



Assemblyman

Steve Otis



91st Assembly District

Larchmont - Mamaroneck - New Rochelle - Port Chester - Rye Brook and Rye



May 11, 2022

Dear Friends,

Last week I participated in a number of events to decry the Supreme Court decision draft that would overturn Roe v. Wade. While the final decision has not been released, the arguments and assumptions presented in the draft are shocking and represent a radical return to a time when the rights of women, personal autonomy and individual privacy were not accorded the protection in law that the vast majority of Americans view as rights today.

In the 1965 Supreme Court 7-2 decision in *Griswold v. Connecticut*, the Supreme Court recognized the right to privacy in overturning a state law forbidding the use of contraceptives. Justice William O. Douglas's majority opinion traced the right to privacy through a number of the federal constitution's Bill of Rights. The court said, "Would we allow the police to search the sacred precincts of marital bedrooms for telltale signs of the use of contraceptives? The very idea is repulsive to the notions of privacy surrounding the marriage relationship. We deal with a right of privacy older than the Bill of Rights -- older than our political parties, older than our school system."

I share this passage because it highlights the radical assumptions of the draft opinion printed last week. Across the country a number of states are not only taking actions to criminalize healthcare decisions that should be the province of a woman and her physician; some states now see the Supreme Court as giving those states authority to outlaw contraception. All rights of privacy are now at risk.

At our best, the history of this country has been to expand the rights of the individual as we gain a better understanding of what we can do better. We should reject a vision that seeks to take rights away. The decision by a woman to terminate a pregnancy is the most private and personal of decisions. The right to privacy and personal autonomy for healthcare decisions should be vested in the individual. Privacy rights, the right to marry, voting rights, laws that protect us from discrimination and other protections we depend upon are now at risk as never before.

I believe that the majority of people in this country will not stand for our rights to be taken away, for our rights to be at the whim of each state legislature. Certainly, we will protect our values in New York. We passed our own Reproductive Health Act in 2019.

As a nation we believe that certain rights flow from the individual and are deserving of national protection. I remain committed to these beliefs and will do all I can to protect our freedoms.

Sincerely,



This newsletter includes:

- My statement on Supreme Court decision draft
- Living Shorelines Forum
- Coastal Resiliency Network meeting - May 12
- 2022 CFA Announced and links
- Arts Funding Announced
- Hearing on Electric Buildings - May 12
- Info on Heat Pumps
- Sharing Shelf & CRC

- Blood donation info

Forum on Living Shorelines at the Jay Heritage Center



Last Thursday Sen. Shelley Mayer and I hosted a forum on 'Living Shorelines' to discuss coastal resiliency challenges and projects. Experts discussed the importance of maintaining and converting concrete seawalls to living shorelines and presented local examples and opportunities to stabilize shorelines, reduce erosion, and provide valuable habitat that enhances coastal resilience.

Coastal Resiliency Network for Westchester and Long Island

Zoom meeting Thursday, May 12th from 1:00 PM - 2:15 PM.

To receive log-in information, please e-mail NYSACC at president@nysacc.org

The New York State Association of Conservation Commissions (NYSACC) has organized a series of meetings to discuss upcoming grant opportunities related to coastal resiliency and the Long Island Sound region. I have been a member of the Board of Directors of NYSACC for over 30 years and am hopeful that a focus on resiliency projects will provide coastal communities with information on funding and the types of projects that will help protect coastal areas from sea level rise and related storm damage.

The coastal resiliency network Zoom will feature speakers from FEMA, the New York Department of State, and the Long Island Sound Study who will discuss Federal and New York State grant opportunities. This will be an excellent session for local officials, environmental, planning, sustainability and conservation committee members and environmental groups. The

The speakers are:

- **Gary Monitz** who has been working as a Community Planner with FEMA Region 2 since 2016, where he is responsible for reviewing hazard mitigation plans for federal compliance and serving as regional lead for the Cooperating Technical Partners (CTP) grant program.
- **Barbara Kendall** is a Coastal Resources Specialist 3 with the NYS Department of State, Office of Planning, Development and Community Infrastructure. At DOS Barbara works with New York State communities on Local Waterfront Revitalization Programs (LWRPs), plans, and implementation projects, She also oversees the analysis, evaluation and processing of work performed by technical staff, coordinates efforts between State and local agencies, and develops and maintains guidelines and other criteria for preparing informational and educational materials.
- **Nancy Seligson** is New York Co-Chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee of the Long Island Sound Study, which is part of the National Estuary Program. She is the immediate past Supervisor of the Town of Mamaroneck and Co-Chair of Sustainable Westchester, a County-wide nonprofit organization.



2022 NYS Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) Announced

Now in its 12th round of funding, the CFA process was developed in 2010 to replace multiple applications from different agency grant programs into a common application process covering most state agency grants programs into a single application format. This centralized program serves as a single-entry point for most state grants funding, ensuring that applicants no longer need to navigate multiple

agencies and sources without any mechanism for coordination.

Round 12 includes core capital grant and tax-credit funding to be combined with a wide range of programs from 10 state agencies that will provide funding for prospective projects. In addition, \$150 million in grant funds from Empire State Development (ESD) will be available to projects on a continuous basis, in order to be responsive to the immediate needs of the communities.

Information and application guidance is available online on the Mid-Hudson Regional Economic Development Council (REDC) website at <https://regionalcouncils.ny.gov/mid-hudson>.

[CFA Resources](#)

[Regional Council Guidebook](#)

[CFA Application Manual](#)

Please do not hesitate to contact my office if we can be of assistance at 914-939-7028



Historic \$140 M in Arts and Culture Grant Funding Announced

Funding Marks Second Year of Record Funding to Support the Recovery of the Arts

\$90 Million in Grant Opportunities Now Open, \$50 Million in Capital Funding Opportunity to Open in September 2022

Governor Hochul has announced that record grant funding is now available through the New York State Council on the Arts. The agency's first five grant opportunities of Fiscal Year 2023 are now open for artists and arts and culture organizations across New York. The 2023 State Budget appropriation includes \$50 million in recovery funds and \$50 million in capital projects support, in addition to the agency's base grant-making budget of \$40 million.

The following NYSCA FY 2023 Grant Opportunities are now open:

- Support for Organizations: Provides flexible general operating and programming funding for non-profit organizations. This funding can also reach fiscally sponsored unincorporated organizations across the state.
- Support for Artists: Funds creative commissions to individual artists across the state. Applicants must apply through a fiscal sponsor. NYSCA embraces the rich diversity of artistry across New York, and applicants from all artistic practices and disciplines are encouraged to apply.
- Support for Special Opportunities: Supports opportunities that make space, time, and learning more accessible for artists and their creative endeavors. The opportunities span creative performance residencies, subsidized rehearsal spaces for all performing art forms, and folk arts apprenticeships.
- Regrowth and Capacity Enhancement: Provides organizations with flexible funds to redevelop their ability to serve their audiences with consideration to the impacts of COVID-19. Funds may support a wide breadth of needs, such as: provide payment to artists; support for staffing, support programmatic costs; advance audience development and assist with necessary health and safety expenses.
- Support for Partnerships: Supports regrant and partner organizations across all 62 counties while identifying new opportunities to ensure the greater reach of NYSCA funding and greater access for new applicants. Partnerships cover a range of services.

Additionally, NYSCA will support \$50 million in Capital Projects Grants as part of its FY 2023 opportunities. This investment marks the largest single year commitment of capital funding for the arts in NYSCA's history. Guidelines and the application portal for NYSCA's Capital grants will be available this fall.

Currently, NYSCA supports 1,525 organizations through over 3,300 grants spanning all 10 regions of New York. FY 2023 opportunity guidelines and the NYSCA Application Manual are now available on the [NYSCA Website](#).

Notice of Public Hearing: All Electric Buildings Act

The Assembly Committee on Energy, Committee Governmental Operations and the Committee on Environmental Conservation will host a hearings to examine the feasibility and timing of requiring new construction to be all- electric.

Thursday

May 12, 2022

10 a.m.

Web Link: <https://www.nyassembly.gov/av/live/>

More information can be found on the hearing notice available [HERE](#)



Get Heat Pump Ready

May 12, 2022 • 7:00 pm

Join Sustainable Westchester for a webinar, Thursday, May 12th at 7:00pm to learn about transitioning your home to more efficient electric systems and get the ten cost-effective steps for switching to renewables.

Register for the webinar at SustainableWestchester.org/Webinar or call (914) 242-4725 ext. 122.

By working with Sustainable Westchester, you'll get guidance from a free community resource who knows the home energy upgrade process. They can help you decide if it's time to replace your existing equipment, determine if a convenient heat pump is a good fit for your home, connect you with Installer Partner Contractor and review programs, rebates and incentives.

To learn more about heat pumps, available state programs and contractors visit [NYSERDA](#)



Teen Boutique hosted by the CRC and the Sharing Shelf

The CRC and the Sharing Shelf are co-hosting a teen boutique to help local teen girls aged 12-21 to find graduation/prom dresses and wardrobe items for the summer. Volunteers from both the CRC and the Sharing Shelf are participating, but they are looking for a few more people to help. The details are:

- June 11, 9AM-1PM
- Larchmont Hunger Task Force site, 955 Mamaroneck Ave
- Female volunteers only, adults and not teens
- If interested, contact Silvia Falcon at sfalcon@crcny.org



NY Blood Center has declared a blood emergency. Our region's blood supply is dangerously low in large part due to the Covid pandemic. If you are able to donate, you may make an appointment [here](#).

