



Dear Constituent,

Wishing a very happy Passover to everyone celebrating--L'chag Sameach! I am happy to report that last weekend, my colleagues and I in the State Legislature were able to reach an agreement with the Governor to enact the state budget for fiscal year 2025. Below, please find more information about what that means for all those who live, work and play in Assembly District 95.

Best,

Assemblywoman Dana Levenberg



Fiscal Year 2025 Enacted State Budget

Education & Housing

This year's state budget includes robust funding for a variety of important initiatives. One of the biggest pieces concerned education funding, and I am happy to report that my colleagues and I were successful in restoring the Governor's proposed cuts to school aid. **This budget delivers more than \$246 million in state funding for school districts in Assembly District 95**, with most districts seeing at least a 2% increase in state aid. Early on in the budget process, I also [called for a study](#) to review the Foundation Aid formula and update it to meet contemporary needs, helping us to right-size education aid and ensure that funding goes where it is most needed. This study has been funded with \$2 million in the budget and will help us do just that.

Much time and deliberation also went into ensuring that this budget will help us address New York's housing crisis. The budget includes new tax incentives to spur construction of new housing units, prevailing wage agreements to ensure that workers are paid fairly on projects using such incentives, and new provisions to support tenants, particularly low- to moderate-income tenants. There is a new law intended to prevent source of income discrimination, which will help more people move from shelters to stable housing by helping more voucher holders to find apartments. Municipalities outside of New York will also have the ability to opt-in to a version of a good cause eviction law. I will share more information about this new law soon to help municipalities understand how it can be implemented to suit their local needs.

Roads, Infrastructure & the Environment

The state budget also includes just under \$4.5 billion for the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT)'s core road and bridge program and increases CHIPS funding to \$598 million. This additional funding, along with additional money in programs like State Route NY and Pave Our Potholes, will help municipalities make much needed road repairs. I will continue pushing to ensure that Assembly District 95's roads get the attention they deserve, and [invite you to continue sharing your feedback to inform my conversations with the NYSDOT](#).

In other infrastructure news, the budget also includes **\$20 million for resiliency project planning & engineering on our Metro-North Railroad line, the Hudson Line.** As climate change threatens our one-seat ride into New York City, we must take steps now to ensure that the Hudson Line does not end up underwater. It also restores \$500 million in Clean Water Infrastructure Act funding, to help municipalities upgrade their water infrastructure.

Other environmental items in this year's budget include \$400 million for the Environmental Protection Fund and **\$7.5 million for the Hudson River Estuary Management program**, which helps our communities protect and revitalize the river that defines our region. It

Supporting our children's future

The new state budget strengthens New York's education system by:

- ✓ Providing a **\$1.3 billion** increase in school aid
- ✓ Increasing Foundation Aid by **\$934.5 million**
- ✓ Ensuring that **no school district receives a reduction** in Foundation Aid
- ✓ Taking on a study to evaluate the Foundation Aid formula to ensure all **schools are fairly funded**



HISTORIC HOUSING DEAL IN THE NEW STATE BUDGET

- › Meaningful tenant protections
- › Incentives for developers to build affordable housing
- › Strong guaranteed wages for housing construction workers
- › Robust state funding for municipalities that build housing

THE FINAL STATE BUDGET INVESTS IN BUILDING SAFER ROADS AND BRIDGES

- ✓ **\$598 million** for the Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS)
- ✓ **\$200 million** for Bridge NY
- ✓ **\$150 million** for Pave NY
- ✓ **\$100 million** for Extreme Winter Recovery

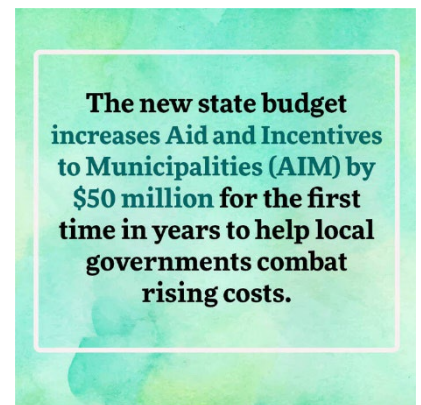


also includes my idea for a **new Zero-Emission School Bus Resource Center within NYSERDA**, which will help schools with the transition to electric school buses. While the New York HEAT Act was not included in the budget, I am optimistic about its prospects for passage during the remainder of the legislative session and will continue working with my colleagues to get it across the finish line.



Important Investments in Health Care, Local Communities and More

The budget makes a variety of other important investments in health care, public safety, community-based organizations, cultural institutions, and much, much more. It includes the **first increase in state Aid to Municipalities in more than a decade**, helping localities balance their budgets without additional increases in property taxes. Other exciting items include the **passage of the Local Journalism Sustainability Act**, of which I am a co-sponsor, which will help protect our local news industry. **This budget also makes New York State the first state in the nation to offer paid leave for expecting mothers**, and **abolishes co-pays for insulin**, a lifesaving and notoriously overpriced medication. The unnecessarily high cost of insulin has led to unnecessary (and expensive) hospital stays, disability and death; I am so proud that New York is taking this stand to protect its residents and hope that the rest of the country will follow suit.



I will be sharing more details about the budget in future e-blasts and on social media; you can also read all about the final enacted budget on [the Assembly's budget page](#). If you have any specific questions, please feel free to reply to this email to send me a message, or to call my office at (914) 941-1111.

