



Dear Neighbor,

We finally passed the budget! After quite a delay, we finished the budget this past Tuesday night and brought in some great wins for the 135th District!

In Public Education, for the first time ever, we are fully funding Foundation Aid to our schools! Foundation Aid is the formula the state uses to determine how much state aid each district should receive and it has never been fully funded since its inception in 2008, so this is a very big deal. Every school district in the 135th will see a substantial increase in funding for Foundation Aid and Total Aid. They will also see more than double the funding previously provided for Universal Pre-K programs and an opportunity to access grants to receive higher reimbursement rates. This is an amazing opportunity for districts without UPK programs to create the foundation to start one.

In Higher Education and Adult Education, we fought off a tuition increase for in-district SUNY students by increasing both operating and construction aid to the system. We increased funding for Adult Literacy Programs and our libraries will receive increased operating aid and more support for summer reading programs!

While we did increase Medicaid rates to our hospitals and nursing homes for the first time in over a decade to 7.5% each (pending federal approval), that is not enough to close the gap, especially for our nursing homes. An additional \$100 million line of funding will be made available for nursing homes in financial crisis and I am working to ensure we can get that money out quickly. While this should be a

celebration of a huge and much needed increase, the reality of the need in this sector overshadows that victory.

Similarly, while we did get 4% cost of living adjustments (COLA) for every direct service provider in the state, in every agency from Aging to Mental Health to Disability Services, that too is not enough to cover the gap nor does it help deal with the workforce shortage. Coupled with the total lack of increase in early intervention funding, I feel this was a missed opportunity to make a meaningful difference in the lives of our most vulnerable residents. We will not give up and will bring this fight even harder next year.

Hopefully, the COLA coupled with the \$1 increase in minimum wage next year will provide a much-deserved raise to those doing the hardest work, even if it falls a bit short. Minimum wage will be increased incrementally to \$17 for NYC and \$16 for the rest of state by 2027, and at that point it will be indexed to inflation moving forward.

We passed versions of the Build Public Renewables and All Electric bills in the budget. We will allow NYPA to build new green energy projects to help us reach our climate goals and support the increased load on our electrical grid as we move towards more electric cars and buildings. We also rolled out a prohibition on new gas lines in **new** buildings starting in 2025. There has been a lot of misinformation about this so I'm going to take a moment to clear a few things up:

The All Electric provision in the budget **does not ban gas appliances-- not now, not ever.** It limits the installation of new gas lines in brand new buildings, with exceptions for hospitals, commercial kitchens and critical infrastructure. It also carves out an exception for areas that can't yet handle the load on their electrical grid. With this provision, even after it goes into effect in 2025, you can still buy new gas appliances in New York State. You can still use your existing gas line in your existing home, forever. You can replace that gas line and any gas appliances. You can renovate your home from roof to basement, install new gas lines and new gas

appliances. **The only thing you can't do is put a brand new gas line in a brand new building.**

We got a few great things in this budget, including a new tax credit for families with children aged 0-4! And we fought off a few changes that don't make sense for our district, like an override of local zoning control. But, we also left a fair amount on the table. There is still a lot of work to do and only five more weeks to get it done.

So, let's get back to work!

Best,

Jen Lunsford



**NEW YORK
DID NOT BAN
GAS STOVES**

You Will Still Be Able To:

- ✓ Buy New Gas Appliances in New York State
- ✓ Install New Gas Lines in Existing Buildings
- ✓ Use Your Existing Gas Line
- ✓ Renovate Your Home To Replace Existing Gas Lines & Gas Appliances

Click here to view the results of



Assemblymember
Jen Lunsford

2023 Constituent Survey



2023 CONSTITUENT SURVEY RESULTS

The results are in! If you're interested in what your neighbors had to say in the 2023 constituent survey that was sent out earlier this year, [you may view this presentation that breaks down the results of the survey.](#)

To go forward or back in the presentation, use the arrow keys on your keyboard. Slides will automatically go forward to the following slide every 30 seconds.

The purpose of this was to survey issues we expected the legislature to consider in the 2023 Legislative Session; surveying these questions specifically serves to inform decisions of the Assemblymember so that you are represented properly in Albany.

Thank you again to those who participated!

WOMEN OF DISTINCTION

In February, our office put out a call for nominations for Women of Distinction in the 135th District. A Woman of Distinction is someone who goes above and beyond for her community without expecting anything in return.

Our office received so many amazing nominations, and last weekend we had the privilege of honoring these women and celebrating their tireless impacts on their communities.

Thank you to those who submitted nominations, and congratulations to the 135th District's 2023 Women of Distinction!



DONATE LIFE: SIGN UP TO BE AN ORGAN DONOR

Did you know 8,085 New Yorkers are waiting for a lifesaving organ transplant? Becoming an organ donor is extremely easy to do in New York State! Donors may specify their donations and can withdraw or modify their donation status at any time.

New Yorkers 16 years and older are eligible to sign up to be a donor; you can do it in five minutes or less [by clicking here.](#)

AAPI HISTORY MONTH LOCALLY

May is Asian American/Pacific Islander History Month and there are events happening all month around Rochester to celebrate!

Saturday, May 6th: Senator Jeremy Cooney will be hosting an Upstate AAPI Summit from 9:30am-5pm at the India Community Center of Rochester to celebrate and explore Asian American heritage and how we can support each other in our efforts to empower AAPI identities across Upstate New York. Workshops include: Breaking Down Barriers, Mental Health in the AAPI Community, Economic Opportunity & Equity, and Organizing Our Upstate Communities. [Registration is required and space is limited.](#)

Sunday, May 7th: The Memorial Art Gallery (MAG) at the University of Rochester will be hosting their AAPI Celebration Series! Bring the family by from 11 am-5 pm for AAPI Heritage related performances, presentations, art & crafts, and more. To learn more about the event, [click here.](#)

The Asian/Pacific Islander/American Association is a local organization that helps to connect the AAPI community of Greater Rochester. For more information about their association or other community groups, programs and events, [visit their website.](#)

May is

Jewish American Heritage Month



Honoring the contributions of Jewish
Americans to American culture and history.



Assemblymember
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PENFIELD VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY AMBULANCE

**Wednesday, May 31, 2023
12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

1585 Jackson Road
Penfield, NY 14526

Get summer ready: Come give May 20-31 for an exclusive Red Cross beach towel, while supplies last!

Schedule your appointment today!

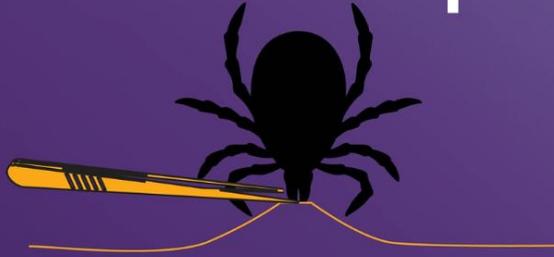
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TICK REMOVAL

Tick Season is Upon Us!



If a tick is found on the body,
it should be removed immediately,
preferably with fine point tweezers.

**Click here for more information about ticks
and tick-borne diseases.**

health.ny.gov



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