

# SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATOR KARA HAHN



## FIFTH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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### **PRESS RELEASE**

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For Immediate Release

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### **VENDING MORE NUTRITIOUS FOOD OPTIONS IN SUFFOLK**

*Legislature approves bill giving consumers more food options at County Parks and buildings*

**HAUPPAUGE, NEW YORK** – The Suffolk County Legislature this week adopted a bill that will provide consumers with additional, healthier food options at County parks and buildings. The [bill](#) sponsored by Legislator Kara Hahn (D-Setauket) requires that all future contracts executed by the County with food vendors include provisions that will make healthier and fresher menu items available to interested consumers.

“Too often, when someone goes to one of our parks, or buys a snack from a vending machine in a county building, the only options are high in sugar, high in fat and low in nutritional value,” said Legislator Hahn. “Going forward, if you decide to buy food at a Suffolk County facility you will have the option of choosing something that not only tastes good, but is also good for you. However, if your craving is for an ice cream instead of a refreshing fruit salad, you will still have that choice.”

In drafting this policy, Legislator Hahn consulted with nutritionists, dietitians and concessioners for guidance on specific guidelines that would benefit both public health and the business needs of restaurant owners.

[More]

Iman Marghoob, a registered dietitian with Stony Brook University's Department of Family Medicine who worked with Legislator Hahn on the bill's standards said, "It's very encouraging to know that our leaders, business owners and nutritionists can work together to support the public towards a healthier lifestyle."

The measure now goes to County Executive Bellone for his signature within the next 30 days.

Several of the new guidelines included in the resolution deal with advertising and product promotion. Changes include adding caloric information for each item offered, advertising healthy choices on the outside and stocking water in the highest selling slots within vending machines.

The proposal does not apply to food that is served by wait staff or at certain Suffolk County facilities, including the community college campuses and the jails.

"I proposed this bill to give consumers more options, better options than had previously been available to them," Legislator Hahn explained. "Now, all those who are looking for something beyond a bag of chips or a cheeseburger with a side of greasy fries will have that choice."

For a full listing of new contract requirements please refer to the following pages.

**For concession stands at County parks and cafeteria operators on County property:**

- 1) Concessionaire shall offer a minimum of four (4) fresh fruit or vegetable choices and a minimum of one (1) type of leafy-green salad with a minimum of one (1) vinegar-based dressing.
- 2) Concessionaire shall attempt to offer sandwiches, salads and entrees which have no more than 700 calories, with at least 25% of offerings having 550 calories or less, containing no more than 800 mg of sodium and made with whole grains.
- 3) Concessionaire shall offer a minimum of one (1) steamed, baked or grilled vegetable option daily, which contains no more than 200 mg of sodium per serving.
- 4) At least 50% of soups offered by a concessionaire shall contain no more than 480 mg of sodium per 8 ounce serving.
- 5) 33% of all breakfast breads offered by a concessionaire shall have no more than 300 calories per serving.
- 6) 33% of all desserts offered by a concessionaire shall have no more than 200 calories per serving.
- 7) Concessionaire shall offer a minimum of one (1) organic option and shall seek to source produce locally, when possible.

**For vending machines on County property:**

**1) Beverage requirements:**

- a) At least 2 slots in each beverage vending machine shall be stocked with water.
- b) Water must be stocked in the highest selling position.
- c) Beverages with more than 25 calories per 8 ounce serving shall fill no more than 2 slots, with at least 1 of those slots selling containers that are 12 ounces or smaller in size.
- d) Any remaining slots may be filled with beverages that contain between 0 and 25 calories per 8 ounce serving.

**2) Snack requirements:**

- a) At least 66% of the snacks offered for sale shall contain no more than 250 calories per package.

- b) At least 66% of the snacks other than nuts, seeds, nut butters and cheese shall contain no more than 7 grams of total fat.
- c) At least 66% of the snacks other than nuts, seeds, nut butters and cheese shall contain no more than 2 grams of saturated fat
- d) All snacks offered for sale shall be free of trans fats.
- e) At least 66% of the snacks shall contain no more than 200 milligrams of sodium.
- f) At least 66% of the snacks shall contain no more than 10 grams of sugar, except for fruit and vegetable products with no added sugar, which are exempt from this requirement.
- g) At least 66% of the snacks offered for sale which are grain or potato based must contain a minimum of 2 grams of fiber.

**3) Advertising:**

- a) Promotional space on any vending machine shall advertise a choice which meets the heightened standards set forth in this law for beverages or snacks that are offered for sale.
- b) Caloric information for each item offered shall be provided based on the size of the package offered for sale.

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