



Dear Friends,

First of all, a HUGE thank you to everyone who donated to this year's holiday drive! A large SUV full of food, toiletries, and diapers was delivered to the [Community Center of Northern Westchester](#), and numerous bags filled with baby clothes and toys were delivered for the children of women incarcerated at the Bedford Hills and Taconic Correctional Facilities, for distribution by [Hour Children](#). **We are so grateful for the outpouring of support year after year!**



It is hard to believe that this will be my final newsletter of 2025, with the 2026 session beginning shortly after the New Year. **In my next newsletter, I will give you a preview of the legislation I am working on.** Among the items below, please find a final discussion of this year's legislation, an update on the Con Ed and NYSEG rate cases, as well as some helpful information regarding upcoming changes to Metro-North fares.

But before we get to that, let me take this opportunity to say -- from my family to yours -- **I wish you and your loved ones a wonderful holiday season and a very Happy New Year!**



[Utility Rate Cases Update](#) [HEAP Program Now Open for Applications](#)

Con Edison

The settlement negotiations in the Con Edison rate case were concluded in early November, leading to a Joint Proposal (JP) that the Public Service Commission (PSC) will likely consider at its January 22 meeting.

Con Edison originally proposed a one-year rate plan, which would have led to delivery rate increases of 19.1% for electricity and 25.1% for gas, with a 10.1% allowable return on equity (ROE, which relates to how much profit Con Ed can earn). The JP would provide a three-year rate plan increasing electricity delivery rates by 3.7%, in 2026, 4.5% in 2027 and 4.3% in 2028. Gas delivery rates would increase by 1.5%, 1.6%, and 1.6% for each of those years, respectively. The ROE would be 9.4%.

I have been hearing loudly from constituents whose utility bills have doubled or even tripled in the past year or two. Along with Assemblymember Dana Levenberg, the Office of Assemblymember MaryJane Shimsky, County Executive Ken Jenkins, and the Westchester County Board of Legislators, two members of my staff and I joined the rate case as intervenors to fight for substantial cuts to the proposed hikes. **While the rates under the JP are lower than they would have been if my colleagues and I had not jumped in, they are still unaffordable and unacceptable.**

On December 1, I joined with my state and county government colleagues to urge the PSC to reject the JP and set rates no higher than the current rates. Additionally, we will be presenting to the PSC letters from other members of the Legislature representing residents in Con Edison's service area, also urging the PSC to reject the JP. It should be noted that outgoing NYC Mayor Adams directed his negotiators in the rate case to sign the JP. We are calling on Mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani to reject it.



NYSEG

The NYSEG case was filed on June 30, over five months later than Con Edison's rate case. As a result, it is not as far along. I am also a party intervenor in this case, together with two members of my staff and several colleagues throughout the NYSEG service area.

NYSEG's proposal would result in unconscionable rate increases of 35% for electricity and 39.4% for gas.

The portion of the proceeding for submission of testimony in this case has been completed. My testimony -- like my testimony in the Con Edison rate case -- asserts that NYSEG's rates are already unaffordable, with a significant increase in the number of households that have already fallen behind in paying their bills, and that the PSC should reject the proposal outright.

It is unclear at this point whether there will be settlement negotiations or whether the case will result in litigation. I will keep you posted.

HEAP Program Open For Applications

On a related note, **for those who are struggling with their heating bill, the 2025-2026 Home Energy Assistance Program has opened up for applicants.** As temperatures drop, no one should have to choose between heating their home and paying for other essential expenses. HEAP helps eligible New Yorkers cover their energy bills.



[For more information or to apply for HEAP, please click here.](#)

2025 Legislative Status Update

The Governor has recently taken action on many bills, including signing into law the following important pieces of legislation that I cosponsored:

- **Medical Aid in Dying:** [A0136/S0138](#), which allows certain terminally ill New Yorkers with six months or fewer to live to receive medical assistance to end their lives.
- **Repeal of the "100-foot rule":** [A8888/S8417](#) repeals the "100-foot rule," which allowed new customers to hook into natural gas networks for free, transferring the cost to the rest of the ratepayers and perpetuating the use of fossil fuels.
- **AI Advertising Transparency Law:** [A8887B/S8420A](#) requires advertisers to disclose when AI-generated performers are used in ads and adds protections around the commercial use of a person's likeness, including after death.
- **Senior Property Tax Relief:** [A3698A/S5175A](#) authorizes local governments to provide expanded property tax exemptions for qualifying senior homeowners.
- **Office for Reading Disabilities:** [A2687/S5569](#) establishes a new state Office for Reading Disabilities to support students with dyslexia and dysgraphia, and improve coordination of services statewide.

[My Sponsored Legislation](#)

While I was disappointed that the Governor vetoed three of my sponsored bills (two environmental bills and one to promote employment opportunities for people with disabilities), I am reviewing the veto messages and will work with the Executive to determine whether the objectives of my bills might be achieved administratively.

With respect to other bills I authored, I am pleased that earlier in the year, **the Governor included in the budget my bill to extend the Preferred Source Modernization Act**, part of New York's Finance Law, to increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities in companies that do business with the state. The Governor also signed **legislation benefitting SUNY Purchase**, allowing proceeds from the lease of lands to be used for scholarships ([A8142A/S7486A](#)).

The following legislation that I sponsored this session was also signed into law by Governor Hochul:

- [A8778/S8313](#), authorizing the Office of General Services to transfer title to a vacant group home in my district to Arc Westchester.
- [A7004/S5994](#), updating the Pound Ridge Volunteer Exempt Firemen's Benevolent Association's charter.
- [A7287/S6426](#), authorizing the assistant court clerk and fire marshal of Harrison to be nonresidents.
- Bills to extend the effectiveness of occupancy tax (hotels/motels) for North Castle ([A7374/S6713](#)), Mount Kisco ([A8077/S7624](#)), and Harrison ([A6200/S5783](#)).
- [A8165/S7659](#), permitting the City of White Plains to lease certain sports field fences for advertisements.
- [A8166A/S7678A](#), establishing a school speed zone camera demonstration program in the City of White Plains



[Supporting The LOFT's Important Work](#)

It was my honor to recently present a symbolic check for \$30,000, representing a NYS grant that I secured for [The LOFT LGBTQ+ Community Center](#) for the 2026 Westchester Pride celebration. This was also an opportunity for me to sit down with the new Chief Executive Officer, Danté R. Hudson-Reda, in addition to board members and staff.

I have had a wonderful partnership with The LOFT since taking office and am so grateful to them for the work that they do in Westchester County and beyond. The LOFT provides

vital services to the LGBTQ+ community, including in-person, virtual, and hybrid programs, support groups, social activities, and special events such as Westchester Pride.



Important Metro-North Changes Beginning January 4th

Whether you are a daily commuter or use Metro-North from time to time, **there are some important fare changes going into effect beginning on Sunday, January 4th.**

We're changing how to buy and use tickets starting January 4, 2026

Introducing new ticket types

→ New Day Pass offers unlimited daily rides for less

Buy a Day Pass and get unlimited rides for
the whole day within your ticketed zones.

It's a more flexible and affordable way to ride.

- On weekdays, pay 10% less than two one-way fares
- On weekends, pay the same as two off-peak fares
- Ride as much as you want all day within your ticketed zones

→ Buy 10 rides, get 1 free

After 10 peak or off-peak trips in 14 days,
mobile customers will get an 11th trip for free.

No need to prepay or plan ahead, just ride and get rewarded:

- Buy 10 one-way mobile tickets within a 14-day period
- Get your 11th ride free, automatically
- No codes, no tracking: TrainTime does it all for you

To earn your reward, just make sure:

- All tickets, including the 11th free trip, are for the same zone combination
- The free ride must be used within the same 14-day period it was earned
- Redeem and activate your free ticket when you are ready to use it

*All one-way tickets, including your free ride,
are valid until 4 a.m. the day after purchase.*

Expanding eligibility of some ticket types

→ Travel at any time with reduced fares

Reduced fares will be valid on any ride, including morning peak hours, so you can travel when it works best for you.

- Available on both LIRR and Metro-North, via paper or mobile tickets
- All one-way tickets are valid until 4 a.m. the day after purchase

Reduced fares are available to seniors, people with qualifying disabilities, and Medicare recipients. Just bring appropriate identification with you when you ride.

→ Families save when riding together with \$1 fares for kids 5-17

Children ages 5-17 can ride for \$1 per child each way when accompanied by a fare-paying adult with a Family Fare ticket.

Now, family travel is more affordable and more flexible. Whether you're heading to school, a sports event, or a weekend trip, it's easier than ever to choose the train and save.

- Valid at any time, even during peak hours
- Up to four children per adult
- All one-way tickets are valid until 4 a.m. the day after purchase
- Buy tickets on the TrainTime app, at ticket machines, or ticket windows
- Kids under 5 still ride free
- Adults traveling with family fare tickets can no longer have them upgraded to adult fares

Establishing new rules for one-way tickets

→ One-way ticket expiration times are changing

All one-way tickets, paper and mobile, will be valid from the time of purchase until 4 a.m. the next day.

→ Avoid onboard surcharges and buy before you board

The surcharge for paper tickets purchased onboard will increase by \$2.

- If you purchase or activate a mobile ticket after you have already boarded, an \$8 surcharge will apply. This will go into effect after a series of warnings in the TrainTime app.

Plan ahead, activate before you board, and enjoy a smoother ride.

Fares will increase on all ticket types

→ Check the MTA website to see how your fare will change.



Learn more at
mta.info/fares

To learn more, scan the QR code above or [click here](#).

Reminder: In Need of College Application Assistance?

New York is Here to Help!

The college application process can feel overwhelming, but you don't have to do it alone! From financial aid workshops to guidance exploring the full range of higher education opportunities, New York State offers a variety of assistance.

For more information and a full list of upcoming events, [please click here](#).



And that's a wrap on 2025! 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,

Office of Assemblymember Chris Burdick |
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