



Assemblymember
Chris Burdick

Representing the 93rd Assembly District

Dear Friends,

Next year will mark the beginning of my sixth year as your Assemblymember. Every day, I feel incredibly fortunate to have the opportunity to represent you in Albany, where I continue to serve on the Banks, Correction, Environmental Conservation, Housing, People with Disabilities, and Veterans' Affairs Committees. I am also honored to serve as Chair of the Subcommittee on Employment Opportunities for People with Disabilities, an area that continues to be a legislative priority for me.

After a productive legislative session in Albany, I returned to the district full-time in late spring. Every day, I meet with constituents, attend in-district events, and work on my legislative agenda for next year. I am also in close touch with each of the municipalities in the 93rd Assembly District (Bedford, Harrison, Lewisboro, Mount Kisco, New Castle, North Castle, North Salem, Pound Ridge, White Plains), to ensure I am doing everything I can to assist them at the state level.

I want to reiterate that I consider serving the needs of my constituents my most important responsibility.

Please let us know if we can be of any assistance in dealing with a New York State agency, such as the Department of Motor Vehicles, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Veterans' Services, or the Department of Labor.

Finally, I have said it before, and I will continue to say it every year, as it is so important. If you have a question or concern about a piece of legislation or any other issue regarding our state government, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. **Hearing from you allows me to do my job better.**

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2025 Legislative Session Recap

The 2025 legislative session was successful, despite the fact that extended budget negotiations led to fewer days than I would have hoped for to focus on the passage of legislation.



Ultimately, as with previous budgets, **the FY 2026 budget provided well for the people of my district and the State of New York.** Key provisions included:

Inflation Refund Tax Credit - A one-time inflation refund of \$400 for joint filers with incomes up to \$150,000, and \$300 for incomes between \$150,001 and \$300,000; for single filers a refund of \$200 for incomes up to \$75,000, and \$150 for incomes between \$75,001 and \$150,000.

Middle-Class Tax Cuts - Rates were reduced to the lowest levels in nearly 70 years for married couples with incomes up to \$323,200 who file jointly, for heads of households with incomes up to

\$269,300, and for single taxpayers and married taxpayers who file separately with incomes up to \$215,400.

State Support for Public Schools - The budget continued our commitment to fully fund Foundation Aid, the cornerstone of state support for public schools, with reforms to the Foundation Aid formula for more equitable distribution. Every school district in my Assembly district received a minimum 2% increase in Foundation Aid.

Free School Meals for Students - Breakfast and lunch are now free for all K-12 students in school districts, charter schools, and nonpublic schools who have opted into the program, potentially saving families up to \$1,600 per child annually.

State and Local Roads and Bridges - An \$800 million increase in the record \$34.1 billion DOT capital plan to address the post-pandemic sharp increase in project costs. Of that, nearly \$1.4 billion in each of fiscal years 2026 and 2027 is allocated for local roads and bridges.

Environmental Protection - \$425 million for the Environmental Protection Fund, as well as \$500 million for the Clean Water Infrastructure Act. I was especially pleased that an agreement was reached with the Governor for a \$15 million pilot program for private well owners for PFAS removal. Senator Pete Harckham and I strongly advocated for this funding.

Child Tax Credit and Childcare Subsidies - The Empire State Child Tax Credit was increased: \$1,000 per child under age 4, and \$500 per child ages 4 to 16. The budget also included \$2.2 billion statewide in childcare subsidies to improve access to affordable childcare, expanding eligibility for the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP), now reaching a record number of families. Additionally, the budget

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included \$110 million in capital funding to build or renovate childcare facilities, particularly in underserved areas, and \$9 million to provide free diapers and postpartum supplies to low-income families.

Additionally, and as was the case last year, some of the most impactful legislation was enacted as part of the state budget. This includes:

- Changes to the pretrial discovery law to reduce dismissals over minor, non-prejudicial errors
- Expanded judicial discretion for the involuntary hospitalization of mentally ill defendants who pose a danger to themselves or others
- Establishing the crime of wearing a facemask to conceal identity while committing a crime
- A “bell-to-bell” ban on cell phones in schools

Post-Budget Legislative Highlights

As I mentioned earlier, prolonged negotiations over the 2026 fiscal year budget pushed its adoption later than many of us would have hoped – from late March until early May. As a result, the remaining legislative session was shortened. Nonetheless, a number of important pieces of legislation were passed and (as of the publication of this newsletter) are awaiting action by the Governor:

Medical Aid in Dying (A136) - This bill provides a terminally ill, mentally competent adult with 6 months or less to live, the right to request medication from their physician for medical aid in dying. The bill requires an oral request and a witnessed written request for the medication, with at least two physicians determining the patient’s capacity to make an informed decision. I have co-sponsored this bill since I first came into the Assembly and am very pleased that it passed this session.

Elimination of the 100’ Rule for Providing Gas Service Connections (A8888) - Under existing law, the “100-foot rule” requires a utility company to pay the cost of the first 100 feet of pipes necessary to connect a new customer to the gas system. The gas utility is then permitted to recover those costs from its ratepayers who, as a result, are subsidizing the gas installation. **This bill preserves the ability of property owners without gas service to obtain the service, but eliminates the 100-foot rule**, thereby requiring the gas service applicant to bear the installation cost. I cosponsored this bill to end a subsidy for the fossil fuel industry, and one that unfairly burdens other ratepayers with the cost.

Correctional System Reforms (A8871) - An omnibus bill that provides greater safety, transparency, and accountability in facilities operated by NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision.

Safety Standards for Artificial Intelligence (A06453B) - Given the inaction on the part of the federal government to address significant risks of AI weaponization, the legislature adopted the Responsible Artificial Intelligence Safety and Education (RAISE) Act, which establishes AI safety standards and a safety plan to fend off such risks.

Support for Emergency Medical Services: A trio of bills was passed to support Emergency Medical Services (EMS). The first provides that counties, and the municipalities within their borders, develop a plan to ensure reliable emergency medical service coverage throughout the county. The county plans will help guide a statewide



effort to improve EMS services (**A8086A**). A second bill removes the cost of EMS from the real property tax cap on local governments (**A2177A**). The third bill ensures ambulances and fire vehicles are provided refunds on Thruway Authority tolls incurred during emergency response operations in all instances (**A00034**).

My Sponsored Legislation

Among the bills that I sponsored that passed both the State Senate and the Assembly and are (as of the publication of this newsletter) awaiting action by the Governor, are:

Disability Employment Task Force: A0033 would establish in the NYS Labor Department an interagency task force to promote competitive integrated employment for people with disabilities. The task force would study the problem of unemployment and underemployment among individuals with disabilities and review relevant programs within New York and other states that assist in the employment of individuals with disabilities in the public and/or private sectors.

Prohibition of the Use of Fracking Wastewater: A4725A prohibits the use of hydrofracking wastewater on any highway or road for purposes such as melting ice or dust control. Such wastewater, which contains a variety of chemical and possibly radioactive contaminants, enters the groundwater and surface water, contaminating our drinking water.

Protection of Local Wetlands and Public Water Supply: A6930 authorizes localities with a freshwater wetlands law to adopt a further local law to allow the prohibition of the application of pesticides to wetlands hydrologically connected to any public water supply (except for use in farm operations).

Additionally, **I am pleased that the Governor signed the following three time-sensitive local bills into law** after I requested an expedited review.

- **A8165** confers authority to the City of White Plains to lease sports field fences at Gedney Field to a not-for-profit for the purposes of advertising. The rent would be nominal, with the revenue used solely for the care of the field.

- **A7287** was requested by the town of Harrison, to allow the town to hire nonresidents for the positions of assistant court clerk and fire marshal, provided they are residents of Westchester. The town has sought to fill these positions for some time, and this measure will help them to do just that.

- **A7004** was requested by the Pound Ridge Fire Department to update the charter of the department’s benevolent association to align with recent legislative authorizations.

Concerns Over the Effects of the Budget Reconciliation Bill

The Federal Budget Reconciliation Bill, referred to as the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act,” was signed into law earlier this year and will have a significant adverse impact on New York.

The bill makes deep cuts in healthcare and food assistance. As a result, 1.5 million New Yorkers are projected to lose their health insurance, and 281,000 adults would lose benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Due to these adult losses, up to 363,000 children living in those households may also lose SNAP benefits. All in all, the cuts will affect over 1 million New Yorkers who depend on SNAP.

The bill will also result in large federal funding losses to our state. New York is expected to lose between \$13 billion and \$15.4

billion annually in federal Medicaid and Essential Plan funding. According to the State Budget Director, cuts could reach \$3 billion in the next fiscal year, with an initial \$750 million loss in this fiscal year. Hospitals will be hard hit as well, as newly uninsured residents will be forced to go to the emergency room for care, creating fiscal strain. Some hospitals may be forced to close, resulting in residents needing to travel further (or being taken further by ambulance) to the next closest hospital.

I will work with my colleagues in the Legislature and the Governor’s office to do our utmost to mitigate these impacts; however, it simply is not realistic that the state can fill all the holes and prevent all impacts.

Fighting Utility Increases

To advocate for my constituents, I have been deeply immersed in two rate cases that are before the Public Service Commission (PSC). Earlier this year, two of my staff members and I became intervenors (parties) in the Con Edison rate case, which allows us to have a seat at the table during this process. Con Edison filed for an 11.4% increase in electric delivery rates and a 13.3% increase in gas delivery rates. As an intervenor, I have submitted interrogatories, direct testimony, and rebuttal testimony.

A Joint Proposal has now been publicly released, and we are nearing the end of this grueling process, which has included confidential settlement negotiations among the intervenors. This Joint Proposal will inform the staff of the Department of Public Service in making a recommendation to the PSC for a rate decision. I did not, however, sign on to the proposal because I feel that the rate increases are still too high for my constituents, and will be urging the PCS to reject this recommendation.

My staff and I are also intervenors in the rate case filed by New York State Electric and Gas (NYSEG) jointly with Rochester Gas & Electric (RGE), under which NYSEG has requested a 23.7% increase in electric rates and 33.5% for gas delivery rates.

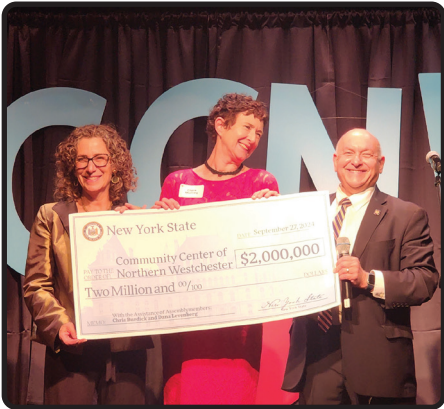
I will continue to push back strongly against these unconscionable requests. My constituents are already struggling to pay their utility rates. No one should have to decide between paying their utility bills and putting food on the table, and I will do everything in my power to fight for affordability.

Supporting Our Amazing Nonprofits

As a member of the Assembly, I am fortunate to have the ability to designate nonprofit organizations for grant funding, as well as to advocate for other forms of financial support from the state. Additionally, my Westchester colleagues and I collaborate to secure critical funds in the state budget.

Among the groups we have been able to help since I joined the Assembly are the African American Men of Westchester, ArtsWestchester, the Boys & Girls Club of Northern Westchester, El Centro Hispano, Endeavor Therapeutic Horsemanship, Friends of Karen, Girls Inc. Westchester, Hope's Door, the Holocaust & Human Rights Education Center, Hillside Food Outreach, the Hudson Valley Justice Center, Latino U College Access, Lifting Up Westchester, The LOFT LGBTQ+ Community Services Center, Make the Road, My Sister's Place, The Pantry (formerly The Mount Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry), the Mount Kisco Child Care Center, and Yes She Can.

Additionally, my colleague Assemblywoman Dana Levenberg and I were honored to secure significant state funds for Neighbors Link for their new headquarters, and the Community Center of Northern Westchester for the expansion of their current space. Both organizations do so much good for our community and had outgrown their existing locations.



2025 Women of Distinction Awards

Congratulations to the 93rd Assembly District 2025 Women of Distinction

Shivani Agarwal	Pia Dorson	Claudia Ossa Paradise
Shantae Artis	Andrea Eigel	Polly Peace
Martha Baratta	Lisette Fernández	Camie Peña-Rivera
Wendy Belzberg	Suzannah Glidden	Erika Lang Pierce
Vaishali Bhattacharyya	Marie Houston	Elizabeth Plunkett
Joan Corso Boutross	Nina Kellogg	Kelly Schwark
Carola Bracco	Susan Lucas	Lauren Smith
Diane Briggs	Carolyn Mandelker	Rachel Seiden Stone
Jessica Roman Buck	Catherine Mayus	Kelli Szluka
Jane Cahn	Theresa Mazzaro-Flora	Carolyn Taylor
Barbara Carbone	Holly McCall	Tina Villavoces
Andrea Cronin	Nzingha Milanes	Jennifer Wege
	Barbara Nunziato	

This past June, it was an honor and a privilege to recognize 37 extraordinary women from across the district for their contributions to nonprofits, businesses, education, the public sector, healthcare, and so much more.

So many of them are unsung, selflessly serving without looking for plaudits or praise. This is truly my favorite event of the year.

If you missed the ceremony and would like to view it and learn more about these extraordinary women, please scan QR code below





Repaving Our Roads

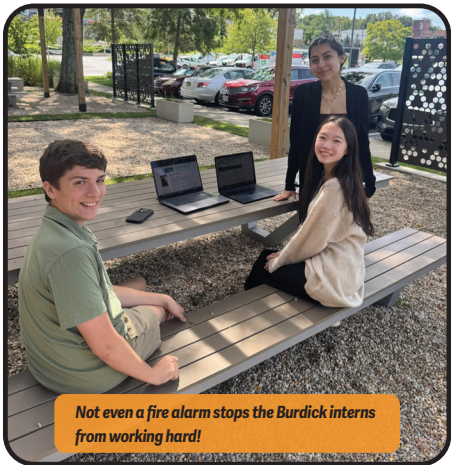
I continue to work with the Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Governor’s transportation team to get more funding to repave our state roads. We have been successful in increasing the funding, and I will continue to advocate for those funds to be directed to our region.

The condition of our roads is a main concern of mine, as it is for my constituents. **You can also help by calling the DOT residency for your region (Northern Westchester: (914) 232-3060; Southern Westchester: (914) 592-6557) and 1-800-POTHOLE to report potholes.**

Thank You to Our Interns

As with previous years, my office has had an embarrassment of riches when it comes to our interns. This past school year and summer, we had the pleasure of having Jason Cai, Giselle Chorost, James Clendenin, Mason Dwek, Kamila El Moselhy, Harrison Goldfarb, Quincy Greene, Jackson Hoffman, Rachel Horsch, Laila Kean, Jake Llanos, Katherine McGuire, Lucy Millhon, Ethan Mishler, Zack Reinmann, Nolan Rhodes, Hasti Shahdad, Emma Tong, Luisa Vieira, Ginger Lily Vollen, Isabel Wang, Hanna Zhao, and Charles Zimmerman contribute to our office. Some of them have left us to go off to college, and some of them continue to work with us.

Our interns are invaluable to my staff, and it is so inspiring to see this level of civic engagement in the next generation. We are very grateful for their time and talent.



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Chris Burdick

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