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The NYS Legislature remains relatively quiet, as our State Senators & Assemblymen won't be back in Albany for a couple of months (until the next legislative session), while our County Legislators are in the home stretch of their re-election campaigns. However, there are still some developments of interest over the past month:

- **Banning the Sale of Flavored Vaping Products** – New York's ban on the sale of these products is currently on hold due to a temporary restraining order issued by the Appellate Division of the NYS Appeals Court, granting a stay requested by an e-cigarette industry group. The matter now goes to a Supreme Court Judge in Albany County who will weigh the legal merits of this request. Regardless of the results of this legal review, permanent legislative action can still be taken in the future either on a State or County level.
- **“Red Flag” Law** – Suffolk County is far and away the most aggressive county in New York State in using the State's recently enacted Red Flag Law. As of a couple of weeks ago there were 51 requests for “extreme risk protection orders” filed in Suffolk to seize guns from individuals deemed to be a risk/danger to themselves or others. By comparison, only four such request were filed in Nassau County. This law is aimed at preventing Student suicide & violence. School Principals are allowed to request an order that requires the safe storage of firearms that a youth may have access to, such as a parent's firearm. Governor Cuomo has announced a Statewide education campaign regarding this law.
- **“Raise the Age” Law** – Phase two of this law took effect on October 1st and 17 yr. old's will no longer automatically be considered adults when faced with criminal prosecution.
- **Legalization of Recreational Marijuana** – It should be noted that NYS PTA's fight against the legalization of recreational marijuana was not a “one and done” matter. Governor Cuomo not only wants to get the bills passed in the Senate & the Assembly, he was reached out to neighboring states, Connecticut & New Jersey to see if they can align their recreational marijuana legislation / laws with those proposed in New York State to eliminate one state having an advantage over the other when it comes to sales of that product.
- **Vaccination Data Base** – Legislation is going to be introduced into both the Senate & Assembly that would mandate that all schools must provide the State Department of Health with updated vaccination numbers which would be used to create a searchable data base for parents. The proposal would also require State Health Officials to analyze trends in immunization rates in order to identify areas of the state that could be vulnerable to disease, such as measles. The sponsors of this legislation assure us that it would “appropriately protect the confidentiality of individual identifying information”
- **Paid Time to Vote** – Starting this year, registered voters in New York State can take up to 3hrs off to vote without losing any pay. This could be problematic for any School Districts that have decided to stay open for classes during Election Day.
- **Early Voting** – this is the first year that we have early voting and there will be one location in each township that will be open starting Saturday Oct. 26th and continuing until Sunday Nov. 3rd. Fortunately, the only school on the list of early polling places (Nesconset Elementary) was closed a few years back due to declining enrollment. Needless to say, all are encouraged to get out and vote, if not early, then on Election Day, Tuesday Nov. 5th.
- **Cyberattacks** – Senator Chuck Schumer called for passage of federal legislation that would create teams within the US Department of Homeland Security to help local governments and schools prepare for and respond to cyberattacks and for the FBI to prioritize combating them. This is in

response to a ransomware virus in July that cost the Rockville Centre School District to pay hackers nearly \$90,000 to restore its computer system. The Mineola School District (also in Nassau County) faced a similar attack this past summer but did not have to pay a ransom as they had the foresight to back up their files elsewhere.

- **Save The Date** – the 16th Annual Legislative Breakfast being co-sponsored by the Longwood School District, Eastern Suffolk BOCES and Suffolk Region PTA will be held on Saturday, February 1st from 8:30am to 12 Noon at the Longwood Middle School. Please make arrangements to attend, if possible.

I haven't heard back from anyone, who's School District has a Legislative Committee. If possible, please report back to me on what issues your District views as their Legislative Priorities. I personally attended a meeting held in Patchogue-Medford, this past Weds (10/16). The primary focus in P-M was to look to have legislators support efforts to create multiple pathways, by providing necessary funding for these programs. They also want to push to get 100% participation by the community during the 2020 Census.

As always, should anyone wish to get in contact me regarding any Federal, State or County legislative issues, please know the best way to get in touch is via email. My email address is **gerardbringmann@gmail.com**

Respectfully submitted ... Gerry Bringmann