



**Assemblymember
Chris Burdick
Assembly District 93**

Dear Friends,

First of all, **thank you to all who testified at the Westchester Assembly Delegation's [virtual public forum](#) on the 2022-2023 budget.** For those who are interested but were not able to tune in, you can [watch it here](#).

The NYS Senate delegation will also be holding budget forums on Thursday, February 10, from 2 pm to 5 pm, and Tuesday, February 15, from 6 pm to 8 pm. Pre-registration is required to testify at bit.ly/TestifyNYSenate, and the forums can be viewed on Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins' [Facebook page](#).

**NEW YORK STATE SENATE
WESTCHESTER DELEGATION BUDGET FORUMS**

Pre-Registration is Required to Testify: bit.ly/TestifyNYSenate



MAJORITY LEADER
Andrea Stewart-Cousins

OPPORTUNITIES TO TESTIFY:

Thursday, February 10 • 2 PM - 5 PM

Tuesday, February 15 • 6 PM - 8 PM

Watch on Facebook: [Facebook.com/Andrea.StewartCousins](https://www.facebook.com/Andrea.StewartCousins)



STATE SENATOR
Pete Harckham



STATE SENATOR
Elijah Reichlin-Melnick



STATE SENATOR
Shelley B. Mayer



STATE SENATOR
Jamaal T. Bailey



STATE SENATOR
Alessandra Biaggi

Please join community members, advocates and other interested parties for a virtual community budget forum regarding the proposed 2022-23 NYS Budget. We welcome anyone's opinion as written or oral testimony. Each speaker will have up to two (2) minutes to speak. If you or someone you know would like to submit testimony ahead of or after the event, it can be submitted to westdelganyenate.gov.



35th Senate District	Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins	(914) 423-4031
40th Senate District	State Senator Pete Harckham	(914) 241-4600
38th Senate District	State Senator Elijah Reichlin-Melnick	(914) 941-2041
37th Senate District	State Senator Shelley B. Mayer	(914) 934-5250
36th Senate District	State Senator Jamaal T. Bailey	(718) 547-8854
34th Senate District	State Senator Alessandra Biaggi	(718) 822-2049

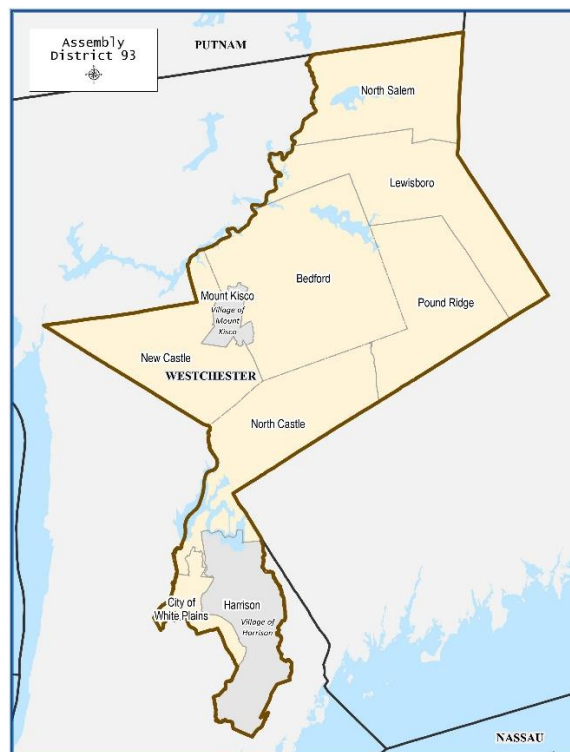
Also, for those who follow me on social media, you might have seen that this Thursday, February 10, my staff and I will be visiting [914Cares](#) to sort items for donation. In advance of that, **we are collecting NEW AND GENTLY USED SNOW BOOTS AND SNEAKERS of all sizes**, which they are greatly in need of. If you have a pair (or pairs!) you can donate, please drop them by our office at **100 South Bedford Road, Suite 150, in Mount Kisco**. If you have items for donation but are unable to drop them, please email Jackie Mishler mishlerj@nyassembly.gov and we will try to arrange a pickup!



Redistricting

Every ten years, after the completion of the census, states go through the process of redistricting to redraw district lines based on the state's population and where they are located within the state. In New York, lines were redrawn for the Assembly, the State Senate and the U.S. Congress.

I am pleased to report that the 93rd Assembly District will see very little change following redistricting. Should the voters choose to return me to the Assembly next term, I will still represent the towns of Bedford, Harrison, Lewisboro, Mount Kisco, New Castle, North Castle, North Salem, Pound Ridge and White Plains, the most significant change being an increase in the population I represent in White Plains (which is split between myself and Assemblywoman Amy Paulin). So if you are reading this newsletter and currently reside in the 93rd District, you should not expect that to change.



However, unlike the 93rd AD, there are some major changes in the Congressional and NYS Senate districts that cover my district, which are outlined below. You will note that some municipalities are slated to have more than one representative, and that those residents in the more central portions of the municipality may be unsure who will represent them moving forward. Please know that the Westchester County Board of Elections is working with the new maps and information will be forthcoming.

Congressional Districts

Although not all towns in the 93rd Assembly District will see a change, many will be shifting into a new congressional district. Come January 2023:

- **Bedford** will be split between Congressional District 16 (currently represented by Jamaal Bowman) to the west and Congressional District 18 (currently represented by Sean Patrick Maloney) to the east.
- **Harrison** will be entirely within Congressional District 16, which currently is represented by Jamaal Bowman.
- **Lewisboro** will be entirely within Congressional District 18, which currently is represented by Sean Patrick Maloney.
- **Mount Kisco** will be entirely within Congressional District 17, which currently is represented by Mondaire Jones.
- **New Castle** will be entirely within Congressional District 17, which currently is represented by Mondaire Jones.
- **North Castle** will be entirely within Congressional District 16, which currently is represented by Jamaal Bowman.
- **North Salem** will be entirely within Congressional District 18, which currently is represented by Sean Patrick Maloney.
- **Pound Ridge** will be entirely within Congressional District 18, which currently is represented by Sean Patrick Maloney.
- **White Plains** will be split between Congressional District 16 (currently represented by Jamaal Bowman) to the east and District 17 (currently represented by Mondaire Jones) to the west.

NYS Senate Districts

There also will be shifts in the NYS Senate districts beginning in 2023. Come January 2023:

- **Bedford** will be in a newly-renumbered District 42 (presently District 40), which currently is represented by Pete Harckham.
- **Harrison** will be in a newly-renumbered District 39 (presently District 37), which currently is represented by Shelley Mayer.
- **Lewisboro** will be in a newly-renumbered District 42 (presently District 40), which currently is represented by Pete Harckham.
- **Mount Kisco** will be in a newly-renumbered District 37 (presently District 35), which currently is represented by Andrea Stewart-Cousins.
- **New Castle** will be in a newly-renumbered District 37 (presently District 35), which currently is represented by Andrea Stewart-Cousins.
- **North Castle** will be in a newly-renumbered District 42 (presently District 40), which currently is represented by Pete Harckham.

- **North Salem** will be in a newly-renumbered District 42 (presently District 40), which currently is represented by Pete Harckham.
 - **Pound Ridge** will be in a newly-renumbered District 42 (presently District 40), which currently is represented by Pete Harckham.
 - **White Plains** will largely be in a newly-renumbered District 42 (presently District 40), which currently is represented by Pete Harckham. A small portion of White Plains will be in a newly-renumbered District 37 (presently District 35), which currently is represented by Andrea Stewart-Cousins.
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[The Spike in Electricity Bills](#)

We have been contacted recently by constituents expressing concern about the rising cost of electricity, so I wanted to take this opportunity to address it. I also would encourage you to read [this note](#) from North Salem Town Supervisor Warren Lucas to his residents, which I believe does a terrific job explaining this recent rise. Even if you don't live in North Salem or have NYSEG, I would encourage you to [read it](#).

The spike in global energy prices, together with higher energy usage, has led to substantial increases in electricity bills for many in my district – particularly in Con Edison's service area. Sustainable Westchester's [Westchester Power](#) is offering a fixed rate program as an option during this period of rising utility rates. As a former co-chair of Sustainable Westchester's board, I am familiar with the benefits that this nonprofit consortium of municipalities offers. **The Westchester Power program, serving communities in Westchester for almost six years, may be a helpful option for residents and small businesses looking for some protection from rising and volatile electricity prices.** NYSEG supply rates rose to 9.75 cents/kWh in December, and in January went up another cent to about 10.8 cents /kWh. Con Edison supply rates hit heights they have not seen in many years in January, reaching about 17 cents per kWh, and February has started off in the teens as well.

Residents in the current Con Edison Westchester Power contract have been insulated from this, as the program rate is fixed at 7.405 cents per kWh for their 100% renewable supply, and for those who are prioritizing the lowest rates, the Standard (non-renewable) supply is 6.749 cents. The program electricity offering is the default supply in the following 93rd Assembly District municipalities that are serviced by Con Edison: Bedford, Mount Kisco, New Castle and the City of White Plains. The towns of Harrison and North Castle do not currently participate in Westchester Power.

Westchester Power had taken a 3-month pause in NYSEG territory, and will be resuming supply to participating residents in March. The new rates will be 10.179 cents/kWh for the 100% renewable supply, and again a Standard Supply option is available at a lower rate of 8.736 cents. Residents in Bedford, Lewisboro, Pound Ridge and North Salem who had been participating will have received notification letters about the restart.

Any residents in the aforementioned participating Con Ed or NYSEG municipalities who are not currently enrolled in Westchester Power may opt in to the program through the [online form](#) or by calling the office at (914) 242-4725. You may also email [Sustainable Westchester](mailto:info@sustainablewestchester.org) with any questions you may have at info@sustainablewestchester.org. Please note, if you are currently receiving electricity supply from another Energy Service Company (ESCO) and wish to switch to Westchester Power, you should call the ESCO and make sure you don't have an exit penalty or fee.

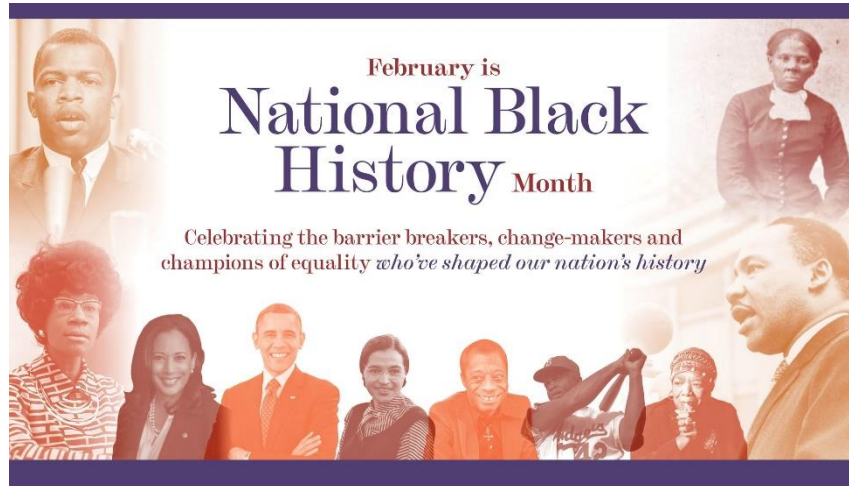
[An Update on the 2022-2023 State Budget](#)

I want to take this opportunity to provide an update on the development of the NYS budget for the fiscal year 2022-2023, which starts on April 1.

This is a fast-paced process with [joint budget hearings](#) between the NYS State Senate and Assembly committees. I already have participated in hearings covering my work on the Environmental Conservation, Correction, Housing and Veterans Committees.

After reviewing the Governor's proposed budget and holding hearings and meetings with those affected, members of the Assembly will then develop priorities and advocate for increases where they feel it is appropriate. I expect to either propose or join with others in proposing upward revisions in the budget in the following areas:

- **Childcare and Pre-K funding**, so that the support reaches more in the 93rd Assembly District.
 - **Housing**: while I applaud the Governor for proposing a follow-on five-year Capital Plan to build 100,000 affordable housing units, of which 10,000 are to be supportive housing (such as for people with disabilities), I will advocate for a higher goal. **There is a dire need for affordable housing throughout my district**, such as for seniors who wish to remain in their communities, first responders, and those who simply cannot afford market-rate housing. I also am advocating for greater coordination among the agencies for transitional housing for those released from NYS correctional facilities, the vast majority of whom presently end up in homeless shelters.
 - **Legal Services for Westchester Veterans**: Last year's budget provided funds to Legal Services of the Hudson Valley, which allowed it to extend its legal services for veterans into Westchester. I will be proposing that this funding be continued.
 - **Funding for programs that support victims of crimes**. Due to a lapse in federal funding, the Executive Budget suspends funding for victim support programs throughout the state. Joining with others, I will advocate for use of pandemic relief funds to provide funding for such services until it is restored at the federal level, which is widely expected.
 - **Environmental Initiatives**: More funding is needed for flood mitigation, wastewater projects, clean water projects, and grant funding to municipalities for publicly available electric vehicle charging stations.
 - **Funding for transportation infrastructure**, as there is a significant shortfall between proposed capital funding and the need to maintain both state and local roads.
 - **A pilot project for employment opportunities for people with disabilities**. I am seeking a special line item of \$250,000 which would be matched in the same amount by the nonprofit New York State Industry for the Disabled.
 - **Increased funding for NYS Libraries**. With 14 public libraries in my district, I strongly support increasing statewide funding for public libraries above and beyond what is provided for in the Governor's budget.
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February is National Black History Month. As President Biden so eloquently stated in his [Proclamation](#) recognizing the occasion:

"National Black History Month serves as both a celebration and a powerful reminder that Black history is American history, Black culture is American culture, and Black stories are essential to the ongoing story of America — our faults, our struggles, our progress, and our aspirations. Shining a light on Black history today is as important to understanding ourselves and growing stronger as a Nation as it has ever been."

Needless to say, Black history should be celebrated not just in the month of February but throughout the year. Yet we should use this opportunity to reflect on the many remarkable achievements of Black Americans since the inception of this country, not only in the civil rights movement but in government, literature, science, education, music, sports... in every facet of our nation.

Let us also use this time to reflect on the ways throughout history that the United States has failed to live up to its ideals when it has come to the treatment of people of color, and that while great progress has been made, we still have a long way to go to achieve true equality and equity in our country. And that to achieve this, each and every one of us must do our part to hold our society, and our country, accountable.

[Reminder! Free Rapid COVID-19 Tests Available](#)

Finally, a reminder that our FREE at-home rapid antigen COVID-19 tests are now available from the federal government. Limit of one set (of four) per household. Orders will usually ship in 7-12 days, and shipping is free via the U.S. Postal Service. If you haven't yet done so, go to [COVIDtests.gov](https://www.covidtests.gov) for more information and to order your test kit!



COVIDTESTS.GOV

COVIDtests.gov - Free at-home COVID-19 tests

Additionally, **insurance companies and group health plans must now cover the cost of eight over-the-counter at-home COVID-19 tests per person each month.** Getting tested when necessary is crucial to protect yourself and others. [Click here](#) for more info.



As always, if there are any issues that you would like to see covered in a future newsletter, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at burdickc@nyassembly.gov (or simply reply to this email). **Please also follow me on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) for the most up-to-date information.**

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

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Burdick".

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