



Assemblyman

Steve Otis



91st Assembly District

Larchmont - Mamaroneck - New Rochelle - Port Chester - Rye Brook and Rye

March 26, 2024

Dear Friends,

After weeks of hearings, meetings, and outreach with community groups, local governments, school districts, and businesses, the State Assembly and State Senate have both passed our one-house budget proposals that are the basis for the budget negotiations with the Governor.

Our Assembly budget proposal included many issues I have made a priority, such as supporting continued state funding to school districts based upon the Foundation Aid improvements we made in recent years, increased affordability for paying for college, and my continued advocacy for clean water grant funding and new programs to better address flood mitigation and storm resiliency.

I have continued my advocacy for Special Act schools, such as New York School for the Deaf based here in Westchester. Our Assembly budget included support for several affordable housing assistance programs to help keep people in their homes, increased support for child-care funding and wage support for human service workers. We also proposed expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) to cover more working families.

In addition to my advocacy for clean water infrastructure programs, we also include increased commitment to a variety of road improvement programs and for general support for local governments. These are two ways we can use state dollars to reduce the burden of infrastructure costs on property taxes.

As Chair of the Assembly Science and Technology Committee, I was appointed to the Joint Budget Conference Committee on Economic Development, which plays a role in the budget negotiation process. One of Governor Hochul's most exciting budget proposals is her Empire AI program, which combines state and private sector investment with college and university participation to make New York a leader in the evolving world of artificial intelligence. Many SUNY campuses have been involved in this work for many years. The goal is to attract investment, jobs, and economic growth in the same way New York has succeeded in the last two years in attracting expansion in micro-chip manufacturing.

The task for final stages of the budget negotiation will be to address our many needs within a budget that matches costs to revenues and contains ambitious program enhancements with a financial plan that achieves our goals. I will keep you posted.

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

Warm regards,

LMC Media Ribbon Cutting for Mamaroneck Avenue Studio



I am pictured here with Matt Sullivan, Executive Director of LMC Media.

There was much excitement at the ribbon cutting for LMC Media's new street level studio at the entrance of the rejuvenated Mamaroneck Cinemas. The cinema lobby and sidewalk were packed by LMC Media supporters, local officials, and many of the long line of Mamaroneck and Larchmont civic volunteers who support the community's many activities. As local print and community access media have declined throughout the country, LMC Media remains a vital resource for sharing the stories and news of Mamaroneck and Larchmont with the entire community.

I attended the ribbon cutting celebration of this new space that brings local news and programming to the area for the benefit of the Larchmont- Mamaroneck community. Area residents are already highly engaged in their municipal governments thanks to LMC coverage of municipal meetings. This new studio is

an opportunity for the community media outlet to make even more of an impact by having a visible physical presence on Mamaroneck's major commercial thoroughfare. LMC Media and Mamaroneck Cinemas are located at 243 Mamaroneck Avenue.

Local Officials Travel to Albany to Lobby for State Aid



Last week I addressed a gathering of local officials from the state to lobby for increased state aid and advocate on a variety of issues facing municipalities. Included in this photo was a large contingent from the Village of Port Chester led by Mayor Luis Marino, Trustees Juliana Alzate, Phil Dorazio, Joan Grangeniois-Thomas, and Village Manger Stuart Rabin.

The event was organized by NYCOM (NY Conference of Mayors and Villages and the NY Association of Towns (AOT). I was joined in front by NYCOM Executive Director Barbara Van Epps, AOT Executive Director Gerry Geist, and City of Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan.

As a former mayor, the cause of local governments is always a major focus of my work. My comments, in supporting state aid, focused on the reality that we are asking local governments to perform more functions. We need to increase state funding. Our Assembly budget resolution includes increased funding for AIM assistance, road and bridge aid, and for clean water infrastructure.

Rye Nature Center's Old Fashioned Winter's Afternoon



On a rainy March Saturday, I joined families at the Rye Nature Center's Old Fashioned Winter's Afternoon event where adults and children enjoy the outdoors and share in food, games, fun, and this year, dampness to be together on the beautiful Rye Nature Center's 47-acre forest and wildlife property. The Nature Center hosts well-regarded educational nature programs for children and families from Sound Shore communities. My involvement with the RNC goes back decades to when I served as Chair of the Rye Conservation Commission. The excitement and attraction of this facility continues to grow. On a very rainy Saturday, hundreds still came out to enjoy the afternoon. I am pictured here with Katie Jamer, Director of Outreach Programs and Christine Siller, Executive Director of the Rye Nature Center.

New Rochelle Boys & Girls Club Remington Clubhouse Opens



Senator Shelley Mayer, Assemblywoman Amy Paulin, and I joined New Rochelle Boys & Girls Club Chief Executive Officer Becky Mazzanobile for a tour of their impressive new Remington Clubhouse. The new facility is state of the art, bright, and well-suited to provide the best in programming, sports, games, and other activities to enrich the lives of New Rochelle kids.

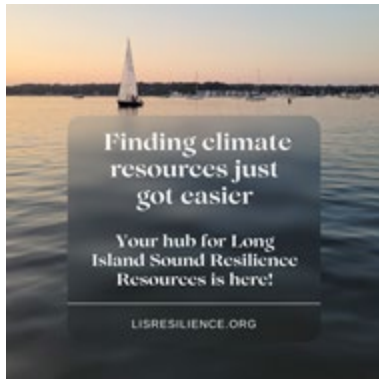
Together with Senator Nathalia Fernandez, the four of us in the state legislature work as a team to support New Rochelle programs. We were able to bring \$1 million in state funding towards the Remington Clubhouse project.

Geothermal Energy Installation at Albany Housing Complex



Two weeks ago, I visited the Albany Housing Authority for an exciting tour to learn how they converted a building from natural gas to geothermal power. The system provides heating and cooling via underground bore holes that will cool apartments in the summer and provide heat in cold weather by using renewable energy. We visited a renovated apartment and the basement system that makes it all work. Residents control the temperatures in their apartments.

Following up on the visit, I am researching how the Albany Housing Authority assembled the grants and funding to make this transition work and to help find ways to make such a transition workable for more housing authorities and other residential and commercial properties around the state.



Long Island Sound Resource Hub

This new one-stop-shop for climate resilience planning and project implementation information curated for Long Island Sound communities includes a searchable funding database to help you find relevant funding opportunities, tools, resources, and guidance documents, a calendar of upcoming events and trainings, and more. Check it out at [LISResilience.org](https://lisresilience.org) and be sure to visit often, as they will be continually updating the site with new information.

