



Dear Friend:

Season's greetings and welcome to my Weekly Wrap for the first week of December! This edition of the Weekly Wrap focuses on Small Business Saturday, East Greenbush's special event honoring a veteran, as well as New York's gathering fiscal storm, Albany's latest scheme to pick taxpayer's pockets, and the Conservative Party of New York State's 2019 Legislative Session rankings. All that and an update on my Porch Piracy legislation are in this Weekly Wrap. Thanks for reading and have a terrific weekend! – **Senator Daphne Jordan, 43rd District**

Standing up for Small Business Saturday



As the former owner of two successful small businesses, I know how important they are – small businesses are the backbone of our economy employing more than half of all New Yorkers. That's why I and many others supported “Small Business Saturday” on November 30. Your patronage can help our small businesses thrive so be sure and think – and shop – local this holiday season!

East Greenbush Honor-A-Veteran Program



Tuesday was the East Greenbush Honor-A-Veteran Program that recognized the honorable service of James Connell. Mr. Connell is a U.S. Marine Corps Veteran who served from 1971-1977, then served 20 years in the NY Army National Guard until 2012, when he was honorably discharged at the rank of Staff Sergeant. Mr. Connell went on to complete a 15-year career with the NYS Division of Military and Naval Affairs. In

his semi-retirement, he drove a school bus for the City of Rensselaer and was a third base usher for the Philadelphia Fliers. Mr. Connell passed away on July 23, 2019. We mourn the loss of James Connell, a true American patriot who selflessly and faithfully served our grateful nation. Pictured above are members of Mr. Connell's family, along with Assemblyman Jake Ashby, Rensselaer County Clerk Frank Merola, Rensselaer County Legislature Member Tom Grant, Rensselaer County Director of Veterans Services Peter Goebel, and Halie Northrop, my Community Liaison, who represented me at this special ceremony.

New York's Gathering Fiscal Storm

ICYMI (In Case You Missed It), numerous media outlets reported on the growing budget gap facing New York State – and how it will impact our upcoming State Budget and 2020 Legislative Session. How bad is the shortfall? Bad, \$6.1 billion bad. Approximately \$4 billion of the \$6.1 billion shortfall is attributed to the state's growing Medicaid program cost overruns. Spectrum News' State of Politics Blog reported on the multi-billion dollar budget shortfall and Moody's recent warning that it could be an "Achilles Heel" for state finances. Read the article here: <https://www.nystateofpolitics.com/2019/12/moodys-says-medicaid-gap-an-achilles-heal/>.

According to some reports, Assembly Democrats discussed possible steps – "revenue raisers" (i.e. tax hikes) – to address the shortfall during their recent retreat in Albany. This continued willingness to raise taxes completely misses the fact that New Yorkers already pay some of the highest taxes in our nation (Tax Foundation ranked our State Business Tax Climate as America's second-worst). Be assured, I won't support any effort to raise taxes on already overtaxed, overburdened New Yorkers. Higher taxes are not the answer!

\$100 Million Welfare for Politicians Scheme

On Sunday, December 1, a Commission issued a 144-page report containing recommendations for creating Albany's latest bloated bureaucratic boondoggle, the "Public Campaign Finance Board" (PCFB). The PCFB – comprised of unaccountable political appointees – will control up to \$100 million of taxpayer dollars to spend on the campaigns of Albany politicians. This scheme was created as part of the 2019-20 State Budget, a bad budget that I voted against.

Under this scheme, 100 donations of \$50 would get a candidate \$60,000 in matching funds. Thus, a total of \$5,000 in donations would leverage into \$60,000 of taxpayer money to fund a political campaign – and you'll pay for it. It's a terrible plan and sets up a system ripe for corruption, waste, fraud, and abuse, just as there have been multiple documented cases of abuse within New York City's public financing system. The state legislature should reconvene before December 22 and reject this scheme. You can read more of my analysis regarding the many drawbacks of this scheme in my monthly column in this weekend's Saratogian and Troy Record.

Conservative Party Releases 2019 Legislative Session Ratings

On Thursday morning, the Conservative Party of New York State released its ratings for the 2019 Legislative Session. I'm proud to report that I was one of just three State Senators receiving a perfect score of 100 percent. As noted in the Conservative Party's press release, the ratings were based on how state legislators voted on 25 key bills passed during the 2019 session. The bills comprised a variety of issues that affect the lives of New Yorkers. I'm grateful to be recognized for my efforts to stand up for taxpayers. I'll continue to honor my promises and remain a strong voice for Upstate taxpayers!

Porch Piracy Update

My legislation making Porch Piracy a felony crime – Senate Bill S.6794 – continues to make headway. You can read the coverage my bill has received in the Saratogian, News 10 and CBS 6 and the Register Star at the links below.

Saratogian: https://www.saratogian.com/news/jordan-introduces-legislation-to-combat-holiday-porch-piracy/article_e073b04c-0fbd-11ea-946f-63789eacf6f6.html

News 10: <https://www.news10.com/news/ny-news/local-lawmaker-wants-to-make-porch-piracy-a-felony/>

CBS 6: <https://cbs6albany.com/news/local/porch-pirates-could-face-strict-penalties-under-proposed-law>

Register Star: <https://www.hudsonvalley360.com/article/sen-jordan-bill-would-make-package-theft-felony>

Porch Piracy is a growing crime where criminals brazenly steal packages from a porch, doorstep, or driveway after their delivery. This crime affects millions of Americans as noted by a Schorr Package Theft Report Survey that found 25.9 million Americans experienced package theft in 2017, up from 23 million in 2015. Without question, New York State needs to take Porch Piracy seriously!

Albany Office:
508 Legislative Office Bldg
Albany, NY 12247
518-455-2381

District Office:
1580 Columbia Tpke, Bldg 2 Ste 1
Castleton-on-Hudson, NY 12033
518-371-2751



THE NEW YORK STATE SENATE

To ensure delivery of emails to your inbox, please add jordan@nysenate.gov to your email address book.

[Click here](#) to view this email in your browser.

[Click here](#) to manage your email subscription settings or to unsubscribe.

[Share on Facebook](#)