



## 2025-26 PRIORITY LEGISLATION

Over the past three years, the demand for electricity has gone from stagnant to steadily rising. **A.4127** – Authorizes and directs the public service commission to conduct a study on the **Deployment of Energy Interconnection Processes**. The purpose of this study would be to look at methods to maximize efficiency so that new renewable energy resources can be more quickly interconnected onto the electrical grid. A method used by the state of Texas, called “Connect and Manage,” has allowed it to keep up with electricity demands and rise to the top in large-scale solar power. The study proposed would analyze this method along with other interconnection systems to assess the speed and reliability of resource deployment, publishing its results one year after the effective date.

**A.7016 – Providing Parity for S Corporation Manufacturers.** Currently, when Subchapter S Corporations make distributions to their shareholders to pay State taxes, the IRS does not tax these distributions. However, when these S corps. make distributions to their shareholders to pay federal taxes, NY State Tax & Finance does tax these distributions. A.7016 would end this practice and allow these manufacturers to invest these funds back into their businesses.

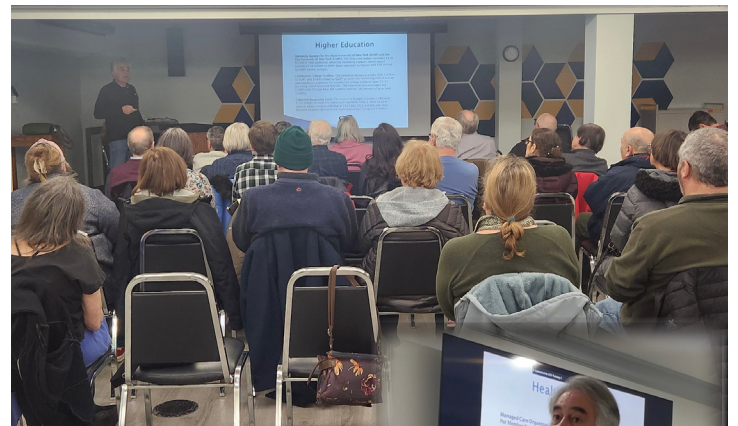
**(TBD) – Allowing the Sale of Salvaged Airbags.** In New York, it’s currently illegal to sell non-deployed, recycled airbags, even though they could help repair shops and consumers save a significant amount of money. The law requires airbag certification by an official body, which doesn’t actually exist, leaving local businesses in a bind.

This bill seeks to fix this by allowing the sale of non-deployed airbags that meet safety criteria and have been properly inspected. By doing so, it allows repair shops to access affordable, certified recycled parts within New York, rather than having to rely on neighboring states. Not only will this save consumers money on repair bills, but it will also ensure local repair businesses remain competitive. This bill is all about reducing costs, increasing safety, and keeping business right here in New York.

**A.7464 – Retail-to-Retail ABC Law Reform.** New York’s Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) Law has created some unnecessary hurdles for local bars & restaurants. If a bar or restaurant runs out of a particular alcohol, it cannot go to a local liquor store to buy a bottle or two to make it available in their establishment. They have to order through a wholesaler, who may only deliver to them every week or every two weeks. This makes no sense, since the liquor store also gets these products through the wholesaler. So, the wholesaler is not losing any sales. But, if the SLA finds out that this is happening, they will pull the liquor license from the bar or restaurant! Retail-to-Retail will allow for a limited number of purchases directly from liquor stores, allowing small, mom and pop bars & restaurants to provide drinks their customers want.

## 2025-2026 BUDGET TOWN HALL MEETINGS

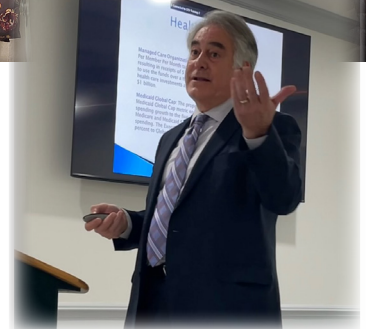
Despite the severe weather, we successfully conducted four Town Hall Meetings discussing Governor Hochul’s proposed 2025-2026 budget. Meetings were held in Cazenovia, Clay, Cicero, and Manlius throughout the months of February and March as the Assembly, Senate, and the Executive continued to finalize the budget for the upcoming year.



The Governor has proposed a budget of \$252 billion, that distributes resources for our school systems, higher education, human services, the environment, energy usage, transportation, and economic development.

*I want to thank all of the residents who attended, raised questions, and voiced their thoughts and concerns.*

While there were a number of issues discussed, the overriding question that hung over the sessions was “what do all the cuts at the Federal level mean for New York State”? The only answer I could provide is “I don’t know. If you could tell me what the cuts will be, I can give you an answer. All of these cuts are in litigation, so we won’t know until these cases are decided. The one thing I can tell you, is the State does not have the resources to make up for these cuts if they are approved. You will have to present your objections to the seven New York Republican House members who voted to approve them”.



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# Celebrating Our 2025 Women of Distinction

The month of March marks the recognition of International Women's Day – a time to honor the amazing women around the world. For the 127th Assembly District, March could not pass without the yearly celebration of local women whose selflessness, leadership, and inspiration serve as testaments to this globally renowned holiday. On Saturday March 22nd, we recognized these five outstanding winners at our 13th Annual Women of Distinction Awards Ceremony. Each of these women have touched countless lives and inspire others with their leadership and dedication to our community.

## **Katherine Mittiga** for **Education**.

Katherine is an exceptional leader, guiding her students through the exciting world of chemistry at East Syracuse Minoa Central High School. In the classroom since 2007, Mittiga teaches honors chemistry and serves as a mentor for several extracurricular clubs.



Alongside chemistry, Katherine houses a piano in her back prep room so she can not only play for her students, but also offer a listening ear to new players. She is also often seen attending school sporting matches and assisting with school-wide events. She has been previously recognized for her outstanding leadership in education, as a New York State Master Teacher in 2017 and the Technology Alliance of CNY Educator of the Year in 2023.



## **Theresa Harris** for **Volunteerism**.

Theresa has been a member of Zonta International – a human rights organization that advocates for the advancement of women and girls around the world – for 21 years.

In some of her most important Zonta projects, Harris worked to end child marriage in the United States. In 2019, she was elected

Governor, the highest leadership position in a District. In 2022, she was appointed to the position of global Membership Committee Chair, where her committee invigorated membership growth around the world. Locally, Harris was instrumental in establishing a Zonta Club in Brewerton, called "Friends for Equality." The club serves the local community by mentoring the next generation, providing educational awards, and supporting youth centers. Outside of her incredible volunteerism for women's rights, Ms. Harris can be seen at the CanTeen Center helping create a safe space for teens and young adults.

## **Laurel Flanagan** for **Outstanding Service in Community/Civic Affairs**.

Laurel's passion to serve her community extends to all outlets of her life. As CEO of Operation Northern Comfort, Flanagan brings volunteers together from across Central New York to help individuals in need. Laurel has also spearheaded dozens of disaster relief trips across the Eastern United States. After the blizzards that overtook Buffalo and the disaster of Hurricane Ian, she was present at the scene, ready to help where she could.



For the last four years, Laurel has served as Secretary for PGR Foundation Inc., an organization committed to mentoring young women. There she coordinates the Girls in Nature and Learn to Sew classes for students. Laurel also acts as a steward for the Forest Fire Lookout Assoc. on Stillwater and Berry Hill Fire Towers.

## **Deana Bollinger Ingram** **Exemplifies Success in Business**.

Deana is a trailblazer in the real estate business, providing exceptional service to her clients throughout her real estate career and extending her knowledge to the community as a teacher in homeownership.



Active in real estate committees such as the Greater Syracuse Association of Realtors and the NYS Association of Realtors as a board director, she serves as an advisory board member of SUNY Morrisville and the Manlius Senior Center as well. Ingram is also a founder of the Facebook group, East Side Moms, providing a support network for new parents looking to live in and enjoy the Syracuse area.



## **Tania Lyons, LMSW, MHA** for her **Outstanding Service in Health Care**.

Tania is a dedicated leader in the mental health space as the Service Director of the Intensive Crisis Stabilization Center at Helio Health. Here she established a 24/7 Crisis Center. Tania also spearheaded the Syracuse Crisis Intervention and Prevention Program (SCIPP) in partnership with the Syracuse Police Department,

enhancing 911 dispatch operations and their crisis intervention abilities.

Tania is an active member of the Onondaga Post-Trauma Response Team, Onondaga County Criminal Justice Advisory Board, co-chair for the Onondaga County Crisis Intervention Team Committee, and a disaster mental health counselor for the Red Cross. She also serves on the Onondaga County Alternatives to Police Response Committee and the Syracuse Mayor's Gun Violence Prevention Committee.



## **SAVE the DATE for Paint Recycling**

**When:** Saturday, May 17th

**Where:** DMV Parking Lot  
5081 E. Taft Road

**Time:** 8:00 am - 12:30 pm

**You MUST Register:**

<https://tinyurl.com/AlStirpePaintMay17>





# THE SAMMYS



Since 1993, the Syracuse Area Music Awards have bestowed on our local musicians, the equivalent of a Central New York Grammy. On March 7th, at the Palace Theater, Misse Fedele and I teamed up to present the SAMMY award for the best R&B recording to **FB** for their song, "Love Letter."

The Palace is a venue for some of the best music events in the area. My wife and I have attended many great concerts there over the years and will enthusiastically continue to support the Syracuse music scene at **ALL** our favorite spots in Central New York.

We are very fortunate to have so many great musicians in CNY that we get to hear all year long!

## THIRD ANNUAL PET DRIVE



Our December Pet Food Drive was a resounding success **thanks** to donations from **constituents in the 127th Assembly District!**

Carloads of donated goods went to our four-legged friends this winter during my Pet Supplies Drive that were collected throughout December.

Many pounds of food, blankets, and toys were donated to give the pets waiting for adoption at Helping Hounds Rescue and HumaneCNY much needed supplies.

*A Special Thank You to Our Partners:*

**Cicero Country Max  
Earthwise Pet Supply**

**Amazon  
Hairy Notions**

## SMALL BUSINESS CHAMPION



On March 19th, I was honored to be recognized as a Small Business Champion by Sonya Smith, State Director of the New York State Small Business Development Centers.

As the former chair of the Assembly Committee on Small Business and a startup founder myself, I have an enormous respect for the hard work and resilience it takes to make a small business come to life. NYSBDC does incredible work for small businesses across New York State, and I am grateful for their recognition.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR  
for our 19<sup>th</sup>  
ANNUAL LIFESAVERS BLOOD DRIVE**

**Tuesday • July 15 • 11:00 am - 8:00 pm**



**American  
Red Cross**

**Driver's Village  
5885 E. Circle Drive  
Cicero, NY 13039**

## Join Us for EARTH DAY Clean Up

**Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>  
10 am 'til 1pm**

**Meet At:  
The BUDGET INN  
901 South Bay Rd  
Cicero NY 13039**

- Dress for the weather
- Wear sturdy shoes or boots
- Bring Gloves





# ADVOCATING FOR NY HEAT IN ALBANY

*Our state's energy infrastructure stands at a crossroads, caught between an outdated and costly gas pipeline system and a transition to a cleaner and more affordable future of energy.*

This March, I had the opportunity to advocate for the passing of the NY HEAT Act at a press conference in Albany. As utility bills rise and demands for climate action grow louder, I'd like to take a moment and explain why this bill is so critical to our future and why I am committed to fighting for it to pass in the Assembly.

To clarify, this legislation does not impose a ban on the use of gas. The current energy service system that our state operates under fuels the expansion of the gas infrastructure at a cost to all its ratepayers. Public services laws compel power companies under a "utility obligation to serve gas" to residential customers, which translates into a hefty investment into maintaining the state's antiquated gas infrastructure. Utilities are expected to spend \$150 billion replacing leak-prone gas pipelines, which ultimately falls onto the consumer. Additionally, this current system involves a 100-



foot rule subsidy for new customers looking to hook up to a main gas pipeline within one hundred feet, which existing ratepayers are mandated to pay for.

Outside of the financial burden, expanding the gas infrastructure counteracts the efforts for a cleaner New York. As buildings are the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in our state, it is pertinent that we take action to align



ourselves with a greener future. The NY HEAT Act attempts to do just that: align utility regulations with New York's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (commonly known as CLCPA). By redirecting ratepayer funds to alternatives like electrification and thermal energy networks, we effectively transition away from fossil fuels and make a long-term effort towards reducing greenhouse gases. Along with protecting the environment, the NY HEAT Act also includes a protection for consumers' pockets. Utility bills would be capped at 6% of a household's income, relieving a major financial burden that many New Yorkers face to supply their houses with energy.

*With the stakes of a healthier environment and energy affordability on the line, it is time for the Assembly to bring both climate action and cost-efficient utilities to light. As session continues in Albany, I will continue to fight for this year's passing of the **NY HEAT Act**.*

## Ensuring Smarter Water Management In The Oswego River Basin

**A.7377 – Establishes a stakeholder group in the Oswego river basin to coordinate water release.** Assemblyman Stirpe is committed to addressing the persistent flooding issue in Central New York. The Oswego River Basin is a significant challenge to the region.

The Oswego River Basin spans across multiple counties in Central New York, including Onondaga, Seneca, Oneida, Cayuga, and Wayne counties. The region is home to several waterways and hydroelectric power plants that supply much of the state's energy. However, the area has historically suffered from severe flooding, disrupting lives and local economies. Central New York remains a thriving agricultural and commercial region critical to the rest of the state. The Upstate Flood Mitigation Task Force reported that flooding caused millions in damages in 1972 and 1993. Additionally, in July 2023, heavy rainfall led to catastrophic flooding in the area, decimating communities, and uprooting families within the Basin.

As flood mitigation requires timely coordination, it is essential that action is taken swiftly and effectively during extreme weather events. However, this has been proven difficult as the flow of water is affected and controlled by several entities along the Oswego River Basin who often have competing priorities. This bill instructs the New York Canal Corporation to enact a unified stakeholder group consisting of water management experts, the Department of Environmental Conservation, and all other entities responsible for controlling floodwaters. This group will evaluate data on

water storage, watershed release, and water flow management to coordinate a plan during high-flow events. Their recommendations will be brought to leaders in the Senate, Assembly, and Governor to create a regulatory structure to coordinate communication and water releases during high flow events.

In June 1913, severe flooding in Albany led to the creation of the Hudson River Regulating District. This unified collective has since protected thousands of homes and businesses from flooding. A similar structure in the Oswego River Basin could provide long-term flood protection, ensuring that local communities no longer suffer from the destructive cycle of flood damage and reconstruction.

During the 2023-2024 legislative session, the bill passed both the Assembly and Senate. It was delivered to the Governor on November 15, 2024, and vetoed on November 22 (Memo 64). Despite this setback, Assemblyman Stirpe remains committed to advocating for flood mitigation measures in Central New York. Given the impact that these natural disasters have on our communities, the urgency for greater flood control brought on by a changing climate cannot be ignored. We encourage community members to remain informed and to make their voices heard regarding this issue.

– **Michael McCallum**, Legislative Intern

