



May 8, 2025

Dear Friends,

We have begun to adopt our 2025-26 state budget today with full approval projected for this week. The budget brings good news on several fronts, including assistance to education, local government, environmental protection, college affordability programs, and affordable housing. I will provide highlights in a future newsletter.

This newsletter highlights an exciting event sponsored by Attorney General Tish James with four other State Attorneys General on May 8th at Westchester Community College.

I also include an interview I gave on my legislation to provide rebates for commercial users of electric lawn equipment.

Please continue to share your thoughts on budget issues or reach out on any matter on which I can be of assistance. My office number is 914-939-7028.

Warm Regards,

Steve



Protecting the People

Join us for a community impact hearing



**New York Attorney General
Letitia James**

**Thursday
May 8, 2025
6-8 p.m.**

**SUNY Westchester
Community College**

*Location will be provided after
registration. Guests can start
entering at 5 p.m.*

Seating is limited.

*Event registration is
first-come, first-served.*



**Illinois Attorney General
Kwame Raoul**



**California Attorney General
Rob Bonta**



**Minnesota Attorney General
Keith Ellison**



**New Jersey Attorney General
Matthew Platkin**



Register to attend:

ag.ny.gov/community-impact-hearing

New York Attorney General Letitia James is hosting a community impact hearing to hear from New Yorkers about the impact the Trump administration's policies are having on their lives.

Joined by California Attorney General Rob Bonta, Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul, Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison, and New Jersey Attorney General Matt Platkin, Attorney General James will provide an update on her office's work to protect New Yorkers' rights and uphold the rule of law.

If you require an accommodation to participate in a program, service, or activity of our office, please contact our ADA Administrator at **ADA.administrator@ag.ny.gov**, preferably 48 hours before the event.

NYS Green Resiliency Grant Application Window Now Open

Governor Hochul has announced \$60 million in funding for the next round of Green Resiliency Grants. The program supports vital stormwater management and resilient infrastructure projects in flood-prone communities across New York State. Financing comes from the voter-approved \$4.2 billion [Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act of 2022](#), which provides funding to safeguard water quality, reduce pollution, strengthen resiliency, and create green jobs.

This second round of the program will prioritize projects offering significant risk reduction, helping communities build storm-ready infrastructure that provides long-term solutions and stability.

Green infrastructure projects provide benefits such as:

- Safer, more resilient communities by managing stormwater to mitigate flooding and better protect our homes and businesses.
- Cleaner water and air by reducing and treating stormwater at the source.
- Cooler cities by reducing urban heat island effect to create a more comfortable environment.
- Thriving ecosystems by restoring habitats to bring nature back to communities.
- Vibrant communities by encouraging economic development, revitalizing neighborhoods, and enhancing recreational opportunities.

The New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) opened this grant round on May 1. Applications, guidance, and webinar information will be

available on [EFC's website](#). Any community that needs help with its project is encouraged to [reach out to EFC's Community Assistance Teams](#).

I work closely with NYS EFC on a wide variety of programs aimed at providing funding assistance to support local projects and reduce the cost to local property taxpayers.



Rebate Program Proposal for Electric Lawn Equipment Purchasing

Recently I joined the Capitol Press Room to discuss a bill I am sponsoring to promote electric land equipment by proving a financial incentive to contractors and schools and to purchase electric lawn equipment. Traditional lawn equipment, including leaf blowers and lawn mowers are high polluters. Communities previously have limited the use of gas-powered equipment to certain seasons. NYSERDA currently has rebate programs for home appliances and electric vehicles. With electric lawn equipment becoming better, this bill would be an important contributor to helping meet our greenhouse gas reduction goals. The bill also makes batteries and charging infrastructure for commercial landscapers rebate-eligible. The legislation has passed the Senate and was advanced out of the Assembly Energy Committee this week.

Earth Day at Rye Nature Center



Last weekend I joined volunteers at the Rye Nature Center to help install plants at the center's pollinator garden. The event was part of the Port Chester, Rye Brook, Rye Neck, and Rye Earth Day Cleanup organized by the Town of Rye.

The pollinator planting project was spearheaded by Rye High School student Ella Froah, the City of Rye Conservation Committee/Advisory Council, the Little Garden Club, and the Rye Sustainability Committee. I joined high school students, Rye Nature Center Director of Conservation Jax Mack, and Rye CC/AC Chair Tracy Stora at the event.

DEC Invites Public Comment About Proposal to Address Contamination at Brownfield Site on Irving Ave., Port Chester

This [link opens a fact sheet](#) that invites the public to comment on a proposed cleanup to address contamination related to the Broad Street Irving Ave Cleaners site #C360213 (Port Chester, Westchester County) within New York's Brownfield Cleanup Program:

DEC is accepting public comments about the proposal through June 7, 2025. Please see fact sheet for details about the proposal and how to comment.

The fact sheet is in PDF format. You can save, open, and read the fact sheet by using Adobe Acrobat Reader. If you do not have Adobe Acrobat Reader, you can go to the [DEC website](#) to download the program.