



May 30, 2023

Dear Neighbors,

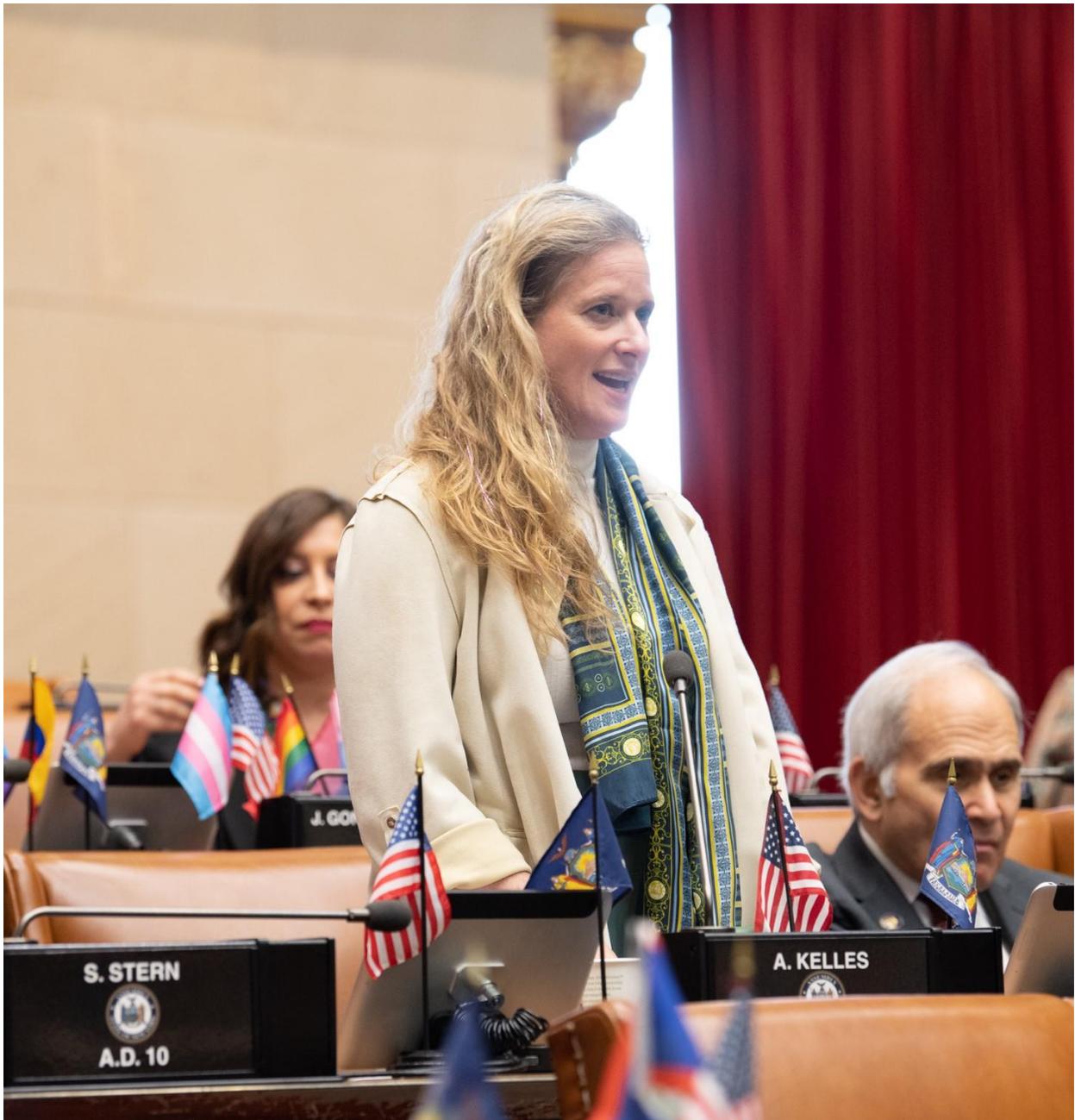
I hope you had an enjoyable Memorial Day Weekend, and for those who have lost loved ones in service and for whom this is not just a day off of work, I hope it was a peaceful day of remembrance.

As we wind down the legislative session, my work in Albany and in the District doesn't slow down. Here are some of the things I was up to last week:



### **Municipal Broadband Bonds Bill**

I'm pleased to announce that my broadband bill ([A1260](#)) has passed in the Assembly! This bill authorizes municipalities to sell bonds to provide funds for broadband infrastructure, a crucial step in ensuring equitable access to high quality internet connection, especially for those in rural areas or "digital deserts."



## **Lake Friendly Living Resolution**

The Assembly also passed my resolution commemorating the Finger Lakes' community's celebration of Lake Friendly Living. Our district's integral connection to Cayuga Lake should be celebrated and respected with careful stewardship as it faces new challenges posed by climate change. Recognizing the significance of our relationship with the lake and other New York freshwater sources is key to preserving and protecting this magnificent resource for future generations.

[Click here to read the resolution in full.](#)



## From the Speaker

### **IDA Corruption Prevention Bill**

The Assembly Majority passed legislation to prevent individuals associated with any Industrial Development Authority (IDA) from profiteering off fraudulent business deals with companies that receive tax money ([A4847-A](#)). The bill would prevent IDA officials, employees, and contractors from taking positions with companies the IDA works with, cracking down on corruption.

# Anna in the News

## **Op-Ed Supporting the Inflation Reduction Act**

The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) is the largest investment to tackle climate change in U.S. history, offering households tax credits and rebates as well as spurring thousands of clean energy jobs in New York state and across the country. However, as I explain in my [recently published op-ed](#), the IRA is at risk of being dismantled by Congressional Republicans as part of the debt ceiling default debate. The IRA puts money directly into New Yorkers' pockets, both from jobs and energy savings, while making our nation more competitive, secure and resilient. Lawmakers pushing for the dismantling of this act fail to see that this will risk jobs and ultimately harm their constituents.

# Albany Events

## **Students Inside Albany Program**

I had the pleasure of hosting two district students, Lily Yang and Vincenzo Perfetti, 10th and 12th graders at Cortland Jr. Sr. High School, at the Assembly as part of the League of Women Voters' Students Inside Albany program. The program is designed to increase students' awareness of their responsibility in representative government and provide the tools necessary for meeting that responsibility. Thank you to the LWV for organizing this opportunity for our district's students!



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## EMS Remembrance Event

I was honored to speak at the EMS Remembrance Event in Albany where the names of those who fell in the line of duty were placed on the Tree of Life memorial. EMS responders are the first people you see when you experience a trauma or emergency. We count on their knowledge, care and speed in times of need.

I recognize the importance of EMS services in my district, especially in the rural areas, and will continue to champion legislation that provides a stable funding stream for rural emergency medical services.



# Around the District

## Stewart Park Historic Place Designation

I want to give my joyful congratulations to Stewart Park for being added to the National Register of Historic Places! Stewart Park has been a jewel of the Finger Lakes for more than a century, providing families and visitors enjoyment along Cayuga Lake. I'm thrilled that this designation makes the park eligible for future preservation funding so that it can be enjoyed for generations to come.



Photo Credit: <https://www.friendsofstewartpark.org/>

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## NY Renews Rally

[NY Renews](#) held a rally at Stewart Park in Ithaca for the Climate, Jobs, and Justice Package, calling for the passage of important legislation like the NY Home Energy Affordable Transition (HEAT) Act (A4592, Fahy), and the Climate Change Superfund Act (A3351-A, Dinowitz). I'm always proud to see support for such important issues from district community leaders and members, and I will continue to fight for a healthier and more affordable New York.



# Community Resources

## City of Ithaca Primary Election Candidates Forum

From the League of Women Voters of Tompkins County:

On November 7, 2023, for the first time in ten years, ALL the City of Ithaca Alderpersons, as well as the Mayor, will be up for re-election. On Tuesday, June 27, the Democratic Party is holding 5 primaries to select the candidates they will endorse to run in the November Elections. June 17 is the last date to register to vote in these primary elections or change your party. This is your opportunity to become civically engaged and involved in the future of the City of Ithaca.

League of Women Voters of Tompkins County, co-sponsored by Your Voice + Your Vote – Tompkins Civic Engagement Coalition (YV2), is holding a Candidates Forum on **Thursday, June 8, from 7 – 9:00 pm** at Greater Ithaca Activities Center (GIAC).

Come and learn about the candidates who are running in the contested primaries; in Ward 1 (for a 4-year term) – **Kayla Matos** and **Cynthia Brock**;

in Ward 2 (for a 2-year term) – **Aryeal Jackson, Wade Lalanne** (West Fox) and **Kris Haines-Sharp**; in Ward 3 (for a 4-year term) – **David Shapiro** and **Nathan Sitaraman**; and in Ward 5 (for a 2-year term) – **Clyde Lederman** and **D. Jason Houghton** (and for a 4-year term) – **Michelle Song** and **Margaret Fabrizio**.

Questions to candidates may be submitted both now and during the event at [lwvtompkins.info@gmail.com](mailto:lwvtompkins.info@gmail.com).

The last date to register to vote in these primaries, or change your party, is **June 17, 2023**.

For further information go to <https://lwvtompkins.org>, [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org), or <http://votetompkins.com/>

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## **Help support the Caroline After School Program (CASP) Supply Drive!**

From CASP:

The Caroline After School Program will be holding a supply drive from May 15 – June 16, 2023! We are looking for new or gently used craft items to use in our childcare program. You may have many things around your house that you no longer need, that we can use. Many of the items we are requesting are basic household things. If not, and you'd like to buy something, we have an [Amazon wish list](#) or many items can also be found at the dollar store or other retailers. Gift cards to Dollar Tree, Target, Walmart, Michael's, Amazon, Dollar General, and JoAnne's are appreciated.

Items can be dropped off at Caroline Elementary School outside in the box at the main entrance labeled CASP Supply Drive, at the Brookton's Market, or at CASP. You can also contact the program for a possible pick up. If you are part of an office, organization, or community group that would like to have a collection box, please feel free to do so.

If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Helms, Director at [nhelms@icsd.k12.ny.us](mailto:nhelms@icsd.k12.ny.us) or 607-539-7422. Thank you for your support and help!

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In solidarity and health,



Anna Kelles, Ph.D.

Assemblymember, 125th A.D.

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