



Assemblymember MARYJANE SHIMSKY



DISTRICT 92 - 2026 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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Dear Neighbors,

Despite our budget negotiations running nearly two months past deadline, the Legislature was able to pass 759 bills at the close of the 2026 session in June. Apart from the inevitable frustrations, we were still able to advance a number of items that reflect our commitment to strengthening New York's communities and improving the lives of our residents.

In this newsletter are this year's legislative highlights, from both the Governor's initiatives enacted in the State budget—known as Article 7 bills—and the standalone bills that passed the Legislature and are now awaiting her action. Whether it's lowering costs for consumers, protecting civil rights, improving public safety, strengthening our health care system, or investing in a cleaner and more sustainable future, New York State government has a responsibility to respond thoughtfully to the needs of our communities. We have done much to promote those values in our 2026 legislation, but more needs to be done in many of these areas. I remain committed to that work and to advancing policies that help ensure every New Yorker can thrive.

It is my privilege to represent the communities of District 92 and bring your voices to Albany. To that end, I encourage you to contact my office at any time to share your views or to seek our assistance, by calling (914) 631-1605 or emailing shimskym@nyassembly.gov.

My best wishes to you for the rest of the summer, and to our families at the start of the new school year.

PUBLIC SAFETY & CIVIL RIGHTS

Illegal 3D-Printed Guns: Among the initiatives included in the Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) State Budget is a ban on the use of 3D printers to manufacture “ghost guns” and firearm parts, as well as on the sale and distribution of digital instructions to build these weapons. In addition, a working group has been created to explore the feasibility of technology blocking the 3D-printing of firearms. These measures build upon New York's leadership in gun safety, including our assault weapons ban, safe storage and “red flag” laws, and strict permitting standards.

Unlawful Drones: Our legal code must keep up with the growing prevalence of drones and evolving drone technology—an issue underscored by this summer's drone scare above JFK Airport. With the FY27 budget, we have now criminalized dangerous drone use in and around restricted areas and authorized law enforcement to respond to credible drone threats.

Safe Buffer Zones: Also enacted in the budget is legislation establishing that individuals who intentionally interfere with or endanger people entering or exiting a house of worship within a 50-foot buffer zone may face a class B misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment of up to three months. This law represents a compromise reached after lengthy debate among our members about how to balance competing First Amendment rights.

Immigration Enforcement:

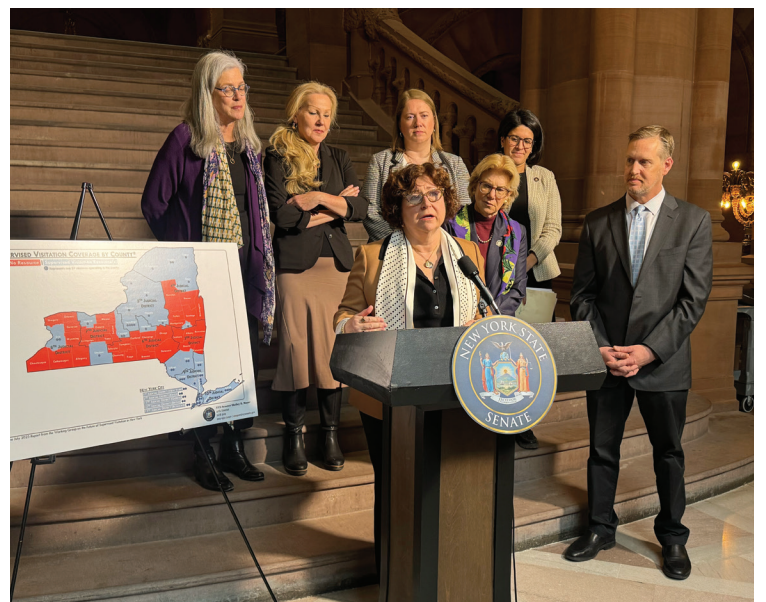
In response to aggressive tactics and overreach by federal immigration agents, New York has prohibited the use of 287(g) Agreements deputizing State and local law enforcement as immigration officers for civil violations. We have also created protections for “sensitive locations” including daycare centers, schools, healthcare facilities, houses of worship, playgrounds, and polling places.



With Westchester colleagues at Make the Road New York's legislative town hall

Police Mask Ban: Our communities are safer when there is trust between law enforcement and the people they serve. To promote the openness and accountability upon which that trust depends, New York has enacted restrictions, through the state budget, against law enforcement officers wearing masks or face coverings while interacting with the public. At this time, the mask ban has been blocked by a federal judge, and New York's attorney general and governor are reviewing legal options.

Kyra's Law: I was a proud co-sponsor of Kyra's Law (A.6194C), which requires courts to consider a child's health and safety risks, and to implement appropriate protective provisions when making custody and visitation decisions. This bill was named for two-year-old Kyra Franchetti, who was killed by her father during a court-ordered, unsupervised visit—a visit that occurred despite repeated reports of his domestic abuse, suicidal ideation, stalking, and rage issues. To make safer family visits possible, we passed a bill that I also co-sponsored to ensure that supervised visitation services are available in every county in the State (A.065B).



Advocating to expand funding and statewide access to supervised visitation services

CONSUMER PROTECTION & AFFORDABILITY

Utility Costs: The Legislature and Governor’s office have been working on a range of legislation to fight skyrocketing gas and electric costs. These efforts have begun to take shape with a package of bills enacted in the FY27 budget, including:

- Updating rate case criteria to give greater consideration to affordability;
- Requiring utilities to present a budget-constrained option in their rate cases;
- Allowing an “affordability monitor” to be installed when average bills increase too steeply; and
- Ensuring that costs such as lobbying, political contributions, and executive travel are not passed on to ratepayers.

Much more will need to be done on the complex issue of utility affordability. However, future legislation should result from another FY27 budget measure establishing the Ratepayer Assessment, Transparency, and Efficiency of Standards (RATES) Commission—a working group of consumer advocates and energy experts to investigate the drivers of rate increases, scrutinize utility profits, review energy markets, and recommend actionable reforms.

Unfair Pricing Practices: The One Fair Price Act (A.9349B), which I co-sponsored, prohibits the use of personal information and algorithms to sell an item at different prices to different people—a

practice known as surveillance pricing. In addition, I co-sponsored the New York Junk Fee Prevention Act (A.9604), which requires businesses to disclose the total cost of goods and services, including all mandatory fees, in their advertisements.

Abatements for Disabled Veterans: Those returning from military service with permanent injuries or disabilities face an immediate need to retrofit their homes for adaptive use. The Disabled Veteran Home Modification Act (A.10921A) authorizes municipalities to provide reduced or free permits to these veterans. In addition, legislation enacted in the State budget expands the eligibility for a property tax exemption to veterans who are totally and permanently disabled due to their service.

Moratorium on Chatbots in Toys: The thorough scrutiny of emerging technologies is a top priority when it comes to our children. Now awaiting the Governor’s action is legislation that would establish a five-year moratorium on children’s toys featuring “AI companions” or chatbots (A.11144B). This would allow time for the Office of Mental Health, the Attorney General’s Office, and other stakeholders to make informed recommendations based on the potential risks and benefits of these devices.

HEALTH CARE & PATIENT PROTECTIONS

Health Data Protection: As technology continues to shape our everyday lives, protecting personal privacy has never been more important, especially when it comes to sensitive health information. The New York Health Information Privacy Act (A.10357), which I co-sponsored, would prohibit companies from collecting or selling users’ health data without their consent.

Mifepristone Access Act: To ensure continued access to the two-drug regimen commonly prescribed for medication abortion and complications from early pregnancy loss, the Legislature passed a bill to protect medical professionals from criminal liability or fines for prescribing either brand-name or generic mifepristone (A.9217).

Safer Childbirth During Incarceration: Since 2009, it has been illegal in New York to shackle pregnant people during labor, delivery, and recovery, for their health and that of their children. I co-sponsored new legislation that would extend these protections to those who are incarcerated or in police custody (A.1670).

PUBLIC HEALTH & THE ENVIRONMENT

As mentioned in my recent budget newsletter, New York made significant investments in environmental protection in the FY27 budget, including \$1 billion in the Sustainable Futures Fund and \$750 million for clean water and water infrastructure. In addition, we have passed these key bills:

Limiting PFAS in Water: The Legislature has passed a bill, which I co-sponsored, establishing maximum levels for several types of common PFAS in our drinking water as of 2029, under the supervision of the State Department of Health (A.08634B). This reduces allowable levels from 10 parts per trillion (ppt) to 4 ppt, in recognition of studies showing that no exposure to these forever chemicals is without risk.

Food Chemical Disclosures: I co-sponsored the Food Safety and Chemical Disclosure Act (A.1556G), which would require the disclosure of three harmful food additives: FD&C Red No. 2, potassium bromate, and propylparaben. This bill would also create an online database of food safety assessments—including some information that has remained undisclosed by manufacturers for decades—enabling State regulators and the public to make informed assessments of the food products sold in New York State.

Solar Accessibility: For too long, renters, apartment dwellers, and homeowners without suitable rooftops have not had the option of solar energy to lower their electricity bills and reduce their environmental impact. The SUNNY Act (A.9111C), which I co-sponsored, cuts unnecessary red tape while maintaining safety standards—helping households save money, increase energy independence, and contribute toward New York’s clean energy goals. In addition, the Accelerate Solar for Affordable Power Act (A.8758-A), a bill I co-sponsored which was later absorbed into the FY27 budget, will expand residential solar and its ability to contribute to the energy grid.

Data Center Moratorium: Large data centers require such significant amounts of electricity that they strain the electrical grid, drive up costs for average ratepayers, consume vast quantities of water, generate constant noise, and create other impacts for local communities.¹ The Responsible Data Center Development Act (A.11560) would establish a one-year moratorium on new permits for data centers of 20 or more megawatts, providing time for the State to develop plans for energy efficiency and environmental standards, ensure a fair distribution of the cost burden, and explore options to generate direct benefits to communities.

Note: In July, the Governor issued an executive order pausing construction on data centers of 50 or more megawatts, and with a narrower regulatory scope than the Legislature’s bill. At this time, the Governor is considering the provisions in the Legislature’s bill, which she still can sign into law by the end of the year.



Meeting with local advocates at the Tarrytown district office

¹<https://www.eesi.org/articles/view/data-center-energy-needs-are-upending-power-grids-and-threatening-the-climate>

PRIME-SPONSORED LEGISLATION

Throughout the legislative session, I worked to advance proposals that protect the rights, safety, and well-being of New Yorkers. While not every bill advanced, these efforts contributed to important conversations and policies that strengthen workplace protections, safeguard our elections, and address emerging public safety challenges.

Clarifying Employee Rights to Report: The widespread use of non-disclosure and non-disparagement agreements has led to misunderstandings about the rights of employees to report sexual harassment and other workplace misconduct. I was the prime sponsor for legislation, passed by the Assembly and Senate, that would require employers to inform workers of their rights to report to law enforcement, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the New York State Division of Human Rights, local human rights commissions, or an attorney retained by the employee (A.0618).

Poll Site Protections: Making laws is a collaborative and often complicated process. This year, I introduced two bills to expand poll site protections—one to restrict armed federal law enforcement from being within 200 feet of a polling place (A.10385), and another to prohibit federal troops or armed federal agents from interfering with elections (A.11530). These bills did not advance to a floor vote, but elements of their provisions can be seen in the previously mentioned budget legislation concerning sensitive locations.

Prohibiting Drones Near Correctional Facilities:

While my bill restricting drone use within 500 feet of a correctional facility (A.0615A) did not advance in the Legislature, components of this and several other bills proposed by my colleagues are reflected in the drone restrictions enacted in the FY27 budget.

Local Authorizations: I introduced the following “home rule” legislation at the request of County and local governments. These bills are an important example of how State representatives work in cooperation with our villages, towns, cities, and counties.

- Amendment of the Westchester County Public Works Investment Act of 2025, expanding the use of design-build construction contracts for eight additional public works projects that address the County’s flood mitigation needs (A.11476);
- Approval for the Town of Greenburgh to install a solar canopy in the parking lot at Anthony F. Veteran Park (A.11533); and
- Granting of peace officer status to the village court security officers of Ardsley (A.3988A) and Pleasantville (A.3987A).

To see all the legislation for which I am the sponsor or co-sponsor, visit nyassembly.gov/mem/MaryJane-Shimsky/sponsor/.



Discussing legislative priorities with the Westchester County Board of Legislators

IN OUR COMMUNITIES



At the Veterans Day Parade in Hartsdale



Celebrating the Sleepy Hollow Fire Department's 150th anniversary with Chief Steven Bencosme



Honoring Ex-Chief Brian Dwyer, 60-year member of the Thornwood Fire District, with Chief Thomas Olsen



At the Court of Honor for Eagle Scout Lara Hansen, of Scouting America Troop 22 in Tarrytown



Looking at the beauty—and infrastructure needs—of Untermyer Gardens with Conservancy President Stephen F. Byrns



Speaking with seniors and staff at Dobbs Ferry's Embassy Center



Enjoying Jewish culture at the Ardsley Multicultural, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee's Mitzvah Mixer with Mayor Steven Edelstein



Celebrating Africa Day in Elmsford with Echoes Africa Initiatives



With Cecil Fielder, former Detroit Tigers and NY Yankees slugger, at Elmsford Little League Opening Day



Cutting the ribbon on Irvington's Mathiessen Park Stage



Raising the flag for Juneteenth at Greenburgh Town Hall



No event puts the "fun" in fundraiser like Tarrytown Rotary's annual Rubber Ducky Derby!



At Dominican Culture Day in Sleepy Hollow



The rain drove Hastings Pride indoors, but did not dampen spirits—here with marriage equality activists Michael Sabatino and Robert Voorheis and Mayor Tom Drake



Enjoying the annual Pleasantville Music Festival with Mayor Peter Scherer



Meeting Uncle Sam at the Mount Pleasant 250th Anniversary Fourth of July festivities in Valhalla





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Albany, New York 12248

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LET'S STAY IN TOUCH

- 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.

