

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

**Steve Stern**

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATOR  
SIXTEENTH DISTRICT  
1842 E. Jericho Turnpike, Suite P  
HUNTINGTON, NY 11743



**PRESS RELEASE**

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

**Monday, May 18, 2015**

CONTACT: Amanda Lindner  
LEGISLATIVE AIDE  
OFFICE: 631-854-5100  
Amanda.Lindner@suffolkcountyny.gov

**Wheelchair Basketball Is a ‘Slam Dunk’ During Disability Awareness Month**

*Legislator Steve Stern takes a shot at the Paralympic sport with Elwood SEPTA to increase understanding of those with disabilities.*



*Suffolk County Legislator Steve Stern scores a basket during practice for the Elwood SEPTA’s Wheelchair Basketball Game for Disability Awareness Month at Elwood-John Glenn High School.*

**HUNTINGTON, NY** – Suffolk County Legislator Steve Stern (D-Huntington, 16<sup>th</sup> L.D.) took a shot at Wheelchair Basketball in a game April 30<sup>th</sup> hosted by Elwood SEPTA (Special Education Parent Teachers Association) during Disability Awareness Month at Elwood-John Glenn High School.

Legislator Stern played with the Elwood Knight Riders, made up of several community volunteers, against players of the Nassau Kings, one of the top Wheelchair Basketball teams in New York State.

Wheelchair basketball is played on a regulation basketball court with a standard 10-foot hoop used in college and professional basketball. Athletes use wheelchairs specially designed for speed and maneuverability. The Nassau Kings were up by 20 points by halftime, but the Elwood Knight Riders were able to pull through at the

end to catch up to the Nassau King's lead. Legislator Stern also scored a rebound shot to help even the score. In the end, the Nassau Kings won, 54-52.

"After playing for just a few minutes it's easy to appreciate how outstanding these athletes are," Legislator Stern said.

The game marked the culmination of a month-long awareness campaign by the Elwood SEPTA to increase knowledge and understanding of those with disabilities.

In 2011, Legislator Stern authored legislation to change the name of the Office for Handicapped Services to the Office for People with Disabilities.

"This legislation was to send the same message that we are in this game tonight; no matter our challenges, all people should be treated equally and have the same opportunities to reach their maximum potential," Legislator Stern said.