



# The GIBLIN Report

## News from Assemblyman Thomas P. GIBLIN

**Dear Friends,**

As the 213th Legislative session gets underway, it continues to be my pleasure to serve you.

We've dealt with many important issues since my last update, prime among them, a new school funding formula.

However, we still have important issues ahead of us.

Hospital closings in New Jersey have reached a near epic proportion and our fiscal crisis has grown.

I look forward to working with the rest of the legislature and the Governor to stop these dangerous trends.

More importantly, I will work hard to create new jobs in the State and spur economic growth.

While there are many important issues that need to be addressed, New Jersey continues to enjoy a quality of life second to none. We continue to preserve our open space and the tax rebate program which we began last year will continue to help the poor and middle class. New Jersey is still great.

As I continue my service to you, I encourage you to contact me with your opinions or concerns by contacting my District Office at (973) 779-3125 or through my website at [AssemblymanGiblin.com](http://AssemblymanGiblin.com).

Sincerely,

THOMAS P. GIBLIN  
Assemblyman - District 34  
Passaic and Essex Counties  
Clifton-West Paterson  
East Orange-Montclair  
Glen Ridge

### ***The GIBLIN Report Comes to the Small Screen***

Assemblyman Thomas P. GIBLIN recently launched a local cable access television program entitled "The GIBLIN Report".

The program, a television version of the popular newsletter, was created in hopes of reaching an even larger audience and it did just that, by coming into the homes of more than 100,000 cable subscribers in District 34 and beyond.

"Creating this program allows me the opportunity to open doors of communication for all residents," said GIBLIN.

From introducing the goals and initiatives set forth by each city within the district, to going in depth on specific issues such as medication, higher education and homeland security, Assemblyman GIBLIN covers it all with direct sources and top guest speakers.

"When people can be informed about the issues affecting their daily lives, they have the ability to develop and voice more informative opinions which allows me to better serve their needs at both the local and state level," said GIBLIN.

"Time is a valuable and rare commodity for many residents, making it impossible for them to research legislation, attend state hearings or make regular town meetings." GIBLIN said, "This program will bring important issues right into their living rooms."

Assemblyman GIBLIN's first two shows had guests Kevin Slavin, President and CEO of East Orange General Hospital and Clifton Councilwoman Gloria Kolodziej. Slavin discussed the current epidemic of hospital closings and many other healthcare issues.

Kolodziej, who first became a Councilwoman in 1981 and also served as Mayor discussed a number of issues facing Clifton's diverse and culturally enriched City including open space, transportation, school crowding, and economic redevelopment.

Each half hour magazine format show will air on Comcast channel 26, which covers the District 34 municipalities of East Orange, Montclair, and Glen Ridge (as well as other parts of Essex, Hudson, Union, and Middlesex counties), on Wednesdays at 8:30 pm.

In addition, The GIBLIN Report will air on both Comcast and Verizon local channels 34 in East Orange, Montclair, and Glen Ridge at 8:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 8:30 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

The show will also air on Cablevision channel 76 which includes the District 34 municipalities of West Paterson and Clifton, on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.



Assemblyman Thomas P. GIBLIN was recently briefed on crime fighting strategies by the Office of the Attorney General's Director of Gangs, Guns, and Violence Strategy Jose Cordero.



(From Left, Front): Assemblyman Thomas P. GIBLIN and East Orange General Hospital President and CEO, Kevin Slavin. (Left Center) Essex County College President Dr. Zachary Yamba and the crew of Assemblyman GIBLIN's new cable show "The GIBLIN Report."

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#### **Assemblyman Thomas P. GIBLIN**

**District Office**  
1333 Broad Street  
Clifton, NJ 07013

**Please feel free to e-mail me directly:**  
[asmgiblin@njleg.org](mailto:asmgiblin@njleg.org)  
or call me: 973-779-3125

**Visit my website:**  
[www.assemblymangiblin.com](http://www.assemblymangiblin.com)

## Giblin Remains Vigilant of School Funding

In what became a contentious issue, the New Jersey General Assembly passed a new school funding formula by just one vote. Because of major issues that would affect schools in District 34, Assemblyman Thomas P. Giblin voted against it.

"While I recognize the well intended efforts of Governor Corzine and the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE), I don't believe that it will provide adequate funding to schools in my District. It also fails to provide the property tax relief that this formula sought to achieve," said Giblin, "I also believe it should have provided an appeals process."

District 34 school superintendents have had mixed reactions to the formula. Interim Superintendent of Clifton Public Schools, Dr. Anthony Barbary remains grateful in receiving a 20 percent boost in education funding.



Regulated Professions Committee Member Assemblyman Peter Biondi, Committee Chairman Assemblyman Vincent Prieto, and Vice Chairman Assemblyman Thomas P. Giblin.

"Because we were well below the adequacy level for students, we received the highest maximum increase allowed by the new formula," said Barbary,

"but," he added, "if there was not a 20 percent cap, we probably would have received more."

On the other hand, Dr. Clarence Hoover, Superintendent of East Orange Public Schools, only received a two percent increase for his school.

"The New School funding formula doesn't serve Abbott School Districts well," Hoover said, "Being funded at two percent or about \$3.5 million, does not address the cost of living," Hoover added. "Two percent does not take into account raises, energy and utility costs, nor does it take into account the cost of transportation, all of which are rising."

Superintendent of Montclair Public Schools, Dr. Frank Alvarez, remains weary of the new formula.

"The good news for us this year was getting the two percent increase and also getting our numbers early in the process," said Alvarez, "however we're concerned about what the future might hold. The state is funding less than ten percent of our total budget which means that about 90 percent is on the burden of the Montclair taxpayer," said Alvarez.

Because the formula has such broad implications for children, not only in District 34, but across the State, Giblin has promised to be vigilant.

"Since there's no appeals process, it becomes increasingly important to keep a close eye on how this situation unfolds," Giblin said, "If we find that children are being adversely affected by this new formula, we may need to revisit the issue sooner rather than later."



(From Left): Speaker Pro-Tempore Jerry Green, Speaker Joseph Roberts Jr., Majority Leader Bonnie Watson-Coleman, Deputy Majority Leader Thomas P. Giblin.

## Giblin Continues Support of Children with Special Needs



Along with Passaic County Elks Cerebral Palsy High School Students are, (Back Row, From Left): SEE Founder and Director, Ross Lewis, Clifton Mayor James Anzaldi, High School Executive Director William Weiss and Assemblyman Thomas P. Giblin.

The Passaic County Elks Cerebral Palsy High School in Clifton took part in the Statewide Special Eyes on the Environment (SEE) program for the second straight year. When they kicked off the exhibit with an awards ceremony at the Clifton Public Library Assemblyman Thomas P. Giblin was there to lend his support.

"What these kids are doing is really special," said Giblin, "not to mention the organizers. To see the joy on these kids' faces

because of what they were able to accomplish is gratifying," he added.

The SEE program, which was conceived by photographer Ross Lewis 15 years ago, teaches children with disabilities how to take photographs in a three seminar series. The children are then taken to area parks to put their new found skills to work.

More than 2,000 students in ten New Jersey counties have taken part in the program since its inception in 1993.

Assemblyman Thomas P. Giblin has long supported those with Cerebral Palsy having spent more than 20 years as a director of Cerebral Palsy of New Jersey.



Black and white photos for this issue were taken by SEE Students

## Giblin Moves Up

To be a part of the leadership in the Assembly is not only an honor, it assures more input into the Democratic Legislative Agenda. That's why when Assemblyman Thomas P. Giblin was named deputy majority leader; his constituents were the real winners.

"Having additional input into the legislative agenda and to be counted on as a unifying force in the Democratic Caucus is an important responsibility," said Giblin, "My great respect for Speaker Roberts makes this an extra special appointment. He's not only a great leader but, he's a great person. I look forward to working with him as well as the rest of the Democratic leadership in championing the cause of middle-income working New Jerseyans."

In selecting Giblin, Roberts noted his 30 years experience in Public Service and his union experience as proof of his leadership skills.

"He's a real asset to have on the leadership team," Roberts said.

In addition to Deputy Majority Leader, Giblin was named Vice-Chairman of the Regulated Professions Committee for the 213th legislative session. The committee, which is chaired by 32nd District Assemblyman Vincent Prieto is responsible for monitoring, updating, and amending laws dealing with regulated professions.

"I don't take this responsibility lightly," said Giblin, "regulating professions not only protects citizens against fraud, but in some cases, it protects their lives. If an architect doesn't know what he's doing, he's not going to be licensed and the building you're standing in isn't going to fall down," he said.

In addition to the Regulated Professions Committee, Giblin will continue his service on both the transportation and higher education committees where he has been hailed for much of his legislation including the seamless transfer act which assures that college students who graduate from a two year county or state college will have their credits accepted at four year state colleges.

# Giblin Leads Boys and Girls Club Campaign

Assemblyman Thomas P. Giblin was named Honorary Chairman of the Boys & Girls Club of Clifton's "It Just Takes One" 2008 campaign.

In order to meet the growing need for after-school and summer programs, the campaign aims to raise \$50,000. Assemblyman Giblin kicked off the campaign with a \$1000 contribution from the labor movement.

"Last year, the number of youth club members increased by 3.5 percent, totaling 5,184 registered members," said Giblin "In order to provide positive influence and guidance to even more children in years to come, the community must continue to provide financial support."

From swim and traveling basketball teams, to tutoring programs, the Boys & Girls Club offers a variety of activities to boost character, leadership, education, and career development.

"While the Club is an opportunity for children to engage in educational, social, emotional, and cultural activities, it's also a



*(From Left): Robert Foster Executive Director Boys & Girls Club of Clifton Elaine Robertazzi, Board of Trustees President. Assemblyman Giblin, Francis Calise, One Campaign, Board Chairman*

safe haven for many children who would otherwise be left home alone." Giblin added, "The Boys and Girls Clubs have made a real difference in kid's lives."

The campaign will assist in maintaining the Boys & Girls Club of Clifton's mission- "to enable all young people, especially those from disadvantaged circumstances, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring individuals" and will continue running until October 2008.

"I'm glad we have the Boys and Girls Clubs," said Giblin, "let's make sure they don't go anywhere."

To make a donation, contact the Boys and Girls Club of Clifton at (973) 773-2697 or visit them on the web at [www.bgcclifton.org](http://www.bgcclifton.org).



*Assemblyman Thomas P. Giblin, member of the Assembly Transportation Committee and U.S. Congressman Bill Pascrell recently met in Clifton with U.S. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi to discuss transportation issues. Pelosi called on the federal government to develop a capital plan that will improve America's deteriorating transportation infrastructure and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.*

# Pioneer Academy Gets Unexpected Visit



*(From Left): Mevlut Kirazli, Program Coordinator of the Interfaith Dialogue Center (IDC) Tolga Hayali, Principal of the Pioneer Academy of Science, Assemblyman Giblin and Leven Koc, Ph.D., Executive Director of IDC.*

Assemblyman Thomas P. Giblin recently saw first hand the Pioneer Academy of Science's (PAS) high level of academic success during a tour of the Clifton School.

"While high school students attending PAS are known for their strength in both science and mathematics, they are engaging in a well-rounded program geared towards achievement," said Giblin.

The program to which Giblin refers includes three language requirements, job shadowing, 139 hours of community service, and a number of academic competitions.

"As the world gets smaller and smaller, knowing a number of different languages is going to be very important," Giblin said, "and job shadowing gives kids first hand knowledge of the work place. Theory

and practice can sometimes be very different; Pioneer Academy exposes students to both."

During the tour, Giblin saw classrooms filled with as little as six children gearing up for another North Jersey Science Olympiad win, gaining knowledge about global cultures, Turkish language and tradition, and theater.

The Academy emphasizes small classes having a limit of just 18 students. This has caused a tremendous waiting list at the facility, which moved to Clifton just two years ago.

"The Pioneer Academy compliments a tremendous Public School system in Clifton and it is clear that Principal Tolga Haya is building a concrete foundation that prepares children and young adults, to become successful as diverse and culturally enriched future leaders of New Jersey," said Giblin



Assemblyman Thomas P. Giblin-District 34  
P.O. Box 43062  
Montclair, NJ 07043



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*Assemblyman Thomas P. Giblin surrounded by Assemblywoman Linda Stender, (Left), Joan Quigley (Right), and Assembly Speaker Joe Roberts (Background), sings "The Wild Colonial Boy," on the floor of the General Assembly during St. Patrick's Day festivities.*

### **CONTACT US . . . Your District 34 Team**



**Senator  
Nia H. Gill**  
425 Bloomfield Avenue  
2nd Floor  
Montclair, NJ 07042  
(973) 509-0388  
E-mail: [sengill@njleg.org](mailto:sengill@njleg.org)



**Assemblyman  
Thomas P. Giblin**  
1333 Broad Street  
Clifton, NJ 07013  
(973) 779-3125  
E-mail: [asmgiblin@njleg.org](mailto:asmgiblin@njleg.org)



**Assemblywoman  
Sheila Y. Oliver**  
15-33 Halsted Street  
Suite 202  
East Orange, NJ 07018  
(973) 395-1166  
E-mail: [aswoliver@njleg.org](mailto:aswoliver@njleg.org)

### **Giblin Helps Students "Turn A New Page"**

Thanks to the personal efforts of Assemblyman Thomas P. Giblin, teachers, school administrators, and education minded members of the community, nearly 500 students at the East Orange Community Charter School now have direct access to a variety of books at the newly constructed "Cozy Corner Library."

"Since the Elementary School's opening in 1998, the number of students enrolled has more than doubled in size, significantly increasing the need for a school library," Assemblyman Giblin said. "Without access to a variety of books, the opportunity to provide children with a hands-on educational experience weakens. This library fills an important need."

A memorial fund for Giblin's late mother Theresa, a graduate of the former Blessed Sacrament Grammar School in East Orange, provided the financial support.

"My mother instilled in me the importance of education at a very young age and I'd like to do the same for others. The East Orange Community Charter School's new library will help to further strengthen literacy rates at a younger age and offer more reading material for children each and every day," said Giblin.



*(From Left Back Row) EOCC Comptroller, Terry Pierce, Assemblyman Thomas P. Giblin, EOCC Executive Director Harvin T. Dash. (Front Row): EOCC Students, Raquel Bowen, Kaothar Oladoja, Naia Rein-Hicks, Derius Stone, Imaun McDonald.*