



Dear Neighbors,

This week, Speaker Carl Heastie announced the calendar for the 2022 Legislative Session. [Mark your calendars!](#) The first day of the new session is Wednesday, January 5, 2022. [Bookmark this page](#) for links to the live feed where you can watch committee meetings and session proceedings. We're all looking forward to returning to Albany to continue to fight for legislation that supports our communities as we rebuild and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and face the threats of the Climate Crisis in our region.



Let's Stay Safe as We Head into the Holiday Season!

As we head into the holiday season, it is critical that we continue to work together to protect our community from COVID-19. We know what to do: get vaccinated, get a booster shot if you are fully vaccinated, wear your mask, social distance, and please stay home if you are feeling sick.

- [Tips for Staying Safe During the Holidays from the Tompkins County Health Department](#)

Winter Covid Action Plan from President Biden

This week, President Biden announced new actions to combat COVID-19 as we head into the winter months and as we monitor the emergence of a new variant, Omicron. Here are some of the highlights of his plan.

- Boosters for all adults
- Vaccinations to protect children and keep our schools open
- Free at-home testing for Americans
- Stronger public health protocols for safe international travel
- Protections in workplaces to keep our economy open

We'll keep you posted as these programs roll out. [Click here for more details.](#)

New Laws

A7088 Signed into Law!

This week, Governor Hochul signed my bill, [A7088](#), an act authorizing the Town of Danby in Tompkins County to provide that real property which has been acquired for the purpose of the preservation of an open space or open area may be partially exempt from local real property taxation, provided that the owner or owners of such real property enter into a conservation easement agreement with the municipality.



Signed into Law!

Act to Amend the Real Property Tax Law Assembly Bill A7088 (Kelles)

Authorizes the Town of Danby to adopt a local law to provide real property whose interests or rights have been acquired for the purpose of preservation of an open space or an open area may be partially exempt from local real property taxation.



ANNA
KELLES

Assemblymember for the 125th



Community Resources

Low Income Household Water Assistance Program

Do you need help paying for overdue water and wastewater bills? The [Low Income Household Water Assistance Program \(LIHWAP\)](#) can help.

LIHWAP is a drinking water and wastewater emergency assistance program funded through new federal resources. Benefits are based on the amount of unpaid water and wastewater bills owed by applicants. This assistance is targeted at low income households and income guidelines will mirror that of the [Home Energy Assistance Program \(HEAP\)](#).

LIHWAP benefits are based on the actual amount of drinking water and/or wastewater arrears, up to a maximum of \$2,500 per drinking water or wastewater provider, or \$5,000 if drinking water and wastewater services are combined, per household. Benefits are paid directly to the household's drinking water and/or wastewater vendor(s).

To learn more about this program and determine if you are eligible, [click here](#).

Around the District

Bell Station Land Deal Finalized

I am thrilled to [share the news](#) that the Finger Lakes Land Trust and NYSEG have finalized the Bell Station land deal to preserve the Bell Station property in Lansing as a protected state forestland. A huge thanks to all of you who wrote letters and made phone calls to make sure this very special property was preserved.

This large tract of pristine shoreline and forestlands serve a critically important role in preserving the health and integrity of Cayuga Lake. Preserving the forestlands will not only protect the lake from land erosion runoff and negative impacts of shoreline septic systems but will preserve the land for tourism and ecological education.



This evening is the sixth night of Hanukkah, a night connected with the balance and the beauty of the physical world. I want to pass along blessings for the season and deep appreciation for the Earth as our temple. Chag Urim Sameach, everyone.

In good health,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anna R. Kelles".

Anna Kelles, Ph.D.

Assemblymember, 125th A.D.

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