



# ROBERT SCHROEDER

*Assemblyman*

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## **Inside this issue:**

<i>Welcome Letter</i>	1
<i>Legislation</i>	2
<i>Stay in Touch</i>	2
<i>Host a Meet &amp; Greet</i>	2
<i>District 39 News</i>	3
<i>Municipal Funding</i>	4
<i>News From Trenton</i>	4

## **News Via Email**

To receive future issues of my newsletter electronically, contact us via email at [AsmSchroeder@njleg.org](mailto:AsmSchroeder@njleg.org) and we'll add you to our subscriber list. We respect your privacy: our lists are not shared, and you may unsubscribe at any time. Thank you for helping us save on postage!



## **Welcome Back!**

Welcome to my first newsletter of 2011! I was very pleased by the positive response that I received from my previous newsletter, published last November. Since then, I've had many constituents take me up on my offer to meet and discuss the issues that concern them. Here are just some of the topics I've covered in meetings with residents over the past few months:

**RE-OPENING PASCACK VALLEY HOSPITAL** The State Health Commissioner has agreed to allow Hackensack University Medical Center (HUMC) to submit a "certificate of need" which would allow them to make their case to reopen PVH. As a longtime volunteer firefighter, I am well aware of how much we need to have a full-service hospital available to our local residents. I will continue to work closely with the Christie administration to achieve the successful re-opening of PVH.

**PENSION & BENEFIT REFORMS** Governor Christie is continuing his proposals to overhaul our state's pension and benefit system in order to ensure the long-term stability of the funds. I've been busy meeting with retired teachers, police officers, and public works employees across our district to hear their concerns on these proposals, and pledge my help in communicating their feedback to the administration. The proposals are still awaiting a hearing in Committee, where we hope to add amendments that will allay the concerns of our workers while enacting effective reform.

**UNEMPLOYMENT** As a member of the Governor's Unemployment Insurance Task Force, I met with community leaders and economic experts over the course of several months to fully assess the strengths and weaknesses of our current programs. We recently filed a report to Governor Christie that proposes several key reforms that will improve the unemployment system for all New Jerseyans.

As I enter my second year as your Assembly representative, I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible, and hearing your feedback on the issues that are important to you. I value and appreciate the trust you have placed in me as your legislator, and thank you for your ongoing support. I will continue to work hard on your behalf.

**Towns in District 39:** Allendale, Alpine, Closter, Cresskill, Demarest, Dumont, Emerson, Harrington Park, Haworth, Hillsdale, Ho-Ho-Kus, Montvale, New Milford, Northvale, Norwood, Old Tappan, Oradell, Park Ridge, Ramsey, River Edge, River Vale, Rockleigh, Saddle River, Upper Saddle River, Waldwick, Township of Washington, Westwood, Woodcliff Lake

## Legislative Update

I have been busy since my last letter filing legislation that addresses many of the concerns you have raised over the past few months. Here are some of the new bills I have sponsored:

- **A-3162** establishes crimes for dog fighting and for a leader of a dog fighting ring. This bill would also amend the current RICO Act (Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations) to include leader of a dog fighting ring. STATUS: **Pending**
- A-3763 “Katie’s Law” would require a DNA sample to be taken from adults who have been arrested for a crime of the first or second degree. If the individual is acquitted of the charges, the sample would be destroyed. STATUS: **Pending**
- **A-3730** established the Ac-

quired Brain Injury Fund. This limited fund will help pay for the medical expenses occurred by an acquired brain injury, such as stroke for residents who do not have the assets to cover the costs. STATUS: **Pending**

- **A-3677** will require emergency vehicles to remove any equipment or markings before being sold to the public. This bill was amended from my original bill, A-3209, to include all emergency vehicles including fire and Ambulance apparatus. STATUS: **Pending**
- **A-3821** will expand law enforcement agencies to include the NJSPCA and each county society so that they may be eligible to receive grants from the Body Armor Replacement fund. These funds will

allow the SPCA to purchase body armor vests for their protection. STATUS: **Pending**

- **A-2192** authorizes Gold Star Family license plates for family members of military personnel who died while on active duty. STATUS: **Signed into law by Gov. Christie in January.**
- **A-2360** regulates captive insurers. STATUS: **Signed into law by Gov. Christie in February**
- **A-832** establishes new crimes against human attacks on service animals. This law will also amend existing law to increase penalties for attacks on law enforcement animals. STATUS: **To be voted on by the Legislature March 14**

## Stay in Touch

Questions or Comments? There are several options for constituents to keep in touch:

- Join my fan page on Facebook
- Follow me on Twitter: @SchroederNJ
- Read my blog ([www.robertschroeder.com/wordpress](http://www.robertschroeder.com/wordpress))
- Email me at [AsmSchroeder@njleg.org](mailto:AsmSchroeder@njleg.org)
- Call my office at (201) 391-3673, Monday thru Friday from 9:30am to 4:30pm.

## Host a Meet and Greet

If you have concerns or questions about issues affecting our district, I'd be happy to sit down and talk about it with you and your neighbors or community organization. Please contact my office at (201)391-3673 or email me directly at [AsmSchroeder@njleg.org](mailto:AsmSchroeder@njleg.org) to arrange a meeting.



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***District 39 News***  
***News and topics of interest from the towns in our community***

Governor Christie’s proposed 2011-2012 budget included a state wide increase to school districts in New Jersey. In the proposal, all 32 schools in our district will be receiving over \$20.4 million in school funding. While many of the schools in our district received little or no funding at all last year, this year’s proposal will help meet some of those challenges head on.

The cost-saving trend towards shared services has been evident in several towns in our district. The Boroughs of **Montvale, Park Ridge** and **Woodcliff Lake** are working towards consolidating their municipal courts into one. The Pascack Joint Municipal Court is aiming to hold its first court session on April 1. Court sessions will take place in the Borough of Montvale.

**Harrington Park, Norwood** and **Northvale** are examining the feasibility of merging their police departments after voters approved a ballot measure last year. **Cresskill** and **Demarest** are also working to move forward to begin studying shared services between themselves.

The River Dell Board of Education has agreed to place a referendum question on this year’s education elections in April. The Boroughs of **Oradell** and **River Edge** will vote whether or not to change the school funding formula from 100% property value to 100% pupil enrollment. The vote is sure to be watched with great interest by the residents of the Pascack Valley Regional High School District, which is also debating whether or not to change its school funding formula.

The Borough of **Northvale** has approved the building of a monopole cell phone tower in Hogan Park during the Council meeting held in February. The Borough Council of **Hillsdale** recently cancelled their bids for a new cell phone tower at the intersection of Werimus Road and Overlook Drive. While the **Township of Washington’s** cell phone tower located on the Garden State Parkway is still under construction.

***Grant Funding for Road Improvements***

The Division of Local Aid and Economic Development recently awarded over \$2.5 million in grants to 17 municipalities in District 39. This Municipal Aid funding will help our towns repair and maintain their roadways without raising taxes on their residents. The grant selection process was very competitive this year, and the following towns are to be commended for securing these monies from the State: Closter, Cresskill, Demarest, Emerson, Harrington Park, Hillsdale, Ho-Ho-Kus, New Milford, Northvale, Oradell, Ramsey, River Edge, River Vale, Rockleigh, Upper Saddle River, Westwood, and Woodcliff Lake. Congratulations!



***For more information, photos and updates visit [www.robertschroeder.com](http://www.robertschroeder.com)***

## *Solar Panel Energy Project*

In July of 2009, the NJ Board of Public Utilities approved a request by PSE&G to install solar panels onto their existing poles within the municipalities of our state. The solar panels are 5 feet wide by 2.5 feet high and will be placed about 15-18 feet up from the ground on the utility poles facing the southward skies. The overall goal of the project is to harness the solar energy that will feed back into the electrical grids of PSE&G. Installation of these panels has already begun; an expected 200,000 panels will be installed across the state over the next few years. The panels will be installed in over 300 of NJ municipalities, including six of the state's largest cities. I contacted PSE&G to express my concern over customers seeing a slight increase in their electric bills, however they assured me that by selling back their Solar Renewable Energy Certificates it will defer future costs from customers and result in a mutually beneficial program. Municipal officials will be notified before installation begins by a representative of PSE&G. If you have any questions on the program, please visit: [pseg.com/solar4all](http://pseg.com/solar4all) or call: 1-800-664-4761 option 2.

## *Municipality Aid for D39*

In Governor Christie's proposed budget, the municipalities of New Jersey will be receiving State funding for the 2011-2012 budget. This funding will be in addition to the proposed funding to all of the school districts. The municipalities will be required to keep any increases in their budget to a 2% cap which was enacted by the State Legislator in an unanimous vote last year. This State funding will help our municipalities balance their budgets while meeting this new budget cap.

## *Visit the State House*

Our State's Capitol in Trenton is not only home to our Legislature, it is also rich with beauty and history. The State House is home to the Governor and the chambers of both the Senate and the Assembly. Group tours of the State House are available to the public. For more information, contact my office, or visit: <http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/legislativepub/visitingstatehouse.asp>

## *News From Trenton*

### **2011-2012 State Budget**

Governor Chris Christie introduced the proposed budget for the coming year. The spending has been cut by 2.6% from last year's budget from many State departments while restoring State funding to all 600 school districts.

### **State Pension and Health Care**

There has been several bills introduced that would increase the percentage that State workers will be asked to contribute to pay for their health care and pension system. These bills have

only been introduced and awaiting public hearing in the committees.

### **State Toll Roads to go Green**

A Senate panel has voted in favor of bills that would allow service areas on the NJ Turnpike, Garden State Parkway and Atlantic City Expressway to build charging stations for Electric cars. For larger rest areas, the charging station will enable motorists with electric vehicles to travel further distances without concerns about making it back home due to mileage constraints.



## **Stay Connected**

Watch Voting Sessions and Committee

hearings live on the web:

[www.njleg.state.nj.us/media/live\\_audio.asp](http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/media/live_audio.asp)