

# KATE BROWNING NEWS

**KATE BROWNING**

County Legislator, 3rd District  
Health and Human Services, Chair

**COUNTY OF SUFFOLK**



**COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

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## **Media Release**

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## **PROPOSED SEWER DISTRICT FOR MASTIC AND SHIRLEY**

*Browning Directs County Sewer Agency to Draw Maps and Plans for Montauk Highway*

**Mastic, NY-** County Legislator Kate Browning garnered the unanimous support of the Suffolk County Legislature at its general meeting Tuesday for her resolution directing the County Sewer Agency to prepare maps and plans for the establishment of a sewer district for the Montauk Highway business district in Mastic and Shirley.

“Establishment of sewers in the business district would accomplish two critical goals,” stated Legislator Browning. “Sewers would be the economic engine that is needed to kick start the downtown business district, and sewers would significantly cut nitrogen levels and raise oxygen levels in the Forge River by eliminating literally hundreds and hundreds of cesspools.”

Legislator Browning has been fighting to clean up the Forge River during her entire term in office. Pollution in that waterway is so bad it has been placed on the New York State Impaired Waterways list. The Mastic and Shirley communities have many other environmentally sensitive tributaries which must also be protected from further pollution.

The lack of sewers for the downtown business district has severely limited opportunities for development because of strict Health Department standards for the area. Without sewers, many of the more ambitious plans for downtown development would be impossible. The Montauk Highway business district is the all-important hub of commercial activity in Mastic and Shirley, and the area’s economic growth and health depend on giving local businesses the chance to grow and prosper.

“This is a key step in determining whether or not residents and business people want to establish a sewer district,” said Legislator Browning, who has led the drive to explore a sewer district for the downtown area. “Once these plans are completed, we will have an idea of what the cost will be and those inside the boundaries of the proposed sewer district can decide whether or not to proceed. Without the detailed planning and design that the sewer agency will produce, we can’t make an informed decision about whether this is what the people want.”

Once the detailed plans are finished, public hearings will be held. If a final plan is reached and accepted by the community, a public referendum on the creation of the sewer district would be set for all property owners in the district. If property owners approve the creation of the district, it would allow the new sewer district to be eligible for substantial state and federal aid to help build vital infrastructure.

“This is a long process that is just beginning,” concluded Browning. “The maps and plans will be presented to the community through a public hearing process, which will allow for changes based on public input. There will be a great need for community involvement because the residents will eventually have the final say when they go to the polls to vote on it.”