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### FAST FACTS

There are still about **500,000 lead service lines** in New York State

The cost to replace a single residential lead line is **\$7,500-\$12,000**

It will take an estimated **\$5.5 billion** to remove all lead service lines in the state

### BUDGET UPDATES

It's budget season in Albany, which means we're reviewing the Governor's proposed budget. Read more about what I'm doing to make sure that your voices are heard.

## Demanding Funds for Lead Line Replacement

The research is clear — there is no safe level of lead in drinking water.

At the Joint Legislative Budget Hearing on Health, I repeated my demand for funding for the state's [Lead Service Line Replacement Program](#) (LSLRP).

In Newburgh and Poughkeepsie (which I represent), the work has begun — but there is much more to do. The money must be distributed to municipalities so they can move quickly to remove lead-contaminated drinking water.

The cost decreases dramatically when neighborhoods and large areas can be worked on at once, as opposed to the current piecemeal approach. Larger removal projects could be done with available funding from the Infrastructure Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Environmental Bond Act.

We know the serious health risks of lead exposure, we know what needs to be done. We can't allow another generation of New York's children to be poisoned with lead.

### FAST FACTS

Employers in Orange County pay approximately **\$25 million** for the MTA Mobility Payroll Tax each year

Orange County residents pay **\$8.57 million** annually for the additional mortgage tax to the MTA

**\$1.46 million** in sales tax from Orange County goes to the MTA each year

The county also pays **\$620,000** for station maintenance and operations

\*Numbers from 2024

## Time for Orange County to Stop Funding the MTA

At the Joint Legislative Transportation Budget Hearing, I quizzed the CEO of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) on just how much Orange County contributes to them each year. He didn't have the numbers, but I did – and it's shocking how many millions of dollars are leaving Orange County to fund the MTA, in exchange for very little service for the county.

[»Watch the Budget Hearing video](#)

That's why I'm sponsoring a bill in the Assembly, with James Skoufis in the State Senate, to have Orange County leave the MTA.

## IN OUR DISTRICT

### Opposing the Social Security Office Closing in Poughkeepsie

I was glad to join Rep. Pat Ryan's press conference opposing the closing of the Social Security Office in the City of Poughkeepsie. This is a disservice to New Yorkers, especially after the closure of Social Security offices in Newburgh (which I represent) and Kingston.

It's absurd to think that people in Poughkeepsie will travel an hour away to Middletown for help with their Social Security payments or Medicare. Many do not have transportation. The Social Security Administration could easily find space in the library or other public spaces in Poughkeepsie, but it chose to shut down access instead.

No matter who people voted for president, nobody voted for the dismantling of Social Security and Medicare. Thank you to Congressman Ryan for bringing awareness to this issue.

If you're having trouble getting help with Social Security or Medicare issues, contact my office at **845-562-0888** or **845-763-7011**.



#### BILLS I'M SPONSORING

[A2736](#) - Requires transparency in utility rate increase requests, including from Central Hudson

[A2738](#) - Bans the use of sewage and wastewater pollution in fertilizer

[A5023](#) - Prohibits matching funds for campaign contributions made in cash or cryptocurrency

[A5032](#) - Requires all parts of a gun to be destroyed in gun buyback programs, and forbids the resale of gun parts

#### IN ALBANY

### Making Sure Our Laws Work for You

I'm pleased to share that I am now Chair of the Standing Committee for Oversight, Analysis and Investigation. This Assembly committee analyzes the implementation of laws and investigates whether State agencies are acting in compliance with legislative intent. This is an important watchdog to ensure that laws are being implemented effectively. [Read more about the Committee for Oversight, Analysis and Investigation](#)

My committee assignments allow me to be a more effective representative for my district in Albany. They also determine my focus during Legislative Budget Hearings. I look forward to taking on this new role!

[See all of my Committee Memberships](#)



#### CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITIES

### Longtime Newburgh Volunteer Wins Major AARP Award

I was thrilled to learn that Carole McDermott, whom I nominated for AARP's Andrus Award, was this year's honoree. Carole has served as the Board President for Meals on Wheels of Greater Newburgh since 2010. She's spent decades volunteering with the organization, which delivers 100 meals to Newburgh residents every day. [Read more about the AARP Andrus Award.](#)

At the award ceremony hosted by AARP New York, I said that nominating Carole for this award was probably one of the easiest things I've ever done. She put her banking experience and time to use helping so many people, putting in countless hours at no cost to the organization. It's people like Carole that make places communities.

Thank you to Carole and all the wonderful volunteers at Meals on Wheels of Greater Newburgh for their service to the community.

Learn how you can [become a volunteer for Meals on Wheels of Greater Newburgh](#), or [sign up to receive meals](#).



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