



Assemblywoman

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Assembly District 95



## Resource Roundup, October 2023

### Safety At Home During Conflict Abroad

As war unfolds in the Middle East, I have been keen to ensure the safety of all of my constituents. A reminder that the U.S. Department of State is trying to assist all Americans who would like to leave Israel, Gaza, Lebanon and the West Bank right now. If you or someone you know is abroad in one of these locations and needs help getting out, please use the State Department Crisis Intake Form:

<https://cacms.state.gov/s/crisis-intake>

This crisis is also a reminder that it is always a good idea to be in touch with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate when traveling abroad. If you are planning overseas travel anywhere, use the State Department's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program to enroll your trip: <https://step.state.gov>.

Here at home, my staff and I have attended several security briefings convened by the Governor's office, which assure us there are no credible terror threats in New York related to this conflict. I am grateful for the work of our law enforcement officials, who have stepped up patrols around sensitive locations and events.

I am appalled and saddened to hear about isolated incidents of antisemitic and Islamophobic harassment and even violence since October 7. Though I have not heard of any in Assembly District 95, my heart goes out to those impacted all the same. We all need to work together to stay safe and rise above the ugly emotions these types of conflicts can engender, for our own sanity and for the safety and well-being of others. Here are steps you can take if you feel you are being targeted on the basis of your race, religion or other personal characteristics:

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- **If you need to report a crime or fear for your safety, call 911 immediately.**
- If you have experienced bias-related harassment or discrimination, you are encouraged to report it to New York State's [Hate and Bias Prevention Unit](#), a program of the State Division of Human Rights. To report by phone, call 1-844-NO-2-HATE (1-844-662-4283). You can also make a report online; [click here for the reporting form](#).



## Civic Engagement Opportunities

### Election 2023

Early voting starts this Saturday, October 28th for a variety of positions at the local, county and judicial levels. Be sure you are ready to vote! A few election-related reminders:

- **Saturday, October 28, 2023** is the last day a voter registration application must be received by the Board of Elections to vote in the General Election. Because it is also the first day of Early Voting, this “Golden Day” is a day on which you can register to vote and vote on the same day!
- **Monday, November 6** is the last day to apply in person for an absentee ballot.
- **Tuesday, November 7** (Election Day) is the last day to postmark or hand-deliver an absentee ballot.

Early voting runs from Saturday, October 28 through Sunday, November 5. For more information on voting in Westchester County, [click here](#). For more information on voting in Putnam County, [click here](#). The League of Women Voters' Vote411 resource is also helpful for understanding what is on your ballot - visit [vote411.org](http://vote411.org) and enter your street address to get started.

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## Share Your Thoughts on Redistricting

New York Independent Redistricting Commission Chair Ken Jenkins, along with Commissioners Collado, Cuevas-Molina, Flateau, and Frazier have invited public input on congressional districting while awaiting a decision from the New York State Court of Appeals in a case concerning the Commission's constitutional obligation to complete the congressional redistricting process. Argument before the Court of Appeals is scheduled for November 15, 2023.

The public is invited to submit input by emailing [submissions@nyirc.gov](mailto:submissions@nyirc.gov) or by sending mail to:

Submissions, Independent Redistricting Commission  
250 Broadway, 22nd Floor  
New York, NY 10007

All submissions received will be made available to all Commissioners and staff.

For context, click [here](#) to find the congressional plans that the Commission previously submitted to the Legislature. Click [here](#) to view the current congressional map, drawn by a Special Master for the 2022 congressional election.

## Save Money On Your Energy Bills

As temperatures drop, energy bills tend to rise. Here are some programs that can help.

**Free Home Energy Audits:** All New York State residents qualify to receive a free home energy audit that can tell you about hidden sources of wasted energy in your home. Addressing these issues can help you save money. [Click here to read about New York State's Residential Energy Assessment Programs and how to get your home evaluated.](#)

**Comfort Home:** [Click here to learn more about the Comfort Home program](#), in which participants can receive incentives ranging from \$1,000-\$4,000 for insulation, air sealing and energy efficiency work in their homes.

**Weatherization Referral Assistance Program (WRAP):** Income-eligible Westchester seniors can qualify for up to \$5,000 for insulation, air sealing, door and window upgrades, and more through this program from the County Department of Senior Programs and Services. [Click here to learn more and apply.](#)

**Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP):** HEAP can help eligible New Yorkers heat and cool their homes. If you are eligible, you may receive one regular HEAP benefit per program year and could also be eligible for emergency HEAP benefits if you are in danger of running out of fuel or having your utility service shut off. The 2023-2024 Regular HEAP benefit opens on November 1, 2023. Questions regarding the HEAP program should be directed to your [HEAP Local District Contact](#).

Additionally, financial help is available for eligible homeowners struggling with the cost of maintaining, repairing or replacing their heating system. This season's Heating Equipment Repair & Replace and Clean & Tune programs opened October 2. Eligible households can receive energy efficiency services, which include the cleaning of primary heating equipment, but may also include chimney cleaning, minor repairs, installation of carbon monoxide detectors or programmable thermostats, if needed, to allow for the safe, proper and efficient operation of the heating equipment. Benefit amounts are based on the actual cost incurred to provide clean and tune services, up to a maximum of \$500. [Click here to learn more about the Clean & Tune Benefit](#).

**Community Solar & other Renewable Energy credit programs:** These programs enable residents to participate in clean energy programs even if they are not able to put solar panels on their own homes, and allow you to save up to 10% on your monthly electricity bill. Westchester residents: [click here for Sustainable Westchester's Community Solar page](#), where you can learn more and apply. Putnam residents: [click here to learn more about Community Solar and other clean energy programs through Central Hudson](#).

**No Cost  
Clean and Tune**

Through the Home Energy Assistance Program, New Yorkers may be eligible to have their heating equipment cleaned and tuned at no cost.

**Improved safety and efficiency**  
— which means —  
**Lower heating costs**  
— and greater —  
**Peace of mind**

Your clean and tune may include a battery-powered carbon monoxide (CO) alarm to make sure your furnace and other fuel-burning appliances are not producing dangerous CO gas. For more information, visit [otda.ny.gov/programs/heap/#tune-benefit](https://otda.ny.gov/programs/heap/#tune-benefit).

Contact your local department of social services to apply: [otda.ny.gov/programs/heap/contacts](https://otda.ny.gov/programs/heap/contacts)

**NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY** | **HEAP Home Energy Assistance Program**

A Program of the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance  
Pub-5157 (Rev. 02/20)



# **The EmPower New York Program**

**is here to make your home energy-efficient – for free!**



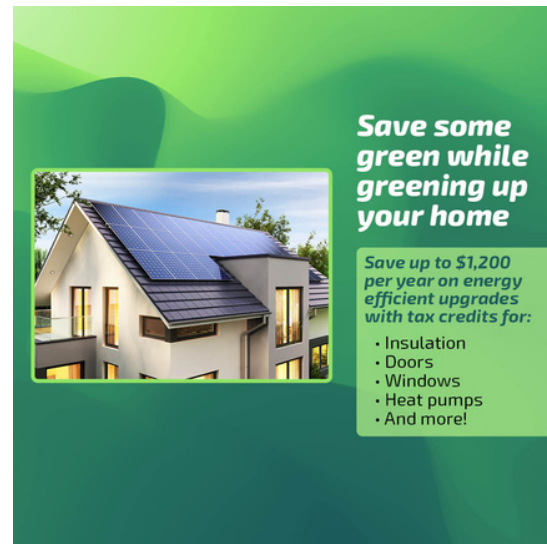
Find out today if you're eligible for no-cost assessments and clean-energy upgrades to your home!

NYSERDA's EmPower New York program provides no-cost energy efficiency solutions to income-eligible New Yorkers. Homeowners and renters will be connected with a participating contractor to assess if a home would benefit from free energy upgrades such as:

- Home energy assessment to identify areas of possible energy improvements
- Tips on how to save energy
- Installation of high-efficiency lighting
- Attic and wall insulation
- Installation of clean heating and cooling heat pumps
- Replacement of old, inefficient refrigerators and freezers
- Water-saving showerheads
- A monthly electric bill credit of between \$5-\$15 from community solar.

To check your eligibility and apply, click [here](#).

New federal tax credits are also available to help you save money while making environmentally sustainable upgrades to your home and vehicle. The Inflation Reduction Act offers various tax credits and rebates for the purchase of energy-efficient goods and services that help consumers do their part to combat climate change without spending a fortune.



- Now through the end of 2034, the Inflation Reduction Act’s tax credits can cover up to 30% of qualifying purchases of renewable energy technology, with no cap on the total purchase price. This includes the cost of labor, permits and inspection. For more information, including availability and income eligibility, visit <https://www.irs.gov/pub/taxpros/fs-2022-40.pdf>.
- Save money when you electrify your appliance. [Click here for more information about available tax credits and rebates.](#)

## Assistance with Medicare Open Enrollment

Medicare open enrollment is running now through December 7. The Westchester County Library system is continuing to run its Demystifying Medicare workshops in person and [online](#). Here are details regarding three upcoming in-person sessions in AD95:

- **YORKTOWN** – Saturday, Oct. 28, 10 am – 1 pm, Albert A. Capellini Community & Cultural Center, 1974 Commerce St., Yorktown Heights, NY 10598. Pre-registration requested; call (914) 231-3236.
- **MONTROSE** – Sunday, Nov. 5, 1:15 – 4:15 pm, Hendrick Hudson Free Library, 185 Kings Ferry Road, Montrose, NY 10548. Pre-registration requested; call (914) 739-5654.
- **SHRUB OAK** – Sunday, Nov. 19, 12:30 – 3:30 pm, John C. Hart Library, 1130 East Main St., Shrub Oak, NY 10588. Pre-registration requested; call (914) 245-5262 or register on the library’s Events calendar.

Medicare-eligible individuals can also receive one-on-one counseling and assistance by calling the Medicare Information Line at (914) 813-6100.



**SUNY Free App Weeks:** During Free App Weeks, New York State residents can apply to SUNY colleges and universities free of charge. There's still time, through Sunday, October 29 - visit [www.suny.edu/apply](http://www.suny.edu/apply) to learn more and complete an application.

## Help Agencies Help You



**NYMTC Survey:** The New York Metropolitan Transportation Council (NYMTC) – the Metropolitan Planning Organization for New York City, Long Island, and the Lower Hudson Valley – is seeking input from the public as it begins working on its next Regional Transportation Plan. [Click here to take their survey by October 31.](#) Visit NYMTC's [movingforward2055.org](http://movingforward2055.org) for updates and to learn more.

**Westchester County Food Insecurity Survey:** The Westchester County Department of Planning, with the support of the Department of Health, has launched a survey as part of its Transportation and Food Access Study. The survey asks Westchester residents ages 18 and older to share their experiences traveling to get groceries, as well as information on the type and affordability of food available to them in the County. The goal of the study is to develop effective strategies to increase Westchester County resident access to affordable, quality food, with the goal of decreasing food insecurity, improving health outcomes, and increasing the quality of life in Westchester. [Click here to participate.](#) The survey closes on Friday, November 17.