



ASSEMBLYMEMBER  
**CHRIS BURDICK**  
ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 93

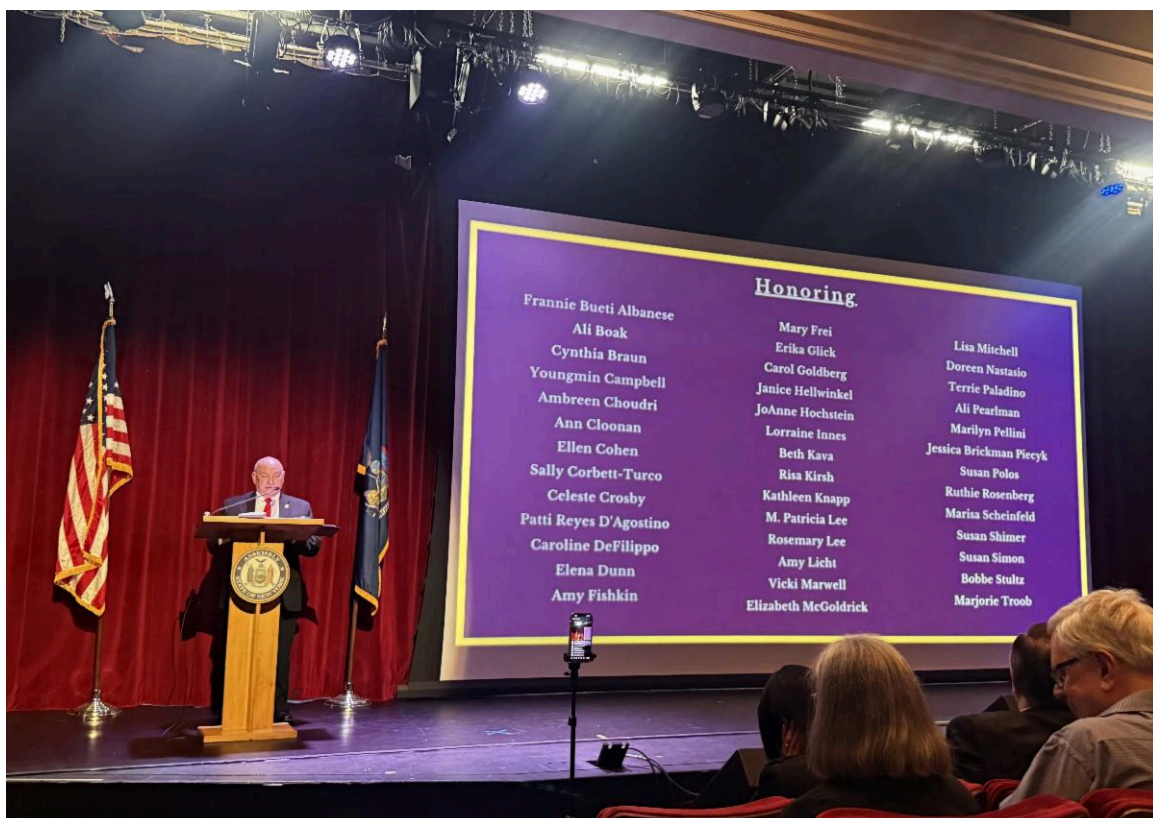


Dear Friends,

**We have a budget!** Certainly later than we had hoped, but overall I am pleased with the outcome, as I think it will serve the people of New York — and the 93rd Assembly District — well.

However, before I move on to the specifics of the budget, there have been a few exciting happenings on the home front that I'd like to take this opportunity to share.

**On May 14th, we held our 2026 Women of Distinction ceremony, where we honored 40 incredible women for their contributions to nonprofits, businesses, the public sector, healthcare, and so much more.** This is truly one of my favorite events of the year, as so many of these women selflessly serve without looking for praise... but we get to give it to them anyway! **If you missed the ceremony but would like to watch it, [you can do so here.](#)**





I would like to thank New Castle Town Supervisor Vicky Tipp for once again hosting us at the Chappaqua Performing Arts Center, and our special guest speakers, County Legislator Erika Pierce and Shirley Acevedo Buontempo, Founder of Latino U College Access (LUCA).

**My thanks to everyone who dropped off period supplies at our office for the 914Cares Period Poverty drive**, which I co-sponsored with State Senator Shelley Mayer and Assemblymember Dana Levenberg. On May 22nd, I joined Senator Mayer and Assemblymember Levenberg's Chief of Staff, Victoria Cafarelli, to deliver the supplies that we collected from our constituents.



I also presented to 914Cares CEO Lisa Horten a resolution declaring May 11-May 17, 2026, as Period Poverty Awareness Week in New York. I once again sponsored this resolution at the request of 914Cares, to help bring attention to this very important issue. **Thank you to 914Cares for the incredible work they do not only to raise awareness of period poverty but also to help meet the needs of those in Westchester.**

Finally, **Happy Pride Month!** Despite the chilly weather, it was a joyous and festive day at Lewisboro Town Park this past Saturday for the town's annual Pride celebration.

Congratulations to the organizers for another successful event.



In response to the continued rise in intolerance and hostility toward the LGBTQIA+ community, we here in New York can take pride in the strides we have made to celebrate the diversity of our great state, and to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with our friends and neighbors in the LGBTQIA+ community.

And now, on to the budget...

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## [Key Provisions of the FY27 Budget](#)

Last Thursday, the Legislature adopted the 2027 fiscal year budget covering April 1, 2026, through March 31, 2026. On Friday, the Governor signed the \$268.5 billion budget into law.

The final budget is fiscally sound and comprehensive; it does not increase income taxes, and it provides one-time payments to help offset the rise in utility rates. It meets the needs of the 93rd Assembly District and the state as a whole, and reflects the values of the people.

It also contains key appropriations for my district, for which I strongly advocated, and will serve the community well.

**Here are the budget highlights:**

### ***Education, Universal Pre-K, and Childcare***

State funding for school aid is set at \$39 billion and provides a 2% minimum year-over-year increase to Foundation Aid for our public schools, helping to hold down property taxes and maintain the excellence of our schools. **The budget provides a path to**

**universal Pre-K for all four-year-old children statewide by the start of the 2028-29 school year.**

### ***Reforming the Utility Rate-Setting Process***

With thousands of ratepayers pressing for restraint on skyrocketing utility bills, **the budget includes the most comprehensive utility rate-setting reforms in decades.** Utility companies proposing rate increases must present a budget-constrained option tied to inflation. Hidden expenses such as lobbying, political contributions, and unnecessary executive travel cannot be charged back to ratepayers. Executive compensation is tied to customer affordability. It allows the Public Service Commission (PSC) to install an “Affordability Monitor” at any utility company, and it provides a one-time energy rebate. It requires that utilities return to ratepayers all revenues in excess of their authorized return on equity. Finally, it directs the PSC to limit the extent to which the costs of pursuing a rate increase can be charged to ratepayers (I had introduced a bill to this effect, but am pleased it made it into the budget instead, as the provision is now law).

### ***Immigrant Protection***

While not embodying all of the provisions of New York for All, which I cosponsored, **the budget bill protects communities and vulnerable populations from federal immigration enforcement** by prohibiting local government cooperation in federal civil immigration matters, ending agreements that deputize law enforcement as immigration officers, and designating sensitive locations (healthcare facilities, houses of worship, schools, childcare facilities, playgrounds and polling places) where ICE may not conduct immigration enforcement.

Key points include prohibiting contracts between local law enforcement and ICE, known as 287(g) agreements, as well as informal agreements to do the same. It also prohibits state, local, and federal officers from wearing face coverings while interacting with the public, prohibits the use of state and local government resources to report and detain individuals for the purpose of federal civil immigration enforcement, and provides that New Yorkers can bring a lawsuit against federal, state, and local government officials for a violation of their constitutional rights.

### ***Environmental Protection***

I am disappointed with the rollbacks in timelines and standards under the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA). The 2019 CLCPA stands as the leading climate law in the nation — a blueprint for reducing Greenhouse Gas emissions while also transitioning from fossil fuels to more stable, dependable, and less expensive renewable energy. **I will continue to press for the investments needed to move us forward.**

I am, however, pleased with the \$1 billion appropriation for the Sustainable Futures fund; \$450 million for the Environmental Protection Fund; \$525 million for the Clean Water Infrastructure Act; and \$175 million for water infrastructure related to housing development.

### ***State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA)***

Believing that SEQRA has been used to delay and frustrate reasonable development, especially for housing, the Governor had proposed revisions in SEQRA, aimed at streamlining the law. I had concerns that the proposal's exemptions and definitions were too broad and could be used to evade needed review. On the other hand, from my experience as a former town supervisor, I had seen SEQRA weaponized in certain cases.

**I support the final version of the revisions to SEQRA, which expand exemptions and require faster municipal action.** This will help address the weaponization of regulations to thwart perfectly reasonable projects. I was pleased to see provisions added clarifying that municipalities retain control over zoning and all other existing powers, including the authority to require studies and remediation.

### ***Public Pension Reform***

State, county, and local governments face significant challenges in recruiting and retaining employees. The pension tier applicable to recently hired employees (Tier 6) has made public-sector employment less attractive. In recognition of this issue, the Governor and the Legislature made modest changes to Tier 6, including reducing the retirement age for teachers with 30 years of service to 58, and for those in other bargaining units, lowering contribution rates and improving overtime calculations.

### ***Auto Insurance Reform***

New measures were added to combat insurance fraud. People found to be more than 50 percent responsible for causing a crash will not be eligible for pain-and-suffering damages. The definition of “serious injury” is also narrower — a change that will help prevent fraudulent staged accidents. And the reforms will prevent excess profits and return savings to consumers. Insurers are prohibited from redlining (denying insurance policies) by using data such as zip code, education level, and homeownership status, and a provision in the law that allowed insurers to unilaterally raise rates by up to 5% was eliminated.

**I am delighted to report that the following key appropriations, for which I advocated, are included in the budget:**

- \$200 million for SUNY maintenance capital and \$100 million for SUNY research facilities, as well as \$100 million for SUNY to self-finance projects
- \$175 million for the Galleria District project in White Plains – a \$2 billion development that will provide 800 affordable housing units that will benefit the entire county and beyond, remediate “brownfields” (contaminated sites), and provide union jobs under a project labor agreement
- \$75 million for Public Housing Authorities outside of New York City

- \$5 million in capital for the Westchester Arts Council (Arts Westchester)
- \$4 million for Students with Disabilities for Postsecondary Success (SWDPS)
- \$350,000 for Latino U College Access
- \$280,000 for the Boys & Girls Club of Northern Westchester to support its after-school program
- \$200,000 for the Holocaust & Human Rights Education Center
- \$100,000 for Feeding Westchester

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### [AAPI Workshop](#)

May was AAPI Heritage Month, and in honor of that, the NYS Assembly Asian Pacific American (APA) Task Force sponsored the 2026 AAPI Summit. The theme for this year's summit was 'AI for All.'

**Together with my colleague Assemblymember Ed Braunstein, I sponsored a workshop entitled 'Youth Mental Health: Promises, Pitfalls & Practitioner Guidance.'** The panel was comprised of Dr. Teresa Hsu, Clinical Psychologist and Founder of SPEAK (a Supportive Place for Empowering Asian Americans and Kin), and high school seniors Emma Tong and Isabel Wang.



The workshop delved into the digital mental health landscape and the shocking degree to which AI apps and platforms exclude the APA community, the impact and risks of AI on AAPI youth, and guidance for supporting them.

**Many thanks to the panel, who did an outstanding job to the accolades of those who attended.**

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### **Podcast Alert: Beyond the Headlines**

I applaud Horace Greeley Seniors Asha Kalathil and Luisa Vieira for their podcast series 'Beyond the Headlines.' The podcast, covering politics and global affairs, features conversations with refugees, politicians, and advocates, exploring what it means to create meaningful change.

**I was honored to be the guest on their May 20th episode**, in which they interviewed me about my start in politics, lessons learned, the importance of youth in politics, and how youth can get involved.

(And I'm also honored to have had Luisa as one of my office interns for the past 2 years!)

If you are interested in tuning in, [please click here](#).

# Podcast Alert!



*Latest Episode:  
The People Behind Politics with Chris Burdick*

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**DEADLINE FRIDAY:**  
**HEAP Cooling Assistance Benefits Available**

The HEAP Cooling Assistance benefit helps eligible households cover the cost of an AC unit or fan (and installation) to cool their homes. **Please note that you must apply by the close of business THIS FRIDAY, June 5th.**

To find out how to apply, [please click here](#).

# HEAP COOLING IS CLOSING

**JUNE 5, 2026**

**IF INCOME ELIGIBLE, YOU MAY  
RECEIVE A FAN OR ENERGY-  
EFFICIENT COOLING EQUIPMENT.**

**APPLY IN PERSON AT YOUR LOCAL  
SOCIAL SERVICES OR HRA OFFICE.**

**FOR MORE INFO:  
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#COOLING-ASSISTANCE**



**DON'T WAIT.  
APPLY TODAY**



**PUBLIC UTILITY  
LAW PROJECT  
OF NEW YORK**

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## **Thank you, Bennett!**

Last, but not least, **a huge thanks to our Legislative Intern Bennett Grimaldi, who was based in Albany, for his outstanding service this session.** He has been a great help.

I was delighted to present him with an NYS Assembly Citation on May 29, his last day in our office, in recognition of his work. We will miss him.



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](mailto: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/X](#), and [Instagram](#) for continued up-to-date information.

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

Sincerely yours,

*Chris Burdick*

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