

Dear Constituent,

The year 2025 is upon us. As always, my resolution is to be a productive and effective representative for the residents of the 95th Assembly District. Below, you'll find a wrap-up of my second year in office and information about important new laws going into effect in January, along with a reminder about upcoming events for the start of 2025.

My office is closed today and tomorrow, January 1, in observance of the New Year holiday. We will reopen on Thursday, January 2. Happy New Year!

Best,

Assemblywoman Dana Levenberg

2024 By The Numbers



This year, I continued to work hard to pass legislation to make New York more affordable and sustainable. Sixty-nine of the bills I sponsored or co-sponsored this year were signed into law by the Governor. This legislation included major new laws such as the Climate Change Superfund Act, which will require the multinational companies responsible for the bulk of carbon emissions between the years 2000 and 2024 to pay approximately \$3 billion each year for 25 years to help New York State defray the costs of climate change. I am so proud that we have taken this huge step to shift the burden of paying for flood, fire and storm damage off the backs of taxpayers

and place it where it belongs: on the corporations that knew the impacts their practices would have on our shared home, and suppressed that information in order to reap huge profits. Other significant bills signed into law include **Melanie's Law**, which will expand protections for household members in cases of domestic violence and the **Stop Addictive Feeds Exploitation (SAFE) for Kids** and **New York Child Data Protection Acts**, which will protect our children from the excesses of social media.

Moreover, I am proud to have helped secure tens of millions of dollars in funding for critical infrastructure needs for our district, such as \$16 million for the repaving of sections of Route 9A and an additional \$20 million toward the road's modernization. I also delivered more than \$5.5 million in grant funding for entities serving communities in AD95. Together with my colleagues in the Assembly Majority, I fought to protect state aid to our public schools, ensuring that no district faced cuts and delivering nearly \$247 million for our schoolchildren.

In addition, my office and I:

- Hosted seven town halls and one senior forum
- Held 18 mobile office hours events
- Closed more than 230 constituent cases
- Held 1,480 meetings with advocates and stakeholders
- Issued 2,219 certificates of merit, citations and proclamations celebrating the accomplishments of district residents
- Provided 93 letters of support for grant applications and other initiatives
- Released six podcast episodes (<u>click here to subscribe</u> and see more as they are released!)

To help guide my work, my office paid close attention to what residents had to say about the issues. This year, we received **10,075** comments from constituents on issues and pending legislation. The top issue for both phone calls and electronic comments was the state of local roads, with Route 9A in Ossining and Briarcliff once again receiving the dubious distinction of being the roadway about which we receive the most complaints. I am hopeful that the complaints about this road will abate somewhat in 2025 once the repaving work is complete. (Speaking of which: those who travel in this area frequently should note that the detour is over for now, to be resumed in the spring. Once restarted, the detours will begin at 9 PM each night of work on the roadway.)

The remaining top 5 issues constituents wrote to us about most frequently were healthcare, education, environmental issues, and the Medical Aid in Dying bill. My district office staff and I recorded a podcast episode in which we discussed how we review comments from constituents; click here to watch or listen to it. Please know that your opinions matter to me. In addition to the surveys that my office issues from time to time, the best way to let me know your opinions is to use the contact form on my web page. I will also be hosting six town halls as the new legislative session gets underway; read on for more information about those events.

Upcoming Events





Save the date(s)! I will once again be hosting town halls to share updates from Albany and gather your input as the new legislative session and budget negotiations get underway. I hope you will be able to join me. Two will be focused on affordability issues specifically, while the others will be open to all topics. The schedule is as follows:

Affordability

Thursday, February 6 at 7 PM: Virtual town hall on affordability issues. RSVP at https://bit.ly/AD95VirtualTownHall2025

Thursday, February 13 at 7 PM: Croton Free Library, 171 Cleveland Dr., Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520

General Interest

Saturday, February 8:

- 10 AM: Briarcliff Manor Community Center, 3 Library Rd., Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510
- 2 PM: Field Library, 4 Nelson Ave., Peekskill, NY 10566

Saturday, February 15:

- 10 AM: Hendrick Hudson Free Library, 185 Kings Ferry Rd., Montrose, NY 10548
- 2 PM: Desmond-Fish Public Library, 472 NY-403, Garrison, NY 10524

New Laws for January 2025



New laws go into effect every month. January 2025 has a good deal more than usual, and the full list is below. Of special note this month is New York's new, first-in-the-nation paid prenatal leave law. This groundbreaking policy requires private employers to provide up to 20 hours of paid leave for prenatal care, separate from existing leave policies. This initiative aims to support pregnant workers and ensure they can receive necessary pregnancy related health care without loss of income. As a member of the Assembly #MomSquad, I was proud to work for the passage of this legislation.

Employers will need to adjust their leave policies to comply with the new regulations, which may include updating employee handbooks, training HR staff, and ensuring that payroll systems can accommodate the new leave. For more information, please refer to Governor Hochul's <u>Paid Prenatal Leave webpage</u>, which includes an FAQ.



Also of note this month is the second in a series of increases to the state's minimum wage. On January 1, the minimum wage will increase to \$16.50 in New York City, Long Island and Westchester and \$15.50 everywhere else (including Putnam County). The minimum wage will increase by another .50 per hour in 2026, and then increase at a rate determined by the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) for the Northeast Region, indexing the minimum wage to inflation. It's important to note that a rising tide lifts all boats; increasing the minimum wage has a

ripple effect that leads employers to boost all workers' wages. Helping wages keep up with inflation is another step in New York's efforts to promote affordability.

Effective Date	Chapter	Summary		
1/1/2025	Ch. 56 of 2022 Part BBB, Sec. 8 (c) §6 S.8006-C A.9006-C	Expands eligibility for the Basic Health Program: increases the federal poverty limit cap from 200 to 250 percent; allows pregnant individuals to be eligible and maintain coverage for one year post pregnancy.		
1/1/2025	Ch. 58 of 2022 Part QQ §§2-10 S.8008-C A.9008-C	Clarifies regulations related to freshwater wetlands.		
1/1/2025	Ch. 57 of 2023 Part N S.4007-C A.3007-C	Authorizes the Commissioner of Health to apply for federal waivers to expand the Medicaid Buy-In program for Working People with Disabilities (MBI-WPD).		
1/1/2025	Ch. 56 of 2023 A.3006-C S.4006-C	Increases the minimum wage to \$16.50 per hour in NYC, Long Island, and Westchester County and \$15.50 per hour for employers in the rest of the state.		
1/1/2025	Ch. 649 of 2023 S.1466 A.250-A	Authorizes insurance companies to make payments to nonparticipating or nonpreferred providers of ambulance services.		
1/1/2025	Ch. 33 of 2022 A.8721 S.7825	Prohibits hotels with more than 50 rooms from providing guests with small plastic bottles containing hospitality personal care products.		
1/1/2025	Ch. 754 of 2023 S.1196-A A.1673-A Ch. 29 of 2024 §§1-4 A.8502 S.8040	Requires health insurance policies and Medicaid to cover biomarker precision medical testing for diagnosis, treatment, or appropriate management and monitoring of a covered person's disease or condition when the test has recognized efficacy and appropriateness for such purposes.		
1/1/2025	Ch. 745 of 2023 A.6291-A S.264-A Ch. 67 of 2024, §1 S.8028 A.8483	Requires owners of high rise buildings to work in conjunction with advocacy organizations to develop an emergency evacuation for the evacuation of individuals with disabilities. Hospitals, assisted living facilities, and adult care facilities are exempt.		

1/1/2025	Ch. 55 of 2024, PART M	Requires employers to provide 20 hours of paid prenatal personal leave per year.		
	<u>A.8805-C</u>			
	S.8305-C			
1/1/2025	Ch. 56 of 2024 Part CC	Requires the use of project labor agreements for large scale construction projects under the State University Construction Fund.		
	<u>S.8306-C</u>	Construction Fund.		
	A.8806-C			
1/1/2025	Ch. 56 of 2024 Part UU	Allows the MTA to impose a fine of up to \$150 per violation for repeat fare evasion.		
		violation to repeat fare evasion.		
	S.8306-C			
1/1/2025	A.8806-C Ch. 56 of 2024 Part	Establishes the Newspaper And Broadcast Media Jobs		
1/1/2023	AAA	Program, which provides a tax credit for newspaper and broadcast media businesses that can be applied until		
	S.8306-C	2028.		
1/1/2025	A.8806-C	Authorized continuous coverage under medical		
1/1/2025	Ch. 57 of 2024 Part M	Authorizes continuous coverage under medical assistance for Medicaid and Child Health Plus recipients for eligible children up to age six.		
	<u>S.8307-C</u>			
	<u>A.8807-C</u>			
1/1/2025	Ch. 57 of 2024, PART AA	Provides that reimbursement rates for the provision of covered outpatient, intensive outpatient, outpatient rehabilitation and opioid treatment shall be negotiated		
	<u>S.8307-C</u>	between the insurer and facility and shall not be less than the Medicaid reimbursement rate.		
	<u>A.8807-C</u>			
1/1/2025	Ch. 58 of 2024 Part EE	Provides that covered prescription insulin drugs shall not be subject to deductible, copayment, coinsurance or other cost sharing requirements.		
	<u>A.8808-C</u>			
	<u>S.8308-C</u>			
1/1/2025	Ch. 217 of 2024	Modifies the order in which candidates appear on the ballot; requires that offices be listed on the ballot in the		
	<u>S.5943</u>	following order: electors for president and vice-president of the United States, governor and lieutenant governor,		
	<u>A.725</u>	New York state comptroller, New York state attorney general, United States senator, member of the house of representatives, New York state senator, member of the		
		New York state assembly. Additional offices shall be listed in descending order based on the size of the electorate.		
1/1/2025	Ch. 228 of 2024	Requires insurers to provide coverage for tattooing of the		
	<u>A.5729-A</u>	nipple-areolar complex pursuant to or as part of breast reconstruction surgery if such tattooing is performed by a		
	S.6146-A	physician or other health care practitioner working within their scope of practice.		
1/1/2025	Ch. 306 of 2024	Requires that when a judgment is made regarding a		
	<u>A.9935</u>	person's inability to perform their employment duties do to a disability, that a copy shall be provided to the		
	<u>S.8948</u>	employee or their authorized representative.		
	<u>5.0340</u>			

1/1/2025	Ch. 420 of 2024 A.2656 S.201	Clarifies that pregnancy is a qualified life event for the purposes of a special enrollment period and that pregnant women may enroll in the state health insurance exchange at any time without penalty.		
1/1/2025	Ch. 421 of 2024 A.3865-A S.1965-A	Requires health insurers to provide coverage for prescribed prenatal vitamins.		
1/1/2025	Ch. 422 of 2024 A.7790-A S.6674-A	Requires health insurance plans to cover outpatient use of pasteurized donor human milk (PDHM) for infants who are medically or physically unable to receive maternal breast milk, participate in breast feeding, or whose mother is medically or physically unable to produce maternal breast milk at all or in sufficient quantities or participate in breast feeding despite optimal lactation support.		
1/1/2025	Ch. 538 of 2024 A.7167 S.4778	Prohibits motor vehicle leases from charging the lessee a turn-in fee at the expiration of the term which constitutes solely an additional fee for administrative, handling or clerical charges.		
1/1/2025	Ch. 546 of 2024 <u>S.6635</u> <u>A.5745</u>	Expands workers' compensation to all employees who may be experiencing PTSD caused by extraordinary work-related stress.		
1/1/2025	Ch. 548 of 2024 A.2898-A S.5481-A	Requires insurance policies to cover neuropsychological exams for dyslexia.		
1/1/2025	Ch. 581 of 2024 <u>S.7676-B</u> <u>A.8138-B</u>	Establishes legal requirements for contracts involving the creation and use of digital replicas of an individual's voice or likeness.		
1/1/2025	Ch. 662 of 2024 <u>S.8456</u> <u>A.7079</u>	Allows patients to register in the donate life registry through their electronic health records.		
1/7/2025	Ch.198 of 2024 <u>A.8450-B</u> <u>S.7703-B</u>	Requires limited use motorcycles (mopeds) to be registered at point of sale.		
1/7/2025	Ch. 201 of 2024 S.7503-B A.1910-B	Requires retailers of micromobility devices, bicycles with electric assist and limited use motorcycles powered with lithium-ion batteries, and lithium-ion batteries intended for use in such devices or bicycles to provide customers with an operating manual.		

1/7/2025	Ch. 202 of 2024 S.7744-D A.8310-C	Requires retailers to affix a notice on any bicycles with electric assist and micromobility devices reminding users to always yield to pedestrians and follow traffic laws that you cannot use such device on sidewalks or on highways, except where allowed by local law.
1/7/2025	Ch. 428 of 2024 S.6649 A.2882	Requires firearms dealers to post and provide purchasers with a written warning of dangers posed by access to weapons in the home.
1/12/2025	Ch. 558 of 2024 A.5790-B S.8865	Requires scoring, reporting and posting by assisted living facilities including quality measures and information concerning rates, rent, and service fees.
1/12/2025	Ch. 559 of 2024 <u>A.6957-A</u> <u>S.2464-B</u>	Requires car washes to disclose when promotions expire as well as any costs which will be incurred upon the expiration of such promotion and how often such costs will be incurred upon someone taking part in such promotion.
1/12/2025	Ch. 560 of 2024 A.7516-A S.9283	Includes information on congenital heart defect births in the informational leaflets required to be given to maternity patients by hospitals and birth centers.
1/12/2025	Ch. 569 of 2024 A.10344 S.9420	Authorizes parametric insurance policies for weather- related events and includes consumer disclosures in the application for such policies.
1/16/2025	Ch. 598 of 2024 A.8467-A S.7833-A	Adds xylazine to the definition of "drug adulterant testing supplies," allowing xylazine test strips to be distributed by pharmacists.
1/20/2025	Ch. 635 of 2024 A.10036 S.9268	Creates an I Love NY Historic Small Business niche brand to highlight small businesses listed on the registry of historic businesses.
1/20/2025	Ch. 664 of 2024 S.8724-B A.9321-B	Enacts the Safe Landings Act, which provides protections for youth transitioning out of foster care who bring certain legal proceedings.
1/21/2025	Ch. 211 of 2024 S.9408-C A.10224-C	Allows for limited commercial use of Pier 76, provided at least 50% of its footprint is dedicated to park use. Establishes additional provisions governing any proposals that include a heliport.
1/21/2025	Ch. 535 of 2024 A.8365-A S.8348-A	Authorizes the Department of Health to conduct an education and outreach campaign for consumers, patients, educators, and health care providers promoting the importance of good oral health, including the impact and causes of oral disease and its prevention, oral health across the lifespan, the total body connection, the value of early detection and the availability of oral health services in the community.