



Assemblymember  
**Chris Burdick**

*Representing the 93rd Assembly District*

Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that I am in the middle of my fourth year as your NYS Assemblymember, and I am happy to say that I still wake up every day excited, motivated, and honored to have this opportunity.

For those of you who may not know, I serve on the Banks, Correction, Environmental Conservation, Housing, People with Disabilities, and Veterans' Affairs Committees. I also serve as Chair of the Subcommittee on Employment Opportunities for People with Disabilities and have continued to focus a significant amount of legislative effort on this very important issue.

After a productive legislative session in Albany (which runs from January to June), I returned to the district full-time in late spring. Every day I meet with constituents, attend in-district events, and work on my legislation for next year. I am also in close touch with my partners in government in each of the municipalities of the 93rd Assembly District (Bedford, Harrison, Lewisboro, Mount Kisco, New Castle, North Castle, North Salem, Pound Ridge, and White Plains) to ensure I am doing everything I can to assist them at the state level.

**I want to reiterate that I consider serving the individual needs of my constituents my most important responsibility.** Please let us know if we can be of any assistance in dealing with a NYS agency, such as the Department of Motor Vehicles, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Veterans' Services, or the Department of Labor (including unemployment issues).

Finally, I have said it before and I will continue to say it every year, as it is so important. If you have a question or concern about a piece of legislation, or any other issue regarding our state government, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. **Hearing from you allows me to do my job better.**

*Chris Burdick*

**Assemblymember Chris Burdick**

100 South Bedford Rd, Suite 150, Mount Kisco, NY 10549  
914-244-4450 • burdick@nyassembly.gov

## 2024 Legislative Session Recap

The 2024 legislative session finished with a total of 805 bills passed by both houses. Unfortunately, due to a late 2024-25 state budget and the Governor's decision in the closing days of session to suspend the start of congestion pricing, the clock ran out for bills that many of my colleagues and I had hoped would get across the finish line, such as the NY Heat Act to help transition to renewable energy, the Returnable Container Act to reform our bottle deposit system, and various bills to protect consumers and the public.



Upon reflection, some of the most significant legislative successes resulted from the budget negotiations. **As many of you may have heard, one of the key areas of**

**disagreement between the Legislature and the Governor was the drastic proposed cuts by the Executive to Foundation Aid, the cornerstone of state support for public education.** These cuts would have resulted in reductions for all but one of the school districts in my district. My colleagues and I pushed back strongly against these proposed cuts. NYS Senator Shelley Mayer led the effort in the Senate, and I led in the Assembly. **I am pleased to report that the final budget restored the funds** and provided a 2.8% inflation factor in calculating Foundation Aid. Our efforts would not have been successful without the intense efforts of the superintendents, parents, teachers, my colleagues, and the community at large. I thank everyone who reached out and urged the Governor to fully restore funding.

The budget also maintains our commitment to our state's exceptional higher education institutions, including \$60 million in additional operating aid and \$60 million in additional capital funding for SUNY schools.

Overall, the \$237 billion NYS budget is fiscally sound and provides well for the people of the 93rd Assembly District and the state as a whole.

Turning to post-budget legislative action, among the bills that passed both chambers are:

- The **SAFE for Kids Act (A8148A)** and the **Child Data Protection Act (A08149A)**, both supported by Governor Kathy Hochul and Attorney General Tish James and already signed into law. The SAFE for Kids Act prohibits

social media sites from using an addictive algorithm to deliver content to children without parental permission, and the Child Data Protection Act prohibits internet companies from collecting, using, sharing, processing, or selling children's data without parental consent. It also establishes clear rules and standards for social media companies to follow to foster a safer digital environment.

- A key environmental bill, the **Climate Change Adaptation Cost Recovery Program (A3351B)** would require large, major New York polluters who have contributed significantly to climate change to contribute to a climate action fund. Payments by historical polluters into the program would be used for new or upgraded infrastructure needs, such as coastal wetlands restoration, stormwater drainage system upgrades, and energy-efficient cooling systems in public and private buildings.
- **Electric Vehicle Charging in Public Lots (A4871B), Expansion of the Food Donation and Scraps Program (A5906A), and NYC Green Roof Tax Abatement (A6901A)** all passed both chambers. These will go far in helping to attain our environmental goals.
- In the area of Election Law, the legislature acted to make it easier to vote by absentee ballot by approving **a bill to enable local boards of elections to set up absentee ballot drop boxes. (A7243)**



- **Protection of Local Wetlands: A9712** authorizes localities with a freshwater wetlands law to adopt a further local law to allow the prohibition of the application of pesticides to wetlands (except commercial agricultural lands) hydrologically connected to any public water supply.
- **Heat Mitigation Plan: A9169A** requires the NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision to establish an annual heat mitigation plan. It also directs the extreme heat action plan work group of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation to analyze the impact of extreme heat on incarcerated individuals and people working in prisons.
- **Hospital Intake Form: A8560** requires hospitals to ask patients if they have a disability that requires accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act on patient intake forms, and what reasonable accommodations are required. This would be a voluntary disclosure.

Please note that all legislation must be signed into law by the Governor to take effect.

### My Sponsored Legislation

Among my own bills that passed both chambers:

- **Septic System Disclosure: A9330A** requires home sellers to provide the buyer with a disclosure statement on the property's sewage disposal system and information regarding its operation and maintenance.

As I mentioned earlier, not all of my bills made it across the finish line. **Some of the bills that I will keep pushing for in the next legislative session are:**

- My bill that would require all municipalities to update all applicable forms and data systems to include a gender "x" option where gender designation is requested. **(A8241B)**
- A bill that would create an interagency task force to promote the employment of people with disabilities both in state agencies and the private sector. **(A6397A)**
- A bill that directs the New York State Department of Labor to establish a voluntary training and certification program for employers that pledge to undertake neurodiversity training for their employees, and to adopt best practices for a neurodiverse workforce for a neurodiverse workforce, entitled the Neurodiversity Training Pledge. **(A9131B)**

## Funding for Our Nonprofits and Municipalities



Along with my colleagues Assemblywoman Amy Paulin (left) and NYS Senator Shelley Mayer (right), I presented a ceremonial check for \$225,000 to El Centro Hispano Executive Director Judith Aucar this past June.

Part of my work as an Assemblymember includes being able to designate certain discretionary state funds for investing in nonprofits and municipalities in my district.

I continue to be amazed by the wonderful nonprofits in the 93rd Assembly District and the huge impact they have on the lives of so many. Since taking office, I have developed close relationships with these organizations and have recognized how, together, we can reach more people in the district than any of us can alone. I have been able to help provide funding for many organizations, including African American Men of Westchester, Endeavor Therapeutic Horsemanship (for their work with veterans), Girls Inc. of Westchester County, Hope's Door, ArtsWestchester, Hudson Valley Justice Center, The Mount Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry, The LOFT LGBTQ+

Community Center, and Mount Kisco Child Care Center. I have also been able to help provide funding for some of our wonderful community libraries, such as the Purchase Free Library and the Lewisboro Library. And my Westchester colleagues and I helped secure critical funding in the state budget for organizations such as The Holocaust Human Rights and Education Center, El Centro Hispano, and Latino U College Access.

I am very grateful that I also have been able to support our municipalities. I recently attended the ribbon cutting for the new inclusive playground at the Bedford Hills Memorial Park, which has long been a destination for families beyond the local area. I was able to help the Lewisboro Volunteer Ambulance Corps purchase a much-needed new ambulance. In Mount Kisco, I helped contribute state funds to the creation of a pedestrian and bicycle path at Leonard Park, which I'm looking forward to seeing take shape.



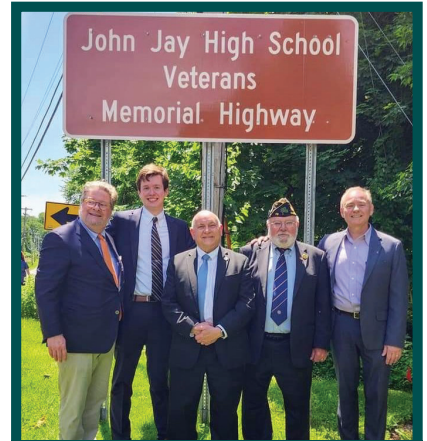
## JJHS Veterans Memorial Highway

**Memorial Day weekend was the perfect time for the dedication of the John Jay High School Veterans Memorial Highway in Cross River.** The Route 121 designation, which required legislation carried by Senator Pete Harckham in the Senate and myself in the Assembly, was the result of efforts by recent John Jay graduate Grant Vialardi, as well as the Lewisboro Veterans Advisory Committee.

The designation was made in commemoration of six fallen veterans who attended John Jay High School: Pfc. Kenneth Richard Jaconetti, Lt. Cmdr. George Russell Matthews, Pfc. Philip Grant Chipchase, Lance Cpl. Howard J. Alaimo, Cpl. James J. Jackwoski, Cpl. Bert D. Corcoran. Shortly before the ceremony, we learned of a seventh alumnus killed in action, Pfc. Anthony Joseph Pettignano.

It was wonderful to join the community for the dedication, which included speakers John Lemke (Chair of the Lewisboro Veterans Advisory Committee), Grant Vialardi, and some of my colleagues in government. All seven of the alumni were remembered during the ceremony.

**While we owe these heroes a debt of gratitude we can never repay, with the dedication of this road we help to ensure that their sacrifice will never be forgotten.**



*In front of one of the two new signs commemorating the JJHS Veterans Memorial Highway, along with (L-R) NYS Senator Pete Harckham, Grant Vialardi, John Lemke, and Lewisboro Town Supervisor Tony Gonçalves.*

## NYS AAPI Summit



*With workshop panelists (L-R) Dr. Theresa Hsu, Dr. Bhavana Pahwa, and Westchester County Legislator David Imamura.*

On May 9, **hundreds of members and friends of the AAPI community attended the first NYS AAPI Summit in Albany.** The event was hosted by the NYS Assembly Asian Pacific American (APA) Task Force, of which I am a member.

The summit theme was Empowerment through Representation. I hosted and moderated a workshop on **"Social Isolation: The AAPI Suburban Experience."** We discussed the aging AAPI population, mental health, mental health among AAPI youth, and government action in regard to the suburbs, where the cultural infrastructure is severely lacking compared to NYC.

My deep gratitude goes to the superb panelists: NYS Senator Kevin Thomas of Nassau County, the first Indian-American in New York history to serve in the State Senate; Legislator David Imamura, the first Asian-American on the Westchester County Board of Legislators; Dr. Theresa Hsu, a licensed clinical psychologist and Founder and Executive Director of SPEAK (A Supportive Place for Empowering Asian Americans and Kin); and Dr. Bhavana Pahwa, a licensed clinical social worker with more than 30 years experience.

## Working Together for Our State Roads

Speaking with my constituents, I know how great a concern the condition of the state roads is. And I don't disagree. I drive these roads all the time and know that too many of them are in poor condition. I completely understand the frustration and wish I could single-handedly fix all the roads in disrepair. **Please know that I am in constant contact with the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) regarding the roads in my district in need of repair and repaving.**

I have worked closely with the NYSDOT for many years, both as Supervisor of Bedford and as Assemblymember, and I have learned a lot in the process. NYSDOT has a method for determining a paving schedule and strives to serve as many communities as possible a year, given a very tight budget. Each year, every state road is rated for its surface condition. Priorities are set based on the surface score, local maintenance knowledge, and other pertinent traffic data.

I wish to thank each of you for calling and writing to share your thoughts and experience on the roads. It is very helpful to me and my team. **We encourage you to continue reaching out to our office and, in addition, we would ask that you also contact the DOT directly.** Having complaints on the record at the DOT from our constituents helps to support our efforts. The following are the DOT contacts for your area, whom you can reach out to regarding

road conditions, especially emergency conditions such as severe potholes.

- **Northern Westchester County** (which includes Bedford, Lewisboro, Mount Kisco, New Castle, North Castle, North Salem, and Pound Ridge): 914-232-3060
- **Southern Westchester County** (which includes White Plains and Harrison): 914-592-6557

**Please also call 1-800-POTHOLE (1-800-768-4653) to report potholes.**

In addition to working directly with the DOT, during budget season I advocate strongly for the needs of my district. **Every budget cycle since taking office I have pressed for higher capital funding levels for the DOT, in particular for our region, which has the most bridges and state road miles of any region in the state.** Working with my colleagues, we have succeeded in getting increases in capital funding, albeit not as great as we would like. Please be assured that I will continue to press hard for more funding and greater attention to our district's needs.

Our infrastructure, especially our local state roads, is a high priority for everyone. We all need safe roads to get us to where we are going.

## Proposed Equal Rights Amendment to Appear on the November Ballot

As you may have heard, **this coming November the proposed Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) will appear on the back of the ballot as Proposition 1.** The measure needed to pass two sessions of the legislature in order to appear on the ballot. (A41002 [2022] and A1283 [2023])

If the measure passes, reproductive rights will be enshrined in the NYS constitution, as will additional protections for sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, disability, age, and other protected classes.

## Odds and Ends: New Laws and Helpful Tips

### Free Lifetime Access to State Parks for Veterans and Gold Star Families

Veterans and Gold Star Families should always be recognized and honored for the incredible sacrifices they've made for our country.

A new law now in effect gives them free lifetime access to state parks, historic sites, and recreational facilities in New York State. To learn more, please visit [parks.ny.gov/admission/lifetime-liberty-pass](https://parks.ny.gov/admission/lifetime-liberty-pass).

### NY Mobile ID: Access Your State ID On Your Phone!

Ever forget your wallet and wish you had your ID on you? Now you can with New York Mobile ID! Just download the app, and a highly secure digital version of a state-issued driver license, learner permit or ID will be on your smartphone whenever you need it. Learn more at [dmv.ny.gov/id-card/mobile-id-mid](https://dmv.ny.gov/id-card/mobile-id-mid).

### Important DMV Alert: Make Sure Your License is Still Valid!

Did you know that if your driver license expired between 3/1/2020 – 8/31/2021 -- and you renewed online by self-certifying your vision but have not submitted a vision test to DMV -- your license was suspended on 12/01/2023?

Submit your vision test now to clear your suspension. Learn more at [dmv.ny.gov/driver-license/vision-information](https://dmv.ny.gov/driver-license/vision-information).

### Move Over Law Expanded

Help keep our roads safe and avoid a ticket! **Drivers are now required to slow down or move over when any type of vehicle is disabled or stopped on the side of a highway or parkway.** Previously, drivers were required to slow down or move over for law enforcement officers, emergency workers, tow and service vehicle operators, and other maintenance workers stopped along roadways while performing their duties. The law has now been expanded to include all vehicles.

New York State Assembly, Albany, New York 12248

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**Chris Burdick**



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