



Assemblymember MARYJANE SHIMSKY



DISTRICT 92 • 2026 BUDGET UPDATE

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Dear Neighbors,

State legislators normally focus on the budget and on new laws—two distinct responsibilities—in separate months of the legislative session. In recent years, however, the chronic lateness of the State budget has compressed these two functions into the same time frame. As a result, examining the budget as its own legislative responsibility has largely become a thing of the past.

The line is further blurred due to the Governor's use of Article 7s—the non-spending legislative bills contained in the State budget. In fact, while nearly three-quarters of the 2026 New York State legislative session was devoted to resolving the budget, much of that time was spent negotiating the Governor's policy initiatives, rather than the budget itself. This practice dates back more than 20 years, to a decision by the State's Court of Appeals in *Silver v. Pataki* (2003). Since then, governors of both parties have relied on their ability to advance policy via Article 7s in the budget.

When household finances were better, costs were lower, and the federal government was a more reliable partner, giving the budget shorter shrift might not have seemed so important. But at this time in our history, the numbers need greater scrutiny. Governor Hochul did not create the system but rather inherited it, and I anticipate that she and Speaker Heastie will make some needed improvements next year.

The recently enacted budget does a good job of improving services and helping stem the tide against federal funding cuts. New York State increased its funding for childcare and universal pre-K, made substantial investments in clean water and other environmental initiatives, and raised investments in higher education, the arts, local governments, and health care. Other basic programs, such as aid to school districts and investments in road repair, received modest increases to help absorb rising costs.

With inflation continuing to strain household budgets—particularly through higher health insurance, housing, and utility costs—and with growing uncertainty about the federal government's role as a funding partner, future budget years are likely to be more challenging. We will need to face difficult choices, weigh competing priorities, and find creative solutions to ensure that State government remains properly funded while meeting the needs of our residents. I look forward to taking on those challenges on your behalf.

This newsletter provides an overview of the recently enacted budget and a few of the Governor's non-budgetary proposals. Later this summer, I will write to you again with an overview of this year's legislative initiatives, including most of the Governor's Article 7s.

I hope you are having a wonderful summer. If my office can be of help, or answer any of your questions, please call (914) 631-1605 or email shimskym@nyassembly.gov.

BUDGET UPDATE

The New York State Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) Enacted Budget navigates a tightening fiscal environment, one we expect will become even more challenging in the years ahead as costs continue to rise and Washington continues to reduce funding for State and federal programs.

With this budget, we maintained or modestly increased funding in many core areas of State government while making investments in public education, health care, and relief from utility costs to help support residents and stabilize our communities.



PUBLIC EDUCATION

Public School Funding: The enacted budget increases public school funding by \$1.7 billion, bringing total school aid to \$39 billion. This investment ensures that every school district will receive at least a 2% increase in Foundation Aid for the upcoming school year. Funding for Universal Pre-K (UPK) will increase by \$561 million, for a total of \$1.6 billion.

Public Higher Education: State investments in public higher education will increase to \$15.1 billion for the State University of New York (SUNY) system and \$6.7 billion for the City University of New York (CUNY) system. This includes \$429 million in maintenance capital for SUNY, CUNY, and CUNY community colleges, as well as \$100 million for SUNY research facilities.

Opportunity Programs: The budget also provides nearly \$198 million for the State's educational opportunity programs, representing a \$19.5 million increase over last year.



Calling for investments to repair SUNY and CUNY campus infrastructure

STATE GRANTS FOR LOCAL PROJECTS

Late last year—after my winter newsletter went to press—New York State announced more than \$313 million in Regional Economic Development Council (REDC) grants statewide. I am pleased to share that the following initiatives in District 92 are among the recipients.

- **\$675,000 to Dobbs Ferry** to develop Lower Memorial Park as an active recreation facility—with pickleball courts, accessible restrooms, and covered bicycle parking—and connect the lower and middle areas of the park through internal paths, improved site features, and interrelated park amenities;
- **\$1,156,894 to Hastings-on-Hudson** to install a 5'-wide sidewalk and two 4'-wide bicycle lanes along Ravensdale Road and a 5'-wide sidewalk along Saw Mill River Road, creating pedestrian and bicycling connections to the schools, downtown, Metro-North train station, Bee-Line bus, and South County Trailway (Empire State Trail);
- **\$550,000 to Irvington** to install 5'-wide sidewalks on South Buckhout Street, connecting the residential neighborhoods of Half Moon and Spiro Park with the Metro-North train station;
- **\$237,196 to Historic Hudson Valley** to expand event production and marketing for a pair of seasonal events in Sleepy Hollow and encourage longer stays in the Mid-Hudson Region; and
- **\$100,000 to Child Care Council of Westchester** to establish a Child Care Workforce Training Center serving the Mid-Hudson Region, including a child care training simulation room and two classrooms at its center in Tarrytown.

HEALTH CARE

In the face of significant federal health care cuts, the budget includes an additional \$1.5 billion to support health care services—building on \$1 billion in investments carried over from last year—to include additions of nearly \$1.4 billion for hospital infrastructure and patient care, over \$950 million for nursing homes and assisted living programs, and \$80 million for federally qualified health centers.

The budget invests \$1.3 billion in safety-net hospitals, which provide care to New York's most vulnerable residents. Safety-net hospitals in District 92 include Westchester Medical Center and Blythedale Children's Hospital in Valhalla, and St. John's Riverside Hospital in Yonkers.



An additional \$500 million will go to the Vital Access Provider Assurance Program (VAPAP) to support facility restructuring during financial emergencies.

With Assembly members Otis and Levenberg to mark progress on Westchester Medical Center's critical care tower

MUNICIPAL AID

The enacted budget invests more than \$1 billion in municipal assistance outside New York City, a 25% increase over last year. This includes nearly \$715 million in Aid and Incentives for Municipalities (AIM), a \$100 million increase in Temporary Municipal Assistance (TMA), a \$135 million increase in AIM funding, and more than \$163 million in Miscellaneous Financial Assistance (MFA), as well as \$40 million in aid for the City of Yonkers.



Announcing investments in Yonkers in the FY27 State Budget

AFFORDABILITY



With the Westchester Legislative delegation at Nonprofit Westchester's annual budget forum

Utility Relief: The enacted budget provides one-time relief to ratepayers through the Protect Our Wallets Energy Rebate (POWER) Program, a \$1 billion allocation that will benefit approximately 8.2 million eligible New Yorkers. Recipients will receive rebate checks automatically between September and December 2026—\$200 for joint filers earning less than \$150,000, \$150 for joint filers earning \$150,000 to \$300,000, and \$100 for single filers earning less than \$100,000, based on 2024 State income tax returns.

An additional \$190 million will support programs that help homeowners reduce utility costs through energy-efficiency upgrades, including EmPower Plus and the Weatherization Assistance Program.

Affordable Housing: The budget allocates \$250 million for affordable housing development, \$100 million for the construction of modular starter homes, and \$142 million in capital funding for programs that repair and rehabilitate existing housing stock. It also includes \$75 million for housing authorities outside New York City and \$50 million for the Housing Access Voucher Program (HAVP).

Child Care: The Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) will receive \$2.4 billion, representing nearly a 40% increase over last year and allowing the program to expand by as many as 100,000 additional child care slots.

Child Tax Credit: The spending plan provides \$3 billion in childcare subsidies and \$65 million in tax relief through the Child and Dependent Care Credit.

Tipped Wages: The budget also eliminates the State income tax on up to \$25,000 in qualified tipped wages.

Hunger Relief: Funding for Emergency Hunger Response organizations increased by \$25 million, bringing total funding to \$138 million.

The new state budget
fights back against
rising utility costs

Provides energy
rebate checks
for families

Creates the
RATES Commission
to **lower costs**

Returns excess
utility profits
to consumers



The FY27 State Budget contains a legislative package to begin addressing utility costs, including requirements for utilities to return excess revenue to ratepayers, to file budget-constrained proposals with the Public Service Commission (PSC), and to refrain from passing the costs of lobbying and public relations onto ratepayers.

Also enacted in the budget are reforms to the rate-setting process—such as an extension of the review period to 15 months and legal requirements to ensure greater consideration of ratepayers—and the establishment of a blue-ribbon commission to study the causes of high utility costs and recommend more comprehensive legislative reforms.

Much more will need to be done, but this package moves us in the right direction.

ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

The FY27 budget includes \$6.2 billion for the final year of the Department of Transportation's (DOT) five-year capital plan, an \$80 million increase over the Governor's proposed budget. Key investments include \$1.4 billion in Local Capital Aid—including an additional \$50 million for the Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) to help municipalities fix the local roads that comprise over 85% of all roads in New York. These increases will help our local governments keep up with inflation.



Calling for increased funding for roadways in the FY27 State Budget

BUDGET ALLOCATIONS TO LOCAL PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS



This year, I will be able to allocate \$1.5 million to capital projects and \$300,000 for nonprofit programming in District 92. We will have specifics to share in my winter newsletter. But given the distressing rise in food insecurity in our communities, I already expect that much of my program funding will be directed to food pantries and nutrition assistance in the district.

Honoring Lisa Kosan, President of the Community Food Pantry of Sleepy Hollow/Tarrytown, at the Legislature's 2026 Women's History Month Celebration

ARTS, CULTURE, AND LIBRARIES

Funding for the New York State Council on the Arts increased by \$20 million, for a total of \$81 million in general operating support to non-profit organizations and individual artists. \$80 million in capital funding will allow NYSCA to offer grants for projects of all sizes, ranging from \$10,000 to \$10 million.

Library Construction Aid remains funded at \$44 million, while Library Operating Aid increased slightly to \$106.4 million.



Visiting the Greenburgh Public Library with Library Director Christina Ryan-Linder

ENVIRONMENT

New York will advance its environmental protection and sustainability efforts with a \$1 billion investment in the Sustainable Futures Fund—including \$500 million for greenhouse gas reductions in buildings, \$300 million for renewable energy projects, and \$50 million for electrification in public schools. In addition, the Environmental Protection Fund will receive a record \$450 million next year, a \$25 million increase over last year's funding level.

Significant investments have also been dedicated to protecting drinking water, including \$525 million for the Clean Water Infrastructure Act of 2017 and \$225 million for water infrastructure projects that support housing development.

The cap on reimbursements through the municipal Zero-Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Program will increase to \$30,000 per vehicle, helping local governments transition their fleets to cleaner transportation options.



Rallying in Tarrytown to maintain CLCPA climate targets

No budget satisfies all priorities, and this year was no exception. I used my floor time during the budget vote to express my profound frustration with compromises made to the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), which I believe will damage our environment and public health by giving a quiet nod to gas and nuclear power—forms of energy that are obsolete, dangerous, and very, very expensive to build and maintain.

The war against climate change and for a clean energy future is not over, nor is the war for affordability. It continues every day at national legislatures, state houses, boardrooms, and kitchen tables all over the world. We can never assume that we have lost, or won; and we must continue the fight, as our children's future depends on it.

I will continue to raise these and other critical issues in the Assembly, along with so many of my colleagues who remain committed to improving the lives of all New Yorkers.

REPAVING ROUTE 100B
IN GREENBURGH

In October, I announced that a 1.4-mile length of Route 100B (Dobbs Ferry Road) in Greenburgh had been accelerated on the New York State Department of Transportation's Hudson Valley paving program. I'm pleased to let you know that prep work began in May, and paving should be done by the time you receive this newsletter. This much-needed project will provide us all with a smoother, safer road for years to come.

Repaving of Route 100B (Dobbs Ferry Road) was well underway in late June



LAND PURCHASE IN
MOUNT PLEASANT NEAR
THE KENSICO RESERVOIR

In December, the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) acquired more than 48 acres in the hamlet of Hawthorne for \$12.56 million—its highest-value land purchase—to protect Kensico Reservoir. This will help safeguard an important source of clean drinking water, while preserving Mount Pleasant’s natural beauty.

With DEP Commissioner Rohit T. Aggarwala to announce the purchase of land in Hawthorne

TO REVIEW THE BUDGET IN DETAIL, VISIT [BUDGET.NY.GOV](https://www.budget.ny.gov).



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My office is here to help with your constituent needs:

- Navigating State agencies
- Accessing government benefits and forms
- Addressing community problems
- Learning about State government

Feel free to reach out to my District Office at 914-631-1605 or email shimskym@nyassembly.gov.

To receive the District 92 weekly email, with news from Albany and across District 92, scan the QR code here or visit nyassembly.gov/mem/MaryJane-Shimsky/enews/.

 You can follow my official Facebook account, “**Assemblymember MaryJane Shimsky**,” for more frequent updates.

