



ASSEMBLYMEMBER
CHRIS BURDICK
ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 93



Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that we are already one month into session, but it has been a very busy time in Albany, with the focus right now on the budget.

New York State's fiscal year runs from April 1-March 31. **Last month, Governor Hochul released her Executive Budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2025-26.** After its release, the Legislature began its role, delving into details and holding hearings with the Executive, advocates, and the public.

I am pleased to say that the proposed budget appears to avoid much of the disagreement between the Legislature and the Governor that marked the past two years' budget negotiations. More on that below.

Back in the district, **many thanks to everyone who made it to our recent Coffee & Conversation** in Katonah, with special thanks to County Legislator Erika Pierce for organizing. Also on hand was Bedford Town Supervisor Ellen Calves and County Executive Ken Jenkins.

With the Governor's budget having just been released, I gave a summary of her proposals. Following each of our updates, the topics for discussion included cell coverage and the need for more affordable housing.



I will keep you posted on future Coffee & Conversations as they are scheduled. **In the meantime, please consider joining my colleagues and me in Pound Ridge this Thursday, February 13th, from 6:30-8:30 for a Narcan Training.** Learn how to save a

life! [RSVP here.](#)



LEARN HOW TO SAVE A LIFE!

NARCAN TRAINING

Hosted by New York State Senator Shelley B. Mayer,
New York State Assemblymember Chris Burdick,
Westchester County Legislator Erika Pierce,
Pound Ridge Supervisor Kevin Hansan, and
The Pound Ridge Volunteer Ambulance Corps (PRVAC)



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13
6:30 - 8:30 P.M.

CONANT HALL
257 WESTCHESTER AVE.
POUND RIDGE, NY

Parking is available at Town Park,
199 Westchester Ave., and a shuttle
will be provided.

RSVP Requested:
tinyurl.com/2025PRNarcanTraining

Participants will be taught to recognize and respond to
an opioid overdose and learn how to administer nasal naloxone.

THIS IS A FREE TRAINING.

Addiction Services and Supports



NYS Senator
Shelley B. Mayer
37th District

Pound Ridge
Volunteer Ambulance Corps

County Legislator
Erika Pierce
2nd District

Pound Ridge
Supervisor
Kevin Hansan

Assemblymember
Chris Burdick
93rd District

A final note before diving into the Executive Budget. **This coming Tuesday, February 11, there is a special election for County Executive.** Please don't let the cold weather stop you from exercising your right to vote! Early voting goes through Sunday, and you can [click here for times and locations.](#)

Tuesday is election day and polls are open from 6 am-9 pm. Not sure where to vote?
[Please click here.](#)



SPECIAL ELECTION

YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

POLLS ARE OPEN
6 AM-9 PM

FIND YOUR POLLING PLACE:
VOTERLOOKUP.ELECTIONS.NY.GOV

[The Governor's Proposed Budget](#)

As I mentioned, this year's budget appears to avoid a lot of the controversy that permeated the previous two budgets, avoiding issues like a housing compact and cuts to Foundation Aid.

Highlights of the Governor's budget include:

Education - Foundation Aid, the key component of state aid to public education, will be fully funded. While the governor's budget does propose some modifications to the Foundation Aid formula, every school district will receive at least a 2% increase in Foundation Aid. The proposed budget also includes \$340 million for universal school meals - breakfast and lunch - in every school presently providing meals.

Healthcare - The proposed budget allocates \$35.4 billion to the Medicaid program, a 14% increase, and includes \$1.6 billion in federal funding generated through an assessment on Managed Care Organizations (MCOs); \$1.3 billion to support hospitals serving at-risk New Yorkers; and \$45 million to the State Office for Aging to address unmet needs for personal care and in-home services.

The Environment - Proposed allocations include:

- \$500 million for clean water infrastructure programs, such as the Environmental Facilities Corporation's grants to municipalities to remediate PFOS
- \$400 million for the Environmental Protection Fund
- A new allocation of \$1 billion over five years for climate mitigation and adaptation capital projects
- A new pilot program to provide financial assistance to private well owners to address contamination

During the budget hearings, I asked that the Department of Environmental Conservation consider expanding the pilot program to encompass homeowners associations, which operate public water systems sourced by wells and are subject to water quality regulations.

Transportation - One of the critical needs of my Assembly District is fixing our state roads. It can't be done without greater funding levels. The proposed Department of Transportation capital plan provides \$6.9 billion for the fourth year of a five-year DOT Capital Plan, an increase of \$1.1 billion above the previously approved level.

This may or may not translate into a higher allocation to Region 8, which encompasses all the municipalities in the 93rd Assembly District. However, I anticipate that my legislative colleagues in the Hudson Valley and I will join together in pressing for a \$100 million additional allocation for our region, which has the greatest number of lane miles and bridges of any DOT region in the state.

Middle Class Tax Cuts - The Governor's budget proposes a tax reduction for taxpayers with incomes below \$323,000, which would be phased in over two years and would result in the lowest rates in 70 years.

Inflation Rebate Checks - A proposed one-time “inflation refund credit” of \$500 for joint filers with incomes below \$300,000 and \$300 for single filers with incomes below \$150,000.

Increased Child Care Tax Credit - The proposed budget enhances the child tax credit for three years by increasing the maximum benefit per child from \$330 to \$1,000 for children under 4, and \$500 for children 4 to 16.

Affordable Child Care Initiatives - \$110 million in the FY2026 budget to build new child care facilities and repair existing sites.

Housing Affordability Measures - To expand affordable homeownership, the budget proposes measures to support the construction of more starter homes and to assist first-time homebuyers. At the same time, it proposes measures aimed at disincentivizing investors -- namely hedge funds -- from purchasing one- and two-family homes.

After the aforementioned budget hearings conclude, the Assembly and the Senate will each release their "One House" budget, each chamber's response to the Executive Budget. Negotiations will then ensue, culminating in the eventual passage of a budget.

I will continue to keep you apprised of any key developments



[Understanding the Rights of Immigrants](#)

President Trump recently issued a series Executive Orders and directives regarding immigrants that have resulted in considerable uncertainty and fear in our communities.

The fact sheet below is intended to provide clear, impartial, and accurate information regarding the rights of all citizens and non-citizens alike under the Constitution and existing law. Please share this information with anyone who might be interested.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!

Citizens **AND** non-citizens have rights under the U.S. Constitution and other laws. Here is what you should do if you are confronted by immigration or law enforcement.

If You Are Confronted by Police

Law enforcement needs a reason to search your home or vehicle! Know that they are not allowed to search your vehicle unless they have a justified reason to believe there is criminal evidence inside of the home or vehicle.



You Have the Right to Remain Silent



If law enforcement ever asks about your immigration status, remember that you have the right to remain silent! You do not have to answer any questions about where you were born, where you live, or your date of birth.

Stay Calm & Do Not Run

While you should take photos and videos of what immigration or law enforcement officials are doing when they approach you, do not flee from them. It is best to remain calm & avoid giving them any "admission of guilt."



Speak to a Lawyer Before Signing Anything



You have the right to fully understand the documents presented. Speak to a lawyer before being pressured into giving out your signature.

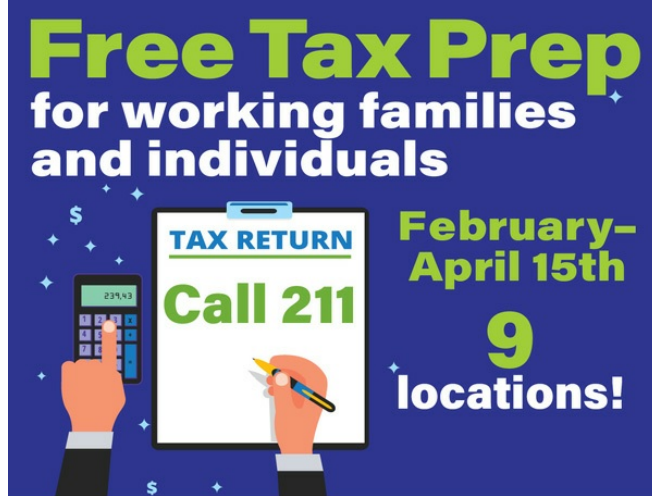


Navigating the immigration system is daunting, and given that the information above is not intended as legal advice, **I encourage immigrants to seek advice from organizations such as [Neighbors Link](#), [Make the Road](#), and the [Community Resource Center](#).**

Tax Prep Assistance & Free Filing Program

With tax season upon us, I wanted to share some helpful information.

The Westchester-Putnam Workforce Development Board (WPWDB) has been directing the "Volunteer Income Tax Assistance" (VITA) Program since 2004. Over the past 21 years, hundreds of people have volunteered their time and expertise to help low- and moderate-income individuals and families file their taxes for free, including people with disabilities, senior citizens, and those for whom English is a second language.



**For more information, or to
make an appointment, call:
United Way 211 or 1-800-899-1479**

The VITA program is available at select locations throughout Westchester County through Tuesday, April 15. **Residents can call 211 or 1-800-899-1479 to schedule an appointment at any location**, including the ones listed below:

- White Plains Career Center, 120 Bloomingdale Road (2nd Floor), White Plains
- Mercy University—Dobbs Ferry Campus, 555 Broadway (Victory Hall, Room 100), Dobbs Ferry
- Mount Vernon Career Center, 130 Mount Vernon Avenue, Mount Vernon
- Ossining Youth Bureau, Joseph G. Caputo Community Center, 95 Broadway, Ossining
- Ossining High School, 29 South Highland Avenue (Room 202), Ossining, NY
- Westchester Community College -- Gateway Center, Valhalla Campus, 75 Grasslands Road, Valhalla
- Westchester Jewish Community Services – 141 North Central Avenue, Hartsdale

If your 2024 personal income was \$200,000 or less – \$250,000 or less for joint returns – did you know you can file your state and federal taxes for free with Direct File?

Visit www.tax.ny.gov/pit/efile to learn more.

Finally, **when filing, please make sure you take advantage of all the tax savings out there.**

Visit www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/individuals/child-tax-credit or www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/individuals/earned-income-tax-credit-eitc to learn more about the federal Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit.

County Offering Police Service Exams - Application Deadline
February 24th

Westchester County will be holding police officer civil service examinations for the

first time in four years. Tests for Police Officer and Police Officer (Spanish Speaking) will be given on May 3 or May 4. The deadline to file to take the exams is Feb. 24.

Among the requirements to take the test:

- All candidates must be a legal resident of Westchester County at the time of their test and for at least one month prior to it. Candidates will be required to submit proof of residency when requested. Candidates who cannot provide proof of Westchester County residency will be disqualified;
- Applicants must not have reached their 35th birthday by their test date; exceptions are made for persons with military service;
- A high school diploma or equivalent is required;
- U.S. citizenship is required to be appointed as a police officer. It is not required to take the civil service exam.

The exam applications and more details about requirements are available [here](#). A link to a study guide can also be found in the exam announcements.

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to my office with any questions or if there is any assistance we can provide. You can always reach me at burdickc@nyassembly.gov or by calling (914) 244-4450. My staff and I are always ready to help.

Please also follow me on [Facebook](#), [Twitter/X](#), and [Instagram](#) for continued up-to-date information.

Miss any of our previous newsletters? You can [find them here](#).

Sincerely yours,



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[Website](#)



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