

Welcome one and all to my Weekly Wrap for the week ending today, Friday, May 29. The final weekend of May 2020 means we're headed into June and summer is FINALLY on its way! This edition of my Weekly Wrap recaps another busy week and contains updates about efforts I've undertaken to:

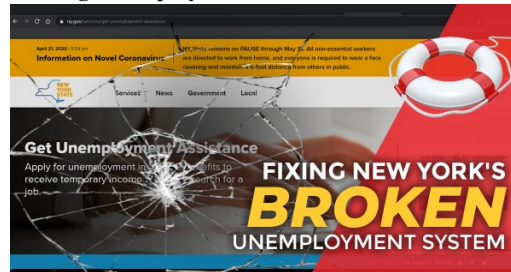
- Lend a helping hand to small businesses
- Remember and honor America's heroes
- Work to re-open and support small businesses
- Restore checks and balances in state government
- Ensure nursing homes have vital resources like COVID-19 tests and PPE
- Provide information about a new small business loan program and contact tracing

These topics and much more are featured in my latest edition of the Weekly Wrap, e-mailed to you and thousands of recipients every week. Of course, I want to hear from you! Call my district office at (518) 371-2751 or email me at jordan@nysenate.gov if I can be of assistance regarding state government. Have a terrific weekend! – Senator Daphne Jordan, 43rd District

Governor Cuomo Delays Phase 2 Reopening to Consult "International Experts"

Thursday night, New York's small business community and local governments received some troubling and incredibly disappointing news. It was reported that Governor Cuomo was delaying New York's Phase 2 regional reopening so he could consult with "international experts." The Governor's unexpected and highly controversial decision came mere hours before localities and businesses were supposed to receive guidance from the state on a Phase 2 reopening. I join many local leaders and small businesses in expressing my frustration and disappointment with Governor Cuomo's inexplicable about face. Regions and small businesses are ready and want to reopen under Phase 2 – and they can do so safely and sensibly. The Governor needs to reverse course so Phase 2 can move forward, and we can re-open New York. This situation remains highly fluid, so be sure and visit my Senate Facebook page – Senator Daphne Jordan – for the latest updates.

Helping Constituents Seeking Unemployment Benefits



Weekly Wrap readers know that I've publicly advocated for reform of the State Department of Labor to clear its massive backlog and ensure that the hundreds of thousands of unemployed New Yorkers finally receive the assistance they need. Here's the latest update of the numbers of constituents my office has been helping:

- As of the end of Thursday, May 28, 432 constituents reached out via email for help in desperation for unemployment benefits

- There have been 1,334 exchanged emails between the New York State Department of Labor and Dan Casale, my Director of Constituent Services

- In addition to the 432 emails, my district office has also received several hundred phone calls from constituents seeking assistance

My office and I will continue working on this issue and keep advocating for people to get the help they need during these difficult and challenging times. If you or a loved one have an unresolved state unemployment claim, please call my district office at **(518) 371-2751** and ask for Dan Casale. We will continue doing everything possible to help you!

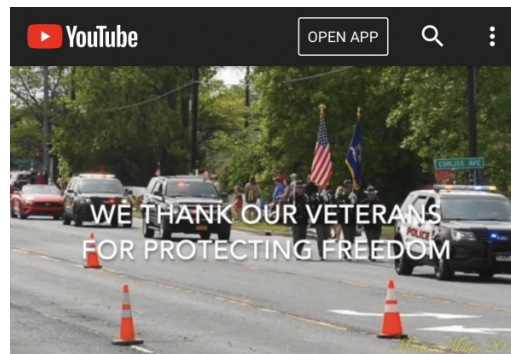
Lending a Helping Hand to Local Businesses



I'm pictured above delivering New York State Hand Sanitizer over Memorial Day weekend. It was great seeing my busy friends Alan DeVoe, Joy DeVoe-Mein, and Larry DeVoe at DeVoe's Rainbow Orchards. I also made stops at Ben's Greenhouse, and Hayner's Ice Cream & Food (both visits pictured above). I will be making more hand sanitizer delivery stops around the 43rd Senate District over the next couple of weeks!

Honoring the Fallen, Taking Part in the Town of East Greenbush's 2020 Memorial Day Virtual Parade





Town of East Greenbush 2020 Memorial Day Virtual Parade

I was honored to join my colleagues for the Town of East Greenbush's 2020 Memorial Day Virtual Parade, an innovative way to salute and recognize America's true heroes given the unique circumstances we're all facing. Below is the YouTube link to this special video salute to America's heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice. God bless the heroic men and women of our armed forces who've given everything in defense of our liberty. Special thank you to the Town of East Greenbush Recreation Director Mike Martin for assembling this wonderful video tribute for Memorial Day. I can't wait to see everyone in person next year so we can observe this special day and remember and honor America's heroes together. Video link: <https://youtu.be/S8kso-OP6yA>.

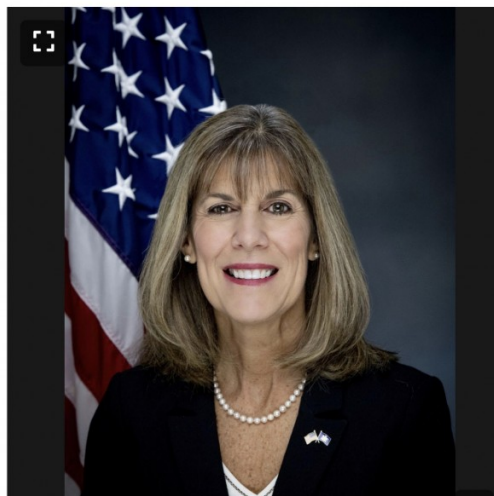
My Monthly Column in the Saratogian and Troy Record: Re-Open NY

THE SARATOGIAN



Reader's View: Re-opening N.Y.

By Senator Daphne Jordan May 23, 2020 Comments



The *Saratogian* and *Troy Record* both featured my monthly column outlining my continued efforts

to re-open New York to get our economy moving and get folks back to work. My monthly column also provided an update on New York's unemployment backlog and my efforts to help protect our senior citizens residing in nursing homes and adult care facilities.

You can read my monthly column in the *Saratogian* here:

https://www.saratogian.com/news/local-news/readers-view-re-opening-n-y/article_03c2178d-72f7-5480-8785-bd17bac69df1.html.

And you can read my monthly column in the *Troy Record* here:

https://www.troyrecord.com/news/local-news/readers-view-re-opening-n-y/article_c4ce54bc-9c28-11ea-ab5a-4383d7289971.html. My thanks to these terrific local newspapers for carrying my column and affording me a terrific opportunity to speak directly with constituents!

Supporting Small Businesses

SUPPORT SMALL BUSINESS.

On Wednesday, the New York State Senate reconvened for Session via Zoom and in-person at the State Capitol (which is where I was). Unfortunately, our Senate Session was a huge missed opportunity to help our struggling small businesses. My press release with specific policy ideas being advanced by my Senate Republican colleagues and me to help New York's small businesses is pasted below.

FOR RELEASE: Wednesday, May 27, 2020

SENATOR DAPHNE JORDAN AND SENATE REPUBLICAN COLLEAGUES BLAST DEMOCRATS FOR ABANDONING SMALL BUSINESSES, AGAIN

Albany – Today, New York State Senator Daphne Jordan (R,C,I-Halfmoon) and her Senate Republican colleagues blasted Democrats for refusing to assist businesses overwhelmed by the COVID-19 outbreak and economic shutdown. The Legislature convened for the first time since the last week of March – in the midst of the COVID outbreak – to pass a wide array of legislation, with no relief for small businesses struggling to open or reopen following the government's shutdown of the economy.

After talking to small business owners across all sectors and regions of the state, varying in size, several consistent themes emerged. They pointed to important federal assistance, past, and present, but they also identified concerns specific to New York State government. Among them:

- **Expand Nourish New York.** The program connecting the state's prominent agriculture industry with emergency food shelters has been a rare economic success and a moral triumph. It should be replicated and expanded to connect the state's farms with downstate markets, which will reinforce New York's supply chain, improve healthy food options, and stimulate the economy.

- **Lower the cost of doing business.** In New York, labor is the principal cost-driver for businesses. Wage requirements, especially statewide, hurt small businesses and should be postponed. In addition, tax and wage deductions should be considered to stimulate growth and hiring.

- **Reduce non-health, non-safety regulations.** New York's notorious regulatory environment forces businesses to incur excessive costs and delays, which discourages growth for current and prospective employers. Ill-conceived bans on plastic bags, polystyrene, and other products not only increase costs but also create public health concerns.

READ MORE: <https://www.nysenate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/daphne-jordan/senator-daphne-jordan-and-senate-republican-colleagues-blast>

Advocating for Checks and Balances in State Government, Helping Nursing Homes



FOR RELEASE: Thursday, May 28, 2020

SENATE DEMOCRATS REJECT REPUBLICAN EFFORT TO RESCIND GOVERNOR'S POWER & GIVE NEEDED HELP TO NURSING HOMES

Albany, NY — With the Legislature back in session for two days, Senator Daphne Jordan (R,C,I-Halfmoon) and the New York State Senate Republican Conference proposed amendments to immediately end the Governor's disaster emergency power and provide our underfunded nursing homes with a desperately needed \$100 million allocation for testing, PPE, and staffing. Senate Democrats unanimously rejected both proposals.

The first proposal would have immediately stopped the Governor's one-man rule of New York State after nearly 90 days of control. The proposal would have put New York's disaster emergency control policy in line with other states, which limit an Executive's powers to 30 days, and would have required the Governor to receive Legislative approval for the continuation of such powers. The amendment also would have mandated that the Governor transmit weekly reports to the Legislature during an emergency declaration and would have created communication between the governor and the parties affected by a suspension of laws during a state disaster emergency.

Since early March, the Governor has issued 33 Executive Orders and has changed 250 laws. In a March 25 directive, he ordered that nursing homes and long-term care facilities accept COVID positive patients, a fatal move that is believed to have contributed to 5,800 deaths.

Senate Republicans proposed the Protecting Our Nursing Homes amendment to direct \$100 million in unused Federal CARES Act funding to nursing homes, assisted living, and long-term care facilities to help purchase testing supplies, PPE and hire additional staff. Democrats cut funding to nursing homes in March and today unanimously rejected the Republican Protecting Our Nursing Homes amendment to care for our most vulnerable population.

"Andrew Cuomo isn't king. He's governor, and subject to the same checks and balances and limits of power as any elected official," Senator Daphne Jordan said.

WATCH MY VIDEO: <https://www.nysenate.gov/newsroom/video/daphne-jordan/senator-daphne-jordan-calls-restoration-checks-and-balances-nys>

READ MORE: <https://www.nysenate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/daphne-jordan/senate-democrats-reject-republican-effort-rescind-governors>

READ MORE: <https://www.nysenate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/daphne-jordan/senator-daphne-jordan-working-restore-checks-and-balances>

Protecting our Electoral Process from Fraud

On Thursday, I spoke on the Senate Floor in strong opposition to Senate Bill S.8130D, a bad bill that could do unprecedented damage to our electoral process. Much like last year's Green Light Law (which gave driver's licenses to illegal aliens), which I led the fight against, this bad bill gives another green light to voter fraud.

Specifically, this bill from the Senate Democratic Majority allows requests to be made by a voter for an absentee ballot by electronic mail, or through the Board of Elections web portal, eliminates the requirement that an application for an absentee ballot must be signed by the voter, and allows for postmarks of an absentee ballot to be issued up to the day of the election, instead of the day before the election. Their legislation also imposes yet another massive new unfunded mandate on local governments at the very time so many are struggling financially.

READ MORE & WATCH MY VIDEO HERE:

<https://www.nysenate.gov/newsroom/video/daphne-jordan/senator-daphne-jordan-protecting-our-electoral-process-fraud>

New York Forward Loan Fund



The New York Forward Loan Fund (NYFLF) is a new economic recovery loan program aimed at supporting New York State small businesses, nonprofits, and small landlords as they reopen after the COVID-19 outbreak and NYS on PAUSE. The NYFLF targets the state's small businesses with 20 or fewer full-time equivalent (FTE) employees (90% of all businesses), nonprofits and small landlords that have seen a loss of rental income.

The NYFLF is specifically timed to support businesses and organizations as they proceed to reopen

and have upfront expenses to comply with guidelines (e.g., inventory, marketing, refitting for new social distancing guidelines) under the New York Forward Plan.

Pre-applications for the New York Forward Loan Fund are now open. Priority will be given to industries and regions that have been reopened. This is not a first-come, first-served loan program. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis as regions and industries reopen.

For small businesses and nonprofits that are in industries and regions that have not yet reopened, you are encouraged to prepare your pre-application in advance by taking advantage of the application preparation resources available online. More program details include the following:

- **Small businesses and nonprofits must employ 20 or fewer full-time equivalent (FTE) employees;**
- **Small businesses must have gross revenues of less than \$3 million per year;**
- **Nonprofits must provide direct services and have an annual operating budget of less than \$3 million per year; and**
- **Have not received a loan from either SBA Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) or SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) for COVID-19 in 2020.**

Businesses interested in receiving a loan should visit www.esd.ny.gov/nyforwardloans for more information.

To apply for a loan, visit: <https://www.connect2capital.com/partners/new-york-forward-loan-fund/nyloanfund-preapplication/>.

Important Information on Contact Tracing



You're a part of the solution...
now answer the phone!



You've stayed home!



You're wearing masks!



Now, answer the phone!

As we battle coronavirus together, tracing exposures to COVID is important to stop the spread.

The NYS Contact Tracing Program works with confirmed positive COVID-19 people to determine who they have been in contact with. Trained specialists reach out to those contacts about possible exposure. If you have been identified as a contact you will get a call from **"NYS Contact Tracing"** (518-387-9993).

Because the disease can be transmitted without symptoms, notifying people about a possible exposure is critical to stop the spread.

So, if you get a call from **"NYS Contact Tracing"** (518-387-9993) please answer. It is confidential and private.

Please Answer the Phone

so we can keep NY moving forward
and stop the spread of COVID-19.

health.ny.gov/coronavirus

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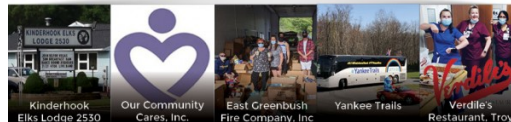
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New York State recently announced a new state contact tracing initiative in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. Pictured above is a contact tracing flyer that contains helpful information on this initiative. Additionally, there is a website: <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/new-york-state-contact-tracing> that's a good resource for an overview and specifics of the program.

Proudly Recognizing More Hometown Heroes for the 43rd Senate District



Proud to again recognize some terrific *#HometownHeroes*
from my 43rd Senate District for all they're doing to help the community.



It's time to again celebrate some of the many wonderful #HometownHeroes from my 43rd Senate District! These heroes are making a positive difference by helping others during the COVID-19 outbreak. This week, I'm proud to salute **Kinderhook Elks, Our Community Cares, Inc., East Greenbush Fire Company, Inc., Yankee Trails and Verdile's Restaurant**. Thank you for everything you're doing to help families across our community!

Kinderhook Elks Lodge #2530 and Our Community Cares, Inc.

The Kinderhook Elks and Our Community Cares, Inc., held a drive-through school supply and food drive for local children to ensure they had much-needed items. The program helps students in need when the school meals they depend on are unavailable. All donations were split between the Ichabod Crane, Chatham, and New Lebanon schools. This thoughtful act of generosity and caring by the partnership of the Kinderhook Elks and Our Community Cares made a positive difference for families and children across the community!

East Greenbush Fire Company, Inc.

The East Greenbush Fire Company, Inc. is always working for the community, and that was especially true last week. The East Greenbush Fire Company held a food drive to support local food pantries and received a strong response. Thanks to all those who donated, and special recognition to President Tracy Leichenauer Cullum, Chief Jeff Tooker, Assistant Chief Mike Lansing, Junior Traffic Coordinator Blake Tooker, and company members for their help and work, Rensselaer County Executive Steve McLaughlin who lent his and his administration's support to the effort, along with Rensselaer County District Attorney Mary Pat Donnelly and others. This was a fantastic help for the community thanks to the East Greenbush Fire Company and Rensselaer County Government!

Yankee Trails

Yankee Trails and the Bus Stop Club have once again partnered together, this time to help brighten the day for children and families while collecting donated non-perishable items for some of our area schools, counties, and their respective food pantries. Yankee Trails' efforts successfully collected food and toiletry items for the Anchor Food Pantry Castleton and families in the Schodack Central School District. Thank you to Yankee Trails!

Verdile's Restaurant, Troy

Verdile's Restaurant is the longest-standing, multi-generational Italian American restaurant in Troy celebrating more than 75 years in the community. Today, the third-generation owner, Michael Verdile Jr., is honored to follow in the steps of his father and grandparents to keep this local favorite thriving. Michael Verdile recently delivered lunch for many happy – and hungry – medical staff working hard at St. Peter's Hospital. Thank you to the Michael Verdile, and Raphael M. Verdile III, for your ongoing generosity and continued support of our frontline healthcare workers!

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THE NEW YORK STATE SENATE

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