



Dear Constituent,

Below please find my latest e-news, with legislative updates and news from around the district.

Annual Senior Forum - Wednesday, July 22

R S V P

**SUSTAINING OUR SENIORS:
WHOLE BODY WELLNESS**

Wednesday, July 22, 2026

Name

Address

Phone

Email Address

☐ I would like to receive email updates from the
Office of Assemblymember Dana Levenberg.





**SUSTAINING OUR SENIORS:
WHOLE BODY WELLNESS**

Wednesday, July 22 • 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM

New Location

Town of Cortlandt Morabito Center for Seniors
29 Westbrook Drive, Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567

Save the date and join
Assemblymember Dana Levenberg,
New York Presbyterian-Hudson Valley
Hospital, and other community partners for
an informative and fun program including
a free breakfast and other giveaways.

RSVP by cutting and returning the RSVP
stub, calling our office at 914-941-1111 or
online at <https://bit.ly/SeniorForum2026>.



For more information regarding this free event or any other community issue,
please contact my office at 914-941-1111 or levenbergd@nyassembly.gov.



Please join me for my annual senior forum! This year's event, Sustaining Our Seniors: Whole Body Wellness, will take place at the Town of Cortlandt's Morabito Center for Seniors (29 Westbrook Drive, Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567) on **Wednesday, July 22** from **9:30-11:30 AM**. Please note this is a new location! As always, the event will feature a fun and informative program including free breakfast and other giveaways. Call (914) 941-1111 or [click here to RSVP](#).

New York State United: 2026 World Cup Final Watch Experience July 19



The New York State United 2026 World Cup Watch Experience is a free, statewide initiative featuring large-scale, family-friendly community viewing events connecting fans and community members to watch World Cup matches live on giant outdoor screens, along with other entertainment and activities. Free ticket registration is open now for our local watch experience, which will take place on **Sunday, July 19** at Kensico Dam Plaza and give thousands of New Yorkers the opportunity to experience the excitement of the FIFA World Cup Final together. [Click here to learn more and get your tickets!](#)

Sincerely,
Assemblymember Dana Levenberg

The 2026-2027 State Budget

The state budget was finalized at the end of May. Here is more information about key provisions impacting Assembly District 95:

Utility Reform



My experience as an intervenor in the Con Edison rate cases was very eye-opening, and the collective noise my colleagues and I have been making regarding utility rates, alongside local and county officials and members of the public, is resulting in some much needed changes. This year's budget includes measures to begin reining in utilities and shifting power back in the direction of ratepayers, including:

- New rules requiring utilities to **return excess profits to ratepayers**
- Rules specifying costs that utilities cannot recover from ratepayers and limiting the amount of rate-case related spending that utilities can recover from rate payers
- A new requirement directing the Public Service Commission to develop an **energy affordability index** to track the financial impact of energy rates on residential customers. This new rule also empowers the PSC to install an independent affordability monitor to study and recommend changes at utility companies whose average customer spends more than 3% of their income on electricity services or 6% of their income on combined gas and electricity service.
- **Utilities will also now be required to present a “budget-constrained” option when requesting a rate increase**, instead of just asking for the moon and hoping to land among the stars. This option cannot contain rate increases higher than the prevailing rate of inflation.
- A new **Residential Affordability Through Energy Savings (RATES) Commission** will study the causes of increasing utility costs and propose solutions.

In addition, we also approved \$1 billion to send out **Protecting Our Wallets Energy Rebate (POWER) checks**. New Yorkers who filed tax returns for the 2024 tax year can expect to receive rebates in the following amounts:

- Joint filers with incomes below \$150,000 will receive a check for \$200;
- Joint filers with incomes between \$150,000 and \$300,000 will receive a check for \$150, and
- Single filers with incomes below \$150,000 will receive a check for \$100.

Expanding Educational Opportunity

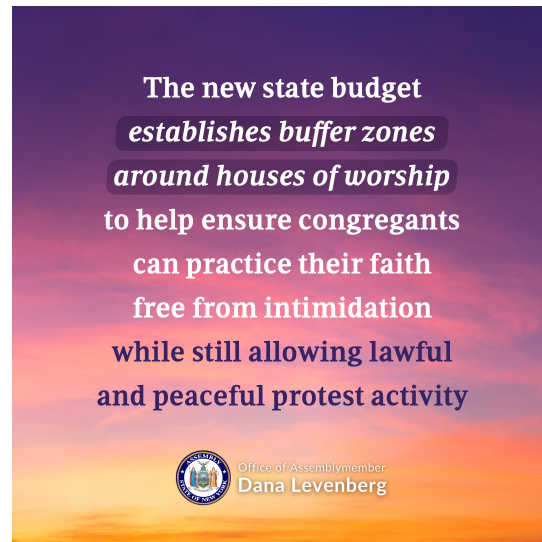


At a press conference advocating for increased UPK spending

This budget also increases state support for education at all levels. School districts in Assembly District 95 will receive nearly **\$280 million** in state aid, with 2% increases in Foundation Aid across the board and a median increase of 3.39% in total state aid for each district. We have also updated the Foundation Aid formula to increase the weight given to English Language Learners in a district's population, a key change that I fought to include.

Critically, we also **increased the Universal Pre-K reimbursement rate from \$5,400 to \$10,000** per student and secured a commitment to fully fund UPK outside of NYC by 2028. We also extended the **Opportunity Promise Scholarship** to all state-run colleges and universities, bringing free community college to more adult learners around the state.

The new state budget includes a number of new provisions to make New York safer. Chief among them is a package of protections combining elements of the **New York for All, Dignity Not Detention, and Mandating End of Lawless Tactics (MELT) Acts**, which many of you have written and called in support of. While these protections do not go as far as I would have liked, they will go a long way toward protecting New Yorkers - and our state and local tax dollars - from ICE. We also approved new restrictions cracking down on **ghost guns** and **drone crimes**, as well as new legislation enforcing **50-foot buffer zones** around houses of worship to help ensure that New Yorkers can practice their faith free from intimidation and harassment.

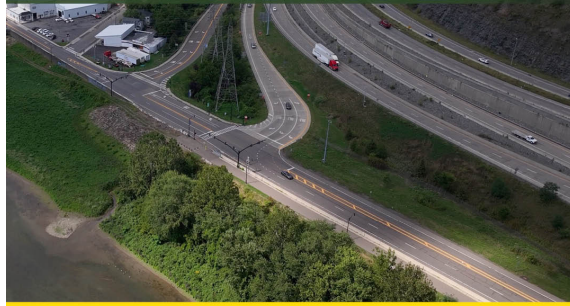


We also took measures to shore up our state's healthcare system and safety nets in response to the federal funding cuts enacted by Congress last year. Though we could not backfill every federal dollar lost, we were able to allocate additional funding for programs like the Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program and Nourish New York which will help keep people fed as SNAP cuts begin impacting New Yorkers.

We were also able to find ways to extend coverage to most, but not all, of those who will be losing access to the Essential Plan, which provides affordable health care coverage to low- and middle-income New Yorkers who do not qualify for employer-based health insurance or Medicaid. Unfortunately some 450,000 New Yorkers, including approximately 19,000 residents in Westchester and Putnam counties, will see this coverage lapse. Attorney General Letitia James' office has released guidance to assist those losing Essential Plan coverage; [click here to read it](#).

Supporting our communities & the workers who sustain them

The new state budget invests millions in local roads and bridges while providing nearly \$375 million to strengthen upstate transit systems



Office of Assemblymember
Dana Levenberg

This year's budget invests more than **\$1.4 billion in local capital aid** to help fix our local roads and bridges, including **\$698 million for the Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement (CHIPS) program** - an increase of \$50 million over last year. We also won reforms to Tier 6 of the state's pension system, which will help us recruit and retain more of the public workers who help keep our communities safe and healthy.

Promoting Sustainability



With colleagues and activists at a rally defending our climate law

This year's budget included some setbacks for the environment, but also some big wins. We were able to secure a **\$250 million increase in Clean Water Infrastructure Act funding**, bringing that fund up to a record **\$750 million**. We also got the **Accelerate Solar for Affordable Power Act** passed in the budget, along with **\$200 million for the NY-Sun program**, which helps New Yorkers afford to take advantage of solar energy, and **\$1 billion in Sustainable Futures** funding for programs like EmPower+ that help New Yorkers improve their homes' energy efficiency and transition to lower-cost clean energy.

As a leader in the **New York State Compost Coalition**, I am also proud to have secured a \$1 million increase in funding for food waste diversion programs in the DEC capital budget, for a total of **\$6 million in state support for local composting** and food rescue

programs. An additional **\$3.25 million will go to SUNY's Center for Sustainable Materials Management**, to support their efforts to provide funding, educational resources, and technical assistance to municipalities, businesses, and other entities undertaking waste reduction initiatives. Getting food out of landfills and incinerators is a high-impact step we can take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions for relatively small amounts of money and effort. At a time when the federal government is making it harder to fight climate change, I am pleased that we are seizing this inexpensive, common-sense opportunity to continue building a greener future.

Unfortunately, the Governor did force through changes to the Community Leadership and Climate Protection Act (CLCPA) that push back key deadlines for reducing emissions and make it easier to hide the impact of New York's methane emissions. **Despite this, the investments we've made will help us to continue moving in the right direction, and I will continue to fight for funding to help us transition to clean, affordable energy.** I will also continue sharing opportunities to take advantage of incentives and other benefits in e-blasts and on social media, so be on the lookout for that.

Legislative Update



At a press conference celebrating the passage of legislation to extend the Cessation Fund

In total, eight of my prime-sponsored bills passed both houses of the Legislature. Those with statewide impact include:

- **A.7833A**, inspired by social worker **Maria Coto**, would ensure that social workers who conduct home visits as part of their job are equipped with panic buttons.
- **A.9465** also promotes worker safety, providing new protections for telecommunications tower technicians.
- **A.4922C** would establish new protections for private education loan borrowers and cosigners. This legislation will bring real transparency, clear cosigner release standards, and strong enforcement tools to hold predatory lenders and bad actors accountable. With changes in federal policy shifting more students toward the private student loan market, these protections are needed now more than ever.
- **A.11029** would direct the DEC commissioner to publish an annual report of the environmental radiation surveillance program, to keep us better informed about radiation levels in our air, water, and soil.
- **A.11030** would require utilities and municipalities to provide property owners at least five days' notice prior to beginning any scheduled non-emergency work that might impact them, to minimize inconvenience.

Senator Pete Harckham and I also worked hard to ensure both houses passed [A.10949](#), our legislation extending the amount of time communities can receive funding from New York's Electric Generation Facility Cessation Mitigation Program, also known as the Cessation Fund. The additional funding would give the Hendrick Hudson School District, the Village of Buchanan and the Town of Cortlandt more time to plan and adjust to the closure of Indian Point. Closing Indian Point has made our communities safer, but it has also meant a big loss in tax revenue. I am now working to ensure that this and all of my bills are signed into law by the Governor.

Other key legislation that passed both houses this session includes:

- The **Solar Up Now New York (SUNNY) Act**, which would make it easier for people to generate their own electricity with plug-in solar panels at home.
- **A.11560**, enacting a one-year moratorium on AI data centers. During this time, the state will be studying the impacts of data centers on communities and the environment. This legislation also requires the PSC to establish a separate rate classification for data centers, to help minimize the impact on our home electricity rates if and when more of these centers come online. We also passed legislation establishing a moratorium on AI chatbots in toys (**A.11144**), new rules for AI training data transparency (**A.6578**), and a bill to prohibit AI companions from using features considered unsafe for minors (**A.10397C**), to promote safe and ethical uses of this technology.
- The **Food Safety and Chemical Disclosure Act**, which would ban certain harmful food additives and require clearer labeling and disclosure for additives generally recognized as safe.
- The **Freedom to Read Act**, to help protect school libraries from politically-motivated attempts to ban books.
- The **Health Information Privacy Act**, to establish new protections for sensitive health data not covered by HIPAA, such as information gathered by fitness apps, menstrual cycle trackers, and web browsing history.
- The **One Fair Price Act**, to ban surveillance pricing.
- **Kyra's Law**, to foreground safety concerns during child custody and visitation proceedings.
- The **Ceasing Repeated and Extremely Egregious Predatory (CREEP) behavior Act**, to make it easier for victims of stalking to seek protective orders.
- **A.6790**, which quadruples the tax credit claimable by volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers.
- We also passed two constitutional amendments, one enabling changes to our redistricting procedures (**A.11553A**) and one moving more elections to even years (**A.5036C**), in order to promote greater participation and fairness and save taxpayer money during elections.

I will continue fighting for other legislation that did not pass, including the Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act, the Rent Emergency Stabilization for Tenants Act, and the New York Health Act.

Around the District



Each year, my staff and I celebrate our interns with a nice lunch and a day of volunteering. This year, we were joined by Putnam County Legislator Nancy Montgomery for a visit to the Regional Food Bank for a tour and to help sort and pack produce. We processed over 150 pounds of edible fruits and vegetables recovered from area supermarkets and learned more about how the Regional Food Bank serves our community.

Know any students who would be interested in interning in my office? Our internship application for Fall 2026 will open next month.



At a Rev250 event in Verplanck

As our nation's 250th birthday approaches, I hope you're taking advantage of all of the local opportunities to celebrate our history. Not sure where to start? [Click here to check out New York's America 250 website](#), with lots of information about 250th anniversary events, historic sites, and more.

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