



Dear Friends,

Since the start of the 2025 Legislative Session in January, I have strived to keep you informed of my efforts in Albany on behalf of both the 93rd Assembly District and New York State as a whole. I'm pleased to report that this was a productive, though compressed, legislative session. Below you'll find my post-session wrap.

With session over, I am happy to be back in the district full-time, although it has been incredibly busy with meetings and events.

The first major post-session event was our 2025 Women of Distinction Ceremony on June 23rd. It was an honor and privilege to recognize [37 extraordinary women](#) from across the district for their contributions to nonprofits, businesses, education, the public sector, healthcare, and so much more. So many of them are unsung, selflessly serving without looking for plaudits or praise. **This is truly my favorite event of the year.**



My thanks to New Castle Town Supervisor Vicky Tipp for hosting us at the Chappaqua Performing Arts Center, and to special guest speakers County Legislator Nancy Barr and Executive Director of the Westchester Youth Alliance (and 2023 Woman of Distinction) Nisa Geller. **If you missed the ceremony but would still like to watch it, [please click here](#).**

Last Thursday, **I joined County Legislator Erika Pierce and Mount Kisco Mayor J.**

Michael Cindrich at a Coffee & Conversation at the Mount Kisco Public Library. A full house of residents (as well as attendees from Bedford) discussed a range of issues, including the proposed Con Edison rate increases, issues with NYSEG, local and state response to federal ICE actions, and traffic and pedestrian safety.

My thanks to Legislator Pierce for taking the lead on organizing the evening.



End-of-Session Wrap-Up

As I mentioned above, this was a successful session, albeit compressed. Even with additional days added to the end of the session calendar, time felt particularly scarce. Prolonged negotiations over the 2026 fiscal year budget pushed its adoption from late March into early May. This reduced our remaining legislative session from eleven weeks to just six.

As was the case last year, **some of the most impactful legislation was enacted as part of the state budget**, which I detailed in my [post-budget recap newsletter](#). These include:

- Changes to the pretrial discovery law to reduce dismissals over minor, non-prejudicial errors
- Expanded judicial discretion for the involuntary hospitalization of mentally ill defendants who pose a danger to themselves or others
- Establishing the crime of wearing a facemask to conceal identity while committing a crime

- A “bell-to-bell” ban on cell phones in schools

Post-Budget Legislative Highlights

Below are highlights of post-budget legislation that passed both the Assembly and Senate, and which are now awaiting action by the Governor.

Medical Aid in Dying ([A136/S138](#)) This bill provides a terminally ill, mentally competent adult with 6 months or less to live, the right to request medication from their physician for medical aid in dying. The bill requires an oral request and a witnessed written request for the medication, with at least two physicians determining the patient’s capacity to make an informed decision. I have co-sponsored this bill since I first came into the Assembly and am very pleased that it passed this session.

Elimination of the 100’ Rule for Providing Gas Service Connections ([A8888/S8417](#))

Under existing law, the “100-foot rule” requires a utility company to pay the cost of the first 100 feet of pipes necessary to connect a new customer to the gas system. The gas utility is then permitted to recover those costs from its ratepayers who, as a result, are subsidizing the gas installation. **This bill preserves the ability of property owners without gas service to obtain the service, but eliminates the 100-foot rule**, thereby requiring the gas service applicant to bear the installation cost. I cosponsored this bill to end a subsidy for the fossil fuel industry, and one that unfairly burdens other ratepayers with the cost.

Correctional System Reforms ([A8871/S8415](#)) In the wake of the death of Robert Brooks, which is being actively investigated and prosecuted as a murder, it is essential that the state address the culture of violence and lack of accountability for in-custody deaths in the correctional facilities operated by NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS), as well as local correctional facilities. **As a first step, the Legislature adopted an omnibus bill to provide greater safety, transparency, and accountability**, including timely disclosure to the Attorney General of video footage related to the death of incarcerated individuals; standards regarding the camera coverage of incarcerated individuals and detainees, and access to such camera recordings; notice requirements of the death of an incarcerated individual occurring in DOCCS’ custody; a required comprehensive study on deaths in correctional facilities; autopsy accountability; and investigation authority of the independent Correctional Association of New York.

Safety Standards for Artificial Intelligence (AI) ([A6453B/S6953B](#)) Nearly all of us use AI, some without being aware of it, others as a tool to harvest information. On a larger scale, AI is employed to accelerate medical research and dramatically improve manufacturing, just to cite a few benefits.

We also know that AI can be weaponized. Given the inaction on the part of the federal

government to address these significant risks, the legislature adopted the Responsible Artificial Intelligence Safety and Education (RAISE) Act, which establishes AI safety standards and a safety plan to fend off such risks.

Support for Emergency Medical Services A trio of bills were passed to support Emergency Medical Services (EMS). The first provides that counties, and the municipalities within their borders, develop a plan to ensure reliable emergency medical service coverage throughout the county. The county plans will help guide a statewide effort to improve EMS services ([A8086A/S7501A](#)); the second bill removes the cost of EMS from the real property tax cap on local governments ([A2177A/S1515](#)); the third bill ensures ambulances and fire vehicles are provided refunds on Thruway Authority tolls incurred during emergency response operations in all instances. ([A00034/S00031](#)).

Disappointments: What Didn't Pass

I was disappointed that several key pieces of legislation didn't make it over the finish line, including:

- The Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act ([A1749/S1464](#)), which would reduce the plastic and packaging waste that pollutes our water and land, and creates added expense for homeowners and municipalities that provide trash collection.
- Additional prison reform measures, including parole board review for those denied parole and programs that reward rehabilitation through earned time or merit time.

My Sponsored Legislation

Among the bills that I sponsored that passed both the State Senate and the Assembly, and are now awaiting the action by the Governor, are:

Protection of Local Wetlands and Public Water Supply: [A6930/S05983-A](#) authorizes localities with a freshwater wetlands law to adopt a further local law to allow the prohibition of the application of pesticides to wetlands (except for use in farm operations) hydrologically connected to any public water supply.

Disability Employment Task Force: [A00033/S4511](#) would establish in the NYS Labor Department an interagency task force to promote competitive integrated employment for people with disabilities. The task force is to study the problem of unemployment and underemployment among individuals with disabilities, and review relevant programs within New York and other states that assist in the employment of individuals with disabilities in the public and/or private sectors.

Prohibition of the Use of Fracking Wastewater: [A4725A/S2706A](#) prohibits the use of

hydrofracking wastewater on any highway or road for purposes such as melting ice or dust control. Such wastewater, which contains a variety of chemical and possibly radioactive contaminants, enters the groundwater and surface water, contaminating our drinking water.

September 19, 2025 POW/MIA Recognition Day in the State of New York. It was my honor to sponsor the NYS Assembly Legislative Resolution asking Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim September 19, 2025 as POW/MIA Day in the state. The [resolution](#), which was unanimously adopted, honors and remembers those members of the armed services who never returned and calls on us to do everything we can to account for them.

Because Assemblymembers serve through the end of 2026, bills that didn't pass this year remain active and may move forward when the Legislature reconvenes in January. Over the coming months, I'll be working with staff to review my legislative agenda—refining bills I plan to pursue and exploring new ones, including ideas informed by my deep dive into the Con Edison (and upcoming NYSEG) rate cases.



Con Ed Rate Cases Webinar & Public Statement Hearings

As discussed in previous communications, Con Edison has filed with the Public Service Commission (PSC) for a rate increase request of 11.4% for electricity and 13.3% for natural gas. Together with Assemblymember Dana Levenberg, and key staff members of Assemblymember MaryJane Shimskey, I have become a party (formally known as “intervenor”) in the case. The Westchester County Executive, as well as nearly all municipalities in Westchester, also have become intervenors.

Many constituents have asked me how they too can get involved. For those of you who get your electricity or gas from Con Edison and want to participate in the Con Ed rate cases, **please join my colleagues and me TOMORROW (July 2nd) at 6 pm for a webinar featuring the Public Utility Law Project (PULP).** Particularly if you are planning to attend one of the upcoming public statement hearings on July 8th or 9th, I urge you to join us for the webinar. **[Click here to register](#) (please note there is no pre-registration required for the hearings themselves).**

WEBINAR

How to Participate in the Con Edison Rate Cases



Wednesday, July 2 at 6 PM

Register at
<https://bit.ly/ConEdRateCaseWebinar>



MaryJane Shimsky
Assemblymember, 92nd District



Chris Burdick
Assemblymember, 93rd District



Dana Levenberg
Assemblymember, 95th District



Ken Jenkins
Westchester County Executive

CON ED RATE CASES

PUBLIC STATEMENT HEARINGS
IN WESTCHESTER

Tuesday, July 8 at 1 PM & 6 PM
Cortlandt Town Hall
Vincent F. Nyberg Meeting Room
1 Heady St.
Cortlandt, NY 10567

Wednesday, July 9 at 1 PM & 6 PM
Westchester County Center
First Floor Meeting Room
198 Central Ave.
White Plains, NY 10606



MaryJane Shimsky
Assemblymember, 92nd District



Chris Burdick
Assemblymember, 93rd District



Dana Levenberg
Assemblymember, 95th District

AAPI Summit A Success!

The NYS Legislature's second annual AAPI Summit took place was a terrific success!

Just before the summit (which took place in late May), I had the privilege of honoring one of my constituents, clinical psychologist Dr. Teresa Hsu, for her amazing work in my district's AAPI community. Dr. Hsu founded S.P.E.A.K. (Supportive Place for Empowering Asian Americans and Kin) and is a champion for mental health access for the AAPI community.

The summit itself kicked off with a dinner on Thursday night with hundreds of attendees from across the state, and workshops taking place on Friday. The theme of the summit, sponsored by the Assembly's Asian Pacific American Task Force (of which I am a member), was from "Margins to Mainstream."

For the second year in a row, I was pleased to host a workshop, this one titled, "From Research to Practice, the Invisibility of the AAPI Community in Mental Health" with the aforementioned Dr. Teresa Hsu, Clinical Psychologist Dr. Doris Chang, Westchester County Legislator David Imamura, and youth group leader Vaishali Bhattacharyya. The workshop fulfilled its objective of highlighting the unique challenges and barriers that the AAPI community confronts in addressing mental health issues.

All in all, a very educational and successful summit. We are already looking forward to next year!



NYSEG Customers: An Opportunity to Enroll in Community Solar

Sustainable Westchester is offering NYSEG customers an opportunity to save on electricity costs through community solar.

By enrolling in a Community Solar Project, you can reduce your monthly electricity bills by up to 5%—no solar panels required. This initiative allows you to support clean energy, lower your expenses, and take a step toward a more sustainable future. Best of all, you can cancel at any time with no fees or penalties.

Visit www.SustainableWestchester.org/communitysolar, click sign up, and select the Weaver or Country Route 14 project to begin your enrollment. If you have any questions, feel free to them at solar@sustainablewestchester.org or call 914-242-4725 ext. 112.



NYSEG CUSTOMERS

SAVE WITH COMMUNITY SOLAR

SAVE ON YOUR ELECTRIC BILL

Keep 5% of the earnings from your community solar share as savings

NO SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION REQUIRED

FREE TO JOIN/CANCEL



HOW TO JOIN?

1. Visit: SustainableWestchester.org/communitysolar
2. Click "Sign Up"
3. Select the "Weaver" or "Country Route 14" Projects

FOR ASSISTANCE, PLEASE CONTACT (HABLAMOS ESPAÑOL):



SOLAR@SUSTAINABLEWESTCHESTER.ORG



914-242-4725 ext 112

Wishing you a safe, enjoyable, and patriotic July 4th weekend! As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to my office with any questions or if there is any assistance we can provide. You can always reach me at burdickc@nyassembly.gov or by calling (914) 244-4450. My staff and I are always ready to help.

Please also follow me on [Facebook](#), [Twitter/X](#), and [Instagram](#) for continued up-to-date information.

Miss any of our previous newsletters? You can [find them here](#).

Sincerely yours,

Office of Assemblymember Chris Burdick |
[Website](#)



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