



Dear Friends,

We are in the thick of the NYS 2024-25 budget, which starts on April 1. After reviewing the Governor's budget proposal, each house of the Legislature develops a response, known as the "One-House Budget."

I am pleased that both the Senate and the Assembly One-House Budgets address key issues I have been advocating for throughout the budget process. Our next step is to work with our Senate colleagues and then negotiate a final budget with the Executive Branch. I am optimistic that the process will result in a strong and responsible budget.

Meanwhile, I am also continuing to work on legislation and would like to take this opportunity to detail some of the bills I have introduced.

So let's dive right in!

Assembly One-House Budget

The Assembly proposal provides a fiscally prudent financial plan for the state while addressing critical needs for our communities. These include:

Restoration of Funding for Education

Under the Assembly proposal, the Governor's proposed cuts to education funding – which were met with bipartisan opposition – are restored. State school aid would total \$36.4 billion, an increase of \$1.1 billion over the Governor's proposal and \$1.8 billion over the 2023-2024 state budget.



Left: At a recent rally in Mount Vernon in opposition to the Governor's proposed education cuts.



Right: At a recent visit to Fox Lane High School with NYSUT President Melinda Person to see firsthand the potential impact of the proposed cuts. Both the Assembly and Senate One-House Budgets fully restore education funding.

Fixing Our Roads

The Assembly proposal would appropriate \$16.2 billion, an increase of \$1 billion over the Governor's proposal. The proposal includes \$4.9 billion for the State Road and Bridge Program, an increase of \$400 million over the Governor's proposal. It would also provide \$1.5 billion for capital aid for local roads, an increase of \$250 million over the Governor's proposal.

Environmental Protection

The Assembly proposal would appropriate \$2.5 billion to the Department of Environmental Conservation, an increase of \$250 million over the Governor's proposal, which includes \$400 million for the Environmental Protection Fund (which, among other things, provides critical grant funding to municipalities).

The proposal also restores \$250 million in funding (for a total of \$500 million) for clean water infrastructure, also critical to our localities.

Mental Health Peer-to-Peer Program

I was pleased that a bill I sponsored – which would require the Office of Mental Health to establish a statewide grant program to develop peer-to-peer mental health programs for professional and volunteer emergency first responders – is included in the Assembly proposal. Sadly, first responders are at an increased risk for mental illnesses such as depression and post-traumatic stress disorder. Instituting the support program created by this bill is essential to the well-being and mental health of those who protect us.



I recently joined the Firefighters Association of the State of New York (FASNY) at a press conference to highlight a package of legislative proposals to support firefighters and other emergency responders. Included in the package is a bill that I am sponsoring to establish a peer-to-peer mental health support program for emergency responders.

Capping Co-Pays on Life-Saving Epinephrine

The Assembly proposal would amend the Governor's proposal to cap co-pays for insulin by adding to it a requirement that insurers provide coverage for epinephrine auto-injector devices.

AAPI Funding

The Assembly budget restores \$30 million in funding for Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) crisis intervention centers and community-based organizations combatting biased crimes.

Protecting Our Disability Community

The Assembly provides over \$200 million to restore proposed cuts in Medicaid's Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Program (CDPAP), providing for wage parity. These cuts would further destabilize critical care for seniors with Alzheimer's disease and dementia, adults with severe developmental and neurological disabilities, people with traumatic brain injury, and those who are unable to communicate because they are nonverbal or face language barriers. I will be fighting to ensure these funds are in the final version of the budget.



Speaking at a recent event with Westchester Disabled on the Move, 199SEIU, Westchester colleagues in the Legislature, and members of the disability community who would be hurt by the Executive's proposed budget cuts in Medicaid's Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Program (CDPAP). These funds are restored in the Assembly's One-House Budget.

Additionally, the Assembly's budget proposal protects New Yorkers' healthcare from cuts and provides a responsible and balanced housing package that protects existing tenants, while also providing reasonable incentives to developers.

Again, our next step is to work with our Senate colleagues and then negotiate the final budget with the Governor and her team.

[My Proposed Legislation](#)

I am also continuing to press ahead with my sponsored legislation, which addresses many of my key priorities. Among the legislation I have introduced:

The Environment

[A09330](#) Requires home sellers and vendors to provide information regarding septic system upkeep to ensure that new homeowners are properly educated on how to care for their septic system, allowing them to protect both themselves and the environment.

[A09260](#) Directs the DEC to establish a perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) removal treatment installation grant program, providing a one-time grant to private well users for the installation of PFAS treatment or service connection to a public water system; directs the DEC to establish a PFAS removal treatment maintenance rebate program, providing a rebate to private well users for the maintenance of PFAS treatment equipment.

People with Disabilities

[A06397](#) Establishes a task force under the NYS Department of Labor, in consultation with the Governor's Chief Disability Officer and the Department of Health, to promote the employment in state agencies of people with disabilities.

[A08373](#) The "Traveling with Dignity Act" would provide for height-adjustable adult changing tables and facilities to be placed at public roadside rest areas, museums, libraries, buildings, and amusement attractions, and made available for persons with disabilities, veterans, seniors, or other individuals, for the purposes of personal hygiene.



[Senator Pete Harckham](#) and I announced our new legislation, the *Traveling with Dignity Act*, at a recent press conference with colleagues and advocates.

[A09131](#) Directs the New York State Department of Labor to establish a voluntary training and certification program for employers that have taken the Neurodiversity Training Pledge to support an inclusive workplace and the advantages of a neurodiverse workforce. The program would promote techniques to train the employer's workforce and promote the hiring of neurodiverse individuals.

Part-Time Police

[A05846](#) A number of smaller police departments in Westchester County are staffed largely by part-time police officers, many of whom are retired police officers who would be subject to suspended or reduced retirement benefits should their part-time earnings exceed a certain level. This bill would provide relief to these localities (which often have difficulty in recruitment and retention), provided the retired officers do not exceed a certain number of hours worked.

Veterans

[A0547](#) Creates a voluntary purple star schools program under the NYS Education Department, to recognize schools and school districts that demonstrate a commitment to assisting military-connected students and their families. The Department of Defense recommends states help schools to make assessments so that critical information is easily accessible to military-connected students, military families, school and school district faculty, and staff.

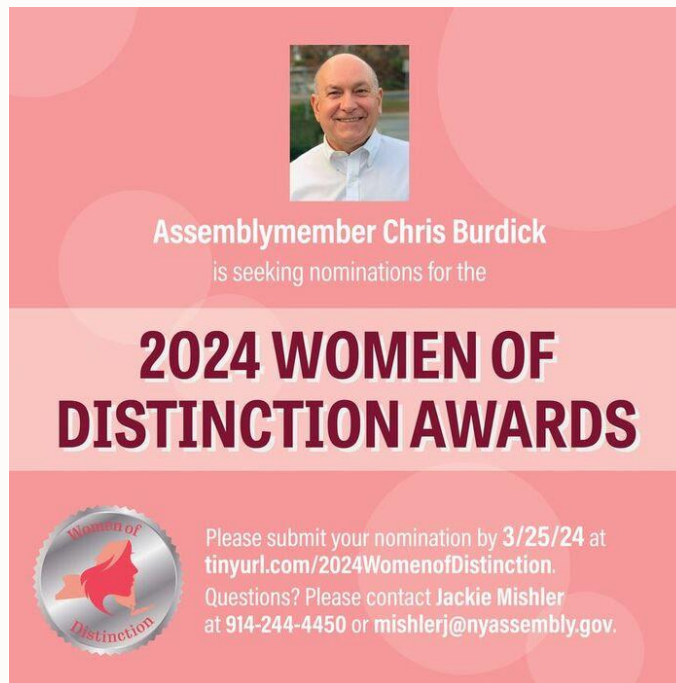
LGBTQ+

[A08241](#) Requires municipalities to update physical and online forms and data systems to include a gender "X" option. New York driver's licenses and U.S. passports now offer an 'X' gender marker alongside 'F' and 'M,' and this bill extends this inclusivity to local municipal governments. Allowing individuals to choose a gender marker that aligns with their identity promotes inclusivity, respect, and accurate record-keeping.

I will be working hard to pass each and every one of these pieces of legislation, and I will keep you apprised of my progress.


[Women of Distinction](#)

As a reminder, in honor of Women's History Month, **my office is seeking nominations for the 2024 Women of Distinction Awards**, where we will once again recognize some of the many accomplished women of the 93rd Assembly District. **THE DEADLINE IS THIS MONDAY, MARCH 25TH.**



Assemblymember Chris Burdick
is seeking nominations for the

2024 WOMEN OF DISTINCTION AWARDS



Please submit your nomination by **3/25/24** at
tinyurl.com/2024WomenofDistinction.
Questions? Please contact Jackie Mishler
at 914-244-4450 or mishlerj@nyassembly.gov.

Please note:

- **We ask that you only nominate ONE person for the 2024 awards.**
 - **Nominees MUST reside in the 93rd Assembly District**, which includes the towns of Bedford, Harrison, Lewisboro, Mount Kisco, New Castle, North Castle, North Salem, Pound Ridge, and a little over half of White Plains (if needed, please reach out to us and we can confirm an individual's district).
 - **Nominees must NOT have been previously recognized as a 93rd Assembly District Woman of Distinction.**
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[April Job Fairs Sponsored by Westchester County](#)

For those who might be interested, Westchester County is sponsoring three upcoming job fairs.

On April 3, the county is sponsoring a Clean Energy Careers Job and Resource Fair from 2-7 pm at Pace Law School. This event is designed for a broad audience, from middle schoolers to seasoned workforce veterans. It will feature a keynote presentation, along with two panel discussions covering clean energy training and hiring opportunities. [Click here to register.](#)

THE CATALYST
WESTCHESTER COUNTY
CLEAN ENERGY ACCELERATOR

SUSTAINABLE
WESTCHESTER

JOIN US FOR THE FIRST
**WESTCHESTER COUNTY
CLEAN ENERGY CAREERS
JOB AND RESOURCE FAIR**

- ✓ Connect with employers about high-paying careers
- ✓ Sign up for industry training
- ✓ Apply for jobs
- ✓ Network with clean energy professionals

FREE EVENT
BRING YOUR RESUME
CHILDREN WELCOME
SPANISH TRANSLATORS

APRIL 3 2 PM - 7 PM

ELISABETH HAUB SCHOOL OF LAW
PACE UNIVERSITY
78 N Broadway, White Plains, NY 10603

REGISTER
QR CODE
rb.gy/r9kuvj

EVENT PARTNERS
PACE UNIVERSITY, NEW YORKERS CLEAN POWER, Westchester County

PLATINUM SPONSORS
FISCHERENERGY, conEdison

GOLD SPONSOR
Brightcore BUILDING ENERGY PERFORMANCE™

SILVER SPONSOR
WDI WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

BRONZE SPONSORS
AMERESCO, westchester LIBRARY SYSTEM, RM FRIEDLAND, ZARIN & STEINMETZ LLP, LANGAN

On Wednesday, April 10, the county is sponsoring a job and resource fair for formerly incarcerated/justice-impacted and other disadvantaged individuals from 10 am–2 pm at the Yonkers Public Library.

Attendees can connect with local employers and explore a wide range of job openings. They can also explore workshops and seminars conducted by industry experts, offering insights on resume building, interview techniques, and professional development. [To register, please click here.](#)

JOB + RESOURCE FAIR

**FOR THOSE WHO ARE JUSTICE-IMPACTED
AND OTHER UNDERSERVED
POPULATIONS**

**FIND YOUR DREAM CAREER.
ALL ARE WELCOME.**

APRIL 10
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

**YONKERS
PUBLIC LIBRARY**
1 LARKIN CENTER

QUESTIONS
hello@untappedsolutions.io

REGISTER
rb.gy/6ysn7t




Finally, on Tuesday, April 30, the County will once again be holding the Diverse Abilities Job Fair, from 11 am-3 pm at the Westchester County Center. [To register, please click here.](#)

County Executive George Latimer invites you to join us at

**WESTCHESTER
Diverse Abilities
JOB FAIR**

APRIL 30 **OPEN HOUSE** 11AM - 1PM **ONE-ON-ONE** 1:30PM - 3PM

WESTCHESTER COUNTY CENTER

FULL TIME EMPLOYMENT **PART TIME EMPLOYMENT** **SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT**

This job fair is open to all people who are differently abled. Come and connect with White Plains employers and interview on the spot.

EMPLOYERS INCLUDE:
Amazon, Good Temps, Liberty Lines Transit, NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision, Southern Westchester BOCES, Westchester County, and more.

Pre-registration is required. All registered attendees will receive a follow up email to sign up for time slots to meet with interviewers.

REGISTER:
rb.gy/iHXfd3



For more information or for help with registration, contact:
Jeff Zitofsky at 914-995-2956

CATALYST for DIVERSITY

**JOIN US
HELPFUL TIPS FOR HAVING A
SUCCESSFUL EXPERIENCE AT
THE DIVERSE ABILITIES JOB FAIR**

WHAT TO EXPECT **HOW TO PREPARE** **WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW** **WHO WILL BE THERE**

This free, virtual Zoom meeting is open to job fair attendees, coaches and caregivers.

APRIL 16 11 AM-12 NOON

REGISTER:



For more information or for help with registration, contact:
Jeff Zitofsky at 914-995-2956

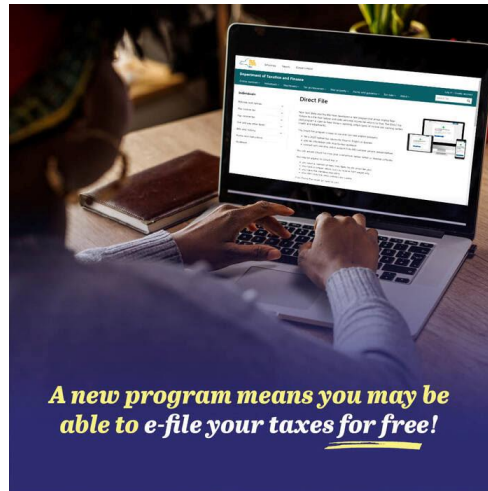
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Want to ensure you are getting everything you can out of the Diverse Abilities job fair? **Please consider joining an April 16th Zoom meeting from 11 am-12 pm for helpful tips on having a successful experience at the job fair.** To register for the info session, [please click here.](#)

Free Tax Software

Here's some great news with Tax Day (April 15) approaching soon! **You may be eligible to e-file your taxes for free!** To determine if you are eligible, [please click here](#).



Celebrating Ramadan

Finally, to all those who celebrate, I wish you and your loved ones a joyous Ramadan filled with blessings and happiness!



There are 1.5 million Muslims in NYS currently observing Ramadan. I am a proud sponsor of [S6179/A3068](#), which establishes Eid Ul-Fitr (the celebration at the end of Ramadan) and Eid Ul-Adha as public holidays. By doing so, we allow Muslim students across the state to celebrate without missing school.

I hope to see the Eid Bill passed this session and signed into law.

As always, **please do not hesitate to reach out to my office with any questions or if there is any assistance we can provide.** You can always reach me at burdickc@nyassembly.gov or by calling (914) 244-4450. My staff and I are always ready to help. Please also follow me on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) for continued up-to-date information.

Miss any of our previous newsletters? You can [find them here](#).

Sincerely yours,



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