



# SENATOR JIM ALESI

*Community Update: Week Ending 5/7/10*



## LEADING THE FIGHT TO AUTHORIZE MONEY FOR ROAD PROJECTS

After weeks of constant pressure from my colleagues and me in the Senate Republican Conference, the Senate passed legislation to authorize the expenditure of funds necessary to complete capital construction projects that have been stymied by Governor Paterson and Senate Democrats. The legislation does not include any new spending on projects, but rather would allow funds previously allocated for road and bridge construction projects, as well as for capital improvement projects for the State University of New York (SUNY), to be released to continue construction and keep people working.

Several weeks ago, the Governor made a unilateral decision to suspend payments on current capital projects, and Senate Democrats have refused to include the payments as part of the emergency extenders – passed in lieu of a state budget – regardless of the fact that contractors have signed agreements with the state with the understanding that payment would be forthcoming. Therefore, to safeguard hundreds of projects and thousands of jobs, I joined my fellow Republicans by proposing amendments to the extenders that included the necessary funding for road and bridge construction – the overwhelming majority of which is Upstate – and SUNY capital improvements. Unfortunately, each amendment was voted down by the Senate Majority, and as a result, contractors across New York State have shut down projects and announced layoffs.

With more and more New Yorkers' jobs in jeopardy, Senate Democrats finally listened to the concerns of non-New York City Senators, and agreed to legislation that would circumvent the Governor's decision to suspend payments for Upstate capital projects and reinstate critical funds for infrastructure improvements. It is now imperative that the heavily-Democratic Assembly follows the Senate's lead and pass similar legislation.

## SURVEY AVAILABLE ONLINE

Recently, I have placed on my Senate Web Site – [alesi.nysenate.gov](http://alesi.nysenate.gov) – an interactive survey on Taxing and Spending in New York State. I encourage all my constituents to visit my Web Site, complete the survey, and share your thoughts with me on taxing and spending in New York State.

## SENATOR ALESI ON HAND FOR OPENING DAY IN PENFIELD



Last Saturday, I was on hand to help Penfield Little League celebrate their 2010 Opening Day. I walked in the parade with hundreds of team members, and then greeted the players as they entered Zabkar Field to take part in the opening ceremonies. This year marked the 58th opening day for Penfield Little league, and the parade was led by honorary Grand Marshal, and former Penfield Supervisor, George Wiedemer, who was recognized for both his years of public service, and his many years as a coach and supporter of Penfield Little League. In a meaningful moment, Mr. Wiedemer was given the honor of throwing out the ceremonial first pitch to his grandson, Andrew, behind home plate to catch his toss.

I wish each and every player the best of luck throughout the upcoming season, and I commend the hard-working volunteers – including the coaches and managers, the umpires and the field crews, and, of course, the parents – all of whom give their time to make a positive impact on the participants. It was exciting to hear that nearly 1,100 young boys and girls have signed up to play ball in Penfield Little League this year, especially since such a heavy emphasis is placed on the importance for our youth to take part in healthy and enjoyable outdoor activities. As a longtime supporter for little league programs throughout my district, I am hopeful that the baseball season in Penfield, and in neighboring communities, will be memorable for all the players, parents and volunteers involved.

*Happy Mother's Day, Sunday, May 9th*

220 PACKETT'S LANDING | FAIRPORT, NY 14450 | (585) 223-1800

[ALESI@SENATE.STATE.NY.US](mailto:ALESI@SENATE.STATE.NY.US) | [WWW.ALESI.NYSENATE.GOV](http://WWW.ALESI.NYSENATE.GOV)