



Assemblymember PATRICIA A. FAHY

109th Assembly District



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Summer 2024

This year's legislative session ended with passing a number of critically important bills that I've introduced, including creating the Albany County Pine Hills Land Authority to repurpose the College of Saint Rose's properties, gun safety, addressing the short-term rental crisis impacting many Upstate communities, and more. While we adjourned without taking significant action on my New York Home Energy Affordable Transition (NY HEAT) Act to ensure our clean energy transition is affordable and reliable for middle-class families, I remain committed to addressing the transcendent threat of our time, climate change, with my legislative colleagues.

Building on our historic wins and investments in the budget this year, the state legislature took strong action on protecting our kids from addictive social media feeds and algorithms, combating gun violence in our communities across New York, requiring polluters to pay for their role in the climate crisis, tracking the short-term rental industry, and making it easier to vote with absentee ballot drop boxes.

I am honored to represent each of you in the New York State Assembly, and I remain committed to ensuring the Capital Region's future is stronger than ever.

Sign up for our weekly email-blasts by visiting: nyassembly.gov/fahy



Apply for TAP for the 2024-2025 Academic Year!

New eligibility for \$125K income or less. Go to this link to apply now: www.tap.hesc.ny.gov/totw/



2024 Legislative Session

This year, we were successful in passing 14 of my bills. Below you will find highlights of a few of these pieces of legislation I sponsored.

Albany County Pine Hills Land Authority (A.10358/S.9569)

- The College of Saint Rose announced its difficult decision last November to close at the end of this academic year, leaving 87 properties, located in the City of Albany and Pine Hills neighborhood, vacant. After months of discussion, to ensure that former Saint Rose properties are eventually repurposed, redeveloped, and obtained at optimal market value, my legislation with Senator Breslin creates a county-level public benefit authority, the ACPHLA, to coordinate this effort.
- Similar to other public redevelopment authorities, the ACPHLA will have the power to plan, develop, acquire, construct, own, and/or operate the College of Saint Rose's former properties. To provide financing to facilitate this, the ACPHLA will be authorized to issue bonds and the power to levy and collect such fees, revenues, or other income as it may deem necessary for the use of any facility, project, or property under its authority.
- The ACPHLA will consist of seven members, all residents of Albany County, with each serving four-year terms. This redevelopment will remain a top priority of mine.

Short-Term Rental Framework (A.4130/S.885)

- Short-term rentals play a growing role in New York's tourism economy, helping homeowners generate extra income and often at times, serving as the sole visitor lodging option in rural areas. The exponential growth of this billion-dollar industry just in New York, however, has exacerbated the housing crisis by reducing housing and rental availability, driving up costs, and displacing long-term residents.



\$5 Million for Upstate Theaters. I was thrilled to secure \$5 million for theaters across Upstate New York and announce this funding at the Palace Theatre in Albany alongside Director Kevin Johnson, and Assemblymembers John McDonald and Angelo Santabarbara, Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan, Troy Mayor Carmella Mantello, and more. Portions of this funding will go to Palace Theatre, Proctor's, and the Troy Savings Bank Music Hall.



\$100,000 for the SEAT Center's Culinary Lab: I was proud to secure \$100,000 for the SEAT Center's new Culinary Lab in downtown Albany, alongside Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan, and SEAT Center Director Jennifer Lawrence, which puts students on a direct path to a career in the culinary arts and restaurant industries. Many of these students end up working at Hattie's and other acclaimed restaurants in downtown Albany and our area.

Continued on next page

2024 Legislative Session (continued)

- My STR bill will allow municipalities across the state to address these challenges by providing full transparency of local housing landscapes and delivering tens of millions of dollars in new revenue to support local communities.
- The bill would require property owners to register their short-term rentals with the NYS Department of State every two years. Based on that information, the department would send monthly reports to municipalities with details on the number of rentals in their community, their locations, and occupancy nights. This legislation levels the playing field for hotels and motels by collecting sales and occupancy tax on short-term rentals, addressing an estimated \$550 million in lost local revenue over the past five years.



Short-Term Rental Press Conference: I joined Senator Michelle Hinchey, Senate sponsor of our short-term rental legislation, to urge we pass this legislation before the end of session. It successfully passed both houses and now awaits the Governor's signature to help track and reign in what is a more than \$1 billion industry in New York State outside of NYC alone.

Tightening Up the Nation's First Gun Industry Liability Law (A.7555/S.7392)

- I sponsored landmark legislation creating the nation's first gun industry liability law in New York State in 2021, which holds the gun industry liable for reckless or negligent conduct that supplies the flow of illegal firearms into our communities, often along the 'Iron Pipeline'.
- This new legislation makes technical changes to ensure that the Attorney General's office can continue effective implementation of the law enacted in 2021.



The proposed plan for the \$1.7 billion Wadsworth Public Health Labs project proposes a fence and/or wall around the entirety of the 27-acre property. While security is vital, we must ensure that we're not further disconnecting another portion of the Harriman Campus from the City of Albany. Above is an aerial view of the current Harriman State Office Campus.

Expanding Experiential Learning and Internship Opportunities for Students (A.8346/S.7808)

- Internships and experiential learning help improve a student's prospect of landing a job opportunity post-graduation and retains more students in New York State, with 7 out of 10 students who complete an internship receiving an offer post-graduation. As Chair of the Higher Ed. Committee, legislation is essential to growing our workforce here at home in NYS!
- This legislation will improve access to those opportunities by directing SUNY and CUNY to develop a plan to require completing these opportunities for students prior to graduation.

The **988 LIFELINE** provides 24/7, FREE and confidential support for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones, and best practices for professionals in the U.S. For more information, go to <https://988lifeline.org/>



Requiring EV-Ready Infrastructure in New Construction (A.3780/S.1736)

- I proudly sponsored a bill that requires EV-ready parking spaces as part of new construction in commercial and residential construction where there is off-street parking.
- As New York seeks to incentivize more personal electric vehicle ownership, it's imperative we have the infrastructure in place to meet present and future demand as more and more of these vehicles hit the road. Including this infrastructure in brand new construction — residential and commercial — helps ensure this becomes the industry norm.
- Passing this legislation ensures we're serious about providing New Yorkers with the charging infrastructure necessary to usher in our electric future.

Empire State Trail Detours and Disruptions (A.8274/S.7807)

- Last year, portions of the Empire State Trail, including pedestrian and bike access on the Dunn Memorial Bridge, were closed without notice. This legislation ensures that moving forward, detours will be posted well in advance to minimize disruptions to daily commute schedules and visitors alike.
- More than 8 million users travel the Empire State Trail every year, and the trail generates more than \$274 million in economic activity. Signed detours will help ensure reliability and ensure we continue to maximize its impact.
- As New York's adventure and outdoor tourism sector grows, it is important that we're ready to meet the demand and influx of visitors over the coming years.

CHECK OUT THE EMPIRE STATE TRAIL!

For more information go here: <https://empiretrail.ny.gov/>

CHECK OUT THE ALBANY COUNTY RAIL TRAIL TOO!

For more information click here: <https://www.albanycounty.com/departments/recreation/albany-county-helderberg-hudson-rail-trail>

Establishing Liability for Bulk Storage of Crude Oil (A.9213/S.8703)

- Legislation I sponsored with Senator Michelle Hinchey mandates liability coverage for operators in the case of a catastrophic disaster when bulk storing crude oil. This is vital for Albany, which sees a large number of rail cars that carry crude oil pass through our area as a major transportation and rail hub.
- This adds a strong layer of protection and accountability for not just Albany, but communities across New York State, as these types of disasters continue amidst longer and longer freight distances.



Tuition Assistance Program Press Conference at SCCC: I joined students and administrators to urge families and students to take advantage of the new, expanded TAP eligibility guidelines that include families making \$125,000/year or less. This fight resulted in the largest expansion TAP has seen in 25 years.

2024 Legislative Session (continued)

Albany Nano Complex Land-Lease (A.10456/S.9738)

- This legislation authorizes a land-lease to strengthen Albany's NanoTech Complex, which has helped to establish the Capital Region and Upstate New York as the national epicenter of the semiconductor engineering and nanotechnology industries.
- This is not insignificant and will allow us to continue to position ourselves as best as possible to receive future federal and state grants, while leveraging all-important private capital and investment to support the exponential growth that's occurred over the last decade.



The Environmental Protection Agency is seeking public comment on the Hudson River Cleanup. Ask the EPA to declare a "not protective determination" in your public comment here, due Oct. 8th: www.bit.ly/109hudsonriver



ICYMI: In May, the NYS Department of Transportation released concept designs for the future of I-787 as part of our Reimagining 787 study. Open houses will be held in the future, but you can review these and comment on these concepts, which will be included in the final proposal, here: <https://webapps.dot.ny.gov/reimagining-i-787>

Notable Wins and Other Victories

The state legislature also took strong action on keeping our kids safe online when using social media, combating the gun violence epidemic, and continuing to make it easier to vote in New York. Here are a few highlights:

SAFE Kids Act (A.8148/S.7694)

- Addictive feeds have had an increasingly devastating effect on children and teenagers since their adoption, causing young users to spend more time on social media which has been tied to significantly higher rates of youth depression, anxiety, suicidal ideation, and self-harm. Children are particularly susceptible to addictive feeds, which provide a non-stop drip of dopamine with each new piece of media, as they are less capable of exercising the impulse control necessary to mitigate these negative effects, which can stunt development and cause long-term harm.
- This bill, sponsored by Assemblymember Rozic, therefore, prohibits social media companies from providing children under 18 with addictive feeds by reasonably determining their age, absent parental consent.

Climate Change Superfund Act (A.3351/S.2129)

- This legislation, sponsored by Assemblymember Dinowitz, requires large corporations that have contributed significantly to the buildup

of climate-warming greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere to bear a share of the costs of needed infrastructure investments to adapt to climate change.

- As major corporations and companies continue to exacerbate the climate crisis, New York's communities are paying for it in the form of extreme weather events causing damage to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars over the last few years alone.
- Continuing to combat climate change and meet New York's ambitious climate mandates under the CLCPA must continue to be one of our priorities moving forward.



Kicking off Social Media Roundtable Tour: I joined Governor Kathy Hochul, NYSUT President Melinda Pearson, Assemblymember John McDonald, Mayor Kathy Sheehan, and administrators at Guilderland Central Schools to kick off the social media in school roundtable tour, which will gather the input of students, teachers, and parents to address the use of social media in our classrooms.



Please reach out to our office using the contact information on the back if you would like us to host mobile office hours at your organization's location. We can help with EZ-Pass, SNAP/EBT, unclaimed funds, DMV inquiries, unemployment, etc.!

Looking Forward To The Future

Pushing the New York Home Energy Affordable Transition (HEAT) Act (A.4592 Fahy/S.2016 Krueger)

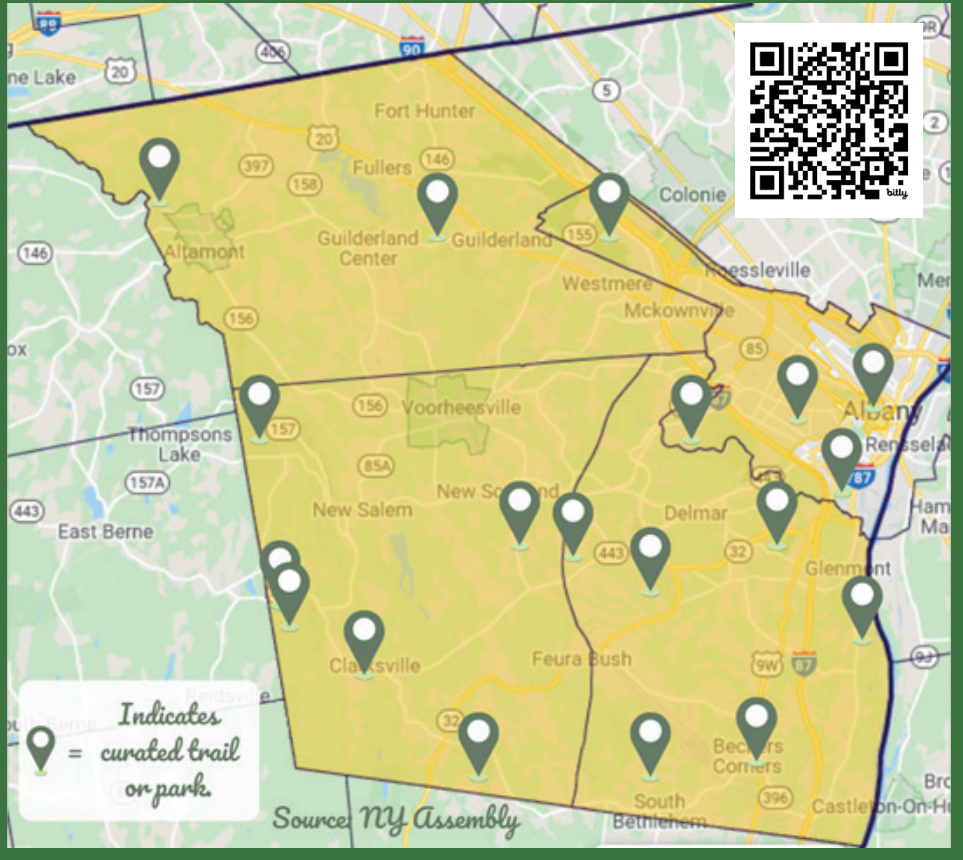
- For the first time in recent memory, our state's fiscal plan did not boldly address the transcendent threat of our time; climate change. In a year (2023) defined as the hottest on record ever, New Yorkers experienced deadly blizzards, smoke-filled skies, and increasingly extreme, climate-driven weather events as their energy costs continue to rise. Excluding my Home Energy Affordable Transition (HEAT) Act, which centralizes affordability and the end of long-term fossil fuel infrastructure expansion in a planned and reliable transition, means that New Yorkers will continue to subsidize the costly buildout of gas infrastructure across the state amidst a climate crisis.



Albany's newest historical marker, located at 247 Second Street in the West Hill Neighborhood, commemorates the home of Arabella Chapman — who in 1873, became the first black student to cross the segregation line in the City of Albany. She was the only student of color at the then Albany Free Academy (Albany High School) for the 1873-74 school year, and was the first person of color to graduate in the Albany Public School system's history. To mark the 150th anniversary of her graduation, we celebrated the unveiling of this marker with the Historic Albany Foundation.

Take Advantage of the 109th District's Trails!

Get outside on the 109th District's trails this year! Choose any of the trails marked below to get outside and make the most of the warm weather while it lasts. For a full list of trails in the 109th District, please visit: bit.ly/109trails



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| ALBANY COUNTY RAIL TRAIL | LAWSONS LAKE COUNTY PARK |
| ANY CITY OF ALBANY PARK | SWIFT WETLAND PRESERVE |
| JOHN BOYD THACHER STATE PARK | PHILLIPIN KILL PRESERVE |
| NORMANSKILL PRESERVE | SCHIFENDECKER FARM PRESERVE |
| ALBANY PINE BUSH PRESERVE | TAWANSENTHA PARK |
| FIVE RIVERS ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER | BOZEN KILL PRESERVE |
| VAN DYKE PRESERVE | BENNETT HILL PRESERVE |
| HOLLYHOCK HOLLOW SANCTUARY | KELEHER PRESERVE |
| MOH-HE-CON-NUCK NATURE PRESERVE | HANNACROIX RAVINE PRESERVE |

NOMINATE A BUSINESS FOR THE NYS HISTORIC BUSINESS PRESERVATION REGISTRY!



- Business has operated in the state for 50 or more years with no break in operations exceeding two years. Can have had multiple locations.
- Business is committed to maintaining the physical features and traditions that define such business, including – but not limited to – craft, culinary, or art forms.
- Business shall demonstrate a contribution to the municipality's history and/or identity.
- Business must be located in the 109th District (City of Albany, Town of Guilderland, or Town of New Scotland).
- Submit your nominations to us at fahyp@nyassembly.gov.



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Assemblymember
Patricia A. FAHY
Summer 2024

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The deadline to register to vote in this year's election is **October 26th**.

You can do so here:
<https://www.ny.gov/services/register-vote>

