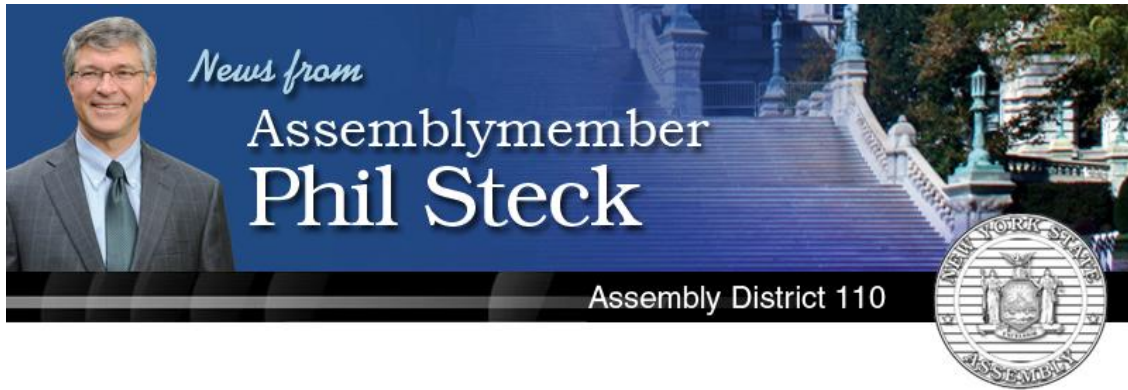




Serving our community means showing up, listening, and delivering results. Over the past month, I've had the opportunity to meet with local residents, support organizations that make the Capital Region a better place to live and continue advancing legislation that addresses the issues people care about most.

In this edition of my newsletter, you'll read about the \$1.2 million investment for the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society's new Behavioral Rehabilitation and Outreach Center, the recognition of the Niskayuna Co-op as a New York State Historic Business Preservation Registry business, and the restoration of the Colonie Senior Service Centers Transportation Program. I've included updates on my support for Siena University's non-tenure-track faculty, New York's investment in strengthening emergency communications, and efforts to address food insecurity and protect access to substance use disorder treatment. I'm also highlighting new legislation I'm introducing to protect lawfully cast ballots and ensure they are properly counted.

Thank you for giving me the privilege of serving as your Assemblymember. If my office can ever be of assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Best,
Phil Steck

Legislative Updates

Protecting the Unlawful Seizure of Ballots

A constituent recently brought a concern to my attention about the lack of legal protections against the unlawful seizure of lawfully cast ballots. Working together, we developed legislation (A11642) to close that gap and strengthen New York's election laws.

The bill would make the unlawful seizure of duly cast ballots a felony while preserving the limited circumstances in which ballots may be handled by election officials or law enforcement acting under a court order. This legislation is about protecting lawfully cast ballots and ensuring that every New Yorker can have confidence that once they cast their vote, it will be protected and counted.



Strengthening Emergency Communications Across New York

When an emergency happens, every second matters. That's why I support New York State's \$110 million investment to strengthen emergency communications and modernize 911 systems across the state.

This funding will help ensure emergency dispatch centers have the technology and resources needed to respond quickly and effectively, giving our first responders the tools they need to protect our communities and save lives.

To learn more about this statewide investment, [click here](#).



Supporting the
first responders who
protect our communities

Assemblymember
Phil Steck

In the Community

\$1.2 Million Secured for the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society

I am incredibly grateful to the New York State Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie for joining me in Menands and announcing \$1.2 million in funding for the Humane Society's new Behavioral Rehabilitation and Outreach Center.

When I asked the Speaker to visit, I knew he would see what I see: an incredible organization doing important work for animals and families throughout the Capital Region. I am so grateful that he agreed this is a worthy cause and made such a generous commitment to supporting this project right here in the 110th Assembly District.

The Mohawk Hudson Humane Society does so much for our community, from caring for vulnerable animals to providing education, training and critical resources when they are needed most. I am thankful to the entire team for the compassion and dedication they bring to this work every day.

And, of course, a special thank you to Cloud, the Humane Society's ambassador dog and alumnus, who made sure everyone felt very welcome during our visit!



Niskayuna Co-op Added to Historic Business Preservation Registry

I was proud to present the Niskayuna Co-op with its official New York State Historic Business Preservation Registry certificate in recognition of more than 80 years of serving our community.

I've been shopping at the Co-op for years, and it's one of my favorite places to find unique products you simply can't find anywhere else. From locally made goods to specialty foods, it's a true community treasure that has brought neighbors together and supported local producers for generations.

Congratulations to General Manager Shannon Risley, the Co-op's Board of Directors, employees, members, and everyone who has helped make the Niskayuna Co-op such a success. Thank you to Niskayuna Town Supervisor Erin Cassady-Dorion, Town Councilmembers Sarah Bilofsky and Ashok Ramasubramanian, and Schenectady County Legislator Michelle Osterlich for joining us to celebrate this well-deserved recognition.



Supporting Siena University's Non-Tenure-Track Faculty

This month, I sent a letter to Siena University President Chuck Seifert expressing my support for the University's non-tenure-track faculty as they negotiate a fair contract.

These dedicated educators teach many of Siena's first- and second-year students and play a vital role in the University's success. They are seeking reasonable protections, including improved job security, clearly defined service expectations, the preservation of existing benefits, fair compensation, and safeguards related to artificial intelligence and intellectual property.

I believe that when working people stand together for fairness, they deserve to be heard. I encourage both sides to negotiate in good faith and reach an agreement that recognizes the invaluable contributions these faculty members make to Siena University and its students.



THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

PHIL STECK
Member of Assembly, 110th District

CHAIR
Committee on Alcoholism and Drug
Abuse

COMMITTEES
Health
Insurance
Judiciary
Labor
Overnight, Analysis and Investigation

July 22nd, 2026

Charles Seifert
President, Siena University
515 Loudon Rd
Loudonville, NY 12211

Dear President Seifert,

I am aware that your administration is recently began contract negotiations with the approximately 160 non-tenure-track full-time and part-time faculty teaching Siena University, who are members of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 200United.

My understanding that negotiations are centered on matters related to improving job security, clarifying service requirements, and codifying existing benefits, like health insurance and retirement plan contributions, into their contract. In recent years, despite many full-time non-tenure-track faculty teaching at the University for years, even decades, fulfilling long-term instructional needs, your administration arbitrarily reduced their appointment terms from three years to one year. At the same time, you will not agree to clarifying service obligations and compensation for faculty who perform service to their academic departments or the University. You've also thus far not agreed to codify the existing terms of various benefits provided to your faculty in their contract, which raises the possibility that their benefits will be reduced or their cost increased unilaterally without their input, which is totally inconsistent with a collective bargaining relationship between you and your faculty's union.

I also understand that the Union's proposals to provide representation on the University's Health and Safety Committee(s) has been rejected and you won't codify protections against the introduction of generative artificial intelligence (AI) in the workplace or faculty member's intellectual property rights. Even the State University of New York system provides these protections and in their recent contract with the United University Professionals (UUP), they agreed to protections against AI in the classroom and the workplace.

Finally, my understanding is that the Union has only proposed modest salary increases for adjunct faculty and modest increases for full-time visiting and teaching faculty upon promotion, in recognition of changes and instability in higher education.

I am writing to let you know I am closely monitoring these negotiations and stand in solidarity with Siena's non-tenure-track faculty in their campaign for a fair contract. As academic workers

ALBANY OFFICE: Room 627, Legislative Office Building, Albany, New York 12248 • 518-455-5931, FAX: 518-455-5840
DISTRICT OFFICE: 1820 Union Street, Schenectady, New York 12309 • 518-377-0900, FAX: 518-377-0458
EMAIL: steckp@nyassembly.gov

who make up the majority of your university's faculty and who primarily teach first- and second-year students at Siena, their working conditions are students' learning conditions and their service to Siena is essential to its long-term future. From my perspective, the Union's proposals are in sync with the University's commitment to Catholic Social Teachings, specifically Siena's stated commitments to the dignity of work and of workers.

I urge you and your administration to negotiate in good faith a fair contract that recognizes their hard work and vital contributions to the Siena community.

Sincerely,

Phil Steck
Member of Assembly, 110th A.D.

Welcoming Main-Ford General Supply to their New Location

My Legislative Director, Dylan, and our summer intern had the opportunity to represent my office at the Capital Region Chamber's ribbon cutting celebrating the grand opening of Main-Ford General Supply's new location on New Karner Road.

Main-Ford General Supply provides commercial kitchen equipment and supplies to restaurants and food service businesses, helping entrepreneurs get the tools they need to open and grow successful businesses. Supporting small businesses means supporting the local economy, and I'm pleased to welcome another business investing in our community.

Congratulations to Main-Ford General Supply on your grand opening, and thank you to the Capital Region Chamber for bringing everyone together to celebrate this exciting milestone!



Restoring Transportation for Colonie Seniors

I'm proud to have helped secure the state funding needed to restore and sustain the Colonie Senior Service Centers Transportation Program.

This \$150,000 investment ensures that seniors throughout our community will continue to have access to the transportation they rely on every day. Supporting programs like this helps ensure our older residents can remain independent, stay connected to their community, and continue living with dignity.

Thank you to the Colonie Senior Service Centers for everything you do for our seniors and thank you to the Times Union for highlighting this important investment in our community. [You can read the full story here.](#)



Preparing the Next Generation of Skilled Workers

My staff recently attended the topping-off ceremony at Hudson Valley Community College to celebrate the placement of the final structural beam for the new Applied Technology Education Center (ATEC), which is scheduled to open in 2027.

The new facility will expand workforce training opportunities in high-demand fields such as semiconductor manufacturing, renewable energy, building systems, and automotive technologies. By providing students with hands-on experience using state-of-the-art equipment, ATEC will help build a skilled workforce that meets the needs of employers throughout the Capital Region.

Congratulations to Hudson Valley Community College on reaching this exciting milestone. I look forward to seeing the positive impact this investment in workforce development will have on our community for years to come.



Addressing Food Insecurity In the Capital Region

The Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York held a presentation to discuss the growing challenge of food insecurity in the Capital Region. Due to federal funding cuts, changes to SNAP eligibility, the affordability crisis, and the USDA's

decision to stop collecting food insecurity data, one in six children and one in eight adults in our region are facing food insecurity.

Supporting local food banks remains one of my top priorities. This year, I secured \$30,000 for NiskyNOW and \$30,000 for the Guilderland Food Pantry to help meet the growing need in our communities. Since 2023, I have also secured more than \$500,000 in capital funding for the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York to strengthen its ability to serve families across our region.

I want to thank the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York for hosting this important briefing and for the incredible work they do every day to fight hunger. I remain committed to supporting our local food banks and ensuring they have the resources they need to help our neighbors in need.



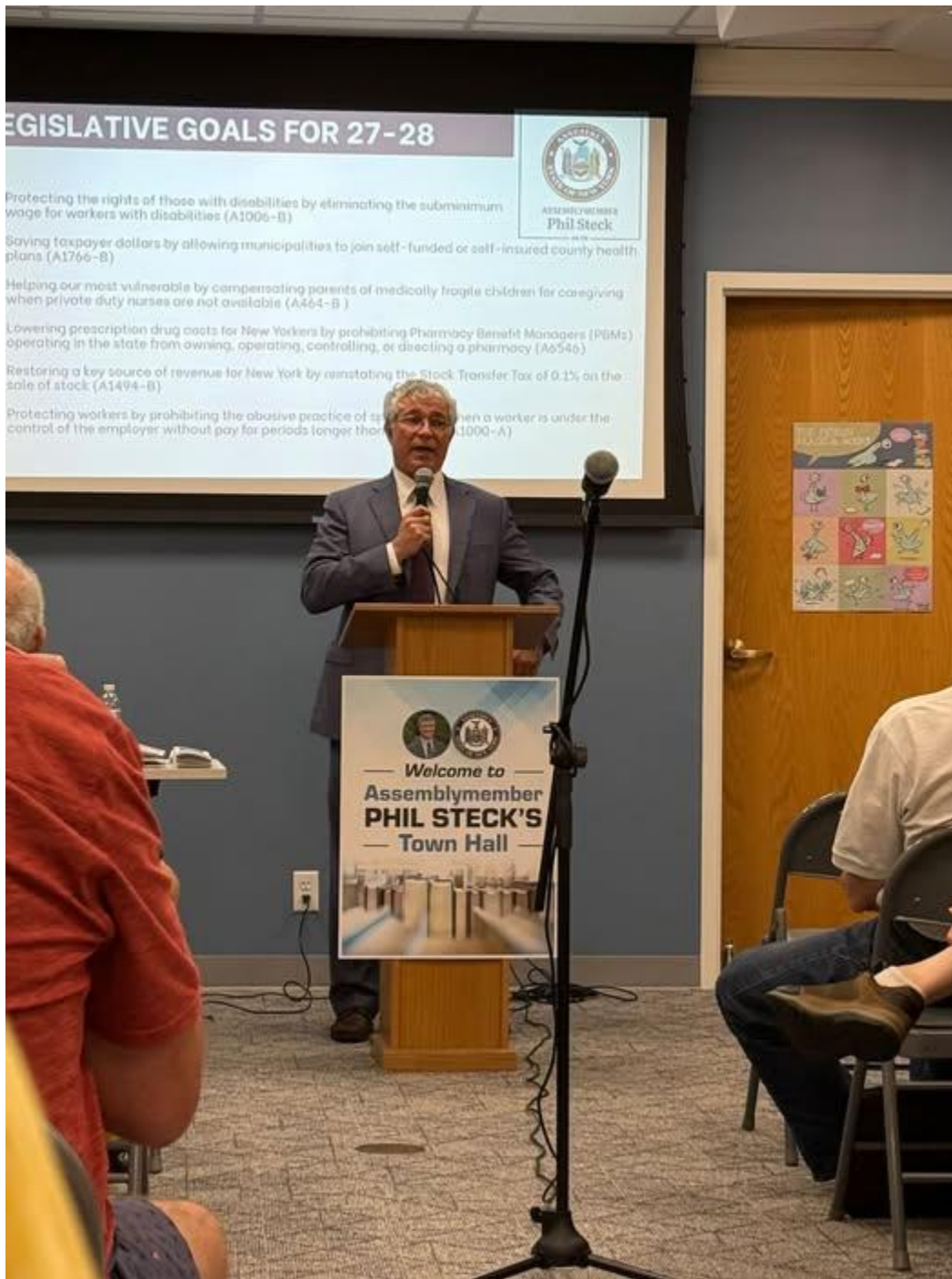
Thank You for Joining Our Town Hall

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Town Hall at the Niskayuna branch of the Schenectady County Public Library. I truly appreciate everyone who took the time to come out, ask thoughtful questions, share concerns, and participate in an open discussion about the issues that matter most to our community.

A special thank you to the staff and volunteers at the Niskayuna Public Library for their hospitality and for all of their hard work in helping make this event possible. We are grateful for your partnership and for providing such a welcoming space for these important conversations.

Hearing directly from the people I represent is one of the most important parts of my job. Your ideas, concerns, and experiences help shape my work in Albany and throughout the district.

If you weren't able to attend but have a question, concern, or topic you'd like to discuss, please don't hesitate to contact my district office at (518) 377-0902. My team and I are always happy to hear from you and help however we can.



Examining the Impact of Medicaid Cuts on Recovery

My team attended a panel discussion at the Whitney M. Young Jr. Health Center, moderated by Benita Zahn, about how the Medicaid cuts enacted in H.R. 1 will affect healthcare providers and patients here in the Capital Region.

As Chair of the Assembly Committee on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse, I am deeply concerned about what these changes will mean for people seeking treatment for substance use disorder. Many individuals in recovery need to leave their jobs temporarily to participate in intensive inpatient treatment. Under the new work requirements, too many of them could lose their Medicaid coverage at the very time they need it most.

No one should have to choose between keeping their health insurance and getting lifesaving treatment. These changes risk creating another barrier for people who are working to overcome addiction, and I fear they will discourage many from seeking the help they need.

With these provisions scheduled to take effect on January 1, 2027, it is critical that we continue having these conversations and preparing for their impact on our communities.



Welcoming Upbeat Nutrition to the 110th Assembly District

My staff was excited to be a part of the ribbon cutting ceremony for Upbeat Nutrition's grand opening on Central Ave. This event was held in partnership with the Colonie Chamber of Commerce.

Upbeat Nutrition is run and managed by the owner Michele, her husband, and their daughter. Michele was inspired by her husband's health transformation and decided to open Upbeat Nutrition to provide our community with delicious, healthy drinks. Make sure to stop by and check them out!



Tips & Information

Safety Tips from the Colonie Police Department: Teach Your Child When to Call 9-1-1

The Colonie Police Department encourages families to take a few minutes to teach children when and how to call 9-1-1. While we all hope they'll never need to make that call, knowing what to do in an emergency can help children stay calm and get help quickly when every second counts.

Practice these important safety tips together at home:

- Know when to call 9-1-1 for police, fire, or medical emergencies.
- Memorize your home address and a parent or guardian's phone number.
- Stay calm and answer the dispatcher's questions.
- Stay on the phone with the dispatcher if it's safe to do so.
- If you're unsure whether it's an emergency, call 9-1-1 and let the dispatcher determine the appropriate response.

A few minutes of preparation today can make a lifelong difference tomorrow.

Thank you to the Colonie Police Department for sharing these important reminders to help keep our families safe.



The poster is titled "TOWN OF COLONIE POLICE DEPARTMENT COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION" in large white letters on a blue background. It features the Colonie Police Department logo on the top left and right. The main heading is "9-1-1 SAFETY" in large red and blue letters, followed by the tagline "KNOW IT. USE IT. KEEP EVERYONE SAFE." in blue. Below this, a paragraph states: "OUR 9-1-1 SYSTEM CONNECTS YOU TO TRAINED DISPATCHERS 24/7 WHO ARE READY TO HELP IN AN EMERGENCY, EVEN BEFORE RESPONDERS ARRIVE. WHEN CHILDREN KNOW WHEN AND HOW TO CALL, OUR WHOLE COMMUNITY IS SAFER." To the right of this paragraph is a small image of a school classroom with a teacher and students, and a text box that reads: "SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SOUTH COLONIE SCHOOL DISTRICT PARTNERS FOR HELPING US EDUCATE AND PREPARE THE NEXT GENERATION". Below the main heading, there are several sections: "WHY IT MATTERS" (teaching kids about 911 builds confidence, helps them respond calmly, ensures dispatchers are available), "WHAT WE DO" (communications division's core team visits local schools to educate students about 9-1-1 emergency preparedness), "PARENT/CHILD TIP" (talk about 9-1-1 together, practice what to do and what information to give), "WHAT KIDS SHOULD KNOW" (when to call, know your info, stay calm, listen carefully, get help if needed). On the right side, there is a large image of a dispatch center and a circular icon with a telephone handset, with the text "IN AN EMERGENCY CALL 9-1-1".

TOWN OF COLONIE POLICE DEPARTMENT
COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

9-1-1 SAFETY
KNOW IT. USE IT. KEEP EVERYONE SAFE.

OUR 9-1-1 SYSTEM CONNECTS YOU TO TRAINED DISPATCHERS 24/7 WHO ARE READY TO HELP IN AN EMERGENCY, EVEN BEFORE RESPONDERS ARRIVE. WHEN CHILDREN KNOW WHEN AND HOW TO CALL, OUR WHOLE COMMUNITY IS SAFER.

WHY IT MATTERS
TEACHING KIDS ABOUT 911 BUILDS CONFIDENCE, HELPS THEM RESPOND CALMLY IN AN EMERGENCY, AND ENSURES DISPATCHERS ARE AVAILABLE FOR REAL EMERGENCIES.

WHAT WE DO
OUR COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION'S CORE TEAM VISITS LOCAL SCHOOLS TO EDUCATE STUDENTS ABOUT 9-1-1 EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND THE ROLE OF DISPATCHERS - HELPING CREATE A SAFER, SMARTER COMMUNITY.

PARENT/CHILD TIP
TALK ABOUT 9-1-1 TOGETHER. PRACTICE WHAT TO DO AND WHAT INFORMATION TO GIVE. A FEW MINUTES TODAY CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE TOMORROW.

WHAT KIDS SHOULD KNOW

- WHEN TO CALL**
CALL 9-1-1 FOR REAL EMERGENCIES ONLY - POLICE, FIRE OR MEDICAL HELP
- KNOW YOUR INFO**
KNOW YOUR HOME ADDRESS AND A PARENT OR GUARDIAN'S PHONE NUMBER
- STAY CALM**
TAKE A DEEP BREATH AND ANSWER THE DISPATCHER'S QUESTIONS
- LISTEN CAREFULLY**
FOLLOW THE DISPATCHER'S INSTRUCTIONS AND DON'T HANG UP
- GET HELP IF NEEDED**
IF YOU AREN'T SURE, GET A TRUSTED ADULT FOR HELP

IN AN EMERGENCY CALL 9-1-1

Resources for Minority- and Women-Owned Businesses

Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (MWBEs) play an important role in strengthening New York's economy. Empire State Development has launched a new, modernized Empire State WMWBE Hub to make it easier for

businesses to access resources, pursue certification, and connect with opportunities to grow.

Whether you're looking to become a certified MWBE or learn more about the programs and services available, visit www.mwbe.esd.ny.gov to get started.

