



Patrick Boccio <pboccio@greenbrooktwp.org>

Senate Democrats' Newsletter

1 message

NJSENDEMS <NJSENDEMS@njleg.org>

Wed, Oct 31, 2018 at 1:14 PM

To: NJSENDEMS <NJSENDEMS@njleg.org>



Sweeney Leads Bipartisan Group of Legislators in Support of Bond Referendum



Senate President **Steve Sweeney**, joined by his legislative colleagues and representatives from the manufacturing field, expressed his support for Question 1 on the November 6th ballot, the "Securing Our Children's Future" bond referendum. If approved by New Jersey voters, it would provide funding for county vocational school expansion, K-12 school security projects, school water system upgrades to remove lead and other contaminants, and community college workforce facilities.

[You Can Watch the Video Here](#)

Bill to Advance Electric Cars in NJ Clears Environment Committee



The Senate Environment Committee approved a piece of

How New Jersey's Top Lawmaker Wants to Fix the Pension System

By Elise Young

New Jersey's top-ranking lawmaker is counting on turning around the state's budget-choking pension system by tapping homeowners' disgust with paying the highest property taxes in the nation. "If we can click with the public and they get angry, we've got to channel that anger to demand solutions," Senate President Steve Sweeney, a Democrat from West Deptford. Sweeney, 59, is meeting with local government leaders and homeowners, whose tax bills averaged \$8,690 in 2017, to sell his plan for fixing one of the nation's worst-funded pension systems. A panel he convened in August issued a 30-page report that recommended changing the defined-benefit plan, with 769,000 members, to a hybrid model. It also urged cheaper health benefits for \$1.4 billion in savings; regionalized school districts; and revenue transfers from such assets as the New Jersey Turnpike and water utilities.

[Read More Here](#)

NJ Senate Resolution Backs Rancocas Creek Water Trail Efforts

By Danielle DeSisto

The resolution, sponsored by state Sen. **Troy Singleton**, supports the efforts of the nonprofit Rancocas Pathways. Westampton resident John Anderson founded Rancocas Pathways to help earn the creek the national designation. The exclusive distinction is created by the secretary of the interior through an act of Congress. "The Rancocas Creek is a natural treasure nestled within Burlington County, one that serves as a vital ecosystem for the many native species that make it their home," Singleton said. "But more than being an environmental jewel, it is also an important piece of Burlington County's rich history. Once used by Native Americans and early settlers, it is still a destination today for many who consider it a recreational wonderland."

[Read More Here](#)

legislation sponsored by Senators **Bob Smith** and **Linda Greenstein** to establish a Statewide public plug-in electric vehicle charging system.

[You Can Watch the Video Here](#)

Sweeney, Ruiz, Cryan Honor Groundbreaking at Newark Airport



Senate President **Steve Sweeney** and Senators Teresa Ruiz and **Joe Cryan** attended the symbolic groundbreaking ceremony for the New Terminal One at Newark International Airport.

[You Can Watch The Video Here](#)

Lawmakers Set Sights on November Marijuana Hearings

By Daniel J. Munoz

Following a Monday voting session, Senate President Stephen Sweeney, D-3rd District, told reporters he has been coordinating with Sen. Nicholas Scutari, the lead legislative advocate for marijuana legalization. "I think we're real close," Sweeney said.

Sweeney added that he wants Gov. Phil Murphy to help drum up support from Democrats in the Legislature.

[Read More Here](#)

Lawmakers Urge State to Lock In Pharmacy Benefit Savings

By Lilo H. Stainton

New Jersey lawmakers are pushing administration officials to quickly rebid a \$6.7 billion, three-year contract for pharmacy benefit services that a state court tossed out earlier this year. The lawmakers warn that delays in reaching a new deal could imperil millions of dollars in ongoing taxpayer savings — something state officials dispute. "We believe that if we employ the innovative reverse auction procurement method that we used for the previous contract, we will realize additional savings in excess of the amounts we saved through the existing contract," said Sen. **Joseph Lagana**, the sole sponsor of the Senate bill. Lagana warned the state stands to lose millions each week if a new contract isn't in place by mid-January 2019.

[Read More Here](#)

[Click Here to Watch the Senate Democrats' Week in 60 Seconds](#)

[Follow Us on Twitter:](#)



Please visit us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), or at njsendems.com.

NJ Senate Democrats © 2017

2 attachments



10.31.18.jpg
765K



10.31.18.pdf
1013K