



ASSEMBLYMEMBER
CHRIS BURDICK
ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 93



Dear Friends,

I am pleased to report that we are finally reaching the end of the budget process. The bills are now being written, and I anticipate the Legislature will adopt the final budget later this week.

After the budget's passage, I will provide an update on funding and other highlights; however, even before the final details needed to be ironed out, there were areas of policy agreement that had been reached, which I am pleased to outline below.

But before getting to that...

My thanks to the many Pound Ridge community members who came to Saturday's Coffee & Conversation, where I was joined by my colleagues State Senator Shelley Mayer, County Legislator Erika Pierce, and Town Supervisor Kevin Hansan. Following updates on the state, county and town budgets, and a discussion of policy issues, residents raised questions about the availability of state funding for PFAS removal from private wells (I am sponsoring legislation), the need to repair and repave certain state roads, funding for the nascent Pound Ridge business district water district, and possible grant funding for a new senior bus (Senator Mayer and I were pleased to announce that together we would secure \$125,000 in funding).



Thank you also to everyone who came out for our recent office opening! I am very grateful to everyone who took the time out of their busy schedules to visit the new office space. For those of you who could not make it, if you are in the area, please stop by and check it out! **As a reminder, we are located at 333 North Bedford Road, Suite 131, in Mount Kisco (to the right of K1 Speed).**



2025-2026 Budget - Policy Agreements

As I mentioned earlier, even before the final details of the budget were negotiated, the Governor and Legislature had already agreed on key policy issues of concern to many in our state:

Involuntary Commitment

Included in the budget will be an expansion under the Mental Hygiene Law regarding involuntary commitment, in response to instances of violent crimes committed by mentally ill individuals. The revised law provides for the involuntary hospitalization of individuals with mental illness where they pose a risk to themselves or others. Provision is made for post-discharge care and peer support services.

Use of Facemasks to Conceal Identity During the Commission of Crime

The use of facemasks, for which there is no valid basis (such as protection of health) -- when used to conceal identity and in connection with committing a serious misdemeanor or greater crime -- will be a separate crime as a Class B misdemeanor.

Primary and Secondary Public School Cell Phone Ban

A uniform “bell-to-bell” law will apply to primary and secondary public schools, which will ban student use throughout the school day of cell phones and other personal internet-enabled devices. There are exemptions for students who require such devices for medical, educational or translation purposes, and directs the schools to provide a method to ensure that parents will have the ability to reach their children if needed.

School districts are required to develop their own plans for the storage of the devices upon students entering school. \$13.5 million will be appropriated in the budget to assist schools in enforcing the ban.

Pre-Trial Criminal Procedure Law

To address the concerns of district attorneys that cases are being dismissed for minor procedural errors, the discovery provisions of the criminal procedure law will be amended to require the disclosure to defense counsel of relevant materials in their actual possession. If prosecutors demonstrate diligent and good-faith efforts to obtain and provide discoverable materials, judicial remedies for failure to do so are to be proportionate to the relevance of missing information, rather than automatic dismissal of the case.

Again, now that we are coming to the end of the process, I anticipate the Legislature will adopt the final budget this week. **I will provide a supplemental report later this month summarizing the highlights.**

Con-Ed Rate Case Involvement

As you may be aware, Con Edison has filed with the Public Service Commission (PSC) for a rate increase request of 11.4% for electricity and 13.3% for natural gas. **Together with Assemblymember Dana Levenberg, and key staff members of Assemblymember MaryJane Shimsky, I have become a party (formally known as “intervenor”) in the case.**

While we have already joined colleagues in objecting to the increase, as intervenors we will have the capacity to better represent our constituents. As intervenors, we will have the ability to obtain detailed filings, submit questions (interrogatories) to which Con Edison is required to reply, submit evidence, and participate in confidential settlement discussions.

The process is complex and detailed, and although ultimately the PSC has the actual statutory authority to decide the rate case, by serving as intervenors we will be able to get under the hood to identify opportunities and strategies.

Medical Aid in Dying Passes the Assembly

Last week, the Assembly passed the landmark Medical Aid in Dying bill, which would provide a terminally ill, mentally competent adult with 6 months or fewer to live the right to request medication from their physician for medical aid in dying. The bill requires an oral request and a witnessed written request for the medication, with at least two physicians determining the patient's capacity to make an informed decision.

I have co-sponsored this bill since I first came into the Assembly. I am cautiously optimistic that the Senate will pass the bill and the Governor will sign it into law. I share with you [the statement](#) I made on the floor of the Assembly in voting to pass the bill.



[Local Matters Podcast](#)

I recently joined Adam Stone, Martin Wilbur, and Shane McGaffey for Episode 2 of the Examiner Media's podcast *Local Matters: Westchester*. Among the issues discussed were the status of the NYS budget, the local impact of national immigration policy, and the proposed Con Ed rate hikes. [Click here to listen to the podcast](#)

[Second Annual AAPI Summit](#)

May is AAPI month, so it is fitting that the NYS Legislature is holding its second annual AAPI summit May 29-May 30 in Albany.



I am proud to be a member of the Asian Pacific American Task Force in the NYS Assembly, which allows me to better understand all the issues facing the AAPI community here in my district. Last year, I hosted a workshop - "Social Isolation: The AAPI Suburban Experience."

This year, I'm working with Dr. Teresa Hsu of [S.P.E.A.K.](#) on a workshop about the invisibility of the AAPI community in mental health. Not only are mental health treatment and therapy often inaccessible due to structural barriers (e.g., insurance, language, navigation to resources), but also inaccessible due to cultural barriers (therapeutic interventions validated on non-Asian populations). Indeed, as the field of psychology is heavily Eurocentric, when translating the current research to treatment, evidence-based practices are not always helpful for AAPI populations.

This workshop will provide background on these challenges and identify ways to address the barriers - such as inter-agency collaboration and cross-organizational teamwork.

Last year, the summit was very successful and widely attended, with people coming from all over the state. **If you'd like to join us this year, [click here to register.](#)**

Please note that there is no charge to attend. However, tickets are required and the event does get completely booked.

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[AAPI Enterprise Empowerment Certification](#)

Also in honor of AAPI month, Governor Kathy Hochul just announced the launch of the *AAPI Enterprise Empowerment certification initiative*, running from 5/2/25 through 6/13/25.

AAPI ENTERPRISE EMPOWERMENT MWBE Certification Initiative



Division of Minority
and Women's
Business Development

A Division of Empire State Development

"AAPI Enterprise Empowerment" is an initiative to help minority- and women-owned businesses complete their applications for MWBE certification with the State of New York

Starting 5/1/25 through 6/13/25, all applicants will have the option of working with a free business advisory service center to complete their DMWBD certification application. Participants in DMWBD's AAPI Enterprise Empowerment certification initiative may receive their determination in as quickly as 90 days.

FREE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDERS (business advisory service centers):

EACs - Entrepreneurial Assistance Centers Program
esd.ny.gov/entrepreneurship-assistance-centers-program

Empire APEX Accelerator - Inquiries on
MWBE certification: empireapexMWBE@nystec.com

LaGuardia APEX Accelerator -
laguardia.edu/ce/business-services/apex-accelerators/

**New Jersey Institute of Technology APEX Accelerator
(NJIT APEX)** - <https://www.njit.edu/apex/>

Bronx Chamber of Commerce - bronxchamber.org/

La Fuerza CDC - lafuerzacdc.org/pages/services



APEX
ACCELERATORS
NEW JERSEY'S SUPPLY CHAIN AUTHORITY



Entrepreneurship
Assistance Centers



Disclaimers: 1 - Participation in DMWBD's AAPI Enterprise Empowerment program does not guarantee MWBE certification with New York State. To qualify for certification, a business must meet the requirements set forth in Executive Law Article 15a, and Title 5. 2 - Applicant must respond to the Division's request for clarifying information and/or documentation within 5 business days upon receiving the request. Failure to respond within the aforementioned timeframe may delay the review by DMWBD.

For questions or for more information please call 212-803-2414.

The initiative, managed by Empire State Development's MWBE Division, is a collaboration between ESD and free business advisor service centers ("Center"). **The Centers provide advice to business owners in many aspects of running a business, including helping firms prepare for their MWBE certification.** With the support and guidance of a Center's business advisor, the application that the Division receives is generally more complete, which reduces the time to reach a final determination regarding the application.

MWE Division Customer Care: (212) 803-2414 | MWBECertification@esd.ny.gov

Free Business Advisory Service Centers

Entrepreneurial Assistance Centers (EACs)

Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs)

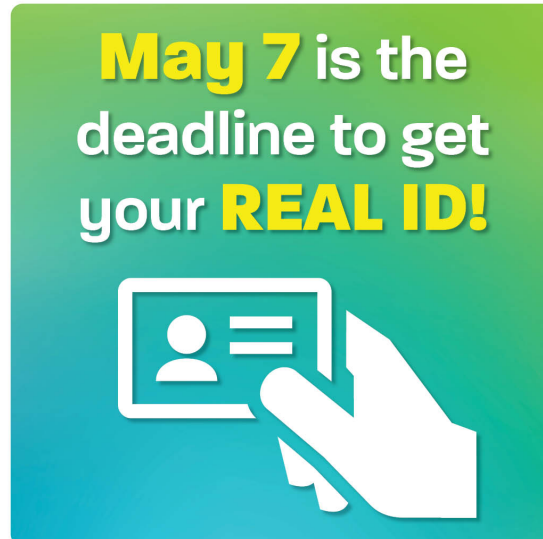
<https://nysbdc.org/>

Empire APEX Accelerator

<https://empireapex.com/mwbe>

Reminder! REAL ID Deadline TOMORROW

Finally, a final reminder that the deadline to get your REAL ID from the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is here! **Starting TOMORROW, May 7, 2025, all residents will be required to have a REAL ID to board domestic flights or enter certain federal buildings**, unless they have a valid passport. For more information, including a list of necessary documents, [please click here](#).



As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to my office with any questions or if there is any assistance we can provide. You can always reach me at burdickc@nyassembly.gov or by calling (914) 244-4450. My staff and I are always ready to help.

Please also follow me on [Facebook](#), [Twitter/X](#), and [Instagram](#) for continued up-to-date information.

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

Sincerely yours,

Chris Burdick

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