



February 8, 2022

Dear Friends,

The state budget season remains active. Last Thursday the Westchester Assembly Delegation held our annual budget forum for Westchester groups and individuals to alert us to budget issues of concern. We heard from over 50 presenters with written testimony provided by others who chose not to testify.

On Tuesday I was one of the speakers at the Larchmont Mamaroneck Local Summit's monthly meeting. Details and link are provided in this update.

On Wednesday we will hold our Joint Senate Assembly Budget hearing on local government. This Thursday I am one of the hosts of a legislative hearing on the rollout of EV charging stations around the state.

I join with parents, school districts and other officials seeking the next evolution of rules from health officials related to Covid-19 protocols, especially in the schools. We are hoping for new guidance from the NYS Department of Health. I believe that the rules should be amended based upon infection and vaccination rates, and other metrics as determined by health officials. As has been the case throughout the pandemic, the actions change when the information changes.

Next week will bring Budget Hearings on Transportation on Tuesday and Economic Development and Small Business on Wednesday.

This newsletter includes:

- Westchester Assembly Delegation Budget Forum
- Hearing Notice on EV Charging Stations
- E-File Tax Filing Resource
- Local Summit

As always, please contact me on any issue on which I can be of assistance. Please call my District Office at 914-939-7028.

Warm regards,

Steve



Westchester Assembly Delegation Holds Budget Forum

Last week, my colleagues and I in the Assembly held a virtual budget forum to hear from advocates and non-profit leaders on their priorities as we turn our attention to the NYS budget. We heard from a variety of stakeholders on the issues of greatest importance to them.

To watch a recording of the forum, please [CLICK HERE](#).

ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY
ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

[NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING](#)

Deployment of Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations
To examine the future deployment of EV charging stations

Thursday

February 10, 2022

10 a.m.

Web Link: <https://www.nyasembly.gov/av/live/>

The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony on the status of EV charging station development in the State and to obtain information on future plans and goals for accelerated implementation. The Committees are interested in what planning is being undertaken and what state and federal funding is being made available by agencies, authorities, and utilities to increase the availability of public EV charging stations in commercial settings including workplaces, urban, suburban, and rural areas, environmental justice communities, and along highways.

Persons wishing to present pertinent testimony to the Committees at the above hearing should complete and return the enclosed reply form as soon as possible. It is important that the reply form be fully completed and returned so that persons may be notified of means by which to testify and/or in the event of emergency postponement or cancellation. Oral testimony will be limited to ten minutes' duration. In preparing the order of witnesses, the Committee will attempt to accommodate individual requests to speak at particular times in view of special circumstances. These requests should be made on the attached reply form or communicated to Committee staff as early as possible.

Upcoming Tax Season - Governor Hochul Urges New Yorkers To E-File to Claim All Available Tax Benefits

Free Tax Filing Software Helps Eligible Taxpayers Claim Valuable Tax Credits

Governor Hochul is encouraging New Yorkers to take advantage of Free File software, which can help millions of taxpayers claim valuable tax credits without the cost of hiring a paid tax preparer. The software provides savings as well as puts money directly in your pocket by ensuring you claim the credits you deserve, including the earned income tax credit (EITC). Nearly 255,000 taxpayers filed tax returns for free last year through the NYS Tax Department website, saving a combined \$51 million in preparation fees.

Most New Yorkers can file using [Free File](#) software, available at no-cost on the Tax Department website. If your 2021 household income is \$73,000 or less, you can file both your federal and New York State returns at no cost through the Tax Department website using [Free File](#). Nearly 255,000 taxpayers used this software last year, saving them a combined \$51 million in tax preparation fees.

When you're ready to file, gather your information and documentation. If you received [unemployment compensation](#), request your [Form 1099-G](#) from the

Department of Labor. Remember to include the full amount on your New York State personal income tax return.

Every year, thousands of New Yorkers qualify for the EITC for the first time as their filing status or personal financial situation changes. Eligibility requirements for the [Earned income credit \(New York State\)](#) are explained on the Tax Department website.

More information about federal, state, and local earned income tax credits, including the value of available credits, is available [here](#).

The deadline to submit a completed personal income tax return is **Friday, April 15, 2022**. After you file, check your refund status at your convenience! Get the most up-to-date information about your refund and your return: use our online [Check your refund status tool](#).

Assemblyman Otis featured on Larchmont Mamaroneck Summit with State Senator Shelley Mayer and County Legislator Catherine Parker



The Larchmont Mamaroneck Local Summit sponsors monthly meetings on issues of importance to the two villages and the town. Founded in 1995, the Summit has a long history of bringing the community and ideas together.

On Tuesday I joined with State Senator Shelley Mayer to provide updates on state legislative issues and County Legislator Catherine Parker with a county update.

Some of the legislative and budget issues I highlighted included necessary steps the state can take for future flooding mitigation. In addition, my legislative priorities for the new budget season include education funding and the increase in foundation

aide, clean water grants, new funding for storm water projects, digital inclusion programs, statewide deployment of EV charging stations and the environmental impacts of cryptocurrency mining to help us meet our climate goals.

To watch a recording of the Larchmont-Mamaroneck Summit please [CLICK HERE](#).



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