

STATE ISSUES

- POLICY STATEMENT -

The health and vitality of State and local economies continue to be a top priority.

Local governments are finding it necessary to pay for “unfunded mandates” by passing the costs on to local citizens. Specifically, local property owners are seeing continuing increases in their school and property taxes. These increased taxes are a hardship for rural landowners, particularly farmers. Farmers are major landowners who rely on their land to generate their livelihood while they pay a disproportionate share of property tax. We therefore support legislation that would lessen the financial burden imposed by unfunded, mandated programs affecting local and rural citizens.

We strongly support the agricultural industry which makes vital contributions to the quality of life in our State by creating jobs, generating revenue, producing safe and wholesome products, and allowing us to sustain open spaces and beautiful rural landscapes. New York State continues to maintain approximately one-quarter of the total land area in this great State for agriculture.

We encourage the research and development of safe, economical, and environmentally friendly alternative energy sources. We support improving recycling practices and encourage all citizens to do their part to protect our environment.

Tax relief is essential to the revitalization of rural communities. We support legislation that addresses this issue.

On time passage of the annual New York State budget is very important. We support a timely annual New York State Budget.

The power of eminent domain should be used only for public projects, to exclude the taking of property for private economic development.

We favor the election of our judges and the retention of our town and village justice courts.

The safety of everyone using our public highways is important. We support the enforcement of New York State Vehicle and Traffic Laws. We encourage public education of distracted driving and driver awareness through the utilization of the Governor’s Traffic Safety Council, Driver Education Programs and Public Service Announcements.

The New York State Grange has an ongoing concern for the safety of children, families and other vulnerable individuals. It is important that local communities be provided with information regarding sexual and domestic violence offenders living there, to be able to better protect those who may be at risk. We support the prompt reporting to the proper authorities of missing children. We support legislation that prevents human trafficking.

New York State Government should not infringe on our Second Amendment Rights or any other rights guaranteed in the United States or New York State constitutions.

October 2018

ALCOHOL/TOBACCO

ALCOHOL BEVERAGE ADVERTISING

We support legislation for alcoholic beverage advertising to be curtailed with special sensitivity given to its effect on our youth. (2014)

DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS

We support legislation to increase the penalties for any law enforcement personnel employed by any law enforcement agency in New York State who are found guilty of violating the Driving While Intoxicated/Driving While Ability Impaired Laws of New York State while on duty, and further, we support legislation that any law enforcement personnel found in possession of a loaded weapon while in an intoxicated condition be immediately suspended until afforded a proper hearing to determine eligibility to continue employment. (2016)

DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED (DWI)/BOATING WHILE INTOXICATED (BWI)

We support legislation that would allow the courts to consider information of prior convictions of Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) and Boating While Intoxicated (BWI) against the individual during sentencing. (2017)

LEAVING THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT

We support legislation that modifies the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law in relation to leaving the scene of a personal injury or fatal incident so that drivers illegally operating their vehicle under the influence of drugs or alcohol are held accountable when leaving the scene of an incident. (2017)

UNIVERSAL AGE FOR ALCOHOL/TOBACCO PURCHASES

We promote legislation what would set a universal age to purchase tobacco products and alcoholic beverages. (2017)

BUSINESS/INDUSTRY

EMPLOYEES ON PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

We oppose any legislation that would require the New York State Department of Labor to identify and disclose on their website the names of any companies whose employees receive public assistance. (2015)

FREEDOM OF BRAND CHOICE

We oppose any practices by any company that requires exclusivity to carry their product except in the case of a legal franchise agreement. (2014)

PREVAILING WAGE RATES

We support legislation that would eliminate the mandated prevailing wage rates in New York State and allow municipalities and school districts to enter into competitive bids for both wage rates and materials. (2015)

RIGHT TO REPAIR ELECTRONIC PARTS

We support legislation that would require manufacturers of digital electronic parts to offer for sale diagnostic and repair information in the same manner as such manufacturer provides diagnostic and repair information to such manufacturers' repair channel. (2016)

RURAL BROADBAND INITIATIVE

We support legislation that would establish tax incentives for telecommunication providers to install and provide broadband internet service to rural, low income areas not currently serviced the telecommunication providers. (2018)

SALE OF MAILING LISTS

We support privacy legislation and do-not-call list laws. (2014)

WAGE INFORMATION ON JOB APPLICATIONS

We support legislation that would prevent hiring managers from ascertaining an applicant's previous salary in the interviewing and hiring process, thereby achieving pay equity based appropriately on the values of the applicant's work, his/her skills and merit and the demand of the job. (2017)

CEMETERIES

YEAR-ROUND BURIAL REQUIREMENTS

We oppose any legislation that mandates year-round burial be available at all cemeteries, leaving the practice of providing such service optional to each cemetery association. (2015)

CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM/FACILITIES

CIVILIAN DRONE USE

We support legislation that would amend the correction law by adding a new section to prohibit civilian drone use within one thousand feet of a correctional facility and to authorize correction officers to disable any drone within one hundred feet of a correctional facility's outer security wall or perimeter. (2016)

ELECTIONS, ELECTED OFFICIALS, ELECTION PROCEDURES

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

We support the passage of the following amendment to the New York State Election Law, Article 8, Title IV, Section 8-406: *“If the board shall find that the applicant is a qualified voter of the election district containing his residence as stated in his statement and that his statement is sufficient, it shall as soon as practicable after it shall have determined his right thereto, mail to him at an address designated by him or deliver to him or to any person designated for such purpose in writing by him **(except if the designated person is a candidate in that specific election.)** at the office of the board, such an absentee voter’s ballot or set of ballots and an envelope therefore...”* (2014)

CONVICTED OF A FELONY

We support legislation that would require the immediate removal of any elected or appointed officials who have been convicted of a felony during their term of office. (2014)

EARLY VOTING

We are opposed to early voting in New York State on any other day than the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November which would create increased costs as an unfunded mandate to local governments that would be required to comply. (2014)

FILLING A VACANCY IN THE STATE OFFICE OF COMPTROLLER OR ATTORNEY GENERAL

We support legislation to amend the New York State Constitution (Article V, Section 1) to stipulate that if a vacancy should occur in the offices of either the State Comptroller or Attorney General during their four-year term, the Governor shall make an interim appointment with such person only serving in the office until the very next general election, when they could choose to serve out the remainder of the term, thus giving back to the electorate the right to choose statewide public officials. (2017)

INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM PROCEDURES

We are opposed to any Initiative and Referendum proposals. (2018)

POLITICAL SIGNS

We encourage political candidates and political election committees who have political signs displayed be responsible to see that said signs are removed within two weeks following the elections, and that Pomona and Subordinate Granges work to see that political signs are being removed by bringing them to the attention of political candidates and/or county political election committees. (2016)

POLITICAL SPENDING

We support legislation that would place strict limits on how politicians spend their campaign money. (2014)

PRIMARY VOTING

We support legislation that would move our state's primary voting day to coincide with a Congressional primary day or in June when there is no Congressional primary and that the state government reimburses local governments for the cost of operating separate primaries. (2014)

RECALL OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

We support legislation that would permit the electorate to recall an elected official for cause. (2015)

VOTING PRIVILEGES

We oppose legislation that would allow teenagers who will be 18 by the time of a presidential election to vote in the primaries leading to the general election. (2016)

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

ENGLISH AS THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF NEW YORK STATE

We support legislation that would designate English as our official state language. (2014)

FIREARMS

GUN OWNERSHIP FEES

We oppose any attempt by the state to require additional registration and renewal fees for gun owners. (2016)

GUN SHOWS

We oppose any legislation that might infringe upon our Second Amendment right to bear arms but supports criminal background checks and enforcement reducing the opportunity for firearms sold at gun shows to potentially dangerous or criminal individuals. (2017)

NYSAFE ACT

We support amendments to the NYSAFE Act that would prohibit the publication and/or release of personal contact information of pistol permit holders to the public or press. (2018)

We urge our State Representatives to convene public hearings to gain information which would be used to amend, replace and repair flaws in the NYSAFE Act and that these changes would be made so as to not infringe upon our Second Amendment rights. (2018)

SALE OF FIREARMS

We discourage lawsuits being brought against the legal manufacturing, distribution and sale of firearms. (2016)

GOVERNMENT - LOCAL & STATE

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR IN NYS CONSTITUTION

We support current legislation that would allow a Governor to appoint a Lieutenant Governor that would be approved by both houses of the State Legislature, create a mechanism to allow the Lieutenant Governor to assume the powers of a Governor when he or she is unable to discharge his or her responsibilities, and establish that a Governor remains a Governor even when absent from the state. (2014)

NEW YORK STATE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTIONS

New York State Grange is opposed to a constitutional convention. (2017)

INSURANCE PRACTICES

UNFAIR CLAIMS PRACTICES

We support amending the Insurance Law by establishing a private right of legal action for policy holders who have been affected by unfair claims practices by insurance carriers and provides for punitive damage awards where there is an insurance carrier's willful or knowing violation of section 2601 of the New York State insurance law, as outlined in current legislation S4223 or future similar legislation, relating to an insurance claim for property damage in an area affected and encompassed by an Executive order declaring a disaster emergency as per section twenty-eight of the Executive Law. (2016)

LAW ENFORCEMENT/POLICE

LAW ENFORCEMENT VEHICLES

We support the New York State Troopers Police Benevolent Association's request for vehicles that are more suitable for use in a high-speed pursuit. (2017)

WEARING REFLECTIVE GEAR DURING POOR VISIBILITY

We support the use of reflective gear for all police and emergency personnel/responders in all situations that require them to work during periods of poor visibility. (2017)

LAWS/REGULATIONS/COURT SYSTEM

CRIMINAL VERSUS VICTIM LAWSUITS

We support legislation that would prevent a criminal from bringing a civil lawsuit against a victim or a concerned citizen who might injure that criminal while defending themselves or trying to prevent a criminal act. (2014)

LIFE SENTENCE WITHOUT PAROLE FOR CONVICTED KILLERS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

We support legislation for life sentence without parole for convicted killers of law enforcement officers in New York State, as the preferred deterrent for such heinous crimes. (2017)

MADDOX LAW

We support establishing a new section of the New York State Penal Law that would create the offense of murder in the first degree when the intended victim is a child 12 years of age or younger. (2016)

MANDATORY SENTENCING

We support legislation that would require a mandatory minimum sentence of 5 years imprisonment for a felony conviction of leaving the scene of an incident that results in the death or serious injury under Section 600 of the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law when the driver is also convicted of driving while intoxicated. (2014)

RESTITUTION FOR STOLEN VEHICLES

We support legislation that would require victims of stolen vehicles be granted court ordered restitution for their deductible regardless of what other penalties are imposed by the courts. (2016)

RETENTION OF LOCAL COURTS/ELECTION OF JUDGES

We urge our State Legislature to retain our local town and village courts, and to have all of our judges elected by the people whom they serve. (2017)

SCAFFOLD LAW

We support changing “absolute liability” to “comparative negligence” in the Scaffold Law thereby establishing liability in proportion of actual fault. (2014)

STRENGTHENING HOME RULE

We call upon our state leaders to preserve and strengthen home rule and strongly oppose any state initiative to eliminate or weaken our state’s long-standing tradition of home rule and local government authority. (2018)

LEGISLATIVE REFORM

NEW YORK STATE REFORM

We support legislation that would have meaningful reform for our state government addressing the following:

1. If the legislative body is not meeting as prescribed by our constitution, that the Governor and Comptroller have the authority to withhold all salaries from that body until such time that they resume their deliberations.
2. All legislative sessions to be open to the public.

3. The budget process is open and not finalized behind closed doors by those in power. (2014)

TERM LIMITS

We support legislation that would establish State Legislative term limits. (2018)

TWO-YEAR CYCLE FOR BILLS IN LEGISLATURE

We support legislation that would create a two-year cycle for bills within the NYS Legislature which would allow a bill passed in one house one year to be considered by the other house the succeeding year without necessitating discussion and repeat approval by the original house in the same year, thereby reducing the current inefficiency of time by the State Legislature and wasted money expended by state government. (2018)

VOTING TIMES IN NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE

We support legislation that would prohibit voting on legislation between 9:00 PM and 9:00 AM. (2018)

LICENSING/REGISTRATIONS/FEES

CAREGIVING AND CHILD DAY CARE LICENSING

We support stricter enforcement of rules in licensing operator and caregivers of child day care centers. (2014)

DRIVERS LICENSES FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

We oppose the issuance of drivers' licenses to illegal aliens. (2017)

MINORS

GRANDPARENTS GUARDIANSHIP ACT

We support the Grandparents Guardianship Act or similar legislation that would provide that all grandparents shall receive notice of any proceedings involving a grandchild and a non-parent party, including foster care proceedings and adoptions, and upon the removal of a child from a parent's home by Child Protective Services, all grandparents shall be notified and informed of the opportunity to become a foster parent. It also would provide that any grandparent who does not seek to become a foster parent must sign such a waiver. (2016)

REPORTING THE DEATH OF A CHILD

We support legislation that would make it a requirement for parents, legal guardians or caregivers to notify the proper authorities within 12 hours of the time that they know that a child died, whether the child died accidentally or otherwise. (2016)

REPORTING OF MISSING CHILD(REN)

We support legislation that would make it a requirement for parents, legal guardians or caregivers to notify law enforcement if a child under their care cannot be found within a reasonable amount of time. (2016)

MISCELLANEOUS

AUTOMATED TICKET PURCHASING SOFTWARE

We support legislation that would strengthen New York State's current anti-bot law, Arts and Cultural Affairs Law, §25.24, by expanding its scope to include additional types of ticket bots, prohibiting professional ticket resellers from selling or offering to sell tickets that were illegally acquired using ticket bots and by increasing the civil penalties for violations of the law, making the use of ticket bots a criminal offense. (2016)

FREEDOM LOUNGES AT AIRPORTS

We support any and all efforts to have a Freedom Lounge at major airports in New York State. (2016)

GENDER NEUTRAL SINGLE OCCUPANY RESTROOMS

We support legislation that would require all single occupancy restrooms in New York State to be gender neutral. (2017)

PREDATORY LENDING

We support legislation that will provide protection against predatory lending practices. (2016)

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE INTEGRITY

We support legislation that would prohibit the use of EBT Cards for cash withdrawals at liquor stores, casinos and adult entertainment sites. (2014)

PROPERTY OWNERS' RIGHTS

LANDOWNERS' LIABILITY

We support legislation that relieves landowners of liability for injuries sustained on their property by flagrant trespassers. (2018)

LIMITATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY TO UTILIZE EMINENT DOMAIN

We support legislation that would limit the use of eminent domain power to public projects. (2015)

SAFETY/PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES

BOUNCY HOUSE SAFETY

We seek legislation requiring bouncy houses at public or private events must be securely tethered. (2017)

HOTEL & MOTEL SAFETY

We promote and encourage that all motel and hotel rooms be installed with safety grab bars in bathrooms. (2016)

REQUIRED BUILDING NUMBERING

We encourage that all residential, commercial, industrial, institutional and recreational buildings in New York State prominently display four-inch reflective numbers on the structure. Numbers shall be visible from the road or at the access point of the property and on the structure, if it is not visible from the road. (2016)

SEXUAL OFFENSES

LEVEL II AND III SEXUAL OFFENDERS

We support requiring all Level II and III sexual offenders to wear a lifetime monitoring device. (2016)

SOLAR POWER

NEW YORK SOLAR JOBS ACT

We support legislation, such as the New York Solar Jobs Act, that would encourage the use/purchase of solar power to aid in the reduction of greenhouse gases and the creation of new jobs within the state. (2016)

STATE FAIR/COUNTY FAIRS

LOCAL PURVEYORS AT COUNTY FAIRS

The New York State Grange will work with the New York State Association of Agricultural Fairs to encourage the New York State Fair and each of the County Fairs in New York State to contract with local purveyors of food and supplies whenever possible and practical to support and stabilize local economies. (2018)

SQUARE DANCING

We request the New York State Fair Board keep square dancing as an activity at the New York State Fair; that the New York State Fair Board publicize the date, time, location, etc. that square dance clubs are scheduled to perform so the public can enjoy this activity; and that the New York State Fair Board provide ample floor space so square dance clubs can perform their routines safely. (2014)

STATE PROGRAMS/FUNDING/MANDATES

CLOSURES OF SHELTERED WORKSHOPS

We support legislation that would restore funding to the New York State Office of People with Developmental Disabilities in order to reopen sheltered workshops and to prevent further closings. (2018)

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDS

We support immediate action to ensure that the Industrial Development Funds be used only for small or new businesses for which they were originally intended. (2018)

MANDATE RELIEF

We call upon the Governor and NYS Legislature to enact comprehensive mandate relief legislation that would take into consideration the following among other relief measures:

1. inventory existing mandates
2. fully fund all future mandates (2018)

We urge the Governor and State Legislators to help minimize county financial burdens by: (1) passing the state budget on time (2) trimming government costs (3) eliminating unfunded mandates. (2018)

RULES & REGULATIONS

We urge that state agencies follow the rule adoption set forth in the Governor's Office of Regulatory Reform. All agencies who receive funding from the New York State Budget must file a notice of adoption for publication in the State Register. The notice of adoption must contain a number of items of procedural information, the full text of the adopted rule; any revised regulatory impact statement, regulatory flexibility analysis for small businesses and rural area flexibility analysis, or a summary of any such document that exceeds 2000 words. It must also file the notice of adoption with this Office, the Governor and specified legislators. (2016)

We urge the NYS Legislature to provide for adequate review and approval by the legislature of all rules and regulations which place burdens and obligations on the people, and recommend that the legislature review and limit the exercise of judicial power by administrative agencies and authorities, and provide for adequate review of the courts. (2018)

TRANSPORTATION/HIGHWAYS/VEHICLES

ANIMAL DRAWN VEHICLES

We encourage all operators of animal driven vehicles to utilize safety devices for better visibility by motor vehicle operators. (2015)

BRUSH OBSTRUCTIONS ON RURAL ROADS

We favor a requirement that all highway departments of the State of New York keep brush obstructions trimmed to give a clear view of the crossroads. (2014)

BICYCLE HELMETS

We support changes in the laws governing bicycling to require all cyclists to wear a safety helmet while riding a bicycle. (2014)

CELL PHONE USE WHILE DRIVING

We support more stringent enforcement of the law forbidding the use of hand-held phones while driving. (2017)

CONSOLIDATED HIGHWAY PROGRAM (CHIP) FUNDS

We request our State Government to return all road use funds to a dedicated highway fund for the repair of roads and bridges only, to eliminate the need of property or other taxes to replace these CHIP funds. (2014)

DANGEROUS DRIVING HABITS

We ask that more programs be set up to educate drivers on dangerous distracting activities while driving by using Public Service announcements and Driver Education classes. (2018)

DAYTIME DRIVING LIGHTS

We ask that laws be enacted requiring all new vehicles, beginning with the model year 2020, sold in the United States, come equipped with automatic daytime driving lights in both front and rear of the vehicle as standard equipment. (2017)

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAY LIABILITY

We support an amendment to section 1103(b) of the Vehicle and Traffic Law, requiring Department of Highway's Insurance companies to be automatically held liable for damages the highway equipment causes to a legally parked vehicle while actually engaged in work on a highway. (2018)

DRIVING WITH UNRESTRAINED PETS

We support legislation that would prohibit a driver from allowing a pet to remain unrestrained/unrestricted in the vehicle, including prohibition of an animal on the driver's lap. (2016)

EFFICIENT HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

We call upon the Governor and State Legislature to continue their support of the Consolidated Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) and to explore every way possible to increase highway aid and, further, to enact appropriate enabling authority for Local Road Classification as recommended by the NYS Local Road Classification Force which will permit local governments to rationally reduce to more appropriate levels, the costs of maintenance and repair of such low volume roads. (2016)

ELIMINATION OF EYE EXAM FOR DRIVER'S LICENSE RENEWAL

We oppose the elimination of the requirement for an eye examination for a driver's license renewal. (2016)

EMERGENCY LIGHTS

We support legislation that requires all drivers to yield to volunteer firemen and ambulance personnel when displaying blue or green lights in emergency situations. (2016)

EXIT NUMBERS –INTERSTATE HIGHWAYS

We urge that New York State change its exit marking system on Interstate roads so that the exit numbers are the same as mileage markers. (2016)

FARM TRACTORS/SELF PROPELLED MACHINES

We support legislation that would amend the vehicle and traffic law by changing the definition of a motor vehicle as it related to farm tractors and self-propelled agricultural equipment from used "exclusively" to used "primarily" for agricultural purpose to allow farmers to aid distressed motorists/citizens. (2018)

FOG LINES/CENTER STRIPING

We request that towns paint fog lines and center striping on their roads where feasible. (2016)

HEADLIGHTS "ON"

We urge that all motor vehicles be required to have headlights "on" whenever in operation. (2016)

HIGHWAY REFLECTORS

We suggest that the various Departments of Transportation consider adding reflectors to the center lines of highways. (2017)

INTERSTATE REST AREA SPEED LIMITS

We request the New York State Department of Transportation to post enforceable speed limit signs in rest areas on Interstate Highways. (2017)

LOCATION OF "NO TURN ON RED" SIGNS

We support the consistency in the placement of "no right turn on red" signs being next to the traffic light at all intersections deemed too dangerous for a right turn on a red light. (2018)

MILK TRUCK TRAVEL DURING SNOW EMERGENCIES

We join with the New York State Farm Bureau to promote legislation or an executive order to prioritize the travel of milk trucks during snow storms when travel is possible. (2017)

NYS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION REGULATIONS RELATED TO TRUCKS 45 FEET OR LONGER

We favor reducing fuel taxes for trucks 45 feet or longer paid on the Interstate Highway System in New York State to help alleviate truck traffic on non-interstate roads and support the reduction of Interstate tolls in New York State to trucks 45 feet or longer to provide incentives for truck drivers to travel the Interstate Highway System. (2018)

PASSING STOPPED SCHOOL BUSES

We support stricter enforcement of our current laws regarding passing stopped school buses be implemented by both law enforcement officers and the courts; that dash cameras on school buses be adjusted to pick up license plates of vehicles passing school buses, giving more positive evidence of the offender and we support increases in penalties for passing a stopped school bus to accomplish positive results, and that the revenues from those fines be dedicated to the purchase and maintenance of camera systems on school buses or stationary cameras located in areas where problems have been noted. (2017)

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

We support stricter enforcement of New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law, Article 27, Section 1156 (Pedestrians on Roadways) and New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law, Article 34, Section 1234 (Riding on Roadways, Shoulders, Bicycle or In-Line Skate Lanes and Bicycle or In-Line Skate Paths) by State, County and Local Police Departments and other law enforcement agencies so as to make the road a safer place for drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists. (2017)

PERSONAL MOBILITY SAFETY

We urge volunteer organizations, such as the Grange, and ask the Governor's Traffic Safety Council to hold classes in proper and respectful use of hover boards, inline skates, scooters, Segways, bicycles, tricycles and others, explaining the potential harm and injury that could result from their improper use. (2016)

SALT STORAGE FACILITIES

We suggest that government entities in New York State be required to erect salt storage facilities that do not leak and pose an environmental hazard. (2016)

SLOW MOVING VEHICLE SIGNS

We encourage the stricter enforcement of the Vehicle and Traffic laws pertaining to signs on all slow-moving vehicles. (2014)

We support the need that all slow-moving vehicles, on public roads, be required to use the official Slow-Moving Vehicle sign. (2016)

SNOW/ICE REMOVAL FROM MOTOR VEHICLES

We support the stricter enforcement of existing New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law pertaining to the removal of accumulated snow and ice from motor vehicles when in motion on public roads and highways. (2016)

SNOWPLOW LIGHTING

We support the installation of flashing colored lights mounted on the extreme left side of all public, government snowplows to increase visibility for oncoming traffic and therefore make the job of snowplowing safer for all on the highways. (2015)

SPEED LIMIT FOR SCHOOL BUSES

We support allowing school buses to travel up to the posted speed limit on all highways in New York State as opposed to the Department of Education regulation which limits school buses to a maximum of 55 mph, an unsafe speed on major expressways. (2014)

TEXTING WHILE DRIVING FINES

We support raising the fine to \$400 for first time offenders of texting while driving, \$700 for second time offenders and \$900 plus loss of license for a minimum of six (6) months for third time offenders. (2016)

TRAFFIC SIGNS AND SIGNALS

We support action to promote maintenance of road signs at all times. (2016)

WESTERN NEW YORK & PENNSYLVANIA CORRIDOR

We request the New York State Department of Transportation to conduct a feasibility study for the Western New York and Pennsylvania Corridor (Routes 60 and 62 connecting with I-86). (2014)

UTILITIES

ELECTRIC CORRIDOR

We support legislation that would require public hearings for proposed electric corridors are held in the area affected by the proposed project. (2017)

KINDER-MORGAN NED PIPELINE/COMPRESSOR

We urge the Governor to direct the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation and the Department of State to withhold the review and issuance of permits that the Northeast Energy Direct may require for the proposed compressor expected to be located in Rennselaer County and the proposed gas pipeline expected to run through h New York State from the hydro fracking fields in Pennsylvania until such time as the Health Commissioner has completed his review and issued his finding, report and recommendations. (2015)

UTILITY COSTS FOR VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS

We request that the Public Service Commission of New York State direct electric utility providers to set rates for service for volunteer fire departments equal to the lowest rate for all categories of accounts they serve. (2016)