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91st Assembly District

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

February 3, 2023

Dear Friends,

The new year brings the continued steady flow of issues and meetings that closed out 2022. Governor Hochul was sworn in on January 1st along with Lt. Governor Delgado, State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli and Attorney General Tish James. The Governor has now presented the Annual Address to the Legislature and released her [2023-24 state budget proposal](#). Our work on that budget process is now in full throttle with important public outreach, our legislative counter-proposals, and upcoming budget negotiations before us. This newsletter provides a few ways in which you can share your views on the budget.

Also included are updates on personal privacy, education and infrastructure issues that I am working on as Chair of the Assembly Science and Technology Committee, a member of the Education Committee and as an advocate on issues affecting Westchester.

The issues on which I will play a leadership role in 2023 include Digital Inclusion and Equity programs, water infrastructure, climate change, cyber-security, EMS reform, data and personal privacy and promoting better deployment of AED

equipment in youth sports.

Below you will find information on our February 10th Westchester Assembly Delegation State Budget Forum.

I look forward to another year of activity and collaboration with school districts, local governments, not-for-profits and small businesses and as usual, I always welcome your ideas for legislation and concerns about issues.

I hope you find news on these issues of interest. Please contact me on any issue that I can be of assistance. My District Office number is 914-939-7028.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steve".

Science and Technology Committee Hosts Expert Roundtable on Health Data Privacy



In December I co-hosted an important roundtable of the Assembly Committees of Science and Technology and Consumer Protection for a discussion with experts on the issues of personal health data privacy issues following the Supreme Court decision overturning Roe v. Wade. Even before the Supreme Court's decision, prosecutors in some states were using identifiable information to invade the personal privacy of women to trace their health care behavior.

Not all health care data is protected. Online search, browsing, purchase and app-based information can often be accessed by governmental entities or private individuals in ways that violate personal property. We heard from experts within New York and from Washington DC regarding the scope of the problem and what legislative actions states can take to better protect your health care privacy. These issues are not limited to reproductive health but also can include privacy related to health care information, generally, for men or women.

Assembly Education Hearing on Student Learning Loss



I recently participated in a State Assembly Education Committee hearing on the issues of learning loss. After multiple years of disrupted learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic, school districts are facing new challenges in educating students, now that they have returned to in-person learning. The purpose of this hearing was to examine student learning loss and the challenges school districts are facing in educating their students. Testimony was presented by representatives from the State Ed department, NYC leaders, teacher unions, superintendents and school administrators. We will continue to work with school districts, educators, parents and students on this issue.

Westchester Assembly Delegation State Budget Forum

This week Governor Hochul released her budget proposal for the 2023-24 fiscal year. With the start of the official budget process, we begin public and legislative review of the budget, hearings, public comments and negotiations between the

governor and both houses of the legislature.

In addition to the Joint Senate Assembly Budget Hearings held in Albany, the Westchester Assembly Delegation holds an annual Budget Forum for Westchester organizations, groups, businesses and residents to share comments that will help guide our work in the budget process. Each year I help organize this meeting because it is an important way for us to hear and incorporate Westchester specific concerns in our work. You can also share your concerns by writing directly to me, other members of the delegation, and our Senate colleagues.

Below please find information on this year's budget forum to be held by Zoom on February 10th. You can also access information regarding the Governor's budget proposal through the state budget website [HERE](#).

2023-2024 State Budget Forum

Virtual budget forum for local organizations, elected officials, residents, and communities of Westchester County to share their views on the Governor's proposed Executive Budget for SFY 2023-2024

Friday, February 10, 2023

10:30 AM – 2:30 PM

Via Zoom

[Register Here](#)

NY State Assembly Westchester Delegation

J. Gary Pretlow, Chair, District 89; Amy Paulin, District 88; Nader Sayegh, District 90; Steve Otis, District 91; Mary Jane Shimsky, District 92; Chris Burdick, District 93; Matt Slater, District 94; Dana Levenberg, District 95

Testimony welcome at our annual budget forum:

- Please [register](#) in advance to receive a time slot. Zoom link to be sent the day prior to the forum.
- Please submit written testimony to Lisa Urban at urbanl@nyassembly.gov by **5:00 pm Wednesday, February 8, 2023**.
- Oral testimony limited to 3 minutes.
- If you cannot testify on February 10th written testimony is welcome.
- Event will be live streamed on Facebook [here](#).

The Westchester Delegation will accommodate as many participants as possible. Any questions please call Assemblyman Otis's office at 914-939-7028.

State Budget Forum with Non-Profit Westchester



Non-Profit Westchester hosted its annual State Budget Forum with members of the Assembly and Senate Westchester delegation. My colleagues and I continue to push for increased funding to address the needs of Westchester residents including affordable housing and homelessness, domestic violence, state contracting for social service organizations, food insecurity, immigration policy and more.

Thruway Authority Completion of New U-Turn on I-95 at Mamaroneck/New Rochelle border that Will Reduce Travel Time for First Responders

For the last few years, I have worked closely with State Senator Shelley Mayer, Mamaroneck Town Supervisor Jaine Elkind-Eney, the chiefs of the Town of Mamaroneck Fire Department and the NYS Thruway Authority to relocate a

turn-around on I-95 used by the TMFD and other first responders to reach emergencies on I-95.

The project was completed in December and will provide a safer way for first responders to reach the scene of an accident and to do so in a timelier fashion. This needed project was made possible through the strong advocacy of Supervisor Eney, the fire chiefs and Thruway Authority Executive Director Matt Driscoll, who worked closely with Senator Mayer and me to get this done. For more detail see the Thruway Authority's announcement [HERE](#).

