



July 2, 2025

Dear Friends,

Our regular legislative session has now concluded. My priorities included successful passage of legislation on Emergency Medical Service (EMS) reform, transparency and governance rules for AI use by governmental entities, and gains on other issues affecting Westchester. I will provide more details on the session in an extended newsletter.

This email provides information on two important environmental events: my Annual NYS Clean Water Grant Workshop and the 40th Anniversary of the Long Island Sound Partnership. Both meetings were held on consecutive Fridays in June and are closely tied to the ongoing challenges our Sound Shore communities face in addressing water infrastructure and Long Island Sound water quality issues. I have been organizing and hosting the water grant workshop since 2015 with the goal of bringing state funding to Westchester communities to help pay for clean water and environmental projects. I hope you find these stories of interest.

Also included here are stories about state grants awarded to projects in New Rochelle and Port Chester. Later this month, I will be speaking at the Westchester County Association's *Converge Conference 25 – Hudson Valley Digital Innovation Conference* to discuss some of the issues I work on as Chair of the Assembly Committee on Science and Technology. The conference is co-sponsored by Westchester County and The STEM Alliance.

Details on submitting testimony or statements for next week's hearings on Con Ed rate increase application before the Public Service Commission are included below. Also covered below is information on an Albany press conference opposing the federal health care cuts.

As always, do not hesitate to contact me or my staff on issues in this email or any matter with which we can be helpful. My office number is 914-939-7028.

Warm Regards,



Federal, State and Local Partners Renew Pledge to Protect Long Island Sound



Left to right: Suzanne Clary (JHC Board President), NYS Assemblyman Steve Otis (91st District), Commissioner Katie S. Dykes (Connecticut DEEP), Penny Vlahos (CT Co-Chair of the LIS Partnership (LISP) Science and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC), Nancy Seligson (NY Co-Chair of the LISP Citizens Advisory Committee – CAC) , Holly Drinkuth (CT Co-Chair of the LISP CAC), Mike Martucci (Administrator US EPA Region 2), Mark Sanborn (Administrator US EPA Region 1), Commissioner, Amanda Lefton (NYSDEC), Rep. George Latimer (NY-16), David Miller (former NY Co-Chair of the LSIP CAC) , Adrienne Esposito (Executive Director of CCE Citizens Campaign for the Environment), NY Senator Shelley B. Mayer (37th District) and Rep. Tom Suozzi (NY-3). Not pictured but present for the signing, Rep. Jim Himes (CT-4).

Featured photo credit: Joy Malone/Getty Images

Our Westchester Sound Shore was the host for the celebration of the 40th anniversary of Long Island Sound Partnership and announcement of the next decade of work for the Sound with the signing of the Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan. The new plan provides the path forward to revitalize the Sound as an ecological, economic and recreational resource for the next ten years.

On June 20th, I joined state and federal officials from New York and Connecticut in participating in this important milestone to mark past success and plans for continued improvement at the Jay Heritage Center in Rye.

The Long Island Sound Partnership is the new name for the Long Island Sound Study, which was created in 1985 when Congress enacted legislation to conduct a single study to research, monitor, and assess the water quality of the Sound.

Nancy Seligson, longtime New York Chair of the Long Island Sound Citizen's Advisory Committee and former Supervisor of the Town of Mamaroneck, served as MC. Nancy has been working for decades on behalf of Long Island Sound, including advocating in Washington and Albany.

The event included state environmental commissioners from New York and Connecticut, two EPA Regional Administrators, three members of Congress, state legislators, and countless environmental advocates from both states. Some of

those participating in the ceremony are pictured above.

In my comments, I highlighted the work of the late Congresswoman Nita Lowey who was successful in increasing federal funding to Long Island Sound during her years in Congress.

Having worked with the Long Island Sound Study goals in many capacities over the years, I know the value of their work in the cleaner estuary we enjoy today. The event brought together Long Island Sound advocates from years ago with the current crop of federal, state, and local experts who care about this important waterbody.

The event was hosted by the Jay Heritage Center with the site's famous view of the meadow leading to Long Island Sound as a backdrop to the celebration. You can read the Jay Center's reporting on the event [here](#).

You can download the new Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan [here](#).

Annual Water Infrastructure Grant Workshop



Assemblyman Otis with speakers at the Annual Clean Water Grant Workshop (l to r): Eldon Lu, Assistant Environmental Engineer, Bureau of Water Supply Protection, NYS Department of Health (DOH); Sara Powell, Sea Grant/Long Island Sound Study, Sustainable & Resilient Communities programs; Kyle Wilber, Local Government Specialist and Program Manager, NYS Department of State (DOS); Nick Demitraszek, Legislative Affairs and Community Assistance Coordinator, NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC); Paul Kutscha, Program Coordinator, Community Assistance Teams, EFC; Harry Nelson, Engineering Manager of Eastern & Metro Projects Unit, EFC; Stephanie June, Director of Bureau of Water Assessment and Management, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC); and Suzanne Clary, President of the Jay Heritage Center.

~~~

### **Annual NYS Water Infrastructure Grant Workshop Gathers State Agencies and Local Partners for Update on State Funding Opportunities**

**Rye, NY-** Westchester municipal government staff and officials and environmental advocates received important updates on 2025 state grant opportunities at the **2025 Water Infrastructure Grant Workshop** hosted by State Assemblyman Steve Otis and officials of the NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) and the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) at the Jay Heritage Center in Rye last Friday.

The goal of this annual Westchester clean water workshop is to provide municipal and school district officials and staff with the latest information on the 2025 round of grants and the details regarding this year's application process. Representatives from across Westchester heard presentations that focused on currently open or upcoming grant application rounds for 2025 that are open now.

The annual workshop coincides with the announcement of the current round of applications for the Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (WIIA) and the Intermunicipal Grant (IMG) programs, which Assemblyman Otis helped initiate in 2015. The 2025 application window opened on June 20th with submissions due on September 12th. The workshop also covered several other clean water and

environmental programs administered by NYS, including EFC's Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund, DEC's Water Quality Improvement Program (WQIP), and local government efficiency grants offered by the NYS Department of State. WIIA and IMG drinking water grants are administered in cooperation with the NYS Department of Health (DOH), which was also represented at the workshop.

The program also included discussion of Technical Assistance and Planning Grants and EFC's Community Assistance Teams, which assist local governments in matching local projects with state grant opportunities.

Sea Grant, a program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, also made a presentation on how their local program can assist local governments with application guidance and accessing funding from all levels of government.

**Assemblyman Steve Otis said,** "We have held these Westchester workshops every year since 2015 when the WIIA program was created. The goal is to bring state water grant funding to Westchester communities to fund local projects. Special thanks go to Governor Kathy Hochul, NYS EFC President Maureen Coleman and DEC Commissioner Amanda Lefton for the tremendous staff support for this valuable annual meeting. We were again joined this year by State Senator Shelley Mayer with whom I work closely on flood mitigation and water grant funding issues. Our goal is to raise awareness of these funding opportunities and encourage local governments to take advantage of state dollars to pay for local projects."

This year's state budget included a new installment of \$500 million for New York's full range of clean water programs and \$425 million, a \$25 million increase, for the Environmental Protection Fund. State clean water and resiliency programs are also supported by the \$4.2 billion environmental bond act approved by the voters in 2022.

**New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation President and CEO Maureen A. Coleman said,** "Investing in water infrastructure is essential to protecting public health, safeguarding our environment, and strengthening local economies — but we also understand that these projects can be costly for communities. Under Governor Hochul's leadership, New York is making historic



investments to ease that burden through grant funding, low-cost financing, and technical support. At EFC, we're proud to help communities across the state access these resources. Workshops like this help us get the word out and ensure that every municipality — no matter its size — has the tools and financial support needed to build a cleaner, more affordable, and more resilient future."

**Commissioner of the New York State Department of Environmental**

**Conservation Amanda Lefton said,** "DEC appreciates Assemblymember Otis providing an opportunity for DEC to speak directly with local communities and stakeholders about grant funding available for municipalities to make critical investments to safeguard drinking water supplies, reduce flood risk, improve aging water infrastructure, and enhance climate resiliency. Under Governor Hochul's leadership, DEC remains committed to safeguarding and improving water quality and ensuring communities in Westchester County have the tools and resources needed to protect critical drinking water sources and preserve open space in the lower Hudson Valley through DEC's Water Quality Improvement Project program and Non-Agricultural Nonpoint Source Planning and MS4 Mapping Grant."

**Vice President of Save the Sound's Center for Water Protection David Ansel**

**said,** "A huge thank you to Assemblyman Otis for organizing his NYS Water Infrastructure Annual Grant Workshop. As the data in Save the Sound's 2025 Long Island Sound Beach Report shows, we continue to have serious wastewater pollution and stormwater pollution in the Long Island Sound region. The workshop is a remarkable resource for municipal leaders to learn directly from state agencies how to obtain state funding for projects in their communities that address these pollution challenges. Each year, Assemblymember Otis, members of the Legislature, and environmental advocates including Save the Sound work hard to maximize clean water funding in the state budget. This workshop is critical to ensuring communities know how to access these funds for their specific needs. Municipalities around the Sound and across the state would benefit from having access to a workshop like this."

Applications for this year's \$325 million round of WIIA and IMG grant programs are due on September 12, 2025. More information about the application process can be found on [EFC's website](#).

The WIIA and IMG programs have provided more than \$3 billion in grants to local governments statewide, including over \$130 million to Westchester municipalities to support over 50 clean water projects. Statewide grants from these water infrastructure programs alone have been awarded to over 800 projects in over 500 communities. EFC administers these programs in coordination with the Departments of Health (DOH) and Environmental Conservation (DEC).

The workshop was co-sponsored by the Construction Industry Council of Westchester and the Hudson Valley, Federated Conservationists of Westchester County, Save the Sound, Long Island Sound Study, SeaGrant, Westchester Municipal Officials Association, and the Jay Heritage Center, which hosted the workshop.

Follow-up assistance on state grant applications is available through the offices of Assemblyman Otis, Senator Mayer, or any State Assembly or State Senate member representing a municipality from Westchester.

The workshop power-point presentations are available at Assemblyman Otis's website [here](#), as is the workshop video, which was recorded by Rye City TV (RCTV).

---

### **Hands Off Healthcare Press Conference in Albany**





This week Congress moves to pass omnibus legislation that will eliminate health care coverage for millions of Americans and remove funding for hospitals and medical centers that will cause many to close. In June I participated in a joint Assembly-Senate Albany press conference opposing these cuts. Our estimates are that 1.5 million New Yorkers will be at risk of losing coverage. Healthcare providers will see Medicaid reimbursements drop threatening the survival of many centers throughout the state.

You can read a detailed release on the event [here](#).

---

### **Port Chester Gym Groundbreaking**



*Left to Right: Village Trustee George Ford, Assemblyman Otis, Mayor Luis Marino, Village Trustee Sylvia Dundon, Village Trustee Phil Dorazio, Senator Shelley Mayer, Village Trustee John Allen, and Village Manager Stuart Rabin.*

Thursday, I joined Port Chester Mayor Luis Marino, State Senator Shelley Mayer, and numerous Port Chester local officials and village staff for the groundbreaking to transform the old Horton School Gymnasium into a revitalized indoor recreation and multi-purpose space that will be suited for a variety of youth and community-based activities.

The renovation, long discussed by village officials, will increase the functionality of the space through renovation of the gymnasium, bathroom facilities, kitchen, and storage rooms, giving it the potential to be converted into an emergency shelter. Funding for the project combines village funds with \$750,000 in state grant funding Senator Mayer and I secured for the project.

The project is located at Port Chester Village Hall at 222 Grace Church Street. Port Chester's Recreation Department offices, Senior Center, and the Port Chester Youth Bureau are both located at Village Hall. The project will add more options for the village's programs. Village Manager Stuart Rabin expects construction to be completed in the Spring of 2026.

[Here](#) is the original announcement of the state funding from January. The Village Board of Trustees has made the project a priority and arranged the additional funding necessary for the project.

---

### **New Rochelle Albany Delegation Announce \$5M Momentum Fund State Grant**

**Westchester, NY** – State Senator Shelley Mayer (SD-37), State Senator Nathalia Fernandez, Assemblywoman Amy Paulin (AD-88) and Assemblyman Steve Otis (AD-91) are excited about Governor Hochul's Mid-Hudson Momentum Fund Awards that have gone to Westchester communities to accelerate housing

development across the region, including a \$5M grant for the City of New Rochelle.

The project site, located at 455 Main Street is currently a vacant, underutilized downtown site that is ideally situated near the New Rochelle Metro North station which is surrounded by restaurants, retail and new developments including Stella and Anderson Plaza, a 380-unit mixed building with public outdoor recreational amenities.

Stella Phase II will comprise 126 units of for-sale affordable condominiums with a range of unit types, over 100 parking spaces and 4,000 square feet of commercial space. The development team has embraced sustainable and green infrastructure as this innovative development will be fully electric, LEED certified, and will be the first high-rise affordable condominium to be built in Westchester in many years. Additionally, Open Door Family Health Center, one of the largest health care providers in the region, will occupy the ground floor.

Stella Phase II is consistent with the strategic goals and priorities of the Mid-Hudson Regional Economic Development Council and aligns with both state and regional goals and priorities in several key areas.

---

### **PSC Public Statement Hearings and Comment Period for Con Edison Rate Increase Application**

The New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) will hold in-person public statement hearings concerning the proposed changes in the electric and gas delivery rates and practices of Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc. (Con Edison). Two of these hearings will be in Westchester:

**Tuesday, July 8, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.**  
**Cortlandt Town Hall**  
**Vincent F. Nyberg Meeting Room**

**1 Heady Street  
Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567**

**Wednesday, July 9, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.**

**Westchester County Center  
First Floor Meeting Room  
198 Central Avenue  
White Plains, NY 10606**

### **Other Ways to Comment**

For those who cannot attend or prefer not to speak at a public statement hearing, there are several other ways to provide your comments to the Commission. All comments should refer to “Case 25-E-0072 – Con Edison” or “Case 25-G-0073 – Con Edison.” All comments must be received by **November 21, 2025**.

**Internet or Mail:** Go to [www.dps.ny.gov](http://www.dps.ny.gov), click on “File Search” (located under the heading “Commission Files”), enter “25-E-0072” or “25-G-0073” in the “Search by Case Number” box, and then click on “Post Comments” at the top right of the page.

Alternatively, comments may be mailed to the Hon. Michelle L. Phillips, Secretary, Public Service Commission, Three Empire State Plaza, Albany, New York, 12223-1350; however, electronic filing of comments is strongly encouraged. All written comments submitted to the Secretary will be posted on the Department’s website and will become part of the record of the proceeding in which they are posted. Please be advised that the Commission may not consider untimely comments. Comments may be accessed on the Department’s website by searching the case numbers, as described above, and clicking on the “Public Comments” tab.

**Toll-Free Opinion Line:** Individuals may submit comments by calling the Commission’s Opinion Line at 1-800-335-2120. This number is set up to receive comments about pending cases from in-State callers 24-hours a day. These comments are not transcribed, but a summary is provided to the Commission.

Con Edison filed amendments to its electric and gas tariff schedules on January 31, 2025, proposing to increase its annual electric and gas delivery revenues for the 12-month period ending December 31, 2026. As of its April 10, 2025 updated

testimony, Con Edison proposes to increase its electric delivery revenues by approximately \$1.6 billion (an 11.3 percent increase in total revenues or 17.9 percent increase in base delivery revenues), and its natural gas delivery revenues by approximately \$349 million (a 10.5 percent increase in total revenues or 14.9 percent increase in base delivery revenues). The actual bill impacts of these proposed changes on any particular customer class will vary based upon revenue allocation and rate design.

# CONVERGE '25

*The Hudson Valley Digital Innovation Conference*

TRANSFORMING BUSINESS  
IN THE AGE OF AI  
& QUANTUM COMPUTING

WESTCHESTER  
COUNTY



Brought to you by Westchester County & their *Connect Westchester* partners:  
The STEM Alliance & Westchester County Association



Thursday, July 24  
8:30am - 1:30pm



Rotunda at Mercy University  
555 Broadway  
Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522



I am looking forward to be speaking at **CONVERGE 2025** on July 24<sup>th</sup> – a premier gathering of innovators, business leaders, and change makers. This conference is brought to you by Westchester County & their Connect Westchester partners: The STEM Alliance and Westchester County Association.

Register now: <https://www.westchester.org/events/converge-25/>

---

### **Annual Village of Mamaroneck Fireman's Parade**



At the annual Mamaroneck Firemen's Parade on Friday June 27th with Senator Shelley Mayer, Town of Mamaroneck Councilwoman Robin Nichinsky, Mamaroneck Village Trustees Nora Lucas and Dan Kushnick, Congressman George Latimer, Town of Mamaroneck Councilman Anant Nambiar, Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins and Legislator Catherine Parker.

---



---

*Copyright © 2025 Assemblyman Steve Otis, All rights reserved.*

