

Sarah Anker

★ For Suffolk County Legislator ★

Priorities: Fiscal Responsibility

As your Legislator, Sarah believes her responsibility is to lead our community to help improve our economy and support initiatives that make living on Long Island more affordable for individuals, families, and businesses. To achieve these goals, we need to cut spending and hold the line on taxes and fees. Sarah has voted to cut more than \$100 million in spending, held the line on taxes by freezing the general fund, and voluntarily froze her own salary. She also voted to reduce the county's pipeline debt by closing out unused funds for unrealized capital projects.

Sarah continuously voted against fee hikes, even when it meant standing up to members of my own political party. She believes being your elected official is about representing *your* best interest, not about party politics. Increasing fees for taxpayers is only a band-aid for the county's deficit. We must find sustainable ways to reduce county spending, generate revenue, and grow our economy. That is why she has, and will continue to, support revitalization efforts in our communities and innovative approaches to attracting businesses to Suffolk County.

Cutting spending and consolidating services to diminish the county deficit remains a high priority for Legislator Anker. The county has and continues to be proactive in dealing with our fiscal challenges by taking steps to reduce our debt. In an effort to reduce spending, Sarah has voted to move all of our health care centers to a federally-qualified health care provider, effectively eliminating \$26.2 million in yearly costs. She's worked with her colleagues on the Legislature to merge departments to reduce spending and improve efficiency, reduce police overtime by 8% year-to-date, and to conduct performance reviews of contract agencies to ensure that they are providing the services we are paying them for. Sarah also supported the merging of the Comptroller and Treasurer departments, which eliminated 5 political positions. Throughout this fiscal difficulty, Suffolk County has not raised the General Fund Tax in over six years and has never pierced the NYS 2% tax cap.

In addition, Suffolk County needs to be more innovative to attract businesses to come to our county and to retain businesses. In addition to tax incentives already offered through the Suffolk County IDA, we should look at ways to cut red tape and reduce the bureaucratic burden many business face by reducing the review time for health department permits and working with local towns to help expedite reviews for site plans and building permits.

Legislator Anker voted:

- **To reduce** Suffolk County's pipeline debt by closing out unused funds for unrealized capital projects.
- **To freeze** her own salary and institute a pay freeze for all Legislators.
- **Against** the increase in Mortgage Recording Fee that increases the mortgage fees by \$300. She does not believe that we should be increasing the already onerous fees that will impact the most vulnerable populations, including seniors on fixed incomes who are looking to downsize and first time homebuyers who are on a tight budget.
- **Against** the Plastic Bag Fee that will charge residents 5 cents per bag at supermarkets beginning in 2018. While she agrees that plastic bags are harmful to our environment, she does not think that residents should pay to use a bag at a grocery store, with the 5 cents going to the grocery store and not used on environmental initiatives.
- **Against** the Alarm Bill Fee that requires all residents with a home security alarm to register with the Suffolk County Police Department and pay an annual registration fee. She does not believe that residents should shoulder the burden of the residential and commercial properties owners whose numerous false alarms take up valuable police time.
- **Against** increasing fees for Suffolk County parks.