

Dear Constituent,

Below please find my latest update on news from Albany and around the district.

### **Happy Holidays**

I wish you and your families a warm, happy, healthy, and safe holiday season. Please note my district office's holiday schedule below:

- Monday, December 23: 9 AM 5 PM
- Tuesday, December 24: 9 AM 12 PM
- Wednesday, December 25 -Friday, December 27: Closed
- Monday, December 30: 9 AM 5 PM
- Tuesday, December 31 Wednesday, January 1: Closed

We will resume our normal schedule on Thursday, January 2.



## **Community Center of Northern Westchester Temporary Location**

The Community Center of Northern Westchester (CCNW) serves many people in my district. If you or someone you know are among them, please note that they will be moving to a temporary location for approximately one year during their building expansion and renovation. Their last day at their current location (84 Bedford Road in Katonah) will be Saturday, December 21. After a holiday closure, they will reopen at their new location, 669 Bedford Road in Bedford Hills, on Tuesday, January 7. Click here to read more about the move and what to expect.

I was proud to work with my colleague, Assemblymember Chris Burdick, to help secure \$2 million toward this expansion project. Click here to read more about the grant and the project in the Examiner.

## **Roads Update**

Those of us who travel frequently between Croton, Ossining and Briarcliff are enjoying a much smoother ride thanks to recent repaying on Route 9A. However, I know that we still have many troubled state roads in our area that need fixing. I have been working with my Hudson Valley colleagues in the State Legislature to get Governor Kathy Hochul's attention on this issue as she and her staff prepare the Executive Budget proposal for the next fiscal year, recognizing that we will be more likely to gain traction in negotiations if funding increases are also on her radar. We are advocating for the Governor's budget proposal to include a substantial increase (\$800 million over last year's allocation) in funding for the New York State Department of Transportation's (NYSDOT) core road and bridge program generally, and for a \$100 million increase for NYSDOT Region 8 (our region) specifically.



We recently met with the Governor's office to discuss NYSDOT Region 8's funding needs. Earlier this month, I also joined State Senator Pete Harckham, more than a dozen other lawmakers and elected officials, the head of the Construction Industry Council, and the leaders of several of our local labor unions for a press conference to highlight the condition of the roads and reiterate the critical needs we have here, and our budget requests. We are very determined to provide equitable funding for our NYSDOT Region, which is currently the neediest area of the state when it comes to road quality. This will be a top priority during the upcoming legislative session.

## **Preparing for the Upcoming Legislative Session**



My colleagues and I were recently together in Albany for a legislative retreat convened by the Speaker, during which we discussed a number of issues on the horizon for next year. In advance of the retreat, I sent a letter to the Speaker outlining some urgent priorities to promote discussion of them during the retreat and at the very beginning of the legislative session. In addition to reiterating our NYSDOT budget requests, I also lifted up concerns that many of you have raised about the incoming president and his plans for the country, and the importance of passing legislation to protect New Yorkers and the freedoms we cherish here.

For those who are unaware, Governor Kathy Hochul and her administration have undertaken a project called the Empire State Freedom Initiative to assess budgetary and policy risks posed by the incoming Trump administration and develop mitigation strategies. Click here to read more about this effort. In addition to this, I will be pushing for legislation to clarify that our local and state law enforcement are here to protect New Yorkers from those who would do us harm, not to separate families or crack down on peaceful free expression. I also intend to push for the Access to Representation Act to ensure that all New Yorkers have access to due process in immigration proceedings, particularly since the incoming administration has indicated that it may attempt to deport legal immigrants, naturalized citizens and even people who were born in the United States to immigrant parents. We need to update our laws to ensure that technology is not used to undermine our civil rights. We must also take steps to protect the rights that Project 2025 explicitly aims to eliminate, including reproductive freedom and freedom for LGBTQ+ New Yorkers, by ensuring that healthcare providers, parents, and others who help make these rights possible are protected from punishment.

I have also heard from a number of you who are concerned about healthcare and the possibility of the Affordable Care Act being overturned. I am a co-sponsor of the New York Health Act because I believe that healthcare is a human right, and I know that New Yorkers will pay far less

for healthcare if we move to a single-payer system. However, I recognize that it may take some time to work out all of the details of such a system to minimize unintended consequences. In the meantime, I will also look at legislation to help us better protect New Yorkers from the excesses of the industries that seek to profit from healthcare.

Thank you to everyone who has reached out to my office on these and other issues. Please continue to share your opinions with me using the contact form on my website: <a href="https://nyassembly.gov/mem/Dana-Levenberg/contact/">https://nyassembly.gov/mem/Dana-Levenberg/contact/</a>.

## **State Leaders Visit Assembly District 95**



Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie came to visit Westchester last week as part of his annual tour. Assemblymember Chris Burdick and I joined him for a visit to Neighbors Link, where we were proud to announce that we have secured \$1.2 million for building renovations to help them continue their vital work of integrating new Americans into the communities of northern Westchester. Click here to read more about his visit.



Governor Hochul was recently in our district to highlight the MTA Capital Program's recent investments in the Metro-North Railroad. The Garrison Station has received a variety of repairs and upgrades recently to its platforms, staircases, railings, and more. More investments, particularly in the resilience of the Hudson Line, are on their way, which is very important for the economic health of this area. Click here to read more about the Governor's visit and the MTA Capital Program's impact on Metro-North more generally.

## **Congestion Pricing In Effect Starting January 5**

Speaking of transit: if you drive into Manhattan, take note. Starting Sunday, January 5, vehicles entering the Congestion Relief Zone (local streets and avenues at or below 60 St) will be charged a toll as part of the new congestion pricing program. Make sure you're ready for the toll before it's implemented:

- Make sure your E-ZPass is up to date. If your vehicle's license plate doesn't match
  what's on your E-ZPass account, you'll receive a Toll by Mail, which is both less
  convenient and more expensive! If you don't have an E-ZPass, you can sign up
  here: www.e-zpassny.com
- Find out if you're eligible for a discount on, or an exemption from, the new toll: mta.info/discounts

You can learn more about congestion pricing at https://congestionreliefzone.mta.info.

## ASSEMBLYWOMAN DANA LEVENBERG



Join us to discuss local and state-level efforts to improve affordability in the Hudson Valley and New York State as a whole. Share your thoughts on possible legislation and other initiatives with Assemblywoman Levenberg as the legislative session and budget negotiations get underway.

Thursday, February 6 at 7:00 PM Virtual. RSVP at https://bit.ly/AD95VirtualTownHall2025

Thursday, February 13 at 7:00 PM Croton Free Library 171 Cleveland Dr., Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520

(914) 941-1111 | levenbergd@nyassembly.gov





# UPCOMING

# **TOWN HALL** MEETINGS

Come to a town hall meeting to receive updates from Albany and share your thoughts as the legislative session and State budget negotiations get underway.

## Saturday, February 8

10 AM: Briarcliff Manor Community Center

3 Library Road, Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510

2 PM: Field Library

4 Nelson Avenue, Peekskill, NY 10566

## Saturday, February 15

10 AM: Hendrick Hudson Free Library 185 Kings Ferry Road, Montrose, NY 10548

2 PM: Desmond-Fish Public Library

472 NY-403, Garrison, NY 10524

For more information, please call (914) 941-1111 or email levenbergd@nyassembly.gov.





Here are some current and upcoming opportunities to share your input on state-related issues:

Public Comment on the Fjord Trail DGEIS Report: New York State Parks has recently completed a Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail. Click here to learn more about the Fjord Trail concept. Public comment is being sought for this draft report now through February 2, 2025. However, I have heard concerns from stakeholders and local elected officials that this comment period is not sufficient for review and substantive comment. Therefore, I am submitting a letter to State Parks asking that the comment period be extended at least until March 4. If you are interested in this project and would like to share feedback on its potential environmental impact, click here to read the preliminary report and learn how to register your input.

Comment on DEC Water Withdrawal Regulations: New York State's Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has proposed amendments to its water withdrawal regulations that would expand the saline waters exemption. This exemption is proposed to be extended such that it would potentially include sites in the 95th Assembly District, including the area involving the decommissioning of Indian Point. The public comment period for these proposed rule changes has been extended to Thursday, January 23. Click here to read more about the proposed changes and opportunities to comment.

**Take My Surveys:** If you have not already done so, please be sure to complete my open surveys. Many of you have already responded to the Issues survey that was included in my recent print newsletter; it is also available <a href="here">here</a> and among the buttons on <a href="my home page">my home page</a> if you have not yet seen it. I also recently opened a survey inquiring about constituent experiences with the healthcare system; <a href="you can click here to take that survey">you can click here to take that survey</a>. My office will analyze and publish the results in our upcoming winter print newsletter and in my January e-news.

**2025 Town Hall Schedule:** 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 <a href="https://bit.ly/AD95VirtualTownHall2025">https://bit.ly/AD95VirtualTownHall2025</a>

**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