



Dear Neighbor,

This is our first newsletter of the new 2023-2024 legislative term, and with that comes a [new district](#)! Welcome to our new constituents from Pittsford, Honeoye Falls and Mendon, who join the district with Penfield, East Rochester and Perinton. This newsletter comes out monthly during Session, and every one to two months when we are out of Session. You were automatically added to this mailing list because you are a constituent in our district. If you would not like to receive these monthly emails, you can unsubscribe at the end of the email.

It is a tremendous honor to return for our second term representing this vibrant district. To learn more about me and some of the things our office accomplished last term, [please visit our Assembly website here!](#)

This month we returned to Albany, which has finally fully re-opened following restricted access during the height of the COVID pandemic. I was re-appointed to all of my prior committees and appointed to a new, sixth committee, Insurance. I look forward to using my years of experience as an attorney who helped injured people navigate complex insurance issues to make positive changes through this new role. I also passed my first bill of the year, a chapter amendment to a law I passed last year relating to nursing home notification requirements when a pandemic infection is discovered in a facility.

This month I was honored to present at a panel put on by Color Fairport Green and the Fairport Public Library on Parkinson's Disease and Pesticides. In Albany, I joined with my Upstate nursing home providers, and many of my Upstate colleagues, to ask the Governor to include an increase in Medicaid rates for our nursing home residents in her budget. I joined with advocates and legislators from both houses to support Daniel's Law, a bill that creates a specialized unit to address mental health crises to ensure those in crisis get the medical help they need in the moment. I also attended several legislative

presentations on issues ranging from child care to emerging contaminants in drinking water!

We also passed the Equality Amendment, which codifies the right to seek abortion in our State constitution, and ensures no one can be discriminated against for their sexual orientation, gender identity or expression. We passed this bill for the second time, completing the legislative process necessary to advance this provision to the ballot. [You can see my comments on the floor here.](#)

We had a spectacular turn out for our Boxing Day toy drive, where community members donated gently-used toys to the Rochester Toy Library and Saint's Place! I am always moved by the generosity of this community. Check out the photos of the donations we received below!

As always, our office is available to you for both assistance with state-related matters and to hear your opinions on important issues that face New York. You can reach us at the phone number and e-mail at the bottom of the newsletter. Our office prides ourselves on our quick response time, and we aim to get back to you within one business day. In order to achieve that high standard, we respond to those seeking direct assistance first and then those who request a response. If you contact us to express a concern or a position on an issue, we record and consider those comments but do not typically provide a direct response unless it is requested. I am incredibly blessed to have a spectacular staff, who work very hard to serve the people of our district. If you call and receive a response from one of my staffers, please know that you are in very capable hands. However, if you would like to speak to me directly, all you need to do is ask. It may take longer to get a response from me than from my staff, but I do my best to get back to everyone as quickly as possible.

I look forward to getting to know our new constituents and to work hard for this district!

Best,

Jen Lunsford

INFORMATIONAL WEBINAR

hosted by RG&E

Join us for a webinar to inform customers about energy assistance programs and energy efficiency products that RG&E offers

Thursday, February 16th

6pm

TO BE HELD VIRTUALLY

RSVP is required to receive the Zoom link;
visit nyassembly.gov/Lunsford to RSVP



BUDGET TOWN HALL

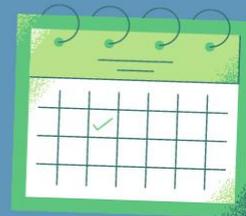
Join Assemblymember Lunsford as she summarizes the Governor's budget and takes feedback from constituents about their budget priorities

Thursday, February 23rd

6pm

TO BE HELD VIRTUALLY

RSVP is required to receive the Zoom link;
visit nyassembly.gov/Lunsford to RSVP





Member of:

- Children & Families
- Economic Development
- Insurance
- Local Government
- Environmental Conservation
- Libraries

 Assemblymember
Jen Lunsford

WHAT HAPPENED IN ALBANY THIS MONTH?

-The Governor delivered her **State of the State**, the highlights of which [you can access here](#).

Here was my reaction to it: "During her State of the State, I heard Governor Kathy Hochul speak directly to New York Families. I heard her accept the reality that too many families are choosing between heating their homes and feeding their families. That women aren't returning to work because of the cost of childcare. That workers can't make ends meet because of inflation. And that we, in the greatest state in the country, have the power and the will to make things better.

From pegging minimum wage to inflation and helping first time home buyers make their dreams come true, to providing better access to childcare subsidies and making historic investments in mental health and addiction services, we are putting New York families first.

I look forward to working with Governor Hochul, the first mother to lead our state, to find bold solutions to the problems our families face every day."

-I was given my **Committee assignments**, as listed in the above graphic.

-**The Albany Office moved!** Note the change at the bottom of this email.

CONSTITUENT SURVEY

As your representative to Albany, it is essential that I hear feedback from you directly.

[Our 2023 Constituent Survey is now live on our website](#), and you will also receive the physical survey in your mailbox in the coming days if you have not already. You are welcome to submit your results either online or by mail. Please note that this survey will be available online until March 1, 2023. **Only one response per constituent will be counted, so please only submit your results once.**

The results of the survey will be published for constituents to view once we've logged all the data. We appreciate your taking the time to share your thoughts on the legislative issues facing New York State in the upcoming Session.

Scan this QR code for the survey:



RG&E SUSPENDS LATE CHARGES

In response to current market conditions that have raised energy supply prices, [RG&E will suspend late payment charges](#) from December 1, 2022 through April 15, 2023 for all customers.

If you need assistance with your energy bill, The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) may be able to help. Eligibility and benefit amount are determined by income, household size and composition and heating source. [Click here](#) for more information on HEAP.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH LOCALLY

February is Black History Month and there are events happening every week around Rochester to celebrate!

Weekends at RMSC: The Rochester Museum and Science Center will be hosting [themed activity weekends](#) all throughout Black History Month. These weekends include activities on Saturdays and Sundays from 11am to 3pm and welcome all ages! Activities include tours, story times, arts & crafts, documentary screenings, and games for the whole family. The themes and dates are:

February 4th & 5th: Celebrating Freedom Seekers and Abolitionists

February 11th & 12th: Rochester's Champions of Civil Rights

February 18th & 19th: Black Excellence in Arts & Culture

February 25th & 26th: Black Excellence in STEM

Tickets for these events are included in general admission. Tickets can be purchased onsite or online [here](#).

Wednesday, February 8th: The U of R's Black Student Union (BSU) is hosting a Black History Month Showcase Recital on Thursday, February 9 at 7:30pm in Kilbourn Hall at the Eastman School of Music. This has been a tradition every year since the organization was founded in 2018 to promote black composers and Eastman School of Music students. This event is open to the public; for more information, click [here](#).

Wednesday, February 15th: The Fairport Public Library presents "The Tragic Friendship of Malcolm X and Muhammad Ali" by Mark Sample on Wednesday, February 15, at 6:30pm. This presentation explores the various factors that broke up the friendship of two of the most famous men in the 1950s and 60s. This presentation is recommended for adults, and you must register to attend. Seats are limited so register quickly [here](#)!



2023 WOMEN OF DISTINCTION AWARDS

[Click here to nominate someone you know](#)



THANK YOU TO THE COMMUNITY



FOR A WILDLY SUCCESSFUL TOY DRIVE!



FREE COVID TESTS AVAILABLE!

CALL MY OFFICE TO ARRANGE A PICK UP AT 585-223-9130

 Assemblymember
Jen Lunsford

DISTRICT OFFICE
317 Main Street
Suite 2032
East Rochester, NY 14445
585-223-9130

ALBANY OFFICE
(NEW) LOB 542
Albany, NY 12248
518-455-5784

Assembly District 135 | LunsfordJ@nyassembly.gov