



# Assemblymember MARYJANE SHIMSKY



## DISTRICT 92 - SUMMER 2024

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Dear Neighbors,

With the close of session on June 7, the Albany portion of the 2023-24 legislative term is for all intents and purposes complete. This newsletter provides highlights from the lawmaking phases of the term and updates on State funding for our district.

The Legislature passed 842 bills in the last two years. These include landmark legislation protecting children from social media targeting, as well as the Climate Change Superfund Act and consumer protections from dangers posed by certain kinds of lithium-ion batteries. We also sent a proposed Equal Rights Amendment to the voters this fall, which would enshrine protections from discrimination on the basis of ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender, or pregnancy outcomes if passed.

Among the bills I sponsored in this, my first term, are legislation expanding the State's food donation and food scraps recycling program; permitting local governments to provide tax relief to homeowners who lost their residences due to the extreme weather events; expanding the use of e-filing in New York courts; requiring that taxpayers be informed about school tax payment installment schedules; helping insure the continued operation of special act schools; and improving drug overdose responses at nightlife establishments. Many of our local governments requested, and obtained, legislation authorizing everything from installing red light cameras and leasing park facilities for pickleball, to clarifying the pension rights of individual employees. You can see the complete list of bills I passed this term in this newsletter.

So far this term, I helped secure more than \$7.19 million in State and Assembly-based funding to support our communities. These allocations include funding repairs to critical infrastructure like the High Street Bridge in Dobbs Ferry, the H-bridge in Tarrytown, and the science labs at Woodlands High School in Greenburgh. It also includes funding for educational and cultural programming in communities throughout the 92nd Assembly District. A list of confirmed allocations appears below. With more requests pending, there will be additions to that list before year's end.

Over the summer, I have been able to spend time in the district with constituents and representatives from our municipal governments, schools, and local organizations. Whether I'm reading to children, speaking with residents at outdoor events, attending issue forums, or learning about plans for our communities, I am gathering the information that can grow into future laws, amenities, and programs.

I look forward to continuing my work with you and for you. Please contact my office at (914) 631-1605 or email [shimskym@nyassembly.gov](mailto:shimskym@nyassembly.gov) any time you have comments or questions.

## FUNDING UPDATE

### Local Projects and Programs

Thus far during the 2023-24 legislative session, I have been able to help secure more than \$7.19 million in local funding to support our communities. With more requests currently pending State approval, I look forward to adding to this list before the year is out.

- \$3 million for Elizabeth Seton Children's in Yonkers to care for medically fragile children and adults
- \$2 million to repair the High Street Bridge in Dobbs Ferry
- \$500,000 to rehabilitate the H-Bridge in Tarrytown
- \$200,000 for the Brady Avenue Flood Mitigation project in Mount Pleasant
- \$200,000 to renovate the Green Parking Lot in Hastings-on-Hudson
- \$174,000 for science lab repairs at Greenburgh Central School District
- \$150,000 for drainage improvements at Soldiers and Sailors Park in Pleasantville
- \$150,000 for repairs at the Elmsford School District
- \$150,000 for the Tarrytown Fireboat Dock Extension
- \$150,000 for a new playground in Ardsley
- \$149,000 for renovations at Valhalla American Legion Post 1038
- \$35,000 for the RSHM Life Center in Sleepy Hollow
- \$34,000 for the Dobbs Ferry Seniors' technology and programs
- \$30,000 for the Mt. Pleasant Public Library's student and special needs programs
- \$30,000 for exhibits at Odell House Rochambeau Headquarters
- \$28,000 for Shames JCC on the Hudson's health and wellness program
- \$25,000 for the animal-assisted program at Children's Village
- \$25,000 for public art in Pleasantville
- \$25,000 for Abbott House's music program
- \$25,000 for Tarrytown Music Hall's grades 3-8 residencies
- \$20,000 for equipment at the Greenburgh Public Library
- \$20,000 for Historic Hudson Valley's programming on women and slavery
- \$20,000 for Echoes Africa's mental health workshops for students
- \$20,000 for G.O.O.D. for Girls youth mentorship programs
- \$20,000 for the Irvington Shakespeare Festival
- \$12,000 for the Theodore D. Young Community Center's community garden

### \$17 Million Resurfacing Project for Central Avenue

The NYS Department of Transportation has begun long-needed work to improve conditions and promote resiliency on Central Avenue (State Route 100). This project will refurbish a 4.5-mile section from Underhill Avenue in Yonkers north through Hartsdale to White Plains. The northbound portion is anticipated to be completed in fall 2024, with the southbound completed in fall 2025.

The work consists of milling the existing pavement and resurfacing with an asphalt overlay that is longer-lasting, more durable, and will minimize cracking. Striping with reflective paint will be added to increase the visibility of pavement markings during storms. Additionally, traffic signals will be upgraded, drainage improvements will be included in the project, and curb ramps will be made compliant with current Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidance.

To minimize impacts to the traveling public, all work will be conducted with single lane closures during nighttime hours. Please stay alert while this work is underway, for your safety and that of our road crews.

*continued inside...*

## Prime-Sponsored Legislation

When the legislative session ended in June, it brought to a close the 2023-24 session of the New York State Legislature. During this term, the Assembly and Senate passed 18 bills that I had introduced. These represent a range of issues, from tax relief and environmental protections, to “home rule” bills that support our municipalities in their day-to-day operations.



- **A.5906A** – Expands New York’s food donation and food scraps recycling program
- **A.7748** – Enacts the Climate Change Property Tax Relief Act
- **A.7813A** – Requires that constituents be informed of school tax payment installment schedules
- **A.8842A** – Amends an insurance law provision for the Valhalla firefighter’s association
- **A.8960B** – Allows for red light cameras at certain hazardous intersections in the Town of Greenburgh
- **A.9132** – Enables the Town of Greenburgh to lease parks facilities for pickleball and other tennis-related sports
- **A.9573** – Allows Hastings-on-Hudson’s firefighters benevolent association to utilize certain funds
- **A.10034** – Permanently extends Dobbs Ferry’s residential parking permit system
- **A.10315A** – Prevents reserve funds at special education schools from being counted as revenue against their tuition rates
- **A.10350** – Expands the use of e-filing in courts statewide
- **A.10532** – Allows the Greenburgh North Castle special act school district to continue providing education services\*
- **A.2891** – Establishes guidelines for opioid overdose response at nightlife establishments\*
- **A.5255** – Creates a STAR credit bill of rights and ombudsman position\*\*
- **A.5948** – Requires whistles and fire extinguishers on various vessels\*
- **A.6492** – Allows Dobbs Ferry to offer a retirement plan to a former police officer\*
- **A.6693** – Enables Pleasantville to accept an application for tax exemption\*
- **A.7453** – Extends the Town of Mount Pleasant’s occupancy tax for hotels and motels\*
- **A.7474** – Extends the State DEC’s authority to regulate Atlantic herring conservation\*

\* Bills signed by Governor Hochul to date. In New York State, the Governor has until December 31 to approve or deny bills passed by the Legislature in that calendar year.

\*\* Vetoed by the Governor in 2023.

A complete list of the bills I introduced and supported can be viewed at [nyassembly.gov/mem/MaryJane-Shimsky/sponsor](https://nyassembly.gov/mem/MaryJane-Shimsky/sponsor).

## Climate Change Superfund Act

We cannot wait to address the climate crisis — the devastating effects are already here. That is why the Assembly Majority passed the Climate Change Superfund Act (**A.3351-B**). This bill would help cover the costs of climate adaptation infrastructure, including energy-efficient cooling and stormwater drainage systems, by allowing the state to seek compensation for damages from the companies that made enormous fossil-fuel profits. At least 35% of program spending would go to disadvantaged communities that remain disproportionately impacted by climate change.

## Food Scrap Recycling Expansion

Food scraps make up 18% of the total solid waste stream and are the most significant source of methane in landfills. Building on New York’s 2022 Food Scrap Recycling Law, Senator Pete Harckham and I sponsored legislation to phase in new requirements for food scrap collection from more sources and greater distances (**A.5906A**). This bill passed both houses in May and awaits the Governor’s action.

## Protecting Children from Social Media Harms

The internet and social media can be important tools for learning and staying in touch with family and friends, but companies often take advantage of impressionable minds to rack up clicks and dollars. To address this, we passed two bills that have been approved by the Governor and are now State law:

- **The New York Child Data Protection Act (Ch. 121 of 2024)** prohibits internet companies from collecting and sharing children’s data without the consent of a parent.
- **The Stop Addictive Feeds Exploitation (SAFE) for Kids Act B** prohibits social media sites from using an algorithm to deliver recommended content for children without parental permission.

We also passed legislation requiring social media companies to clearly disclose in their terms of service their policies on hate speech and racism, disinformation, extremism, and threats of violence, harassment, and foreign political interference (**A.6789-B**). This bill awaits the Governor’s action.

## Lithium-Ion Battery Safety

A package of new laws took effect in July to strengthen consumer protections against rechargeable lithium-ion batteries found in e-bikes and other popular micro-mobility devices (**A.1910B, A.4938D, A.7628A, A.8102A, A.8310C, A.8450B, A.9337, A.9338**). This set of bills comes as fire departments across the state have reported a concerning rise in fires caused by the batteries, with New York City reporting 250 battery-related fires and 18 deaths last year alone.

## Equal Rights Amendment

Many people may be surprised to learn that our State Constitution only prohibits discrimination based on race and religion. It does not protect them from discrimination based on ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender, or pregnancy outcomes. Through a vote by two successive Legislatures, the NY Equal Rights Amendment will be presented for ratification by the public as Prop 1 on the ballot in November.

The ERA would enshrine protections for women (and abortion), the elderly, our LGBTQ+ community, people with disabilities, and other historically targeted groups if passed.







Welcoming Mayor Rutyna and Sleepy Hollow officials to the Assembly Chambers



Meeting with local advocates for the Bigger, Better Bottle Bill



Assembly day for League of Women Voters youth program students Lillian Williams-Ameen (Dobbs Ferry) and Ruby Kezur (Tarrytown)



Celebrating Irvington Girls Basketball Coach Gina Maher's 800th career win



At Colby Jenkins' Women Who Dare to Be Different event, Theodore D. Young Community Center



Honoring Joyce Chapnick, Principal of Irvington's Main Street School, with the Be A Friend Project



Memorial Day at Patriots Park, Tarrytown/Sleepy Hollow



African American Heritage Festival at Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla with Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority members



Congratulating Eagle Scout Kevin McCarvill of Boy Scout Troop 12, Pleasantville



At The WAY's Drug Take Back Day in Hastings-on-Hudson



At Pleasantville Day with Stephanie Kovacs Cohen and Adam David Cohen of Arc Stages



With Mayor Kaboolian for the installation of Ardsley Fire Chief Joan Podolski



Meeting young families at the Dobbs Ferry waterfront



Welcoming Irvington's newest coffee shop, Don Carvajal Café



Westchester Pride!



Meeting the chefs at the Sleepy Hollow Multicultural Festival

## FUNDING UPDATE ... continued

### \$7.7 Million Awarded to Transportation Alternatives in Greenburgh, Hastings, and Sleepy Hollow

New York has awarded \$97.7 million to more than 30 communities for projects that promote alternative, environmentally friendly modes of travel, such as walking, biking, or riding mass transit. These awards were made available through the Federal Highway Administration's Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and are being administered by the New York State Department of Transportation.

Three of these TAP awards were distributed to projects in our district:

- \$2,341,220 to the Town of Greenburgh for sidewalk construction on State Route 100A between the Knollwood Shopping Center and Greenburgh Health Center

- \$1,472,000 to the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson to construct new sidewalk sections on Rosedale Avenue, add catch basins, and rehabilitate the staircase connecting Rosedale Avenue to Hamilton Avenue via Prescott Place
- \$3,878,789 to the Village of Sleepy Hollow for the installation and construction of sidewalks, curbs, ramps, and historic signage from the public visitor center to Devries Park

### Over \$1 million for Dobbs Ferry Flood Prevention

As part of the Climate Smart Communities program, the Village of Dobbs Ferry will receive more than \$1.04 million for stormwater drainage improvements along Ashford Avenue, Gould Park, Maple Avenue, and Pietro Place. Due to an insufficient culvert, flooding has regularly required Ashford Avenue to be closed for hours at a time, cutting off routine and emergency access, and has removed a well-used sidewalk from service.



## NEW PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE IN TARRYTOWN

A new 270-foot-long pedestrian/bicycle bridge was installed over I-87/I-287 in Tarrytown this summer. It is the centerpiece of a \$13.9 million multifaceted project extending the Governor Mario M. Cuomo Bridge side path one mile south to Lyndhurst Mansion. The project also adds a second left turn lane from South Broadway to the southbound Thruway entrance ramp and installs a traffic signal on Route 9 at Paulding Avenue, among other improvements.



Daytime and Paulding Avenue renderings, courtesy of the New York State Thruway Authority




## HASTINGS QUARRY PARK

New parks don't come into existence very often. Twenty-four years in the making, the Hastings-on-Hudson community finally cut the ribbon this June on the new Quarry Park. With beautiful Hudson River views along the Old Croton Aqueduct trail, the site has a storied past as a fine marble quarry, private garden, and—during its time as a Village garbage dump—the hiding spot for purloined Cold War-era documents. Congratulations to everyone who persevered to make Quarry Park possible!



Quarry Park was officially dedicated on June 23, at Hastings' Marbleous! event.





Assemblymember  
**MARYJANE SHIMSKY**

**DISTRICT 92 - SUMMER 2024**

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## LET'S STAY IN TOUCH



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