



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Entering budget negotiations this year, it was clear our state was at a critical juncture. New Yorkers are struggling with rising inflation and are concerned as crime increases nationwide. Many are still reeling from a global pandemic that put the economy in disarray. Now more than ever, Western New Yorkers need real results. I fought hard to deliver a state budget that tackles these issues and helps make our community a better place.

This budget puts money back into New Yorkers' pockets. After two years of economic setbacks and hardships from COVID, families and small businesses are now facing the brunt of rising inflation. The increased costs of everyday necessities like groceries and common goods are impacting household budgets. The final state budget accelerates the phase-in of middle-class tax cuts that started in 2018, provides an extra Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit payment, provides relief for renters and small landlords, and provides \$2.2 billion in property tax relief checks. We provide a \$250 million fund to help with utility arrears for those who had higher energy bills this past winter. And the budget provides a six-month state gas tax holiday starting in June to help New Yorkers who have been squeezed by climbing gas prices.

A substantial investment in child care will allow many more families to qualify for subsidies and enable parents to return to the workforce. Additionally, the state budget boosts funding for the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) community-based providers and includes a one-time bonus payment of \$3,000 to full-time health and mental hygiene frontline workers who earn less than \$125,000. In addition, it increases the home care worker minimum wage by \$3 over two-years. While this wage increase is a good start, I will continue to fight to ensure that direct care workers' wages reflect the true value of their services.

We have **invested in clean energy and environmental conservation**, are moving quickly to decarbonize our vehicles, and have increased the Environmental Bond Act of 2022 to \$4.2 billion (this will be on the ballot for voter approval in November). I've been a

relentless fighter for our climate throughout my time in the Assembly. While there are several key climate change initiatives that were not in the budget, I'll keep pushing for these bills throughout the rest of the legislative session.

Another one of my top priorities was **improving New York's 2019 bail reform laws**. Criminal justice is a vital but complex system that requires frequent assessment. Reexamining this legislation was the right thing to do and represents a responsible step forward in ensuring public safety. The budget makes various changes to the law, including expanding the list of gun crimes eligible for bail. Additionally, judges will have more discretion when determining whether to set bail for those who commit gun or hate crimes and for repeat arrestees. These changes will help the courts crack down on rising auto and retail theft.

As students return to normal learning environments, we must **support our schools** and help kids bounce back from the challenges of the pandemic. To that end, this budget provides \$31.2 billion in state dollars for school aid, increasing the funding for the Amherst, Williamsville and Sweet Home school districts and making progress toward fully funding the state's Foundation Aid commitment. In the area of **higher education**, the budget closes the so-called TAP gap, the difference between a TAP award and the cost of SUNY tuition, and provides TAP funding for part-time students. Additionally, the SUNY Buffalo School of Engineering and Applied Sciences will receive \$68 million in capital funding toward a new facility to address the growing needs and increased enrollment in its engineering programs. I am delighted to see this funding, having advocated for it since my first term in office. The budget also **boosts funding for local libraries** which serve as a hub for learning for people of all ages. It includes a total of \$99.6 million for local libraries, an increase of \$5.5 million over last year. Locally, I was able to secure \$200,000 for the Summit Center, \$130,000 for a new inclusive playground for Autism Services, \$50,000 for first responder disability awareness training, and \$50,000 for the Family Violence and Women's Rights Clinic at the SUNY Buffalo Law School.

Lastly, Western New Yorkers can celebrate that a deal was struck in the budget to build a **new stadium for the Bills so they can stay in Buffalo**. The Buffalo Bills are a staple of the region and foster a sense of community while attracting visitors with a shared passion for the team. Keeping the Bills here in our backyard will continue to generate revenue that benefits our entire community.

COVID-19 Rapid Test Kits Available!

If you are in need of COVID-19 rapid test kits, my office will be open for free distribution on April 27 and 28 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Stop by our building, 5500 Main Street in Williamsville, to pick some up. (A table will be set up in the atrium) Bulk quantities for nonprofit and community groups are also available. RSVPs are not necessary but if you have any questions, please email McMahonK@nyassembly.gov or call [716-634-1895](tel:716-634-1895).

2022 Women of Distinction

I am excited to once again seek nominations for my annual Women of Distinction Awards. Women of Distinction honors the dedicated, compassionate, and fearless women who positively impact our community in a variety of ways. You can submit a nomination for a deserving woman who resides in the 146th Assembly District, which includes Amherst, Williamsville, and Pendleton, by clicking [here](#). **I will be accepting nominations until April 30.** From tireless volunteers to those who fight to protect our freedoms, I can't wait to hear about the women who inspire you!

Earth Day Photo Contest

April 22 is Earth Day and, in that spirit, I'd like to encourage community members to participate in my annual Earth Day Photo Contest. Spring is upon us, and it's the perfect time to get outdoors and enjoy all that nature has to offer. If you're exploring in Amherst, Pendleton or Williamsville, snap a photo of the waterways, forests, and other natural landscapes you encounter and email them to McMahonK@nyassembly.gov before **Tuesday, May 31**. I look forward to seeing all the beautiful submissions from our area.

Although the budget is passed, my work is far from over. I'll continue to be a strong voice for our families in Albany. As always, feel free to reach out to me at [716-634-1895](tel:716-634-1895) or McMahonK@nyassembly.gov with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,





Karen McMahon New York State Assemblymember - 146th District

✉ mcmahonk@nyassembly.gov

☎ [\(716\) 634-1895](tel:(716)634-1895)



SHARE TO FACEBOOK



SHARE TO TWITTER



FORWARD EMAIL

Assemblymember Karen McMahon

5500 Main Street, Suite 224, Williamsville,
NY 14221 United States

[Unsubscribe](#)

