



March 17, 2023

Dear Neighbors,

Recent weather notwithstanding, I am seeing the first budding hints that spring is around the corner, and I am excited to enter this season of growth and change. We are nearing the final stretch of the State budget process and I am seizing every opportunity I get to fight for our district.

State Budget

One-House Budget Summary

The State Assembly has released its one-house budget, which is a response to the Governor's budget proposal. This counter-proposal will be reconciled between the Assembly, Senate and the Executive Department in the coming weeks, and I am proud that a number of my bills and supported issues that I've fought hard for were included in the final negotiations. Some of these are:

- **\$10M for Volunteer Fire Services Capital Fund**
 - This funding will be used for vital upgrades to firehouses to comply with federal health and safety codes.
- **Part of A3690 to increase Corp Tax Rate**
 - This provision from my bill, A3690, represents the first step towards a more progressive and equitable tax scheme. I will continue to advocate for common sense corporate tax rates, under which the richest and least vulnerable pay their fair share, to be included in the final State Budget.
- **\$25M for Harmful Algal Bloom (HABs) Research**

- This research will allow for better prevention and management of toxic HABs in our state's freshwater and coastal ecosystems.
- **My SBIR/STTR Bill (A4507a)**
 - This is a matching grant program to provide funds to small businesses who have been awarded funds under the federal Small Business Innovation Research or Small Business Technology Transfer programs and provide a grant preference for small businesses that make green and sustainable development a business priority.
- **Agrivoltaics program (In the Senate one house)**
 - \$1 million for Cornell to study the ecological impacts of agrivoltaics, the dual-use of land for agriculture and solar energy farming.
- **\$15M for Cornell Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory Capital Expansion**

I will continue to push for the inclusion of my bills and championed legislation in the State budget, and will keep you updated as this process goes on.

You can read Assembly Speaker [Heastie's summary of the Assembly one-house budget here.](#)

Legislative Update

A2873a Passes the Assembly!

This week, the Assembly passed a package of legislation designed to bring greater transparency, accountability and accessibility to state government. I'm proud that my bill, **A2873-A** was included in this package. This bill will close the loophole on cryptocurrency assets on the state's annual financial disclosure statement, which will bring transparency to individuals' interests in digital financial property. You can watch my [comments about the bill here.](#)

Anna in the News

EPW Hearing Testimony -3/7/23

On Tuesday, March 7th, I testified in the US Senate Committee on Environment & Public Works (EPW) hearing before the Clean Air, Climate, and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee in support of the Crypto-Asset Environmental Transparency Act.

This act, introduced by Senator Edward J. Markey, would require that the EPA conduct a comprehensive impact study of U.S. crypto mining activity and report greenhouse gas emissions from operations that require more than 5 megawatts of power.

If we don't have transparency, we can't have an honest conversation about the impact of crypto-mining on our environment.

Here is a [video of the segment](#) of the hearing in which I give my testimony.



You can also [read a PDF version](#) of my testimony.

For those who are interested, the [full hearing can be viewed here](#).

Around the District

Supporting the PACT Act with US Senator Kirsten Gillibrand



I had the opportunity to meet with US Senator Gillibrand to discuss the PACT Act, which expands health care services and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances. I appreciate Senator Gillibrand's commitment to our nation's veterans, and her efforts to help them secure the benefits they've earned.

You can learn more about the PACT Act at the US Department of [Veterans Affairs website](#).

Women's History Month

In celebration of Women's History month, I asked my constituents to nominate women in our district who have set themselves apart through their work as community leaders, advocates, volunteers,

educators and activists to be recognized and honored by the Assembly Legislative Women's Caucus.

We were delighted to celebrate our selected Honoree, **Carol Kammen**, as well as other nominees at a reception in Ithaca. My heart is full and my spirit rejuvenated by the leadership of the district's women!



Carol has been an inspiration and leader, not only for women, but all in our county. She has served as the Tompkins County historian for 23 years and in that time, brilliantly brought forth the importance of history, especially local history, and that of women, immigrants, Black and Native Americans. In particular, she has been a leader in our community for women's history. State-wide recognition of Carol's significant contributions toward educating her fellow New Yorkers about our history is well-earned and highly deserved.

Our other outstanding nominees:

Steph Bailey

Kate Cardona

Susan Currie

Nancy Kane

Leslyn McBean-Clairborne

Sandra Price

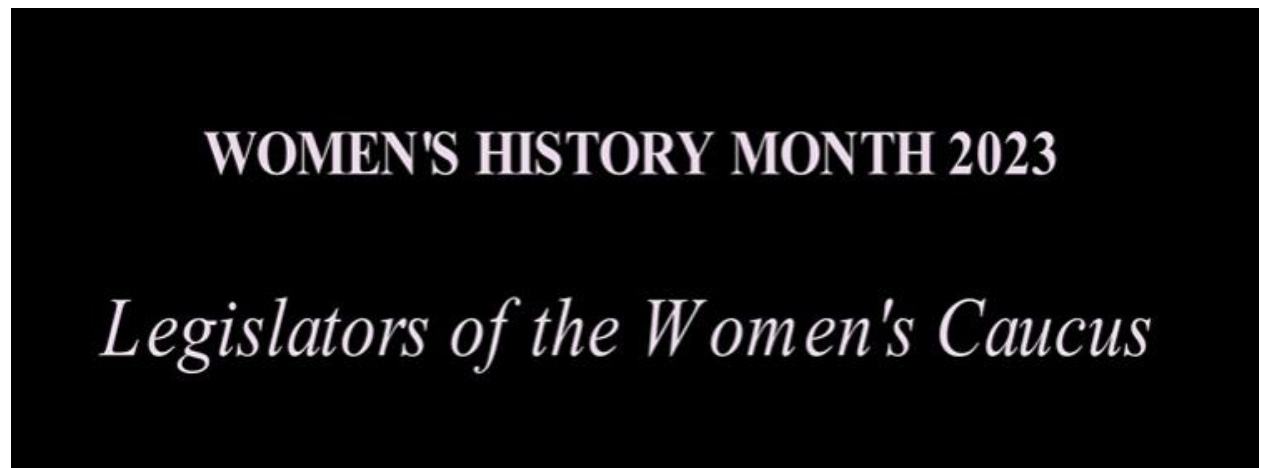
Anne Rhodes

Irene Weiser

Ruth Yarrow



In this season of celebrating Black History and Women's History, the Legislative Women's Caucus created this [video featuring Black Elected Women in our state](#), which I wanted to share with you:



Chamber of Commerce Event

I was honored to attend at the Tompkins Chamber 2023 Economic Summit yesterday, where I spoke about how I am working to address issues like affordable housing, workforce development, and small business investment.



NY Farm Bureau's Taste of NY Reception

I recently had the opportunity to attend the New York Farm Bureau's Taste of NY Reception and Issues Forum, where we sampled exceptional New York-grown products - like spirits from Dragonfyre Distillery in Cortland!



Community Resources

Women Building Community Innovation Grant

From The Human Services Coalition of Tompkins County:

Non-profit organizations and government agencies in Tompkins County can apply for a Women Building Community Innovation Grant. One grant of up to \$10,000 will be awarded for an innovative project that improves the lives of women and/or girls in Tompkins County.

Find more information at womenbuildingcommunity.org.

Applications will be accepted through **Friday, March 24** at **5:00pm**.

Have a safe and restful weekend!

In good health,



Anna Kelles, Ph.D.

Assemblymember, 125th A.D.

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