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DEAR *Neighbors:*



A Common-Sense Voice for Western New York

“It is a privilege to represent you in Albany, and I am committed to being a voice for Western New York in this chaotic political environment. I want to keep you informed on the issues that matter most to our community. As we all know, the New York State budget overspends and underdelivered and it comes up short when addressing the needs of everyday New York families. New Yorkers need more steady hands and common-sense leadership focused on results and good government.

We deserve better, and THAT’S WHY I am working every day to make it easier for families to afford groceries, energy, and child care.”



2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

THE STATE BUDGET: FISCALLY IRRESPONSIBLE

If higher state spending directly resulted in increased affordability and improved quality of life, New York would rank among the most affordable and livable states in the nation. However, according to data from the U.S. Census Bureau, New York has experienced a consistent population decline in recent years, with many residents relocating to other states.¹

The 2025–26 New York State Enacted Budget totals approximately \$254 billion, making it the largest budget in state history.² At that level of spending, New Yorkers rightly expect solutions to pressing challenges—including the affordability crisis, child care shortages, energy concerns, housing instability, and the growing strain of migrant services. Yet many working families continue to face financial hardship.³

In Western New York and across the state, energy reliability and affordability are key concerns. The state's aggressive push toward full electrification and the phased reduction of fossil fuel sources, without adequate infrastructure to support the transition, has raised alarms among industry experts and grid operators.⁴ If not carefully managed, this transition could increase costs for ratepayers, affect business operations, and challenge grid reliability.

Addressing these issues doesn't require radical change, it requires smart investments and regulatory reform. Expanding the state's energy portfolio to include a balanced mix of renewable and traditional sources can protect ratepayers from market volatility. Reducing housing construction barriers and streamlining permitting processes can boost supply and affordability.⁵ Supporting diverse child care options can help meet the needs of working families.⁶ And ensuring that law enforcement agencies have the tools and support they need can enhance public safety across our communities.⁷

1 https://www.ft.com/content/6c490381-d2f0-4691-a65f-219fab2a2202?utm_source=chatgpt.com

2 <https://publications.budget.ny.gov/pubs/archive/fy25/en/index.html>

3 <https://www.timesunion.com/opinion/article/housing-vouchers-give-children-stability-need-20250953.php>

4 https://www.timesunion.com/capitol/article/ny-s-power-grid-operator-warns-declining-20357270.php?utm_source=chatgpt.com

5 <https://www.ncsl.org/human-services/increasing-the-housing-supply-by-reducing-costs-and-barriers?>

6 <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=612262488301769>

7 <https://www.timesunion.com/opinion/article/commentary-state-troopers-overworked-burned-20219702.php>



BACK TO BASICS

While I continue to push for these important issues in Albany, my top priority will always be the people of Western New York. I'm focused on the basics: safe communities, strong schools, lower costs, and support for the people who serve us every day. The needs of our district come first, and I'll keep working to bring the attention and resources our communities deserve. That's my job, and I'm committed to doing it every day.

2025-26 New York State Enacted Budget

- ✗ Voted NO on a \$254 Billion Budget - The budget has increased over \$100 billion in the last 10 years and has accumulated \$64 billion in outstanding State debt.
- ✗ Opposed a \$10 million legal defense slush fund for elected officials in New York State who have obtained private counsel in defense of a federal crime. A.3000-D
- ✗ Voted against a housing access Voucher Program (HAVP) regardless of immigration status. A.3006-C
- ✗ Voted against a \$1 billion Sustainable Future Program that will further burden ratepayers with questionable green energy initiatives. A.3004-C
- ✗ Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS): only added \$50 million more than last year, which is not nearly enough to safely maintain our roads. A.3004-D

Assemblyman Bologna's Proposals

- ✓ **Infant Safety Tax Relief Act:** Would provide a sales tax exemption for items necessary for the care and safety of infants and small children, like car seats, cribs, and baby monitors, helping families save on essential purchases. **A.7023**
- ✓ **Child Tax Credit Expansion:** Would increase the Empire State Child Tax Credit from 20% to 45% of the federal credit, putting more money back in the pockets of working parents to help with rising costs. **A.2492**
- ✓ **Ratepayer Transparency Act:** If passed, this requires the state to provide clear cost estimates for policies that ban natural gas and mandate full electrification, so you can see exactly how much these mandates will add to your utility bill. **A.6152A**
- ✓ **First Responder Tax Credit:** Provide an income tax credit of up to \$2,500 to volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance corps members, recognizing their service and helping them cover out-of-pocket costs. **A.1064**
- ✓ **Public Safety & Border Cooperation Act:** This proposal repeals the "Green Light Law" and restores coordination between federal, state, and local law enforcement when it comes to immigration enforcement—because public safety should always come first. **A.1528**

A NEWSLETTER UPDATE



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LEARN MORE INSIDE!

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