



Assemblymember

Anna Kelles

Assembly District 125



August 22, 2023

Dear Neighbors,

In my role as your Assemblymember, I enjoy the opportunity to be both student and teacher. I meet with community leaders and advocates on a variety of issues to listen and learn from them, which allows me to provide education in Albany to move forward legislation that addresses those issues and improves the lives of New Yorkers. This week, I engaged in meetings related to housing and homelessness, water health, labor, corrections reform, sustainability and materials management. In conjunction with Sen. Lea Webb, I continued conversations with the Governor's staff around the carshare bill ([A5718](#)) and continued work on the Earned Time Act ([A1128](#)). While we face great challenges, we also have great opportunities to work together to improve our community.

Around the District

Sen. Webb's Ithaca District Office

Congratulations to Senator Lea Webb and her team on the grand opening of their Ithaca district office at 217 N. Aurora Street! I am so pleased I was able to celebrate the first NYS Senate office to be located in Tompkins County in

more than a decade with Sen. Webb and Tompkins County district leaders. With [Senate District 52](#) encompassing all of Tompkins County, all of Cortland County, and part of Broome County, including the City of Binghamton, this second district office will assist in serving the constituents of the area. I look forward to our continued work together!



I also hope you will join me in supporting Sen. Webb's Teacher Supplies Drive. You can drop off supplies through Aug. 30 at various locations in the district to support the teachers in our area. As we prepare for a new school year to begin, let's ensure our teachers have the resources they need in their classrooms for children to thrive.



LEA WEBB

NEW YORK STATE SENATE 52ND DISTRICT



TEACHER SUPPLIES DRIVE

AUGUST 16-30TH

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Notebooks
- Tissues
- Pens
- Eraser
- Colored Pencils
- Markers
- Glue
- Loose-leaf paper
- Hand Sanitizer
- Post-It's
- Highlighters
- Dry Erase Markers
- #2 Pencils

Broome

SENATOR WEBB'S DISTRICT OFFICE (BINGHAMTON)

44 Hawley Street Binghamton NY 13901

SOUTHERN TIER COMMUNITY CENTER

1 Clubhouse Road Endicott NY, 13760

THE BRIDGE COMMUNITY CENTER

143 Baldwin Street, Johnson City NY 13790

Tompkins

SENATOR WEBB'S ITHACA OFFICE

217 N. Aurora Street Ithaca NY 14850; Suite 110

SOUTHSIDE COMMUNITY CENTER

305 S Plain St Ithaca NY, 14850

YMCA OF ITHACA AND TOMPKINS COUNTY

50 Graham Rd W, Ithaca, NY 14850

Cortland

HOMER CENTER FOR THE ARTS

72 S. Main St, Homer, NY 13077

CORTLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

83 Main Street, Cortland, NY 13045

ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SUPPLIES DRIVE CAN BE DIRECTED TO 607-773-8771 OR LEAWEBB@NYSENATE.GOV

WORLD HISTORY

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Clean Energy Hubs

As New York State embarks on a transition to a clean energy powered economy, it can be confusing to understand the information and programs that can help you become part of the transition. Therefore, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) has developed regionally-based [Clean Energy Hubs](#) so that all residents, businesses and communities across the State have access to new opportunities, including clean energy careers, home improvements, and rebates for businesses and personal transportation.

A Clean Energy Hub is a team of trusted, knowledgeable, community-based organizations from your region of the State. They have experience with not only clean energy and energy efficiency but also workforce and economic development, education, health, and housing. They can help you find ways to reduce energy use and costs and how to make more informed energy decisions. Contact your hub today to learn more!

[Smart Energy Choices](#) is the hub for the Southern Tier, including Tompkins County.

[Energy Smart CNY](#) is the hub for Central NY, including Cortland County.



**Regional Clean
Energy Hub**

Interconnectivity and Road Safety

I recently met with several of our district's Highway Superintendents, including Jeff Smith, our Tompkins County Highway Superintendent, and Rick Young, President of the Tompkins County Highway Association, who organized the event. The condition and safety of our roads comes into focus during summer as many travel throughout New York State for vacation, as well as during the harsher winter months, where our roads are under tremendous stress. I appreciated the opportunity to discuss the Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) funding and ways we can plan road paving and improvement projects in the long term.



Community Resources

Student Loan Debt Repayment

Education Debt Consumer Assistance Program ([EDCAP](#)), a program under the Community Service Society of New York ([CSS](#)) and funded by the state legislature, has released valuable resources to help individuals navigate the complexities of student debt and prepare for the end of the payment pause. [The Hero's Guide to Strategic Student Loan Repayment](#), is a wide-ranging toolkit that can assist with explanations and comparisons of the available repayment plans, repayment checklists, options for managing loans in default, and more. If you need assistance, contact the Helpline at 888-614-5004 or email at edcap@cssny.org.

You are not alone.
In New York there are nearly
2.4 Million individuals
with **outstanding**
student loans.

**Learn more and
get help with your
student loan debt.**

www.edcapny.org

Call our Helpline
888-614-5004

edcap
Education Debt
Consumer Assistance
Program

A program of the Community Service Society of New York

Area Job Fairs - Two Opportunities

Cayuga Radio Group is hosting the [Oven Fresh Job Fair](#) at Tompkins Cortland Community College this Thursday, August 24 from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Dryden campus, which is also accessible by bus. More than 30 regional employers that are actively hiring across industries will be in attendance. It's free to attend with giveaways throughout the event. The event will also include the opportunity to connect with career development professionals from regional workforce development agencies as well as TC3 admission staff if you'd like to discuss furthering your education to get the job you want.

The 27th Annual Tompkins County World of Skills Job Fair will be held Wednesday, Aug. 30 from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. at Hotel Ithaca. Over 40

employers will be in attendance looking for qualified candidates to fill open positions. Job seekers can enter to win generous door prizes provided by local organizations and employers.



photo by Freepik

Farmers Market Coupons Available for Older Adults - Tompkins County

The [Tompkins County Office for the Aging](#) still has Farmers Market Coupons available for residents who are age 60+, within the income guidelines listed below, and have not received Farmers Market coupons this year. Individuals can receive a \$25 coupon booklet that they can use on fresh, unprocessed, local fruits and vegetables at participating Farmers Markets (Ithaca Market at Steamboat Landing and Dewitt Mall; East Hill Plaza; Freeville; Trumansburg). The Office will have coupons available until September 30, and the coupons can be used until November 30. Call the office (607-274-5482) for more information or stop in to pick up (214 W. Martin Luther King Jr./State Street, Human Services Annex Building, Ithaca).

Monthly Income Eligibility Guidelines

- 1-Person Household: \$2248
- 2-Person Household: \$3041
- 3-Person Household: \$3833

Farmers Market Coupons Available for Veterans - Cortland County

The [Cortland County Veterans Office](#) has Farmers Market coupons available for Cortland County veterans to use at participating farmers markets. Veterans can call Tom Tedesco at 607-753-5014 for more information and to arrange pick up at the office (County Office Bldg., 60 Central Ave, Cortland).



photo by Freepik

As college students move to campus and start a new semester, I wish all the students and their instructors a great fall semester! We look forward to welcoming new and returning students to our communities.

In good health,



Anna Kelles, Ph.D.

Assemblymember, 125th A.D.

ALBANY OFFICE
LOB 833
Albany, NY 12248
518-455-5444

CORTLAND OFFICE
83 Main St
PO Box 5026
Cortland, NY 13045
607-208-2024

ITHACA OFFICE
130 East State Street
Ithaca, NY 14850
607-277-8030

Assembly District 125 | kellesa@contactme.nyasembly.gov