



Dear Constituent,

Yesterday, we reached an important milestone in the state budget process: the passage of our Assembly one-house proposal. [The full budget proposal is available here on the Assembly website.](#)

For those who are unfamiliar with this process, this proposal is the Assembly's response to the Governor's budget proposal. The Senate has also put together its own budget proposal. Now that all three proposals are on the table, the Governor, the Senate and the Assembly will begin negotiating in earnest over what to include in the final state budget. The resulting budget will fund state operations for the fiscal year starting on April 1.

I have paid close attention to constituent comments regarding the budget, and I am happy to report that our budget proposal seeks to address many of your concerns. The Assembly one-house budget includes significant investments in our infrastructure, particularly for our roads. My Hudson Valley colleagues and I are fighting hard for a 20% increase to the NYS Department of Transportation's (DOT) core road and bridge program - \$400 million more than the Governor's proposal. The Assembly budget proposal includes this increase, along with \$250 million more than the Governor's proposal to restore funding for programs like CHIPS, PAVE-NY, and Extreme Winter Recovery that benefit our local roads. I will continue to advocate for this funding to be included in the final budget, and to ensure that our roads get their due from the DOT.

Our budget proposal also rejects the Governor's cuts to school aid, restores predictability to the school budgeting process, and provides additional funding to support a range of priorities for our schoolchildren. We also propose funding for a study of the Foundation Aid formula, with a goal of bringing the formula up to date and enabling us to right-size education aid for the future, ensuring that districts receive appropriate funding according to their needs. Our proposal also fully funds free school meals for all, which would ensure that all of New York's children can eat breakfast and lunch on school days without stigma or hassle.

The Assembly proposes important investments in a variety of other areas, including programs supporting aging adults; increased funding for childcare programs and workers; a 3.2% cost of living adjustment for workers in human services fields; increasing housing affordability; funding for higher education and libraries; enhancing Medicaid and investing in health care facilities; improving benefits for public workers such as police officers and teachers; a \$400 million Environmental Protection Fund and \$500 million for clean water infrastructure; and restoring

\$200 million for the Energy Affordability Program to enable that program to continue to grow in light of increased needs. Recognizing that energy affordability is a problem for more and more middle-income households, I will continue fighting for the full New York HEAT Act to pass this year.

To help pay for these expenditures, our one-house budget proposes to raise revenue in a variety of ways that do not increase taxes on small businesses or working and middle income households. Instead, we propose small (0.5 percentage point) tax increases on highly profitable corporations doing business in New York regardless of where they are headquartered, as well as individuals earning more than \$5 million per year. The best available data shows that New York has gained millionaires since the last time we raised taxes on the wealthy, and that the people who are leaving the state are primarily working- and middle-class individuals in search of lower housing costs. We aim to make New York more welcoming and affordable by improving the fairness of our tax system and funding programs that enable middle- and working-class households to thrive.

In the coming days, I will be sharing more about the Assembly one-house proposal on my social media profiles. If you're not already following @AMDanaLevenberg on Facebook and/or Instagram, I encourage you to do so. If there are particular pieces of the Assembly's proposal that you want to ensure make it into the final budget, you can reach out to the Governor's office directly to let her know. [Here is a contact form where you can write your thoughts](#). This web page also includes a phone number you can call to reach the Governor's office. The more our leaders hear about a particular issue, the more likely it is to get attention.

If you have questions about the Assembly one-house proposal or anything else, please feel free to reply to this email or call my office at (914) 941-1111. My comment form is the best way to share your opinions with my office; [click here to access it](#).

Sincerely,

Assemblywoman Dana Levenberg