



ASSEMBLYMEMBER
CHRIS BURDICK
ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 93



Dear Friends,

A busy session is underway! The legislature is moving forward with the FY 2027 budget process, while I continue to move forward on my legislative agenda (*more on that below*).

On the home front, **this past Tuesday, I participated in a Coffee & Conversation with County Legislator Erika Pierce (who organized the event) and Lewisboro Town Supervisor Tony Gonçalves.** We discussed the need for greater support for emergency responders — especially at the state level — as both recruitment and retention by our local volunteer fire departments are increasingly challenging. We also discussed the astronomical increase in utility bills, traffic issues, and opposition to rolling back the goals under the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA).

My thanks to everyone who participated!



We are also continuing to make our voices heard regarding NYSEG's requested rate increase. **Recently, Senator Pete Harckham, County Legislator Erika Pierce, and I held a press conference at Bedford Town Hall with residents reeling from their skyrocketing NYSEG bills.** We heard from single-household residents on fixed incomes, working people on modest incomes, and others who are struggling mightily to pay their utility bills.



I am an intervenor (or party) in the current NYSEG rate case, which began with NYSEG filing for a delivery rate hike of 35% for electric and 39.4% for gas over the proposed five-year term, well above the rate of inflation. In this capacity, I am fighting tooth and nail for lower rates.

At the press conference, I was proud to join my colleagues in speaking out against these unconscionable proposed increases and to encourage NYSEG Customers to let the Governor and Public Service Commission (PSC) know their views:

- New York State Governor, Kathy Hochul: (518) 474-8390
- PSC Opinion Line: 1-800-335-2120 To submit comments on Commission Cases/Initiatives/Proceedings. This number is set up to receive comments from in-State callers 24-hours a day. These calls are not transcribed verbatim, but a summary is provided to the Commission.

While ratepayers make their views known, we will remain relentless in our fight to hold down the rates.

On a lighter note, **the Friday before Valentine's Day, we continued our annual Valentine's for Veterans tradition.** Greeting Veterans at the outpatient building of the VA in Montrose, each was handed a very special Valentine's card, hand-colored with messages from elementary school students throughout my district. Every year, teachers and children enthusiastically participate in this effort, giving the teachers an opportunity both to explain what a Veteran is and to honor them for their selfless service to our country.



My thanks to all the students, teachers, and schools who participated!

Budget & Legislative Update

The Legislature has been reviewing the Governor’s proposed FY 2027 budget (April 1 through March 31). We have completed our Joint Budget Hearings, and each chamber soon will be adopting what’s referred to as the One House Budget, which sets out the budget as they’d like to see it.

As I mentioned in my [previous newsletter](#), we are pleased with the broad outlines of the proposed budget. However, we feel it needs to go further.

I would like to see the Assembly adopt the following:

- **More funds for schools** - the proposed 1% increase in Foundation Aid isn’t sufficient.
- **More funds for state roads and bridges** - I joined colleagues advocating for a \$950 million increase for state roads and a \$250 million increase for local roads (called CHIPS funds).

- **Broadening protections against unwarranted action on the part of ICE.**
- **Increased funding for affordable housing.** I have been taking the lead in the Assembly to restore \$75 million in the budget for public housing authorities outside New York City, as was appropriated in the FY 2026 budget, and to add an additional \$25 million for the five-year affordable housing plan.
- **Increased funding to move us along on the path to Universal Childcare,** as well as increased funding for pre-K.

I am also advocating for an increase in statewide support for cleaning up Brownfield contamination at the sites of the proposed \$2 billion Galleria District Project in White Plains, which has the support of the City of White Plains and Labor. The project would provide 800 affordable housing units, good jobs, and be a tremendous economic stimulus for the County.

I am pleased that the Governor has made a start in her budget with legislation to reform the utility rate-setting process, which is now heavily tilted toward utilities. The proposals, which are policy rather than budgetary, may well be handled post-budget. We need to level the playing field, provide transparency and accountability, and make the process open and accessible to the general public.

As an intervenor in the Con Edison and NYSEG rate cases, I have opposed astronomical proposed rate hikes. The deep dive into the process has enabled me to recognize common-sense changes that can be made. **Several of my colleagues and I have introduced legislation to broaden the scope of the Governor's proposals,** including a bill that I am cosponsoring that [establishes a consumer advocacy unit](#) in the Department of Public Service.

On the legislative front, I am seeking passage of bills that I introduced last year, as well as new legislation. Among them are the following:

- **Neurodiversity Training Pledge (A0038),** to establish in the Department of Labor a voluntary training and certification program for employers to support an inclusive workplace and the advantages of a neurodiverse workforce.
- **Traveling with Dignity Act (A6219A),** which provides for adult changing tables to be placed for use by persons with disabilities who need help with diapering at commercial places of public amusement and state-owned buildings open to the public.
- **An amendment to the Public Service Law** that authorizes and directs the public service commission to establish rules to limit a utility's ability to recover its direct or indirect costs associated with its attendance in, participation in, preparation for,

or appeal of any rate proceeding conducted before the commission ([A5402B](#)).

- **The HEFPA Protection Act** ([A10160](#)), which would clarify and strengthen the Home Energy Fair Practices Act, which requires utilities to accept public assistance payments, but whose purposes have been frustrated in some cases through administrative practices.
- **Legislation to repeal** a 26-year-old sales-tax exemption for equipment and other personal property purchases by internet data centers ([A10216](#)).
- **The First Responder Peer Support Program Act** ([A7285A](#)), which supplies peer-to-peer mental health programs to first responders.

I will continue to keep you up to date on my legislative efforts.



[Student Empowerment Day 2026](#)

Despite a blizzard just the day before, **college students with disabilities from all over the state came to Albany last week to advocate for themselves in this year's state budget.**

Coming from colleges such as SUNY Morrisville, SUNY Brockport, Syracuse, Cornell, SUNY Polytechnic, Bard, SUNY Binghamton, SUNY Delhi, and SUNY Buffalo, these amazing students spoke about the challenges they face with not enough services, long wait times for accommodations, and obstacles that they face in completing their education. **With a goal of becoming contributing members of society, they asked the legislature to invest in them in this year's budget. As we should.**

My office and State Senator Andrew Gounardes' office hosted the event, which was organized by the New York State Disability Services Council. Many of my colleagues spoke as well.

We are asking for \$15 million for the Enhancing Supports and Services for Students with Disabilities for Postsecondary Success (SWDPS) program. Currently, over 108,000 students with disabilities are enrolled in NYS colleges - an increase of nearly 30,000 since the pandemic. They are the state's largest untapped economic asset, yet they are being sidelined by a lack of basic accessibility infrastructure and funding in higher education.



[Women of Distinction](#)

In case you missed my email from earlier in the week, the Women of Distinction Awards are back!

In honor of Women's History Month, my office is seeking nominations for the 2026 Women of Distinction Awards, where we will once again recognize some of the many accomplished and inspiring women of the 93rd Assembly District.

Please [submit your nomination](#) by Monday, March 23, with awards to be given out at a ceremony this spring (*stay tuned for details!*). Please note:

- **We ask that you only nominate ONE person** for the 2026 awards.
- **Nominees MUST reside in the 93rd Assembly District**, which includes the towns of Bedford, Harrison, Lewisboro, Mount Kisco, New Castle, North Castle, North Salem, Pound Ridge, and a little over half of White Plains (if needed, please reach out to us and we can confirm an individual's district).
- **Nominees must NOT have been previously recognized** as a 93rd Assembly District Woman of Distinction. [Click here for previous winners](#),

**Assemblymember
Chris Burdick**
is seeking nominations for the

**2026
WOMEN OF
DISTINCTION
AWARDS**



**TOGETHER, LET'S RECOGNIZE THE
EXTRAORDINARY WOMEN WHO ARE
MAKING OUR COMMUNITIES STRONGER.**

Nominations must be submitted by 03/23/26.
Nominees must live in the 93rd Assembly District.



Please visit
tinyurl.com/2026WomenofDistinction or
scan the QR code to nominate a woman
you know who has made a difference in
your life or the lives of others.




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Questions? Please contact Jackie Mishler at (914) 244-4450 or mishlerj@nyassembly.gov.

[Important Update for New York Drivers](#)

Motorists who commit serious traffic violations will now receive more points on their license.

The updated point system increases accountability for dangerous driving and helps make New York's roads safer for motorists, pedestrians, and cyclists. [Click here for more details.](#)



Higher point penalties for serious traffic violations are now in effect across New York State

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It's Tax Season! Some Reminders...

With tax season officially underway, we wanted to make sure you were aware of programs for those who qualify:

Need help preparing your taxes? The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) programs offer free basic tax return preparation for seniors and other qualifying taxpayers. **For more information or to see if you are eligible for these services, [please click here](#).**



Tax filing assistance is available for qualifying New Yorkers!

Make sure you take advantage of all the tax savings out there! Learn more about the federal [Child Tax Credit](#) and [Earned Income Tax Credit](#).



Finally, for those who qualify, **a reminder to claim your enhanced Empire State Child Tax Credit.** The newly expanded credit is available to more families than ever and provides refunds of up to \$1,000 per child under age 4 and up to \$330 per child ages 4-16. [Click here for more details.](#)

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to my office with any questions or if there is any assistance we can provide. You can always reach me at burdickc@nyassembly.gov or by calling (914) 244-4450. My staff and I are always ready to help.

Please also follow me on [Facebook](#), [Twitter/X](#), and [Instagram](#) for continued up-to-date information.

Miss any of our previous newsletters? You can [find them here](#).

Sincerely yours,

Chris Burdick

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