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91st Assembly District
Larchmont - Mamaroneck - New Rochelle - Port Chester - Rye Brook and Rye

October 31, 2023

Dear Friends,

This newsletter centers on science and technology issues: an Albany hearing on AI, my participation in a ransomware simulation in NYC, and a visit to Westchester Day School to discuss their STEM programs.

I also include news of an emergency preparedness workshop in Port Chester, details from NYS DOT on the North Avenue Bridge replacement in New Rochelle, and details on the Early Voting and absentee ballot schedule for the November election.

The emergency preparedness article includes an offer of the booklet, "Emergency Information Handbook" from the NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, which is an excellent resource for your own preparation for emergency events.

As always, do not hesitate to contact me or my staff on issues in this e-mail or any matter in which I can be helpful. My office number is 914-939-7028.

Warm regards,

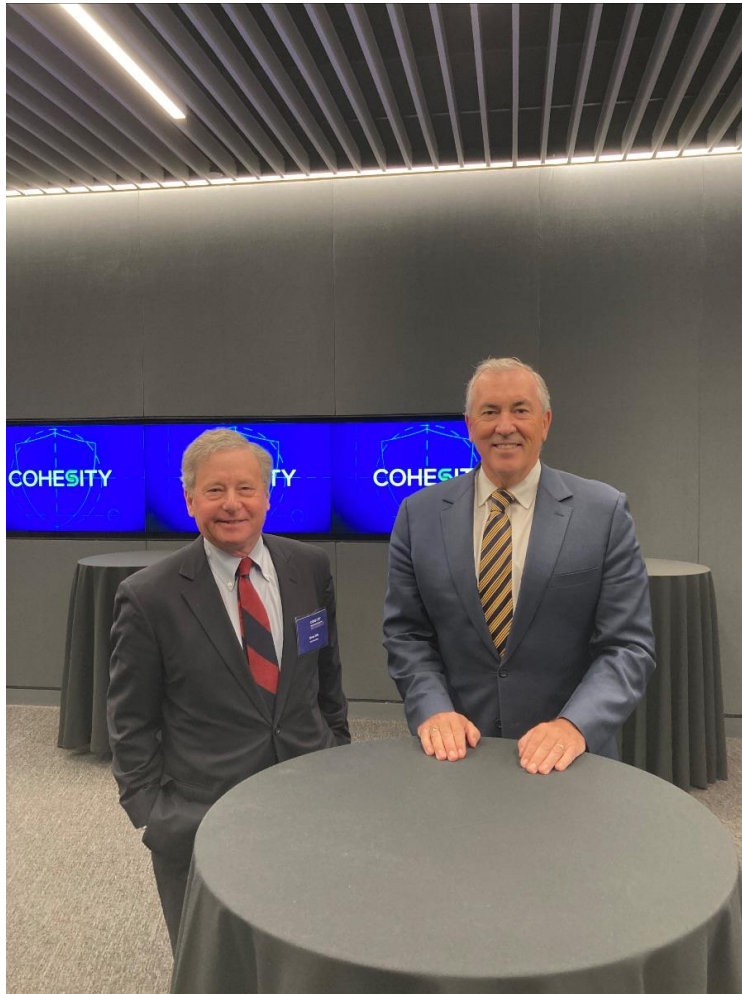
Science and Technology Committee Hearing On AI in the Workplace



Earlier this month I co-chaired an important hearing on benefits and concerns raised by the use of artificial intelligence in workplace settings. The hearing was organized jointly by the Assembly Committee on Science and Technology, which I chair, and the Assembly Labor Committee headed by my colleague Latoya Joyner. The hearing examined the impact of artificial intelligence on the current workforce as well as the future of work in New York State. Discussion covered the potential benefits and concerns with the expanded use of AI in the workplace, including but not limited to impacts on worker privacy via data collection and workplace surveillance, retaliation, and discrimination against workers in hiring, promotion, or dismissal. We heard from a range of speakers, including representatives of labor, business, and technology experts.

You can listen to video clips from the hearing [HERE](#).

Ransomware Simulation



As Chair of the Science and Technology Committee in the Assembly, I have focused on a variety of key technology issues that are evolving at a very fast pace. Cybersecurity protection is an issue affecting state and local government, school districts, businesses, not-for-profits, and individuals.

Last month, I participated in a simulated ransomware attack training hosted by Cohesity, a data security and management company. The exercise was very helpful in understanding the challenges businesses face when addressing a ransomware attack. There were many lessons learned, but the most overriding takeaway was that governments and businesses will be far better positioned by

protecting themselves in advance through adoption of good cybersecurity practices rather than weighing the choice of paying ransom, having data released, or dealing with expensive insurance costs and issues. In my work I have been advocating for more state resources to assist local governments and other entities in cybersecurity protection and response.

I am pictured at the event with the president of Redland Strategies, Mike Balboni, a nationally recognized expert on cybersecurity issues and a former Deputy Secretary for Public Safety and Homeland Security Advisor for New York State and former State Senator.

School Visit Focuses on the Importance of STEM Education

Two weeks ago, I had valuable visit to Westchester Day School and Hebrew High School in Mamaroneck to discuss STEM education programming with teachers, parents, and administrators. Westchester Day School has made STEM education a priority for lower school and high school students. STEM education is an important component to New York State's economic success and future growth. Within Westchester, the Hudson Valley and upstate major technology firms have chosen to locate or expand. A driving force has been that New York has the workers trained to work in the technology industry. STEM education in elementary and high school builds the foundation for technical and engineering learning in college and beyond. Congratulations to Westchester Day School for their commitment to STEM education.



Pictured above with STEM HS teacher David Merel, two of his computer science students and Head of School Rabbi Jeffrey Beer.

Carver Center Hosts Emergency Preparedness



In September I joined community members at the Carver Center in Port Chester for a presentation by the NY Citizen Preparedness Training Program, which provides residents with the tools and resources to prepare for any type of disaster, respond accordingly, and recover as quickly as possible. The Port Chester/Rye NAACP and the Carver Center sponsored the Event, which was organized by the NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES).

Participants received information on how to properly prepare for any disaster, how to develop a family emergency plan, and stock up on emergency supplies in advance of a natural disaster. If you would like a copy of the informative booklet "Emergency Information Handbook", distributed at the session, please contact my District Office at 914-939-7028.

I am pictured here with sponsors and presenters at the Carver Center Community

Room. I have worked on community preparedness issues for a few decades. There are important steps we should all take to be better prepared for a natural disaster.

North Avenue Bridge Replacement Project

The North Avenue bridge replacement project continues to progress with demolition scheduled to begin of the outermost sections of the bridge on Monday, Oct. 30.

Below is a travel advisory with full details and a few key details:

- Demolition will occur overnight requiring lane closures and traffic stops on I-95 and North Avenue.
- This work is anticipated to take approximately three weeks to complete.
- Two of the three lane in east direction on I-95 will be closed overnight on weeknights, starting as early as 10pm with full reopening by 5am.
- North Avenue will transition to a one-way alternating traffic pattern after 10pm to 6am on most work nights.
- In mid-November, multiple traffic stops lasting up to 20 minutes will take place concurrently on I-95 and North Ave to allow cranes to safely load large section of steel onto flatbed trucks below on I-95.

Please check the [dedicated project webpage](#) for updates.

Early Voting and Ballot Proposition Information

Early Voting Hours

Tuesday, October 31, 2023 from noon until 8 p.m.

Wednesday, November 1, 2023 from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Thursday, November 2, 2023 from noon until 8 p.m.

Friday, November 3, 2023 from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Saturday, November 4, 2023 from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m.

Sunday, November 5, 2023 from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m.

Early Voting Centers in Our Area

- St. Gregory The Great Church, 215 Halstead Avenue, Harrison, NY 10528
- Mamaroneck Town Center, 740 W. Boston Post Road, Mamaroneck, NY 10543
- Rye Brook Firehouse, 940 King Street, Rye Brook, NY 10573
- New Rochelle City Hall Annex – 90 Beaufort Place, New Rochelle, NY 10801
- New Rochelle United Methodist Church, 1200 North Avenue, New Rochelle, NY 10804
- Westchester County Board of Elections, 25 Quarropas Street, White Plains, NY 10601

Statewide Ballot Propositions

[NYS League of Women Voters](#) on the two statewide ballot propositions can be found below.

REFERENDUM: Extending Sewage Project Debt Exclusion From Debt Limit

BALLOT LANGUAGE

"The proposed amendment to Article 8, section 5 of the Constitution extends for ten years the authority of counties, cities, towns, and villages to remove from their constitutional debt limits debt for the construction of sewage facilities. Shall the proposed amendment be approved?"

DESCRIPTION

The State Constitution limits the debt counties, cities, towns, and villages can incur. This debt limit has an exception to not include debt for sewage treatment and disposal construction projects. The current sewer debt exception expires on January 1, 2024. This amendment extends the sewer debt exception for ten more years until January 1, 2034.

REFERENDUM: Removal of Small City School Districts from Special Constitutional Debt Limitation

BALLOT LANGUAGE

"The proposed amendment to Article 8, section 4 of the Constitution removes the special constitutional debt limitation now placed on small city school districts, so they will be treated the same as all other school districts. Shall the proposed amendment be approved?"

DESCRIPTION

The State Constitution limits how much debt a small city (a city with less than 125,000 people) school district, can incur. State law says their debt cannot be greater than five percent of the value of taxable real property; all other school districts' debt cannot be greater than ten percent. If this Constitutional Amendment passes, small city school districts would be eligible to have the same debt limit as other school districts as determined by state law.

